An Environmental Affair

Volume 17, Issue 8 August 2006

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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City of Los Angeles Receives Over \$2.5 Million to Reduce Air Pollution

Diesel engines emit significant amounts of air pollutants as well as soot or particles. This particulate matter (PM) was identified by the State of California as a toxic air contaminant that can cause cancer, premature deaths, and respiratory problems. Recent grant awards that target PM will therefore have a very beneficial impact on the health of Los Angeles residents.

The Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC), the committee that recommends projects through Air Quality Management District (AOMD) for funding to reduce emissions from transportation sources, awarded \$1,250,000 toward the purchase of 50 new liquefied natural gas (LNG) refuse collection vehicles for the Bureau of Sanitation. An additional \$625,000 in grant funds from the MSRC will be applied toward the purchase of 25 new compressed natural gas (CNG) street sweepers for the Bureau of Street Services, and toward 6 new CNG articulated buses for the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). In addition, \$533,000 in grant funds from the South Coast Air Quality Management District's Carl Moyer Program Fund will be used to purchase 82 diesel emission control devices (DECs) for installation on existing refuse collection vehicles that still have several remaining years of service. These will complement the 800 DECs already in operation that were funded through previous grants. The new vehicles will reduce diesel PM emissions by at least two-thirds (70% for refuse collection vehicles, 66% for street sweepers) compared to their counterparts with standard diesel engines, while the DECs will reduce PM by 85%. The new refuse collection vehicles will be deployed in South Los Angeles, the Harbor area, and the San Fernando Valley, while the new sweepers and DEC-equipped vehicles will be deployed on a citywide basis.

The City, which already owns the largest municipal alternative-fuel refuse truck fleet in the country, intends to replace *all* of its diesel-powered refuse collection vehicles and street sweepers with alternative-fuel vehicles in the next 4 to 6 years. In the interim, the City is updating its fueling and maintenance yards to accommodate more LNG- and CNG-fueled vehicles.

The latest grants will expand the City's alternative fuel vehicle fleet (already one of the nation's largest, at over 2,200 vehicles), contribute to better air quality, support the City's Clean Fuels Policy, and help fulfill the goals of the Clean Cities Program, of which Los Angeles is a member. The City of Los Angeles is one of the only large U.S. cities to focus its efforts on the replacement of diesel vehicles, which have greater health impacts than non-diesel vehicles, with cleaner natural gas models.

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@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

Tips for a Eco-Friendly Summer

Here are tips from the Environmental Protection Agency to make this a healthy, safe and environmentally friendly summer. This information can help the wallet as well as protect the environment.



Conserve Water to Keep it Flowing

During the summer it is especially important to save and protect water. Drought conditions in certain parts of the country and activities that increase its use can cause water to be more scarce.

• Tip 1#: Learn what you can do to reduce water use in your home -- take a virtual tour of this Water Saver Home by visiting http://www.h2ouse.net/.

Volunteer to Perform Environmental Monitoring

• Tip 2#: Spend extra vacation time environmental volunteering. The summer growing season is when a lot of vegetative restoration activities (seeding, planting trees, aquatic grasses, removal of inva-

sive species, etc) take place; most of these restoration activities rely primarily on citizen volunteers to succeed. Find out how you can get involved at http://www.epa.gov/owow/monitoring/vol.html/.

Remember to Conserve Energy

• Tip 3#: Look for the Energy Star label when you buy new appliances. Depending on the appliance, products with this label will consume between 13 percent and 40 percent less energy than conventional appliances. Learn more about Energy Star products: http://www.energystar.gov/.

Protect Yourself in the Sun and Heat

Summertime means more time outside, in the sun, in the heat and in the water.

• Tip 4#: Before you go outside or exercise check the air quality in your community by visiting http://epa.gov/airnow/. Also, you can check your local beach water quality conditions. There are several things that you can do to improve the quality of water at the beach. For example, you can learn more about the quality of the water at your local beach, become involved as a responsible citizen to reduce pollutants that can wash into the water, and find out what state or local agencies or departments are responsible for protecting the quality of the water at your beach. Find more information by visiting http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/beaches/goer2.html/.

