# 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.

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#### Yunnan Environmental Protection Bureau Visits EAD

In July, the Environmental Protection Bureau from the Yunnan Province of China visited Environmental Affairs (EAD) to obtain information on the ways Los Angeles is dealing with air quality and hazardous waste issues. The delegation, comprised of eight representatives from the environmental moni-



toring and environmental protection units of the Yunnan Province, learned about Los Angeles' Brownfields Program, EAD's Hazardous and Toxic Materials (HTM) section, Water and Natural Resources (WNR), and Air Quality Division (AQD).

The delegation was shown that working directly with businesses, cost-effective and innovative pollution prevention technologies could be identified and applied. In addition, they were shown how effective strategies enabled the redevelopment of brownfields throughout Los Angeles, particularly in disadvantaged communities. Finally, the representatives also were given a presentation on the City's Alternative Fuels Vehicle (AFV) Program and the City's Climate Action Plan.

#### First "Fuel Cell Family" Leases Hydrogen-Powered FCX

Providing an example of the inroads being made by advanced vehicle technologies, American Honda recently offered the first fuel cell powered car to an individual customer. Jon and Sandy Spallino of Redondo Beach, California

will lease a 2005 Honda FCX, an advanced hydrogen-powered fuel cell vehicle, for a period of two years. The Spallinos will be the first family to drive a fuel cell car for everyday use, including commuting to work in Orange County, trips to school for their children, shopping and household errands. "I'm looking forward to commuting to work and running the kids around in the FCX," said Jon Spallino. "The FCX drives just like any other vehicle on the road and has no [harmful] emissions." The fuel cell vehicle's only emission is water, which is created when the hydrogen fuel combines with oxygen in the atmosphere.



The Spallinos also will be the first private family to utilize the area's public access hydrogen refueling stations. The nation's first retail compressed-hydrogen fueling station for public use opened last October at LAX. The new fueling station is located on a portion of an on-airport, alternative-fuel site on World Way West, where facilities for dispensing liquefied and compressed natural gas (LNG/CNG) already exist. This station supports the City's continued integration of hydrogen fuel cell vehicles into its own alterna-

(First FCX Family...continued on page 7)

being healthy and resourceefficient.

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 and reach us by fax at (213) 978-0893. the Americans with Disabilities Act. the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and upon request, will to ensure equal access to its

#### **Environmental Summit** Highlights Women's Health Risk and Advocacy

As more studies are being released that address adverse effects of polluted environments on women, low-income groups, and children, the University of California Los Angeles' (UCLA) Institute for the En-

vironment, and the Women's Foundation of California, cosponsored "In the Shadow of Pollution," a summit reviewing the impacts of toxic pollutants, particularly on women's health reproductive systems. Speakers from various environ-As a covered entity under Title II of mental organizations gave evidence that toxic contamination from industrial, agricultural, and consumer product sources foreprovide reasonable accommodation mostly affected women and their children, due to women's



Erin Brockovich-Ellis gave the keynote speech, in which she emphasized that the susceptibility to bioaccumulation public needed to advocate for their health, safety, and their right to know.

of toxic chemicals in their body fat, and the transfer of these synthetic chemicals to their children in utero and through breast

milk. Health impacts from the multiplicity of toxic pollutants entering the environment also can include cancer, autism, asthma, impaired fertility, birth defects, and learning disabilities.

Speakers addressed the need to increase and change safety standards to be based more on health risk, as opposed to being based on a standard of an acceptable level of risk. Cited in a past report



issued by the Women's Foundation of California, critics argue that much of human health is compromised on several levels with the current establishment of regulations. One such problem with regulations is that, while an acceptable level of exposure to one chemical can be defined by regulators, assessing exposures to combinations of chemicals--and their interactions--is more difficult to assess, and is not taken into account by the safe exposure limits set by these regulators. Another problem is the underlying assumption of regulatory testing that higher doses of chemical and toxin exposures have a greater effect than low doses, as researchers are determining that chronic low-dose exposure can be

Dr. Bruce Henschel from NBC 4 moderated a panel composed of representatives from environmental organizations and from political offices. Panelists discussed environmental legislation.

