

An Environmental Affair

Volume 20, Issue 10

October 2000

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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October Means Pumpkins

(Except Source: <http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/pumpkins/index.html>)



Pumpkins are warm-season vegetables that can be grown throughout much of the United States. Besides being used as jack-o'-lanterns at Halloween, they are popular food--used to make pumpkin butter, pies, custard, bread, cookies and soup. Pumpkin seeds can be roasted as a snack and pumpkin flowers are edible, too. Pumpkins contain potassium and lots of Vitamin A. They are members of the vine crops family called cucurbits and they originated in Central America. Long ago, pumpkins were thought to remove freckles and to cure snake bites. They can range in size from less than a pound to over 1,000 pounds. The name pumpkin is from "pepon"—the Greek word for "large melon." In colonial times, Native Americans roasted strips of pumpkin in open fires and colonists sliced off pumpkin tips, removed seeds and filled the insides with milk, spices and honey. This was baked in hot ashes and is the origin of pumpkin pie.

Planting Pumpkins

Pumpkins are very tender vegetables. Their seeds do not germinate in cold soil, and the seedlings are injured by frost. Do not plant until all danger of frost has passed, and the soil has thoroughly warmed. You can plant pumpkins for Halloween until early July in southern sites, including Los Angeles. If pumpkins are planted too early, they may soften and rot before Halloween. Plant seeds one inch deep. Pumpkin plants should be kept free from weeds by hoeing and shallow cultivation. Irrigate if a long dry period occurs in early summer. Pumpkins tolerate short periods of hot, dry weather pretty well. Bees, which are necessary for pollinating pumpkins, may be killed by insecticides; so, when only apply them in late afternoon or early evening when the blossoms have closed for the day and bees are no longer visiting the blossoms. *(Continued on page 3.)*

EAD Walks with City in AIDS WALK L.A.

The Environmental Affairs Department will again join other City departments in the City of Los Angeles' annual campaign for AIDS Walk Los Angeles (AWLA). One of California's largest fundraisers, AWLA is a ten-kilometer walkathon, which raises much needed money for AIDS Project Los Angeles (APLA). The 16th annual AIDS Walk will take place on Sunday, October 15 2000, beginning and ending on the "Sky Set" of Paramount Pictures in Hollywood.

The City of L.A. was the fourth highest fundraising team at last year's AIDS Walk, with 200 walkers who raised \$43,663 for APLA. Although we lost our top ranking as the number one governmental AIDS Walk fundraising team to the County of L.A. for the second year, we're still very pleased that our friendly challenge to our County colleagues *(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) 580-1052. TDD (213) 977-7062. You can also reach us by fax: (213) 580-1084, e-mail: info@ead.ci.la.ca.us, or visit our Web site at www.lacity.org/ead. 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

Patricia Villaseñor
Editor

Clean Vehicles Can Now Access Carpool Lanes

Because California's air quality is among the worst in the nation, with more than 60 percent of our urban smog coming from cars, trucks, and buses, the State of California is now offering a new incentive to promote cleaner vehicles. As of July 1, 2000, owners of certain electric and alternative fueled vehicles, such as those powered by natural gas, can use High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) or carpool lanes at any time regardless of the number of occupants in the vehicle. It is hoped that this benefit will encourage people to drive cleaner vehicles, thereby helping to clean up our air.

In order to use these lanes, vehicle owners must obtain a set of Clean Air Vehicle Decals from the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Hybrid vehicles that are powered by gasoline and electricity do not qualify for the decals. A list of qualifying electric and alternative fueled vehicles can be obtained from the California Air Resources Board (ARB) website at <http://arbis.arb.ca.gov/mspr og/carpool/carpool.htm> or from the ARB Motor Vehicle Information Hotline at (800) 242-4450. An application for the decals is available online at the DMV website at <http://www.dmv.ca.gov/vehinfo/decals.htm> or you can visit your local DMV office to submit an application. Remember that until you have the decals affixed to your vehicle, you may only use carpool lanes if you have the required number of passengers in your vehicle.



