An Environmental Affair

Volume 16, Issue 10 October 2005

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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Clean Cities Coalitions Celebrate Energy Awareness Month

October has been designated as national "Energy Awareness Month." During October, the Los Angeles Clean Cities Coalition, in partnership with the Southern California Association of Governments Clean Cities



Coalition and other local coalitions, will celebrate the fact that over one billion gallons of petroleum have been conserved due to the use of alternative fuel. This is due to the collective efforts of Clean Cities Coalitions nationwide. Clean Cities Coalitions and their public and private partners will be celebrating this milestone event across the nation by pumping a symbolic billionth gallon of alternative fuel on October 14, 2005, and throughout the month. Watch for further details as they develop on EAD's Clean Cities webpage at www.lacity.org/EAD/EADWeb-AQD/LACleanCity.htm.

The effect of recent natural disasters, the volatility of international petroleum supplies, and the rising cost of gasoline make the City's energy conservation efforts even more important. In 2004, the Los Angeles Coalition displaced over 4 million gallons of petroleum through the use of alternative fuel vehicles and bicycle patrols operated by the City. The City also experienced a 6% reduction in gasoline usage by operating hybrid vehicles from 2003 to 2004. Our alternative fuel fleet now numbers over 2,400 vehicles and includes vehicles that run on the following alternative energy resources and technologies: hydrogen fuel cell, liquefied and compressed natural gas, liquefied petroleum gas, electricity, and hybrid (gasoline/electric). The City of Los Angeles not only is using less petroleum, but also is advancing the energy, economic, and environmental security of the City, while reducing emissions from City operations.

Since 1996, the City of Los Angeles has been designated by the U.S. Department of Energy as a Clean Cities Coalition. The Coalition works to conserve nonrenewable energy resources, namely petroleum for transportation uses. Last year alone, the alternative fuel fleet increased by 28% and now represents approximately 14% of the City's entire vehicle fleet. The number of hybrid vehicles are expected to double to over 1,000 by the end of 2005. In addition, the City has over 400 bicycles in use by LAPD, park rangers, and traffic control and security patrol officers.

City residents are encouraged to participate in energy conservation month by taking the bus, driving less, carpooling, planning to accomplish multiple tasks in one area, or riding your bike to work. As the Coordinator for the City's Coalition, the Environmental Affairs Department wishes to thank you for making your contribution to conserve petroleum during Energy Awareness Month.

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:

our website at
http://www.lacity.org/ead.
TDD (213) 978-0899. You can also
reach us by fax at (213) 978-0893.
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the Americans with Disabilities Act,
the City of Los Angeles does not
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disability and upon request, will

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provide reasonable accommodation

to ensure equal access to its programs, services and activities.

Traffic-Related Air Pollution Linked to Asthma and Preterm Births in Los Angeles

Recent research has linked traffic-related air pollution in Los Angeles to asthma and preterm births. Unfortunately, the problems are worse for poor, low air-quality neighborhoods of LA.

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.

A recent study by USC researchers published in the November issue of American Journal of Epidemiology shows that the children who live near freeways are at a higher risk of being



diagnosed with asthma. They found that for every 1.2 kilometers the children lived closer to the freeway, asthma risk increased by 89 percent. This may be due to the presence of a pollutant (NO_2) produced by vehicles. Interestingly researchers also found as compared to other roads freeways cause higher levels of the pollutant (NO_2) .

Another finding by UCLA researchers published in June issue of American Journal of Epidemiology (2005) found that incidents of preterm births are closely related to the interaction of transportation

related air pollution and economic hardships in Los Angeles neighborhoods. The study found that air pollution disproportionally affects pregnant women in low-income neighborhoods as compared to women in affluent neighborhoods. Researchers collected birth and air quality data for the years 1994-1996. They suggest that efforts at improving environment through improved air quality should be integrated with social and economic efforts to reduce pre-term births in low-income neighborhoods of Los Angeles. To read the findings, visit the American Journal of Epidemiology's website at http://aje.oxfordjournals.org/current.dtl.

Preparing for Emergencies

The devastating impacts of recent hurricanes have been a sobering lesson for many on the state, federal, and local levels who work in emergency response. Even as these agencies evaluate their resources for response to crises, City residents also can examine their own preparedness in case of any emergency.

While emergency preparedness does not mean living in a state of fear, it does mean having an executable plan in case anything unexpected arises. And, like having good car insurance, a good emergency plan can help in serious cases.