The forum also coincided with the release of UCLA's Southern California 2004 Environmental Report Card, which made evaluations on four critical pollution problems affecting the region, such as traffic, air pollutant exposure, illegal dumping, and stormwater discharge. The report looks at planning traffic alternatives to

ameliorate air pollution caused by gridlock, and also examines the concentrations of air pollutants in specific breathing places, or 'microenvironments,' where people spend 90% of their time. The report is issued and available from UCLA's Institute of the Environment, which can be reached at (310) 825-5008, or by visiting their website, www.ioe.ucla.edu. More information about the summit and the Women's Foundation of California can be found on their website, www.womensfoundca.org, or by calling their Los Angeles headquarters at (213) 388-0485.

linked to many health problems.

#### **Manual Arts High School Establishes Environmental Studies Learning Community**

The Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) visited Manual Arts High School in July as they pre-

sented, "An Environmental Day in the Life of a Teenager." EAD gave the presentation to open the Environmental Sciences and Human Studies learning community, one of nine learning communities established at the school of 4,000 students.

Earlier this year Manual Arts teachers and administrators began to organize and devise themes for nine learning communities to raise test scores and to break up the larger school population to smaller numbers. Through thematic teaching of environmental issues and science, teachers in the Environmental Science and Human Studies learning community will focus on raising environmental awareness of students living in Central Los Angeles. The small learning communities essentially are schools within a school, allowing teachers to know students better, to simulate a smaller school setting for students in the large campus, and to EAD presenters hand out recycled plastic hook students with a particular topic.



tote bags packed with environmental information to students of the new learning

In "An Environmental Day in the Life of a Teenager," EAD showed community. Manual Arts High students how they affected the environment during a regular school day, and what they could do to help improve the environment.

#### **Environmental Career Fair and "Happy Trails" Dedication**

On August 11, from 9 am to 3 pm, White Point Nature Preserve will host an Environmental Career Fair and "Happy Trails" dedication celebration co-sponsored by the City of Los Angeles, the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy, and the California Conservation Corps. From 9 am to 11:30 am, young



Visitors to White Point can enjoy the scenery and hike from the bluffs to the beach.

adults can participate in the Environmental Career Fair where representatives from many environmental organizations and environmentally-related positions will have informational materials and will offer discussion sessions on available careers.

The Golden State Environmental Education Consortium will oversee this special interactive educational program that promises to inspire local youth on career opportunities for their future. At noon, the trails at White Point will be officially opened and dedicated by members of the San Pedro High School Cross Country team and young adults from the Easter Seals. After enjoying refreshments, there will be volunteer service projects, a natural history scavenger hunt, and youth craft activities including a giant mural painting designed and coordinated by ArtscorpsLA.

From 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm, David Riherd from "The Animal Guys" will have an exotic animal show. Children, teens, and adults can attend this great summer event and enjoy a full day of fun, education, and entertainment with the scenic coastal Preserve as a backdrop. White Point Nature Preserve is located at 1600 Paseo del Mar in San Pedro. For more information please contact Andrea Vona of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy at (310) 541-7613 ex. 204. Free.

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

### Submit a Lesson Plan to the Chemical Education Foundation and Win \$1,000

The Chemical Education Foundation (CEF) is sponsoring a You Be The Chemist (YBTC) lesson plan competition for educators in grades K-8. The Foundation will award \$1,000 for first prize and \$500 for runner-up entries in three categories: Scientific Inquiry, Structure of Matter, and Safety and Recycling. The six winning lesson plan entries and their authors will be published on the CEF Web site. Visit www.chemed.org/ or www.chemed.org/ Lesson\_Plan.html for more information. You also may contact comments@chemed.org. The deadline is **Friday, October 21.** 

The National Science Foundation's Science and Society grant considers proposals that examine questions that arise in the interactions of engineering, science, technology, and society. Funding takes place for the following categories: Science and Society Scholars Awards; standard research grants and grants for collaborative research; Science and Society postdoctoral fellowships; Science and Society professional development fellowships; doctoral dissertation research improvement grants; small grants for training and research; conference and workshop awards; other funding opportunities. Applications are due by August 23, 2005. More information on this grant may be obtained by visiting www.nsf.gov/pubs/2005/nsf05588/nsf05588.htm.

The City of Los Angeles Neighborhood Matching Fund Grant (NMF) is a competitive matching grant program that awards funding of up to \$10,000 for beautification projects to community-based organizations. New applications, updated guidelines, and a new citywide workshop schedule are available for download at www.lacity.org/bpw/ocs/nmf. The proposed due date for the C9 application will be late October, 2005.