Road Trip Wisely

Tailpipe emissions from cars and trucks account for almost half of the air pollution in the United States. You may be surprised to know that you have cleaner more fuel-efficient choices in any vehicle size you need, even an SUV.

• Tip 5#: Find some excellent suggestions to help you reduce the amount of gas you use on the road and at the pump http://www.epa.gov/air/actions/drive_wise.html/. Smog is at its highest levels during the summer. Go to the "Green Vehicle Guide" to find the cleanest, most fuel efficient vehicle that meets your needs by visiting http://www.epa.gov/greenvehicles/. Consider making some fairly simple changes in your daily or weekly routine so you can help to clean the air. Try taking an alternative form of transportation to work, such as a bus, train, bike, or even walking. This simple action can reduce carbon dioxide emissions by an estimated 1,500 pounds each year.

More information on all these steps can be found at http://www.epa.gov/epahome/hi-summer.htm/.

Cell Phone and Battery Recycling Laws Effective July 1

Beginning on July 1, virtually all retailers that are in the business of selling cell phones and rechargeable batteries in California must also be in the business of collecting and recycling these devices. Two electronic waste recycling laws have gone into effect in California. AB 2901 requires retailers to take-back and recycle old cell phones, and AB 1125 requires retailers to take-back and recycle rechargeable batteries. These new laws will provide consumers with thousands of convenient locations for recycling the tens of thousands of tons of toxic batteries and used cell phones that are discarded or ille-

gally dumped annually in California. These laws also represent the first time that

California retailers will be required to share in the responsibility for collection and recycling of a problem product they sell.

More than 13 million cell phones become obsolete in California every year, and until now, only about 7% have been recycled. Cell phones contain hazardous levels of lead, nickel-cadmium, and other toxic materials. In 2004, more than 93,000 tons of toxic portable electronics—including cell phones—were sent to landfills in California.

While rechargeable batteries have been banned from disposal in California for several years, recycling opportunities have lagged. Less than 20% of rechargeable batteries are currently recycled. In 2004, more than 34,000 tons of batteries—including rechargeable batteries—were placed in California landfills. About 80% of rechargeable batteries are composed of the hazardous heavy metals nickel (Ni) and cadmium (Cd) and are referred to as "Ni-Cads" (Ni-Cds).

While finding a cellular or rechargeable battery recycling location should be as easy as finding a retailer that sells these devices, the following sites provide online tools for finding the closest recycling location:

- Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation (RBRC) www.Call2Recycle.com;
- Recellular—www.wirelessrecycling.com;
- Earths 911—www.Earths911.org;
- Donate a Phone through Keep California Beautiful— www.keepcaliforniabeautiful.com/.

Report Smoking Tailpipes to Cut the Smog

See a vehicle with smoke coming out of the tailpipe? Call it in! The Air Quality Management District (AQMD) depends on the public to help reduce visible exhaust from vehicles. Drivers are encouraged to take a proactive approach to improving this problem by reporting the vehicle to AQMD's smoking vehicle program. You can call AQMD's toll free number (1-800-CUT-SMOG) or e-mail cut_smog@aqmd. gov and report it. Verizon and AT&T mobile phone subscribers can access the automated system toll-free by simply pressing "#" SMOG (7664). An AQMD staff member will ask callers for the smoking vehicle's license plate number (the program only has jurisdiction over vehicles registered in the State of California), vehicle make, as well as the date, time, and location of the observation. Those who e-mail a complaint must include all of the above information in the body of their e-mail. The program is voluntary. All calls and e-mails remain anonymous.

AQMD uses the Department of Motor Vehicle's database to retrieve the owner's registration information, and mails an advisory letter to the owner informing them that a complaint has been filed against their vehicle. All information involved in the program remains confidential. The letter advises smoking vehicle owners that their vehicle was reported to be smoking and recommends they have it repaired to eliminate excessive emissions. The letter also alerts the owner to the fact that excessively smoking vehicles violate the State of California Motor Vehicle Codes (Sections 27153 and 27153.5) which carries a fine of \$100 to \$250, -- depending on the type of vehicle -- for first time offenders.

