

An Environmental Affair

Volume 15, Issue 5

CELEBRATE WETLANDS, BIKE TO WORK, AND CLEAN AIR MONTH

May 2004

The City of Los Angeles Environmental Affairs Department was established in 1990 to advise the city on environmental issues and provide a centralized source of environmental information. The Environmental Affairs Department seeks to protect and enhance the environmental quality of life for residents, workers and visitors in the City of Los Angeles.

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Environmental Affairs Department Explores Greening Rooftops

In January, the Environmental Affairs Department, with the assistance of other City Departments, formed a Green Roof Task Force to explore opportunities to implement green roof infrastructure design in City buildings. While Germany and some other countries have long recognized the many economic, social, and environmental benefits of green roofs, North American cities are just becoming aware of these benefits and beginning to integrate this technology. Many U.S. cities, such as Chicago, Portland, and Atlanta, are constructing green roofs on city hall buildings, on affordable housing projects, and on fire stations.



Chicago City Hall Green Roof
Courtesy of the City of Chicago, Department of the Environment

Tokyo, Germany, Canada, and elsewhere offer several incentive programs to encourage private industry to utilize green roof design.

A green roof is a "contained" green space on top of a constructed roof. This green space could be below, at, or above grade, but in all cases the plants are not planted in the "ground". A green roof system is an extension of the existing roof; it is more than plants in pots. The system includes a special waterproof and root repellant membrane, a drainage system, filter cloth, a lightweight growing medium, and plants. Green roof systems may be modular, with drainage layers, filter cloth, growing media, and plants already prepared in movable, interlocking grids, or each component of the system may be installed separately.

Green roof designs can be implemented in private and public structures and offers numerous economic, environmental, and social benefits. It insulates the existing roof and, thereby, improves energy efficiency within the building, extends the life of the roof, and insulates the building from outside noise exposure. Plants growing on the roofs provide habitat for wildlife and insects, reduce and filter runoff by absorbing much of the storm water, and improve air quality by filtering pollutant particulates, reduce indoor temperatures and absorb sunlight, and reduce heat that promotes the "urban heat island" effect.

Through the efforts of the Green Roof Task Force, we envision a time when City buildings are topped with green roofs, and look forward to the many benefits.

An Environmental Affair is produced monthly by the EAD to inform residents about environmental issues and activities in Los Angeles. For questions, or to update or cancel your free subscription, call the Environmental Information Center Hotline at (213) 978-0888, send an e-mail to: eadinfo@mailbox.lacity.org, or visit our website at <http://www.lacity.org/ead>. TDD (213) 978-0899. You can also reach us by fax at (213) 978-0893. As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services and activities.

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PLEASE POST

Bacteria Concentrations to be Reduced at Mothers' Beach

As discussed in last month's issue of *An Environmental Affair*, waters of the United States that do not meet water quality standards are required by the Clean Water Act to be identified and considered as impaired. Furthermore, the pollutant responsible for the impairment is to be reduced to a level below that which causes impairment. A TMDL or Total Maximum Daily Load, which is a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards, is used to determine this level. Several TMDLs are being developed that will impact the City of Los Angeles over the next few years.



One of these TMDLs concerns Marina del Rey. The back basins of Marina del Rey Harbor, including Mothers' Beach, are listed as impaired because of high bacterial concentrations. Mothers' Beach, being located in the harbor, is protected from surf. This makes it popular for families with small children because it is perceived as a relatively safe area for them to swim.

This is true for the risk of drowning, but not necessarily from a health standpoint, because the risk of becoming ill increases with higher concentrations of bacteria. Thus, reducing bacteria levels at this beach to protect the health of children and other bathers is an important goal, and one that the responsible jurisdictions will work hard to accomplish. Because Marina del Rey is located in an unincorporated area of Los Angeles County, the County is the primary jurisdiction for this TMDL, but other responsible jurisdictions are the City of Los Angeles, Culver City, and the California Department of Transportation.