The Discovery Corps Fellowship Program is a pilot program by the National Science Foundation (NSF) that is seeking new postdoctoral and professional development models to combine research expertise with service-oriented projects. Discovery Corps Fellows leverage their research expertise through projects that address areas of national need. Their projects enhance research capacity and infrastructure, contribute to

workforce development and job creation and develop innovative linkages between chemistry and other fields. For this pilot program, successful Fellows will have research expertise in areas supported by the NSF Division of Chemistry. The Discovery Corps Fellowship Program comprises two categories of awards: recent doctoral recipients serve as Discovery Corps Postdoctoral Fellows; and mid-career professionals serve as Discovery Corps Senior Fellows. For more information, visit www.nsf.gov/pubs/2005/ nsf05593/nsf05593.htm, or contact Katharine J. Covert, Program Director, Directorate for Mathematical & Physical Sciences, Division of Chemistry, at (703) 292-4950; by fax at (703) 292-9037; or by email at kcovert@nsf.gov. Deadline for submissions is December 2, 2005.

Growing With Children Grant The Western Growers Charitable Foundation invites schools to apply for school garden funds. Grants of up to \$1,500 are available for supplies and curriculum related to starting or maintaining a garden. For more information and application instructions, visit www.wga.com. Deadline is **September 1, 2005.** 

**California Environmental Protection Agency** (CAL/EPA) Environmental Justice (EJ) Small **Grants Funding Announcement** The Cal/EPA Secretary has established the EJ Small Grants Program to assist eligible community-based, grassroots, non-profit entities with federal Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3) status, and federally recognized Tribal governments to address environmental justice issues as authorized by California Code of Regulations Title 27, Division 1, Chapter 3, Article 1. However, organizations that are tax-exempt under the 501(c)(4) section of the federal Internal Revenue Code, and individuals are not eligible for grant funding. The EJ Small Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis. Two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) in grant funds are available for this grant cycle. Projects may be funded with a maximum amount of \$20,000 per project. For more information or to obtain an application package, please visit http:// www.calepa.ca.gov/EnvJustice/Funding/ SmallGrants.htm, or contact: Ms. Malinda Dumisani by e-mail at dumisani@calepa.ca.gov, or by telephone at (916) 445-9480. The deadline to apply is October 14, 2005.

#### AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### **EACH MONTH:**

EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)



Collapse: How **Societies** Choose to Fail or Succeed is a groundbreaking exhibit that examines how human societies have recognized or ignored and solved or failed to solvekey environmental issues, including those that concern contemporary global society. A dynamic collage of images, graphics, and live interviews asks the visitor to consider the environmental challenges facing Southern California, and how decisions today may shape its future. Collapse? exhibits at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, located at 900 Exposition Boulevard in Los Angeles. For more information, call (213) 763-DINO, or visit www.nhm.org. Ends January 16, 2006.

Adventure with a Ranger Saturdays and Sundays in the California State Parks Join the Park Service at Point Mugu State Park on Saturday at 9 am, or at Leo Carrillo State Park on Sundays at 9 am, to explore these California State Parks. Participants meet at the entrance stations. For more information, call the California State Park office for directions as and information at (805) 488-1827. Free.

**Sundays at the River!** Join Friends of the Los Angeles River (FoLAR) on the third Sunday

e a c h m o n t h through Novemb e r . "Down by the River"



walks are non-strenuous and open to all ages. Tours are free to FoLAR members with a suggested contribution of \$5 for non-members. Rain cancels. For more information call FoLAR at (323) 223-0585, or visit www.folar.org.

**Pavilion of Wings at the Natural History Museum** The
Robinsons-May Pavilion of Wings



is open and will r u n through Labor Day, Monday,

September 5, 2005. Enter a world of free flying butterflies and stroll through a beautifully landscaped temporary exhibit housed at the Museum's South Lawn. See a giant swallowtail, monarch, American painted Lady or even a California dogface -California's state butterfly. Over the summer, thirty different butterfly and moth species will call the pavilion home. Discover how butterflies interact with the plants and gain a new understanding of various environmental issues. Special ticketed admission applies: \$3 for adults, \$2 for seniors and students and \$1 for children ages 5 to 12. Tickets are sold in half-hour time slots throughout the day. The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County is located at 900 Exposition Boulevard in Los Angeles. Call (213) 763-DINO for more information.