The City of Los Angeles Emergency Preparedness Department has several recommendations that City residents should implement as a part of their emergency preparedness plan. Some of their tips are:

- Create, practice and maintain your family disaster plan.
- Plan for family members with special needs and for your pets.
- Pick an "out-of-state" contact for family members to call if separated by disaster.
- ◆ Do a home hazard hunt check for anything that can move, fall, break or cause fire.
- Prepare a disaster supplies kit
- Prepare an emergency kit for your vehicle.

For more information, visit the City of LA's Emergency Preparedness Department at www.lacity.org/epd.

Spare the Air by Taking Public Transportation

The days are rare when commuters encounter no traffic on the way to work. Even more surprising are days when one encounters no traffic on the weekends! Sitting in traffic in Los Angeles has be-

come customary, even while it produces detrimental effects on the environment and on the public's health. Just like its physical geography and its meteorological conditions, the traffic in Los Angeles is one of the culprits for its air pollution. The congestion from trucks and cars creates gridlock and causes higher exhaust emissions than free-flowing roadways do.



With rising prices for gasoline, Angelenos are poised to ameliorate traffic congestion and air pollution by riding public transportation. Taking the bus or train can help mitigate the effects of increased gasoline prices by offering commuters cost-effective public transportation alternatives.

Giving public transportation a try once a week can benefit Los Angeles' air quality. Visit the Metropolitan Transit Authority's (MTA) website at www.mta.net to plan a trip to work. For just \$3 per day you can buy a Metro Day Pass and travel all day, throughout Los Angeles, on MTA buses and trains. MTA serves and connects all neighborhoods and communities of Los Angeles through its network of 200 bus lines and four rail lines. In addition, it provides transfers to other regional transportation services such as Metrolink. You can travel all day to all parts of L.A. for the price of a gallon of gas! And you help save the environment, improve air quality and save energy! There are alternatives to driving alone, which can save you tons of money and also help save the environment. These methods include:

- Using carpool or vanpool to work or school can reduce your transportation cost to almost 50%. For more information please visit http://ridematch.info.
- Splitting your trip by driving to a bus or rail station and then taking public transportation to work, school or anywhere else. For location information of Park & Ride lots please visit http://commutesmart.info.
- Metro can help your employer provide you with free Metro passes, and to set up a Rideshare program for you.

Contact Metro at (213) 922-2811 or visit www.metro.net/riding_metro/commute_services/ rideshare_basics.htm for more information. You can ride your bike, which will help save you money, prevent pollution and put you in great shape! For bike routes and maps, visit www.bikemetro.com.

President's Environmental Youth Awards

Since 1971, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has sponsored the President's Environmental Youth Awards. The program recognizes young people across America for projects which demonstrate their commitment to the environment. Young people in all fifty states and the U.S. territories are invited to participate in the program.

Projects submitted in the past have covered a wide range of subject areas including recycling programs in schools and communities; construction of nature preserves; major tree planting programs; videos, skits, and newsletters created by students that focused on environmental issues; and environmental science projects. To be eligible to compete, a student or students, sponsored by an adult, must submit to their local EPA regional office evidence of a completed project as defined in the President's Environmental Youth Award application, as well as a completed application.

This year's application deadline has been extended to October 31, 2005. For more information on past recipients, to download an application, or to ask questions about the award, visit http://epa.gov/enviroed/awards.html, or email Sharon Jang at jang.sharon@epa.gov.

\$ \$ 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. 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 yearend 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, interpretive 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 email 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.

Surdna Foundation seeks to prevent irreversible damage to the environment and promote efficient, economically sound, environmentally beneficial and equitable use of natural resources. Grants are offered to non-profit organizations in the areas of biological diversity, human systems, transportation and land use, and energy. Grants range from \$5,000 to over \$100,000. For more information and application instructions please visit www.surdna.org or call (212) 557-0010.

Target All-Around Scholarship Program High school seniors and college students age 24 and younger. The Target All-Around Scholarship Program is unique, as it recognizes volunteer work as well as academic achievement. We're proud to be able to thank and reward any student who makes the grade at such a high level in the community. For more information, visit http://target.com/target_group/community_giving/scholarships.jhtml.

OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EACH MONTH:

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)

Down-by-the-River Walks

Friends of the Los Angeles River and the Sierra Club are sponsoring 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 Garden **Tours** Docent-led tours of the Japanese Gardens 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 reauired. For more information or to make reservations call (818) 756-8166.

Hyperion Wastewater 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, contact Nancy Carr at (310) 648-5363 for details or to schedule a tour.

Habitat Restoration Days

Help restore wildflowers, trees and shrubs that were once here 200 years ago at the Madrona Marsh Preserve. You are invited to help in planting, weeding, collecting, and growing seeds every second Saturday of the month. Morning maintenance is done from 9 am to noon every Tuesday and Wednesday. For more information on this event or events for youth, please call (310) 782-3989.