The Marina del Rey Harbor Mothers' Beach and Back Basins Bacterial TMDL, which focuses on reducing bacteria concentrations, was adopted by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board in August 2003. The State Water Resources Control Board and the State Office of Administrative Law approved the TMDL in November 2003 and January 2004, respectively. The TMDL was approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in March 2004. This makes the TMDL effective and the work of reducing bacteria in Marina del Rey Harbor will begin.

(Mother's Beach...continued on page 7)

Happy American Lung Association Month!

This year, the American Lung Association celebrates its 100th year of working to prevent lung disease, promoting lung health, and "improving life, one breath at a time." The American Lung Association website (www.lungusa.org) is a great resource for finding out about a variety of lung issues such as allergies/hay fever, asthma, clean air, how to quit smoking, and treatment options for people with lung cancer. All information on the website is also available in Spanish (Toda la información esta disponible en Español; solamente vaya al sitio de Web y hágase 'clic' en Español).



In Los Angeles County, there are programs for children and adults: tobacco education programs, summer camps for kids with breathing difficulties, and even an Olympic-style event for asthma sufferers. To learn more about these activities, visit <http://www.californialung.org>.

Simple Precautions to Avoid Coyote Wildlife

In some areas of Los Angeles, the number of coyote sightings increases in April and May, when females give birth to their litters. When the pups are born, the females forage for more food, and wander into suburban areas.

To reduce the chances of encountering coyotes, it is important to take these simple steps to make sure that they do not become comfortable around humans:



- ◆ Never feed a coyote. Deliberately feeding coyotes puts pets and other residents in the neighborhood at risk. Los Angeles County code prohibits feeding coyotes or other wildlife.
- ◆ Residents can inadvertently feed coyotes by leaving pet food or garbage where they can get it. Feed pets indoors or promptly remove outdoor dishes, bring bird feeders in at night, store bags of pet food indoors, and use trash cans with lids that clamp shut.
- ◆ Clear brush and dense weeds from around dwellings to reduce protective cover for coyotes and make the area less attractive to rodents. Coyotes, as well as other predators, are attracted to areas where rodents are concentrated, such as wood piles and seed storage areas.
- ◆ Protect and educate children about encountering coyotes. Never leave small children unattended in areas known to be frequented by coyotes, even in familiar surroundings, such as a backyard. If children encounter a coyote, it is important for them to keep the animal in view. Tell children to keep the animal in sight at all times, *but not to stare directly*, as this will provoke a confrontation. Children should be aware of the animal and walk in the safest direction to the closest safe area or structure, such as a car or building. If the animal continues to follow, they should pick up something, yell, and throw it hard at the coyote. They should throw objects and keep walking to safety at the same time.
- ◆ Keep small pets such as cats, rabbits, and small dogs indoors, especially at night. They are easy prey to coyotes.
- ◆ If coyotes are present, make sure they know they're not welcome. The California Department of Fish and Game recommends yelling, throwing rocks, or spraying them with a garden hose.

The Los Angeles County Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures (ACWM) has reported that coyote encounters have been on the rise over the past ten years due to suburban areas becoming food-rich environments for these animals. If you have a persistent coyote problem, contact the ACWM headquarters at (626) 575-5462. For more information on avoiding coyotes, visit the ACWM's website at <http://acwm.co.la.ca.us/scripts/coyo.htm>.

Mow Down Air Pollution 2004 Electric Lawn Mower Exchange

Turn in your operable, old, tired, smoke-belching, gasoline-powered lawn mower and purchase a new cordless rechargeable electric mower (a \$400 value) at four different locations for only \$100. Participants must be able to show proof of residence in the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD), which include all of Orange County and major portions of Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and Riverside counties. For more details, contact AQMD at (888) 425-6247, or visit their website at www.aqmd.gov. The exchange will take place from 7 am to 11 am or until all lawnmowers (1,000 at each site) sell out. The program is sponsored by the AQMD.