A-Maze-ing Corn in SoCal

A unique way to enjoy the fall, head "back to nature" and exercise your brain as well as your body is by navigating a local corn maze. In Van Nuys, (Woodley Park, 6335 Woodley Avenue), eight acres of corn have been shaped into a maze patterned after the bear from the California State flag. The maze is open every day: Sunday-Thursday from 10 am until dusk and Friday-Saturday 10am-10pm (Bring flashlight for evening hours.). The maze expects to remain open until October 8, 2000. There is also a maze in Aliso Viejo (at Aliso Viejo Community Park, 23452 Knollwood). For more information call: 1-888-409-MAZE (6893) or see <http://www.cornmazes.com/mazes/San.htm>.

Pacific Earth Resources will present the "Amazing Maize Maze" for the second time this year at its home ranch in Camarillo, Ventura County. The maze is a four-acre interactive adventure game for all ages with two miles of pathways to get you "lost" in the corn! The maze is open Thursday-Monday from 11am to dusk. (It is closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for maintenance.) Left is a picture of the 1999 maze representing the California Missions theme. This year's theme is the Aztec Sun Stone Calendar. The year's fall maze opened on September 14. Call The LOST LINE 805-495-LOST for directions, and reservations--group discounts are available!



Also, see <http://www.pacificearth.com/>.



In the October Spotlight: B A T S & C A T S

Bats

Bats are not only found in caves, but in the eaves and other cavities of buildings in cities like Los Angeles. They perform important ecological functions such as consuming insects (A single little brown bat can catch 1,200 mosquito-sized insects in just one hour.) and pollinate all kinds of plants (In the wild, important agricultural plants, from bananas, breadfruit, and mangoes to cashews, dates, and figs, rely on bats for pollination and seed dispersal). Bat droppings are even useful in detoxifying wastes, improving detergents, and producing gasohol and antibiotics.



Unfortunately, bats are vulnerable to extinction—partly because they are the slowest reproducing mammals on earth (for their size)—with most producing only one young per year. Currently, over half of American bat species are listed as endangered or in severe decline.

To learn more about bats, visit Bat Conservation International's website: <http://www.batcon.org/home/> or call: (512) 327-9721 or 1-800-538-BATS.

Cats

The Los Angeles Natural History Museum has produced a traveling exhibition entitled, "Cats! Wild to Mild," which traces the natural history of the cat from wild, exotic felines to one of America's favorite pets.

Highlights of the exhibit include interactive displays and dioramas featuring more than 19 feline species from around the world, including jaguars, lions, tigers, leopards, bobcats, and wild cats, as well as a skeleton of a cheetah.



The exhibition will travel throughout the United States, Canada, and other selected locations. While it is currently not in Los Angeles, the museum has created a website, which includes much of the content from the exhibit, as well as the complete Teacher's Study Guide that accompanies the exhibition. Please call (213) 763-3466 or e-mail exhibits@nhm.org for more information. For those with California 150th Anniversary (Sesquicentennial) Passports, the Los Angeles Natural History Museum is a featured site (where you may receive a keepsake stamp upon visiting).

Pumpkins—from page 1—

Pumpkins can be harvested whenever they are a deep, solid color (orange for most varieties) and the rind is hard. If vines remain healthy, harvest in late September or early October, before heavy frosts. If vines die prematurely from disease or other causes, harvest the mature fruit and store them in a moderately warm, dry place until Halloween. Cut pumpkins from the vines carefully, using pruning shears or a sharp knife and leave 3 to 4 inches of stem attached. Snapping the stems from the vines results in many broken or missing "handles." Pumpkins without stems usually do not keep well. Wear gloves when harvesting fruit because many varieties have sharp prickles on their stems. Avoid cutting and bruising the pumpkins when handling them. Those that are not fully mature or that have been injured or subjected to heavy frost do not keep. Store in a dry building where the temperature is between 50 and 55 °F.