Smart Gardening Workshops

The Los Angeles Countywide Yard Waste Program hosts Smart Gardening workshops year-round. Topics covered include backyard and worm composting, grass water-wise and recycling, gardening. For more information, visit www.smartgardening.com, call L.A. County Department of Public Works at (888) CLEAN-LA or the City of L.A. Bureau of Sanitation at (213) 473-5663.

Amigos de Bolsa Chica Free public tours of the wetlands for individuals the first Saturday of each month. Visitors who arrive between 9 am and 10:30 am will be led on a 1 1/2 hour tour which makes 5 stops along the walkbridge and loop trail. Trained tour auides discuss identification, ecology, endangered species, early history and current status. For information visit www.amigosdebolsachica.org or call (714) 840-1575.

Augustus F. Hawkins Natural Park Enjoy youth activities including day-long trips to destinations such as Point Mugu, Franklin Canyon and Malibu Creek. These trips are held each Saturday and transportation is provided. For information, please contact the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy at (323) 585-3205.

Madrona Marsh Tyke Hike for Preschool Children and their favorite adult are held every first Thursday of the month. The hike takes place 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, please call the Friends of Madrona Marsh at (310) 782-3989.

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.

THIS MONTH:

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)

3rd Annual Día de los Muertos Celebration in the Park This month-long



celebration begins with a skeleton drawing contest for children, various workshops,

art exhibitions, readings, cultural events, a community altar and a parade through MacArthur Park. The events take place on October 8, 15, 22, 29, from 1 pm to 3:30 pm. Workshops take place October 29 & 30, from 11 am to 6 pm. All events take place MacArthur Park Cultural Community Center, Alvarado at 6th Street in Los Angeles and at Mama's Hot Tamales Café, located at 2122 W. 7th Street Los Angeles. Free. Sponsored by Mama's Hot Tamales Café, Galería Artistas de las Américas. For more information, call (626)683-8757, or (213) 487-4300.

THIS MONTH: (continued)

Fri thru Sun, Oct 7 to 9

Fall Festival at Theodore Payne Foundation Join The Theodore Payne Foundation for a Fall Festival full of California native plants, seeds, books, garden-related gifts and special botanical products for sale, alona with interesting presentations a n d demonstrations. The Foundation is located at 10459 Tuxford Street in Sun Valley. For more information, call (818) 768-1802 or visit their website a t www.theodorepayne.org.

Tues, Oct 11

Last Child in the Woods: Richard Louv at the Aquarium of the Pacific Join



author Richard Louv as he discusses his newest book Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder. Louv will

explain how the lack of nature the lives of today's generation results in disturbing childhood and adult trends such as the rise of obesity, attention disorders, and depression. In his critically acclaimed book, he parents, childtalks to development researchers, environmentalists, teachers, religious leaders, and scientists about this phenomenon in addition to offering solutions. The lecture begins at 7 pm. \$7. For reservations call the Aguarium at (562) 951-5352. The Aquarium is located at 100 Aguarium Way in Long Beach.

Sat, Oct 15



Used Book Sale and Storytime at Central Library Find bargain children's books

for sale. Sponsored by FOCAL, Friends of Children and Literature. The book sale takes place at the Taper Courtyard from 10 am to noon. At 2 pm, attend Storytime and Puppet Show in the KLOS Theater to watch "Spiders We Know and Love," a web of tales about unique spiders. Stay for a terrific puppet show. Central Library is located at 630 W. 5th Street in Los Angeles. For more information call (213) 228-7000. Free.

Sat and Sun, Oct 15 and 16



California Native
Plant Society Plant
Sale and Fair
Thousands of native
California plants and
seeds (along with books,

posters, and gifts). Held at the Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Boulevard in Encino. 10 am to 5 pm each day. For more information, or to volunteer, email: plantsale@lacnps.org, or visit www.lacnps.org.

Sun, Oct 16

Autumn Sea Fair Celebrate our local ocean from 10 am to 4:30

pm at the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium (CMA). Games, contests, music, e x h i b i t s , demonstrations, arts



& crafts, films, videos and more will be featured and sold. Enter the sand sculpture contest, hunt for buried pirate treasure, and help select the 2005 Queen of the Sea (contest open to all).

Pack a picnic or purchase food and drink. Admission to the fair is free. Beach parking (\$7) is limited, so the Aquarium encourages people to use the FREE park-and-ride provided at 22nd and Miner Streets. For further information or to enter the Queen of the Sea contest, contact Larry Fukuhara at (310) 548-7562 ext. 223. The Aguarium is located at 3720 Stephen White Drive San Pedro. Autumn Sea Fair is sponsored by Friends of CMA and the Port of Los Angeles.