Saturday, May 8
California Speedway
9300 Cherry Avenue
Fontana

Saturday, May 15
Diamond Stadium
500 Diamond Drive
Lake Elsinore

Saturday, May 22
Verizon Wireless Amphitheater
8808 Irvine Center Drive
Irvine

Saturday, June 12
Hollywood Park
1050 S. Prairie Avenue
Inglewood

\$ \$ \$ FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES \$ \$ \$

Visit <http://www.lacity.org/ead> for more grant opportunities.

Lawrence Foundation Grants The mission of The Lawrence Foundation is to make a difference in the world by providing contributions and grants to organizations that are working to solve pressing educational, environmental, health and other issues. Grants are awarded twice per year. Letter of inquiry required. Letters of inquiry are open to any organization that wishes to be considered for a grant that meets the grant guidelines. Submit letter to:

The Lawrence Foundation
530 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 207
Santa Monica, CA 90401

For more information, call the Foundation at (310) 451-1567, or visit their website at www.thelawrencefoundation.org, or e-mail the foundation at info@thelawrencefoundation.org.

Acorn Foundation Grants Established in 1978, the Acorn Foundation supports projects dedicated to building a sustainable future for the planet and to restoring a healthy global environment. The Acorn Foundation is particularly interested in small and innovative community-based projects which preserve and restore habitats supporting biological diversity and wildlife; advocate for environmental justice, particularly in low-income and indigenous communities; and prevent or remedy toxic pollution. The Acorn Foundation makes grants in the \$5,000 to \$10,000 range to grassroots organizations. Grantees are asked to submit year-end reports, and Acorn will consider renewal grants to organizations that have fulfilled its reporting requirements. For application information and guidelines, visit the Foundation's website at www.commoncounsel.org/pages/foundation.html#acorn.

Kodak American Greenways Grants The Kodak American Greenways Awards Program, a partnership project of the Eastman Kodak Company, The Conservation Fund, and the National Geographic Society, provides small grants to stimulate the planning and design of greenways in communities throughout America. Grants may be used for activities such as: mapping, ecological assessments, surveying, conferences, and design activities; developing brochures, interpretative displays, audio-visual productions or public opinion surveys; hiring consultants, incorporating land trusts, building a foot bridge, planning a bike path,

or other creative projects. In general, grants can be used for all appropriate expenses needed to complete a greenway project including planning, technical assistance, legal and other costs. For any questions or comments, contact: American Greenways Program Coordinator
1800 North Kent Street, Suite 1120
Arlington, Virginia 22209-2156; by telephone at (703) 525-6300; by fax at (703) 525-4610; or e-mail the coordinator at greenways@conservationfund.org

Ben & Jerry's Foundation Grants Foundation Grants focus on, but are not limited to, activities and strategies an organization uses for creating social change in any number of areas. The Foundation will only consider proposals from grassroots, constituent-led organizations that are organizing for systemic social change. The Foundation supports programs and projects that are examples of creative problem-solving. Grant applicants need to demonstrate that their projects will lead to societal, institutional and/or environmental change; address the root causes of social or environmental problems; and lead to new ways of thinking and acting. For more information, contact:
Ben & Jerry's Foundation
30 Community Drive
South Burlington, VT 05403;
by telephone at (802) 846-1500, or visit their website at www.benjerry.com/foundation.

2004 Requests for Initial Proposals: Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Program and Asthma Management Education Program US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9, Air Division is issuing this request for initial proposals (RFIP) for the following three priority areas: (1) assisting K-12 schools in achieving implementation of the EPA Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Program; (2) providing a school-based asthma management education program for children in grades 3-5; and (3) providing a Community-Based In-Home Asthma Environmental Education and Management Program. Deadline for Submittal of Proposals: **May 12, 2004**. For more information about this funding opportunity, please contact Louise Hill at (415) 947-4192. The full text of the announcement can be found at www.epa.gov/region09/funding/indoorair.html.

MAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EACH MONTH:

Birding That Works for Families

Sponsored by the Santa Monica Audubon Society. A short (about an hour) bird walk at 10 am in one of the few places in the LA area where the kids don't have to stay quiet so as not to scare the birds. In the lagoon, and on the beach these birds want to be seen! Binoculars and scopes will be provided. The viewing takes place at Malibu Lagoon State Park. From Santa Monica take Pacific Coast Highway to Cross Creek Rd. Turn left and park in the pay parking lot, or turn right and park on the street. Parking on PCH is not recommended. Meet at the first bridge, walking from parking lot towards the beach. Call Lu Plauzoles at (310) 395-6235 or Lillian Almdale at (310) 393-6205 or visit the Society's web site at <http://smbas.cjb.net>.



Down by the River Monthly walks along the Los Angeles River take place every Sunday at a different location. Sponsored by Friends of the Los Angeles River (FoLAR). For more information, call FoLAR at (323) 223-0585 or visit their website at www.folar.org.



The Bolsa Chica Foundation offers free public tours of the Bolsa Chica Wetlands the first Saturday of every month. Tour times are between 9 am and 10:30 am. For more information on these wetlands, visit their website at www.bolsachica.org.

amigosdebolsachica.org or call the Foundation office at (714) 840-1575.

Interpretive Nature Tours of the Ballona Salt March and Dunes

Join the Friends of Ballona Wetlands on the second Sunday of each month for an exciting, informative nature tour. Explore the wonders of nature right in the middle of urban Los Angeles. Enter the Wetlands through the gate located in the parking lot behind Gordon's Market at 303 Culver Boulevard in Playa del Rey and meet at the trailer. Tours begin at 1 pm and last for two hours. For more information, call the Friends of the Ballona Wetlands at (310) 306-5994 or visit their website at www.ballonafriends.org.

IMAX Theater Presents Volcanoes of the Deep

Travel deep beneath the surface of the sea, to environments of crushing pressure and extreme temperatures, where strange communities of life are thriving in toxic water. *Volcanoes of the Deep Sea* transports you there via the giant screen. The film is the result of the largest effort ever undertaken to film the creatures and habitats of these extreme depths. Fees for IMAX are based on age. For more information, call the IMAX Theater at (213) 744-7400, or visit their website at www.californiasciencecenter.org. The IMAX Theater is located at 700 State Drive in Exposition Park.

The Blooming Rose Garden at Exposition Park.

This seven-acre garden today contains more



The EAD website, located at www.lacity.org/EAD, contains updated information on this month's events. To ensure your event is included in our monthly newsletter, submit information to the editor by the 10th of each month prior to publication. After the 10th, events can be entered into our website calendar only.

The EAD reserves the right to edit all submittals and does not necessarily endorse the events listed. All events are subject to change, so call listed event contacts to verify information.

than 10,000 rose bushes representing over 100 different varieties. Admission is free at 741 State Drive in Exposition Park. For more information call (213) 763-0114 or email rosegarden@rap.lacity.org.

THIS MONTH:

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to the event)

Thurs, May 13

Fifth Annual Ballona Wetlands Symposium

Leading restoration planners from the California Coastal Conservancy, the US Army Corps of



Engineers and others will discuss the restoration planning process and the maintenance of the land until restoration begins. Key restoration project leaders, from projects throughout Southern California, will share their stories about the process and science of restoration and public use of

THIS MONTH: (continued)

public lands. Optional docent led tours of Ballona's Salt Marsh and Freshwater Marsh will be available at 7 am. Symposium registration will begin at 8 am with exhibitor displays and a continental breakfast. The Symposium itself will begin at 9 am and end at 7 pm, and takes place at Loyola Marymount University located at One LMU Drive in Los Angeles. Sponsored by the Ballona Wetlands Foundation. For more information, call the Foundation at (310) 342-0100, or visit their website at www.ballona-wetlands.org.