The EAD website, located at <a href="https://www.lacity.org/EAD">www.lacity.org/EAD</a>, 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.

## Cabrillo Marine Aquarium's Special Exhibits: *Did You Sea?* and *Seventy Years and*



**Counting** Back when bread was 8 cents a loaf and gas cost 10 cents a gallon, a retired

dentist took over a collection of marine life collected by L.A. City Lifequards that was moved to the Cabrillo Beach Bathhouse in 1935. What started as a card table display on Venice Beach back in the early 1930s has blossomed into a worldrenowned educational aquarium. Seventy Years and Counthighlights the 70-year growth of Cabrillo Marine Museum and Aquarium in a special exhibit on display for six months. Did You Sea? is a photograph exhibit highlighting the beauty of Southern California marine life. Both exhibits are available for viewing at the Aquarium, located at 3720 Stephen White Drive in San Pedro. For additional information, contact CMA at (310) 548-7562, o r visit www.cabrilloaq.org. The exhibits run through January 6, 2006. Free.

## THIS MONTH: (continued)

#### Sun, Aug 7

**Story Time at the Southwest Museum** Journey to the Ameri-

can West, as told through the stories and characters that have shaped its adventurous and diverse history. StoryTime



is offered the first weekend of each month and is free with regular museum admission. Offered this month is The Other Way to Listen, a story of an old man who had a special way of hearing, and a child who hoped to learn his secrets. In Snail Girl Brings Water, the mystery of how water came to the earth is brought to life in this retelling of a traditional Navajo creation myth. Story Time begins at 11:30 am at the Southwest Museum of the American Indian, located at 234 Museum Drive Los Angeles. For more information, visit the Southwest Museum's website аt www.southwestmuseum.org, or call (323) 221- 2164. The Southwest Museum is located near the Metro's Gold Line.

#### Sat, Aug 20

Central Library's Used Book Sale, Storytime, and Puppet



Show From 10 am to noon, in the Taper Court-yard, find bargain children's books for sale. Then attend a book reading and puppet show, "Lions

in the Library," starring the King of the Jungle. Free. Central Library is located at 630 West Fifth Street in Los Angeles. For more information, call (213) 228-7000.

#### Sun, Aug 21

Let's Make History! I Scream, You Scream, All Scream for **Ice Cream!** Let's Make History lets families with children ages 5 to 12 journey through the Museum of Western Heritage's galleries with educators and create exciting take-home projects. In this workshop, participants will be making ice cream. Join museum educators for a little cool fun on a hot summer day. Using coffee cans, rock salt, ice, and cream, participants will shake, shake, shake, and roll, roll, roll, until they have worked up an appetite for something sweet. And the best part is, they get to eat what they make. Free with regular Museum admission. Join the shaking and the rolling as it takes place from 1 pm to 2:30 pm at the Museum of American Heritage, located at Griffith Park, 4700 Western Heritage Way in Los Angeles. For more information can be obtained by visiting the Museum's website www.museumoftheamericanwest .org, or by calling (323) 667-2000.

#### Sun, Aug 21

Weekend TidePool Walk at Cabrillo Marine Aquarium (CMA) in English and Spanish CMA's Education staff will conduct tours of the Point Fermin Marine Life Refuge during weekend low tides. Attend an informative slide show in the John M. Olguin Auditorium, then come along on a naturalist-led ramble on the rocks. Life ranging from simple sea anemones to mussels, sea stars, crabs and tidepool

fishes are revealed. Outdoor clothing and sneakers advised. Fee: \$1. Reservations required for groups. The walk and presentation take place from 3:30 to 5 pm. Slide presentation in Spanish will be held from 4 to 5:30 pm.

#### **NEXT MONTH:**

(check with event sponsors)

#### Tues, Sep 8

The Arctic Ocean with Captain Don Walsh As an adventurer and explorer, Captain Don



Walsh has worked in the oceans and Polar Regions for the last 40 years. A retired U.S. Navy seaman, Walsh's polar experience began with

trips to the Arctic in 1955 and 1957 on expeditions to the Bering Sea with the U.S. Navy. Since that time he has made about 25 expeditions and vovages across the Arctic Circle. Walsh will return to the Aquarium for a lecture on the current status of the Arctic and the implications of climate change in the area. The event takes place at the Aquarium of the Pacific from 7 pm to 8:30 pm. \$7. To make reservations, call the at (562)951-5352. Aguarium The Aguarium is located at 100 Aquarium Way in Long Beach.

