An Environmental Affair

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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.

Earthquakes and Volcanoes 2 Workday for Wildlife 2 City of LA Reducing 3 PIE Funding 3 Grants 4 Calendar of Events 5-6

Utilizing Green Building Standards in Los Angeles

The built environment has a profound impact on our natural environment, economy, health and productivity. In the United States, buildings account

for: 36% of total energy use/65% of electricity consumption, 30% of greenhouse gas emissions, 30% of raw materials use, 30% of waste output/136 million tons annually, and 12% of potable water consumption. In response to these concerns, the environmental community has developed a set of strategies known as "green building" or "sustainable design."

"Green buildings" enhance and protect ecosystems and biodiversity, improve air The Debs Park and water quality, reduce solid waste, and ample of a LE conserve natural resources. From an ecohighest rating. nomic standpoint, green buildings reduce



The Debs Park Audubon building is one example of a LEED certified building with the highest rating.

operating costs, enhance asset value and profits, improve employee productivity and satisfaction, and optimize life-cycle economic performance. In terms of health and community, green buildings improve air, thermal and acoustic environments, enhance occupant comfort and health, minimize strain on local infrastructure, and contribute to overall quality of life.

 $(LEED...continued\ on\ page\ 7)$

Pilot Program Extends Free Meter Parking to Hybrid Vehicles in the City of Los Angeles

The City currently provides free parking at meters for electric and natural gas cars and trucks designated as "Clean Air Vehicles" by the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Based on the success of this initiative, and in an effort to promote cleaner air, the City has extended free parking to owners of hybrid vehicles as an incentive to encourage the acquisition and use of fuel-efficient vehicles, to promote reduced auto emissions, and to demonstrate the City's environmental leadership.

Hybrid vehicles, which use a combination of gasoline and electric power, may provide the best potential to increase fuel economy on a miles-per-gallon-

(Free Parking...continued on page 7)

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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Earthquakes and Volcanoes: Signs of the Earth's **Constantly Changing Crust**

Recent earthquake activity in Central California and volcanic activity

in the Cascade Mountain Range of Washington are signs that the earth's tectonic plates are always shifting.

The earth's crust is made up of continental and oceanic plates and the very top part of a layer of rock inside the earth called Underneath this the mantle. layer of rock lies a level of molten rock called the astheno- A photo of Mount St. Helens taken in early October. sphere. Because the plates and Courtesy of the U.S. Geological Survey. mantle float on this fluid laver of



rock, they can collide, slide underneath each other, move away from each other horizontally, and also move apart to create new ocean floor.

In the past 25 years, geologists have concluded that the earth's crust consists of more than twelve large plates and several smaller ones. Mount St. Helens in the Cascade Mountains is one case of plates shifting by the process of subduction, where a volcano or mountain chain is formed as plates slide underneath one another. In this region of the Pacific Northwest, the Juan de Fuca Plate is plunging beneath the North American Plate. As the Fuca plate is forced deep into the Earth's molten interior beneath the continental North American plate, it encounters high temperatures and pressures that partially melt its solid rock. This newly formed magma rises toward the Earth's surface to erupt, as in the case of Mount St. Helens. In California, the San Andreas fault, the site of many earthquakes, is the result of the Pacific Plate (on the west) moving northwestward relative to the North American Plate (on the east).

Current plate movement can be tracked by means of ground-based or space-based geodetic measurements. Ground-based measurements are taken with laser-electronic instruments. However, the best measuring instruments are satellites. In the late 1970s there was a rapid growth of space geodesy, a term applied to space-based techniques for taking precise, repeated measurements of carefully chosen points on the Earth's surface separated by hundreds to thousands of kilometers. The Global Positioning System (GPS) is the most used of these satellite instruments today. The U.S. Department of Defense currently runs the NavStar system which uses 21 monitoring satellites to survey the earth.

Recently NASA's QuakeSim project has developed a method of anticipating earthquakes in California. The method, called the Rundle-Tiampo forecast, has been successful 15 out of 16 times. To find out more about the forecast, visit www.nasa.gov/vision/earth/environment/0930 earthquake.html. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) issues daily reports on the volcanic activity of Mount St. Helens. You can find Mount St. Helens' updates on their website at www.usgs.gov.