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

The Liberty Hill Environmental Justice Grant

This fund makes grants to grassroots organizations that are working to decrease exposure to toxic substances in neighborhoods and workplaces, particularly in low-income areas and communities of color. Groups engaged in community organizing, applied research, policy advocacy, litigation, or popular education are eligible to apply. For more information visit www.libertyhill.org/ejf/. Liberty Hill will hold two workshops teaching potential grant-seekers "How to Apply" for an *Environmental Justice Fund* grant. The deadline for applying is **November 1, 2006**.

The Healthy Sprouts Awards These awards support school garden programs that use the garden to teach about nutrition and the issue of hunger in the United States. In this grant cycle, awards will be presented to 25 schools or organizations. Each will receive a \$200 gift certificate to Gardener's Supply Company and a curriculum package from the National Gardening Association. For more information, visit http://www.kidsgardening.com/healthysprouts1.asp/. Applications are due Sunday, October 15, 2006.

Red, White and Green Grants for Climate **Change** Youth Service America and Civil Society Institute announce the Red, White & Green Climate Change Grants. This opportunity offers up to \$500 to implement a service learning project about climate change. The program is open to all young people in the United States between the ages of 15 25, and to organizations that engage youth ages 15-25. Successful applicants will develop and implement a service-learning project about climate change that engages their community and candidates running for election in November 2006. Projects should be youth-led, and the service must take place between October 1 and November 30. Visit http://www.YSA.org/awards to download application forms. The deadline is **September 1**, 2006.

Angel Soft's 'Angels in Action' National Awards Program The Angel Soft Angels in Action Awards Program aims to recognize youth (ages 8-18) who are performing exemplary acts of community service. Georgia-Pacific, the maker of Angel Soft toilet paper, invites teachers, parents, guardians and friends to submit nominations to honor ordinary kids who are doing extraordinary

things to help improve their communities. One



outstanding youth will be awarded \$15,000 for "Program of the Year." Two grand prize winners (one from each age category) will receive \$10,000 and 10 finalists (five from each age category) will receive \$1,000. The age categories are: 8-15

years old and 16-18 years old. To nominate someone you know, visit http://www.angelsoft.com/. The deadline is **October 1, 2006.**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Coral Reef Conservation Program/General Coral Reef Conservation Grants provides funding to institutions of higher education, non-profit organizations, commercial organizations, Freely Associated State government agencies, and local and Indian tribal governments to support coral reef conservation projects in the U.S. and the Freely Associated States in the Pacific, as authorized under the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000. For more info on this year's grant, visit http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppId=9924, or contact Steve Drescher, Policy Advisor, at (301) 713-0926. The deadline is November 10.

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/. Due date to be announced.

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.

AUGUST CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ONGOING:

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)

Pavilion of Wings at the Natural History Museum



Enter a world of free flying butterflies and stroll through a beautifully

landscaped temporary exhibit housed at the Museum's South Lawn. 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. \$3 for adults, \$2 for seniors and students and \$1 for children ages 5 to 12. Through 2006. September The Natural History Museum Exposition located at 900 Boulevard in Los Angeles. For more information, call (213) 763-DINO, or visit the their website at www.nhm.org/.

IMAX Theater Presents Deep Sea 3D The new immersive, underwater adventure from IMAX, transports audiences deep below the ocean surface in multiple locations around the waters of the globe and gives them never-before-seen, upclose encounters with a wide range of undersea Moviegoers, with only their 3D glasses for a diving mask, will be able to 'swim' alongside of the most exotic some creatures on the planet, from the bizarre Rainbow Nudibranch to the Giant Pacific Octopus. Deep See 3D plays through August 27, 2006. For movie times, call (213) 744-7400 or visit the following website:

www.californiasciencecenter.org/ Imax/. IMAX is located at 700 State Drive in Los Angeles.