**Sat and Sun,
May 15 and 16**

Jet Propulsion Laboratory Open House This popular event will celebrate Jet Propulsion Laboratory's (JPL) accomplishments with exhibits and demonstrations about



the Laboratory's ongoing research and space exploration. Many of the Lab's scientists and engineers will be on hand to answer questions about how spacecraft are sent to other planets, how scientists utilize space technologies to explore Earth and how researchers are now searching for planets beyond the solar system. Admission is free. JPL is located at 4800 Oak Grove Drive in Pasadena, off the 210 (Foothill) Freeway at the Berkshire Avenue/Oak Grove Drive exit. Parking is available near the Oak Grove main gate and on the eastern boundary of JPL, accessible from Windsor Avenue via the Arroyo

Boulevard exit off the 210 Freeway. For more information, please call (818) 354-0112, or visit their website at www.jpl.nasa.gov

Thurs, May 20

10th Annual Bike to Work Day

The biggest bicycle commute day of the whole year – Bike to Work Day 2004. For the tenth straight year, a record number of cyclists are expected to give bicycle commuting a try. Metro will offer free rides on its buses and trains to bicyclists all day if they board with their bicycle and/or bicycle safety helmet. Nearly all Metro buses are equipped with bike racks in the front of the bus. Cyclists also can bring their bikes on Metro Rail and Metrolink trains for no additional charge (although there are some peak hour restrictions on Metro Rail trains, which are listed on the Bike To Work web site at www.metro.net/biketowork). Call Metro for more information at (213) 922-2811. Bike to Work Day is sponsored by Metro, City of Los Angeles, and the Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition.



Sat, May 22

Arundo Round-Up at Hansen Dam

Help remove "Arundo donax" from the shore of the Big Lake from 8 am to noon. *Arundo* is an invasive weed growing thirty feet tall that chokes out native vegetation and deprives native wildlife of food. Sponsored by the Tujunga Watershed Council & Stakeholders in partnership with Los Angeles Department of Recreation & Parks, US Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles Conservation Corps. Lunch will be provided. For more

information and to make reservations, call (818) 486-0712. Hansen Dam is located at 11700 Foothill Boulevard in Lake View Terrace.

**Sat and Sun,
May 22 and May 23**

18th Annual Bug Fair

The Museum of Natural History will once again be crawling with bugs when they host North America's largest bug fair. Explore the world of insects and their arthropod relatives.



See live spiders and scorpions, start your own collection of butterflies, and stay for some great cooking tips from world-renowned Insect Chef David George Gordon. This event is free with museum admission. For more information, visit their website at www.nhm.org, or call the Museum at (213) 763-DINO. The Museum is located at 900 Exposition Boulevard in Los Angeles.

Sun, May 23

4th Annual Los Angeles River Ride

The Los Angeles Bicycle Coalition will host its annual, non-competitive river ride that introduces cyclists of all ages to parks, bike paths, and other improvements along the Los Angeles River. Riders can choose to do the Kiddie Ride, the 15-mile Family Ride, or the 70-Miles to Long Beach and back. All rides commence and return to the Gene Autry Museum of Western Heritage located in Griffith Park. For more information, contact the Los Angeles County Bike Coalition at (213) 629-2142, or visit their website at www.labikecoalition.org.



Regional Transportation Plan

On April 1, 2004, the Southern California Association of Governments' (SCAG) Regional Council adopted the 2004 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and certified the 2004 associated Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR). Every three years, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) revises the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The Regional Transportation Plan is a long-term vision document that outlines transportation goals, objectives, and policies for the SCAG Region. Transportation plans must conform to air quality plans so as not to impede progress toward clean air goals.

For the first time, the RTP integrates land-use policies as a means to influence transportation performance and the economy. Without such integration, transportation needs in the future will significantly outpace the ability to pay for them. The 2004 RTP relies on infill development as a means to satisfy a portion of the needed future growth.

The update reflects population, housing, employment, environmental, land-use forecasts and technology changes. This regional planning document is required by a number of state and federal requirements, which include the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA), Clean Air Act and the California Clean Air Act.

What on Earth Is Happening to the Climate?