Workday for Wildlife!

The National Wildlife Federation and the Exposition Neighbors Environmental Group (ENEG) have partnered to present Workday for Wildlife. This free community festival is designed to educate Los Angeles residents about water conservation, air quality, local wildlife and habitat, and greenspace renewal. The event takes place on Saturday, November 6 from 10 am to 4 pm at the 4100 Block of Exposition Boulevard, between Buckingham and West Boulevard in the Crenshaw District of south Los Angeles. It includes free food, music and more! For more information on the event, call ENEG at (323) 731-0323.

The City of Los Angeles Takes a Lead On Reducing Auto Emissions

The City of Los Angeles is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions from City opera-



tions. Recently the City publicly supported the California Air Resources Board (CARB) in adopting the strongest possible regulations to reduce greenhouse gases from passenger vehicles under AB 1493. CARB adopted standards designed to improve the efficiency of passenger vehicles and reduce impacts on climate change.

CARB determined that advanced vehicle technology could reduce greenhouse gas emissions without changing the look, feel or performance of vehicles. Technology that has been

developed already and is currently in use on some cars can result in significant improvement.

The new regulations do the following:

- Cover new non-commercial vehicles, starting with 2009 models; this includes new motor vehicles (cars, pickups, minivans, and SUVs).
- Give industry flexibility to use the most cost-effective strategies.
- Give credit to auto manufacturers that reduce emissions early.
- Require that CARB include all greenhouse gas pollutants, including carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).
- Allow Californians to continue to be able to purchase and drive the vehicle of our choice. The bill
 prohibits: new fees or taxes on vehicles, fuel, or miles traveled; a ban on the sale of any vehicle
 category; a required reduction in vehicle weight; a reduction in the speed limit or in vehicle miles
 traveled.

Similarly, the City's Clean Fuel Policy directs City departments to improve the fuel efficiency of vehicles, which in turn reduces greenhouse gases. It is the practice of the City of Los Angeles to support measures that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions in an effort to protect the health and well being

(Continued on page 6)

Public Involvement and Education (PIE) Funding for Santa Monica Bay

The PIE fund encourages and supports the development of a wide range of public involvement and education projects that educate Los Angeles County residents about ways to restore and protect Santa Monica Bay. Each cycle, PIE identifies the issues it considers the top educational priorities in the watershed and solicits projects that will carry out the goals and objectives of those priorities. Included in this Request for Proposal (RFP) are this year's 10 Key Watershed Issues. Collectively, they address the public information needs identified in both the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission's (SMBRC) Bay Restoration Plan and by the Bay Watershed Council. The SMBRC encourages various "communities" (community groups, educators, trade and business associations, planners, artists, public agencies, scientists and others) to submit a two-page proposal detailing how they would design and implement any key watershed issues.

The PIE program supports projects that raise awareness of Bay-related issues utilizing a variety of approaches. More information is available at the SMBRC's website at www.santamonicabay.org. Proposals are due no later than **5 pm on Monday**, **October 25**, **2004**.

\$\$\$ FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES \$\$\$ Visit http://www.lacity.org/ead for more grant opportunities.

California Coastal Commission Whale Tail

Grants The Whale Tail Grants Program distributes funds from sales of the Whale Tail License Plate. The grants support programs that teach California's children and the general public to value and take action to improve the health of the state's marine and coastal resources. Adopt-A-Beach programs, as well as other beach maintenance and coastal habitat restoration projects that have an educational component, are also eligible for these grants. This grants program focuses on reaching communities that are currently poorly served in terms of marine and coastal education. The Whale Tail Grants Program funds projects that fall into any one of the following three categories: 1) Adopt-A-Beach programs; 2) Youth programs; 3) Programs for the general public. Applicants must be either a nonprofit organization or a governmental entity. For beach operation and maintenance projects, the applicant must be a non-profit organization or local governmental agency. Applications must be postmarked by **December 10, 2004**. For more information, visit the Coastal Commission's Whale Tale Grants webpage at www.coastal.ca.gov/ publiced/pendx.html; e-mail for information at COAST4U@coastal.ca.gov; call the Coastal Commission offices at (800) COAST 4U or write to:

Whale Tail Grants Program California Coastal Commission 45 Fremont St., Suite 2000 San Francisco, CA 94105.