THIS MONTH:

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)

Fri, Aug 4

Film Night at the Aquarium of the Pacific: Empty Oceans, Empty Nets (15 minutes) and Cod Help Us (22 minutes) with special guest, Ezra Soiferman -Cod Help Us - Director and Producer and Dr. Betsy McLane author of "A New History of Documentary Film". Faced with what seems like a n insurmountable fisheries collapse, the 450 residents of Quebec's tiny and isolated St. Paul's River must quickly decide what their future holds. Often overlooked, the little known Lower North Shore region of Quebec, where St. Paul's River lies, is known as the birthplace of North America's traditional cod fishery. It is now also known as "the forgotten shore." **Empty Oceans, Empty Nets** examines the full extent of the global fisheries crisis and the forces that continue to push many marine fish stocks toward commercial extinction. program also documents some of the most promising and innovative work being done to restore fisheries and protect essential fish habitat. \$12. The show begins at 7 pm. Reservations strongly For recommended. more information call (562) 590-3100, ext. 0. The Aquarium is located at 100 Aquarium Way in Long Beach.

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.

City of Los Angeles Environmental Affairs Commission Meetings

The City of Los Angeles Environmental Affairs Commission (EAC) meets the third Thursday of each month in City Hall, 200 N. Spring Street in Los Angeles. The General Public is invited to attend. Commission Agendas, minutes, meeting times and places are posted at http://www.lacity.org/EAD/EADWeb-NewsEvents/updateagenda_&_minutes.htm.

Commissioners:

Misty Sanford—President Alina Bokde—Vice President Maria Armoudian—Member Teresa Villegas—Member Joyce Perkins—Member

Sat, Aug 5

Native Garden Workday/ Beach Cleanup at the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium Join the education staff and volunteers in maintaining the Cabrillo Coastal Native Plant Garden with weeding and planting while you learn more

THIS MONTH: (continued)

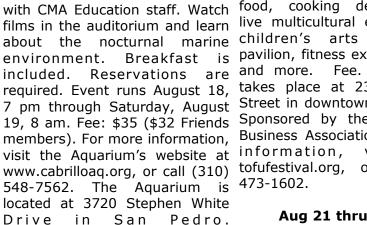
about coastal sage scrub and animal inhabitants. Join others in a beach cleanup. Registration is not required. Groups are asked to call ahead. The workday takes place from 8:30 am to 10 am. Meet by the marine lab/classroom. Free. For more information, visit the Aquarium's website at www. cabrilloag.org, or call (310) 548-7562. The Aguarium is located at 3720 Stephen White Drive in San Pedro.

Fri, Aug 11

Film Night at the Aguarium of the Pacific: Peace Parks (14 minutes) and the Man Who Planted Trees (30 minutes) with special guest -Thomas Grimm - environmental educator and film maker PEACE PARKS Supported by the Peace Parks Foundation, a non profit organization that facilitates the establishment of transboundary conservation areas. The film documents efforts to secure and integrate large areas in southern Africa and the DMZ in Korea. THE MAN WHO PLANTED TREES, a beautiful animated short from Canadian filmmaker Frederic Back, tells the story of a single shepherd who takes it upon himself to reseed an entire barren valley. Undeterred by the ravages of the passing years, he continues his project, determined to see a forest grow out of desolate nothingness. Reservations strongly recommended. For more information call (562)590-3100, ext. 0. The Aguarium is located at 100 Aquarium Way in Long Beach.

Fri, Aug 18

Sleep With The (grades 3-6) Grab your sleeping bag because it's sleepover at CMA! Explore animal behavior after dark



Sat, Aug 19

"Froggy Went to Storvtime" Hop on over to Central Library for stories, songs, and a puppet show about frogs. The show takes place at the Central crabs, Library's KLOS Theater. Free. Central Library is located at 630 W. Fifth Street in downtown Los Angeles. For more information, visit www.lapl.org, or call (213) 228-7000. The show begins at 2

Kermes Summer Festival The Temple-Beaudry Neighborhood in downtown Los Angeles holds its annual festival featuring Mexican traditional dance, food, crafts, and much more. The festival takes place at Spiraling Orchard Park, 1250 West Court Street in Los Angeles, from 2 pm to 9 pm. Free admission. information, visit www. artscorpsla.org, or call (213) bу 617-3877. Sponsored ARTScorpsLA.