The Earth's atmosphere is like a greenhouse in which gases absorb sunlight to produce warmth. When humans burn fossil fuels like coal for electricity, or use gasoline for cars, greenhouse gases enter the atmosphere and absorb extra sunlight (akin to putting an extra blanket over the Earth). Increasing the Earth's temperature has consequences, such as raising sea levels and causing more extreme weather, such as droughts and severe storms. In Los Angeles, rising global temperatures are expected to flood low-lying property, cause losses of beaches and wetlands, and increase wildfires.



The City's plan to reduce greenhouse emissions (www.lacity.org/EAD/EADWeb-AQD/laclimateplan.htm) includes using cleaner fuels, retrofitting City facilities to increase energy efficiency, recycling to save energy, and planting trees to cool temperatures. The City also reduces emissions through the purchase of lower emission vehicles, improving the gas mileage of the City's vehicle fleet, and replacing office equipment with Energy Star® products. To learn more about the City's greenhouse emissions reductions, visit www.cityofla.org/EAD, then click on 'Global Climate Change.' Residents can reduce greenhouse emissions by lowering the amount of energy used in their homes; reducing the amount of garbage by reusing items; walking, riding a bike, carpooling; or planting a tree to provide shade. EAD and the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power have programs that provide free trees to plant on residents' properties, which you can learn more about at www.cityofla.org/EAD by clicking on 'Tree Planting.' To find out more about what you can do to help prevent climate change, visit the California Air Resources Board at www.arb.ca.gov/html/cando.htm and www.greenla.com.

(Mother's Beach...continued from page 2)

This Marina del Rey TMDL requires bacteria concentrations to be reduced to levels considered safe for water contact recreation during dry weather (such as swimming) within three years of EPA approval. The schedule for accomplishing this during wet weather will be determined based on the approach proposed for reducing bacteria concentrations, but it must be accomplished as soon as possible and must not take more than 18 years after EPA approval. The methods for accomplishing this are still being determined. Reducing bacteria at the source (source control) is the best approach. It is very effective and cost effective because it can prevent a problem from occurring. We all have a role to play in source control by doing things such as picking up pet droppings, not littering and even picking up litter, not washing cars in paved driveways and streets where the water runs to a storm drain, and so on. In short, we need to reduce the amount of water running into storm drains and reduce the amount of pollutants in storm water. Let's all do our part to reduce pollution.



HOTLINE CONNECTION

The Environmental Information Center (EIC) serves as a referral source to the community. Our hotline connection offers a list of the most frequently requested numbers. If the number you need is not listed, please contact the EIC at **(213) 978-0888**. You can also visit our website at <http://www.lacity.org/ead> and click on *Environmental Information Center*.

One Call to City Hall
3-1-1

Air Quality

Calidad del aire
South Coast Air Quality Management District
(800) 288-7664

Asbestos

Asbestos
Environmental Hygiene
(626) 430-5440

Bulky Item Pick-up

Recogida de articulos grandes
L.A. City Bureau of Sanitation
(800) 773-2489

Hazardous Waste Disposal

Desembolso de materiales peligrosos
L.A. County Dept. of Public Works
(888) 253-2652
L.A. City Bureau of Sanitation
(800) 988-6942

Housing and Building Complaints

Las quejas del construccion y albergar
Housing Code Enforcement
(213) 367-9411

Illegal Storm Drain Dumping

Depositos en los drenajes de desagües
Stormwater Management
(800) 974-9794

Indoor Air or Mold Concerns

Aire interior ó preocupaciones de moh o
Environmental Hygiene
(626) 430-5440

Lead Poisoning

Veneno del plomo
National Lead Information Center
(800) 424-5323

Leaf Blowers

Sopladores de hojas
Leaf Blower Complaint Line
(800) 996-2489

Mosquitoes

Infestaciones de mosquitos
L.A. West Mosquito Abatement
(310) 915-7370

Recycling

Reciclaje
City of L.A. Public Works Dept.
(800) 773-2489

Smoking Violations

Infracciones de fumar
Office of the City Attorney
(888) 333-0730

The City of Los Angeles
Environmental Affairs Department
200 N. Spring Street, Suite 2005
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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