Building State, Territorial, and Tribal Capacity To Address Children's Environmental Health: Environmental Triggers of Childhood Asthma

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is calling for projects that will build state, territorial, and tribal capacity to address the environment triggers of childhood asthma. This solicitation focuses on projects that equip environment and health departments/agencies, and social service agencies where indicated, of states, territories and tribes as partners or state/territorial/tribal or regional asthma coalitions with substantive government involvement, to achieve measurable environmental and public health results by identifying and reducing environmental risks to protect and improve the environmental health of children impacted by asthma. For more information, visit www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-AIR/2004/September/Day-27/a21580.htm.

Eligible applicants are State governments, Public and State controlled institutions of higher education, Native American tribal governments, nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, and other institutions of higher education. Private institutions of higher education. For more information, contact Bettina Fletcher, Project Officer, at (202) 564-2646, by fax at (202) 564-2733, or e-mail fletcher.bettina@epa.gov. Proposals for projects are due by **December 29, 2004**.

Toyota Tapestry Grants for Science Teachers

A partnership of Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc. and the National Science Teachers Association, the Toyota Tapestry program offers grants to K-12 science teachers for innovative projects that enhance science education in the school and/or school district. Toyota Tapestry grants will be awarded in three categories: Environmental Science Education, Physical Science Application, and Literacy & Science Education. For more infomation, visit http://www.nsta.org/programs/tapestry/. Applications are due January 1, 2005.

Leaf-It-To-Us Tree Planting Grant The purpose of the program is to distribute funds for community school tree-planting projects initiated by school kids in partnership with school volunteers. \$50,000 is available, with grant requests accepted between \$500 and \$3,000. For more information, contact Eric Oldar at (951)320-6125 or e-mail eric.oldar@fire.ca.gov or visit www.fire.ca.gov/php/index.php. Applications are due **December 1, 2004**.

Fifth Graders: Celebrate Arbor Day 2005!

"Trees are Terrific... and Energy Wise!" is the theme for this year's contest. Free curriculum kits explaining the contest are available to fifth grade teachers and parents. Each school or group selects one poster to submit to the statewide contest. One winner will be forwarded to the National Arbor Day Foundation for final judging. That winner receives a \$1,000 savings bond and other prizes. For more information and to request a kit, contact Kay Antunez at 916/653-7958 and e-mail to Kay.Antunez@fire.ca.gov or visit http://www.arborday.org. The deadline to enter is **March 1, 2005**.

NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EACH MONTH:

Smart Gardening Workshops

The Los Angeles Countywide Yard Waste Program hosts Smart Gardening workshops year-round. Topics covered include backyard and worm composting, grass recycling, and water-wise gardening. For more information, call (888) CLEAN-LA or visit www. smartgardening.com. For more information call the Bureau of Sanitation at (213) 473-8228.

Down-by-the-River Walks Friends of the Los Angeles River

and the Sierra Club are sponsor-

ing monthly walks along the banks of the LA River. Join



them at 4:30 pm on the third Sunday of each month for an informal, leisurely, hour-long walk. The walk is canceled if it rains. For more information, visit the FoLAR website, www.folar.org, or call Joe Linton at (213) 381-3570.



Japanese Gar-Tours

Docent-led tours of the Japanese Gar-

dens at the D.C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant in Van Nuys are offered during the day on Monday through Thursday and again on Saturday. Reservations are required. For more information or to make reservations call (818) 756-8166.

Madrona Marsh Tyke Hike for Preschool Children and their favorite adult every first Thursday of the month. The hike takes place Thursdays at 10 am. Suggested donation of \$5. Hikers meet at the gate half-way between Sepulveda and Plaza del Amo on Madrona Avenue in

Torrance. For more information, call the Friends of Madrona Marsh at (310) 32MARSH or the Nature Center at (310) 782-3989.



Hyperion Wastewa-**Treatment Plant** Tours

Free public tours of the facility (located near El Segundo in Los Angeles) are available Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday starting at 9 am. For more information, please contact Felcie Kidd at (310) 648-5363 for details or to schedule a tour.