Sat and Sun, Aug 19 and 20

Fishes Los Angeles Tofu Festival

The 10th Annual Tofu Festival is a weekend celebration in Downtown LA's Little Tokyo District and delicious includes



food, cooking demonstrations, live multicultural entertainment, children's arts and pavilion, fitness expo, crafts fair, The festival takes place at 237 San Pedro Street in downtown Los Angeles. Sponsored by the Little Tokyo Business Association. For more visit www. tofufestival.org, or call (213) 473-1602.

Aug 21 thru Aug 25

Crab Shells & Native Tales at the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium

(Grades 3-4) Observe animal behavior as you hold hermit go crab



feed barnacles, fishing, more! Discover the marvelous mud at the salt marsh and how native peoples have used the ocean. The fun takes place from 9 am to noon. Fee. For more information, visit the Aquarium's website at www.cabrilloag.org, or call (310) 548-7562. The Aguarium is located at 3720 Stephen White Drive in San Pedro.

Sat, Aug 26

Ecology of the California Native Plants in Your Yard For more with Dr. Holliday Wagner Theodore Payne Nursery Manager & Plant Ecologist 9 am to 11 am. Ever had trouble getting your favorite California native to grow in your yard? This class will discuss adaptations that plants have made to survive their Southern California environment and the effect of those adaptations on their survival in your garden. Bring a jar 1/3 full of your garden soil and 1/3 full of water to class. Fee \$10 for members, \$20 for non-members. For more information and to make reservations, contact the Theodore Payne Foundation at (818) 768-1802, or visit www. theodorepayne.org/.

Nature by Kayak Sponsored by the Aquarium of the **Pacific** The birds and wildlife of Upper Newport Bay are special kayakers. After introductory lesson, take a naturalist-quided kayak expedition to learn about the geologic plants, features, archaeological sites, marine biology, and history of the bay. Both double and single kayaks are available in this off-site class. Join the Aquarium of the

Pacific for a morning of gentle paddling in the bay's ecological preserve for an up-close view of nature. Paddle from 9 am to noon. For locations and reservations, call the Aquarium at (562) 951-1630.

Sat and Sun, Aug 26 and 27

Sunset Junction Street Faire



As one of the largest and most diverse street faires in Los Angeles, the Sunset Junction Street Faire

includes craft booths, food, and live entertainment. Fee. The faire takes place from 3600 Sunset Boulevard in Los Angeles. For more information visit www. sunsetjunction.org/streetfair/. htm, or call (323) 661-7771. Sponsored by the Sunset Junction Neighborhood Alliance.

NEXT MONTH:

Sat, Sept 9

Everyday is Earthday Why



is it important to know how long a banana peel biodegrades? Learn simple ways to be Earth-

friendly every day remembering the 3 R's of nature on a moderately paced walk. Free. The walk takes place for two hours, beginning at 9 am, in Franklin Canyon Sponsored by the Ranch. Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA). For more information and directions to Franklin Canvon, call the MRCA at (310) 858-7272.

EPA Issues LNG Industry Guidelines for Environmental Standards

In an effort to advance President Bush's commitment to solving the nation's energy supply challenges, EPA recently released the "Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Regulatory Roadmap". The "Roadmap" offers guidance to industry on maintaining high environmental standards while new LNG facilities are being built.

The "Roadmap" will serve as an aid to industry to ensure a clear understanding of the environmental obligations that EPA is required to enforce. These requirements will provide greater regulatory certainty during the construction and operation of LNG facilities, both onshore and offshore.

Natural gas continues to play an important role in meeting our nation's growing energy needs. In 2005, natural gas accounted for 23 percent of our nation's total energy consumption. Recent studies suggest that domestic consumption of natural gas will continue to increase and that imports of LNG will meet much of the increased demand.

LNG presents an efficient way to transport natural gas via ship from foreign production areas to the United States. The cooling process reduces the volume of natural gas by a factor of more than 600, enabling one ship to transport enough energy to heat more than 43,000 homes per year. Once LNG arrives at an import facility, it is typically stored in insulated, pressurized tanks before it is converted back into a gaseous state for shipment via pipeline or transported by truck to market.

For more Roadmap information visit the EPA's website at http://www.epa.gov/newsroom/Ingroadmap. htm/.



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 Los Angeles County Lead Program (800) LA-4-LEAD

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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