#### Sat, Sep 10

Boiling Point: Changes in the Southern California Environment Leading environmental experts discuss how natural resource issues affect Southern California's water supply, the loss of wildlife habitat, and the how the national regulatory changes impact California's efforts to protect its own environ-

#### **NEXT MONTH:**

(continued)

ment. This is a collaboration with UCLA's Institute of the Environment. \$10. For reservations or more details call (323) 667-2000 ext. 354. The discussion takes place from 2 pm to 3:30 pm at the Museum of the American West, located at 4700 Western Heritage Way in Los Angeles.

#### Sat, Sep 17

Keep It Clean on International Coastal Cleanup/ Adopt-A-Beach Day Help make a difference in the environment during what is believed to be the largest single day volunteer effort on the planet! Celebrate COASTWEEKS joining Cabrillo Marine Aguarium and a host of individuals and community groups in cleaning up the Coastal Park area at Cabrillo Beach. Meet on the outer beach at 9 am. Help clean the coastline of Cabrillo Beach and the Point Fermin Marine Life Refuge and conclude the cleanup at noon. From noon to 2 pm there will be an open house and refreshments at the salt marsh, Salinas de San Pedro. Learn more about this unique habitat by using binoculars and microscopes to observe live animals. Examine plant and animal specimens from the CMA collections. This is a free activity. Groups please call the Education staff at (310) 548-7562 ext. 217 to reserve and arrange for parking.

#### Sat and Sun, Sep 24-25

Moompetam Moompetam,

meaning "of the ocean," is derived from the



word for salt water in the Tongva language. Moompetam (pronounced \'mohm peh tahm) is the name of the Aquarium's inaugural Native American festival. For the local coastal and island indigenous people, the ocean has always been a sacred entity. The maritime native peoples that inhabited ocean waters for thousands of years, including the Tongva and the

were taught Chumash, to deeply respect the ocean. In hosting its first Moompetam Native American festival, the Aquarium of the Pacific will feature music, including traditional Chumash songs and stories by Denise Garcia of Friends of Satwiwa. Families will be able to participate in hands-on crafts for all ages and other activities derived or inspired from the local coastal and island indigenous cultures. A special display will feature the ethno-botany and plant life from both land and sea that sustained the indigenous people for thousands of years. In addition, the festival will highlight a tomol, the traditional watercraft of the Chumash of the Santa Barbara Channel area, and a ti'at, used by the Tongva of the Southern Channel Islands and coastal areas. For more information, contact the Aquarium of the Pacific at (562) 590-3100, or visit their website at www.aguarium ofpacific.org. The Aquarium is located at 100 Aquarium Way in Long Beach.

(First FCX Family...continued from page 1)

tive fuel fleet, and also will serve other private customers and public agencies. The State of California in April 2005 committed to a Hydrogen Highway, creating a public and private partnership to build California's Hydrogen Highway by 2010. The station is one component of a phased implementation plan that will site 50 to 100 hydrogen-fueling stations in California by 2010.

The City of Los Angeles became the first U.S. customer to lease the Honda FCX in December 2002. The City agreed to lease five FCX vehicles for a two-year period, although the vehicle leases have recently been extended through the end of 2006. Honda has leased a fleet of 13 FCX fuel cell vehicles to six public municipal customers in California, New York and Nevada, including the five FCX vehicles in the City's fleet. The Honda FCX is the first and only hydrogen vehicle to be certified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and California's Air Resources Board (CARB). CARB also has certified the FCX as a Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV). Current models operate at sub-freezing temperatures as low as -4 degrees Fahrenheit and in temperatures over 100 degrees Fahrenheit in the Nevada desert. The new models also benefit from increased performance, range and fuel efficiency compared with earlier models. The 2005 FCX carries an EPA certified range of 190 miles. Many other auto manufacturers are currently either developing or have in use fuel cell vehicles. Daimler-Chrysler, Ford Motor Company, General Motors, Hyundai Motor Company, Nissan, Toyota and Volkswagen are all working towards a practical fuel cell vehicle for tomorrow's family.



#### **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 and E-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

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

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