Afternoons in the Lab

Cabrillo Marine Aquarium's education staff and volunteers are available every Wednesday from 3-5 pm to answer questions and involve students of all ages in exploring local marine life in the hands-on Discovery SEA Lab. Activities cover a wide range of scientific fun. The science education afternoon is free and opens with a different theme each week. Groups should make reservations. For more information, call (310) 548-7562 or visit www.cabrilloag. org.

THIS MONTH:

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)

Backbone Trail Festival Each Sunday in November the Sierra Club will lead several hikes on the Backbone Trail. Three hikes are scheduled to take place each Sunday, ranging from 4 to 8 hours in length and ranging from easy to strenuous. Heavy rain or fire closure cancels. Bring water and lunch. To see the schedules, visit the National Park Services Outdoors calendar at www.nps.gov/samo/outdoors/ november.htm or for more de-

The EAD website, located at www.lacity.org/EAD, contains updated information on this month's events. To ensure vour 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.

tails, call or e-mail Milt McAuley (818) 347-6433 mmmcauley@msn.com. Free.



Destination: **Dinosaurs!**

Make the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens your destination for prehistoric fun! This fall the Zoo's Koala House is transformed into Dinosaur Den with an invasion of animatronic dinosaurs. Explore the lives and lifestyles of these massive prehistoric creatures at this very special exhibit. The adventures continue at T. Rex Territory and at Prehistoric Park (formerly Zoopendous Center across from the World of Birds Show). Visit the LA Zoo's website at www.lazoo. org. "Destination: Dinosaurs!" begins November 1 and runs through November 21, 2004.

Drawn to Yellowstone: Artists in America's First National Park Seemingly a place apart from civilization, Yellow-

THIS MONTH: (continued)



stone's exotic appeal also has lured generations of artists. This exhibition at the Museum of the American West invites visitors to explore the park's visual history, beginning with its status as an icon of preservation to the contested land that it has become. The exhibition consists of more than 80 works of art, and runs through January 23, 2005 at the Museum of the American West. The Museum is located at 4700 Western Heritage Way in Griffith Park. For more information call the Museum at (323) 667-2000 or visit the Museum's website located at www.museumofthemerican west.org.

Sat, Nov 6

Workday for Wildlife! See page 2 for details.

Sat and Sun, Nov 6 & 7

Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Gardens Plant Sale A sale of 12,000 California native species and cultivars at the famed native plant botanical garden. Many species of drought tolerant plants will be available. For more information, contact Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Gardens at (909) 625-8767 or visit their website at www.rsabg.org. The garden is located at 1500 North College Avenue in Claremont.

Sat, Nov 13

Alternative Gift Fair Why buy another tie, video game or bottle of perfume when you can honor friends and family while helping support out local & global communities. El Dorado Nature Center is hosting an alternative gift fair showcasing a diverse collection of organizations that help people and the environment.

Shop in order to benefit our planet and those living on it. For more information, call (562) 570-1745. El Dorado Nature Center is located at 7550 E. Spring St. in Long Beach. Free admission; \$5 parking. The fair takes place from 10 am to 3 pm.

Sat Nov 20

Harvest Food Festival by the African Firefighters in Benevolent Association. In association with the City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department, this festival features African and African American cuisine, cooking, jewelry, crafts and entertainment. Free to all. 5730 Crenshaw Blvd. For more information call (323) 292-5550.

Snow Day in the Valley! The 8th annual northeast valley extravaganza at Hansen Dam features food, karaoke, Santa and more! Presented by the City of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Department for free,; 1177 Foothill Boulevard, for more information call (888) 527-2757 or visit www.laparks.org.

(Continued from page 3)
of its residents and businesses.

In 2001, City Council approved the City's Energy Climate Action Plan (Energy C.A.P.), developed by the Environmental Affairs Department, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from City operations. This plan includes a number of strategies to reduce energy use and emissions from the City's fleet vehicles, includes improving the average fuel efficiency of the City's vehicle fleet by deploying clean alternative-fuel and electric vehicles and associated infrastructure. The City currently replaces departmental fleet light-duty vehicles with hybrids unless department specifications require other types of vehicles. By the end of 2003, the City had 373 hybrids and 1,237 additional alternative fuel vehicles in its regular fleets. In addition, the City's bicycle patrols remove officers from vehicles, which also reduces vehicle emissions.