Sat, Oct 22

Central Library Family
Program: "Last Days of the
Dinosaurs with Richard
Wade" Learn about how

dinosaurs lived and died. See a model of a full size T-Rex skull. Take home a



dinosaur picture! The event takes place at the Mark Taper Auditorium at Central Library. Central Library is located at 630 W. 5th Street in Los Angeles. For more information call (213) 228-7000. Free.

Sat, Oct 22

Annual Science 2nd **Technology Awareness Day** Kids of all ages can appreciate Science and Technology, learn about careers in these fields, and find new science project ideas at this event held in Exposition Park. This event will make kids and their families aware of the importance of engineering, science, and mathematics. Kids also will have opportunities to perform science activities hands-on based on fun! Free. Sponsored by the Los Angeles African American Engineers and Professional Employees' Association. The event will be held from 3 pm to 6 pm at Exposition Park Center (EPICC) located at 3990 South Menlo Avenue in Los Angeles. For more information, contact Robert L. Brown at (323) 342-6168 or Michael Simpson at (310) 632-8474.

Sat and Sun, Oct 22 and 23

Scarium of the Pacific Join the Aguarium of the Pacific for a *spook*tacular Halloween event for the whole family. Families will learn about the scary and not-so-scary animals that the inhabit ocean, while enjoying special Halloween programs. Activities include shows, magic spooky storytelling, a display of decorated pumpkins, children's coloring contest, and a variety of educational and fun crafts.

Children invited to come are dressed as an underwater creature or in traditionally ghoulish attire to compete in a costume contest. The Aquarium is located at 100 Aquarium Way in Long Beach. For more information, call (562)590-3100.

Sat and Sun, Oct 29 and 30

Boo at the Zoo Treetops Terrace and Zoo Meadow are transformed into a trick-or-



treater's dream with fun and silly performers, lots of treats, and other surprises. Special crafts and the

creepy creature encounter make for a fun-filled, but not-so-scary weekend for kids of all ages. Takes place from 10 am to 4 pm at the Los Angeles Zoo, located at 5333 Zoo Drive in Griffith Park. For more information, call (323) 644-4200 or visit www.lazoo.org.

Sat, Nov 5

15th Intertribal Marketplace at the Southwest Museum of the American Indian More than 100 American Indian Artists featuring iewelry, pottery, sculpture, painting, mixed media, weaving, beadwork, woodcarving, and cultural items. Traditional Dancing, Music and Food Children's Craft Village. \$10. Take the MTA Gold Line and exit at the Southwest Museum stop. Show your MTA ticket stub and receive \$2 off admission. The museum is at 234 Museum Drive, just off the Southwest Museum stop on the Metro Gold For information visit www.southwestmuseum.org or call (323) 221-2164.

EAD Welcomes New Staff on Board

The Environmental Affairs Department would like to welcome four new employees. Nuna Tersibashian is the new Environmental Specialist in the Materials and Waste Resources (MWR) Division, and will be working in the Brownfields and Policy and Program Analysis section. Nuna has extensive experience in the private sector in various aspects of environmental assessment and monitoring, and will be of great help to the Brownfields section's current and future projects.

We also welcome Paul Teensma and Laura Hunter to the Water and Natural Resources (WNR) Division. Paul will be working for EAD as an Environmental Supervisor. He comes to EAD from the Bureau of Sanitation, where he helped lead citywide efforts to improve water quality. Before that, he worked at the Bureau of Engineering, where he led process improvements that allowed the Bureau to operate more efficiently. He also worked briefly at LADWP, where he managed contaminated groundwater remediation projects. Paul holds a Bachelor of Sciences degree in geology from Cal State Fullerton, and a juris doctorate from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law.

Laura Hunter comes to EAD after working for a consultant engineering firm. She received a Bachelor of Sciences degree in Environmental Science from Oregon State University, and did research and environmental policy work in South Africa. Laura has done much work with water resources issues pertaining to Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs). She will be working with WNR as an Environmental Specialist.

And, finally, EAD welcomes Amna Imam. Amna has extensive experience with urban environmental issues and is pursuing a PhD in Environmental Policy at USC. She joins the Environmental Business and Neighborhoods (EBNS) Division as a Student Professional Worker, and will be working with the Environmental Information Center. Congratulations and welcome to all!



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.

Air Quality

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

Asbestos

Asbestos Environmental Hygiene (626) 430-5100

Bulky Item Pick-up

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

Hazardous Waste/e-Waste

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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