The City of Los Angeles has also made strides in advancing the hydrogen economy. In 2002, the City took delivery of the first commercially available fuel cell car in the United States. Since then, the City has received four more Honda FCX fuel cars, which create water vapor rather than exhaust, and are certified by CARB and the EPA as zero emission vehicles. In another first, the Los Angeles International Airport is the site of the nation's first retail compressed Hydrogen Fueling Demonstration Station, which will serve as a prototype of a commercial automobile fueling station. To learn more about the City's alternative fuel programs, visit http://www.lacity.org/EAD.

(LEED...Continued from page 1)

LEED®, the "Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design" Green Building Rating System, is the nationally accepted standard for green buildings developed by the US Green Building Council. LEED uses a point system that ranks buildings as "Certified", "Silver", "Gold", and "Platinum" based on five areas of environmental performance: sustainable site planning, safeguarding water and water efficiency, energy efficiency and renewable energy, conservation of materials and resources, and indoor environmental quality. The City has several LEED-accredited staff, including staff in the Environmental Affairs Department (EAD), that can guide construction projects through the LEED process.

In April 2002, the City Council required that all City-funded new buildings 7,500 square feet or larger and constructed after July 1, 2003 achieve a LEED "Certified" level. Many projects overseen by the City's Architectural Division have since achieved even higher rankings of silver and gold. As a note of interest, one non-government project, the Audubon Center in Montecito Heights (see building photograph on page 1), made history last year by becoming the first building to achieve a LEED "Platinum" rating in the United States.

The Environmental Affairs Department has been involved with green building in a number of ways. In conjunction with Global Green, EAD published the Residential Rehabilitation Guide and Sourcebook to aid residents in making environmentally sustainable renovations to their homes. EAD, along with the Architectural Division, acquired a grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board for a deconstruction (the careful disassembly of buildings to maximize the reuse and recycling of the materials) pilot program where five future library sites were chosen for deconstruction. Through its key role in the Brownfields Program, EAD also has been able to include sustainable design strategies in brownfields redevelopment projects. To learn more about sustainable building and specific standards for the LEED Green Building Rating System, visit EAD's website at www.lacity.org/ead and the US Green Building Council's website at www.usgbc.org.

(Free Parking...continued from page 1)

basis and, consequently, reduce air pollution. Los Angeles had more hybrids registered in 2003 (4,701) than any other city in California.

Hybrid vehicle free parking will take place during an initial six month period, from September 1, 2004 though March 31, 2005, in order to provide adequate time to evaluate the use and benefits of the program to the City and hybrid owners. The goal of this program is to focus on the incentives for hybrids during the critical period of their introduction and public acceptance. As the use of hybrid vehicles increases, the Department of Transportation will analyze future cost and revenue impact beyond the pilot period and make a recommendation whether or not to continue the program. The City of San Jose in Northern California has operated a similar program for the past three years.

Under the proposed program, hybrid owners will not need to do anything special to take advantage of the incentives. Parking enforcement officers will be trained to recognize the types of hybrid vehicles currently on the market and will simply not cite owners of such vehicles for not paying at parking meters. Vehicle owners still will be required to comply with posted time limits. In addition, should the Department of Motor Vehicles decide to include hybrids in the category of "Clean Air Vehicles," hybrid owners then would be required to obtain a sticker from the State to qualify for free parking, as is the current practice with electric and natural gas vehicle owners.

The City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation has reported recommendations for initiating the pilot six month hybrid-vehicle-free-parking-at-meters program from September 1, 2004 through March 31, 2005. A further report is due at the conclusion of the pilot that will analyze future cost and revenue impact beyond the pilot period, and make recommendations whether and how to continue the program. For questions regarding the pilot program, or to obtain a copy of the initial report, contact the Department of Transportation at (213) 580-1179.



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, or toll-free in Los Angeles only at (800) 439-4666. You can also visit our website at http://www.lacity.org/ead and click on Environmental Information Center.

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 moho 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

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

Recycling

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

Smoking Violations

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

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