Cooking with Pumpkins

For information about cooking with pumpkins, see: <http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/pumpkins/index.htm>. For recipes including bread, pie, pudding, seeds (drying and roasting), and ideas such as pumpkin pancakes, fruit shakes, or just plain pumpkin baked with butter, see: <http://virtual.clemson.edu/groups/FieldOps/Cgs/hallow3.htm> and for pumpkin soup, see: <http://www.olemiss.edu/news/newsdesk/story389.html>.

Recycle Pumpkins

When finished with your pumpkins, remember to recycle them either by composting (smaller pieces work much better than the entire pumpkin) or by depositing them in the green waste recycling bins provided by the City of Los Angeles.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation (EEM) Program Grants—The program offers a total of \$10 million to local, State, and federal governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations for projects to mitigate environmental impacts caused by new or modified State transportation facilities and which fall under three categories: highway landscape and urban forestry, resource lands, and roadside recreational. Grants will be limited to \$250K per project. Applications for the 2001-02 grant cycle must be postmarked or received by Friday, November 17, 2000. For application materials, contact the Resources Agency, 1416 Ninth Street, Room 1311, Sacramento, CA 95814 or call: (916) 653-5656.



GRANTS WITHOUT A DEADLINE

California Community Foundation—Support for the rehabilitation, maintenance and beautification of parks and recreation areas. Contact Sr. Program Secretary at (213) 413-4130, or visit the Web site at www.calfund.org for more info.

California State Coastal Conservancy—Proposition 204 funding specifically allocated for LA River Projects that focus on habitat restoration, construction of public access facilities and others. Projects must show linkage to the coast. Call (510) 286-4169 for more info. (Also see first entry on this page.)

Clean Water State Revolving Fund—Loan program established by the Clean Water Act to local agencies for water quality improvement projects. Call the EPA Water Division at (415) 744-1948 for more info.

Economic Development Administration Grants—The US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration will give priority consideration to projects that help communities achieve and sustain economic growth. Visit the Web site at www.doc.gov/eda for more info.

Energy Research Grants—The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy is seeking applicants for up to \$6 million in grants to research renewable energy programs. Call the US Department of Energy at (800) 683-0751 for more info.

Jobs Through Recycling—Recycling business development program that seeks to foster recycling/reuse businesses that increase the use of recyclable or reusable materials and contribute to economic development and jobs creation. Call Julia Wolfe with the EPA Waste Management Division at (415) 744-2131 for more info.



Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund—Provides loans to ensure that drinking water remains safe and affordable. Call the EPA Drinking Water Office at (415) 744-1852 for more info.



Farewell & Welcome!

After close to a decade of service with EAD, Administrative Director, **David Luther**, has left for a position with the City's Office of Administrative and Research Services (OARS). EAD wishes him the very best!

EAD welcomes **Dante Henderson**, who has joined the staff as a clerk in the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA). He grew up in southern Los Angeles county and has since studied at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He now plans to pursue his interest in urban planning/real estate development at one of LA's local universities.

EAD also welcomes **Amylou Canonizado** as a new LEA student intern. She graduated from UC Irvine in June with a B.S. in Applied Ecology and a minor in Environmental Analysis and Design. Her future goals include, becoming an industrial hygienist, working in academia, and becoming active in the Peace Corps in Africa. Currently, she is taking GIS classes and participating in UCLA's certification program for Environmental Management.

OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EACH MONTH:

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 **4:30pm. on the third Sunday of each month** for an informal, leisurely, hour-long walk. Location varies each month and some walks feature brief talks highlighting natural, historical, artistic, or political aspects of the River. The walk is canceled if it's raining. For more information, visit the FoLAR Web site at www.folar.org, or contact Joe Linton at (213) 381-3570.

Habitat Restoration Days

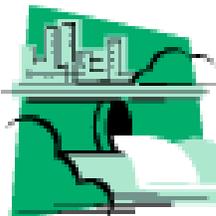


Help restore wildflowers, trees and shrubs that were once here 200 years ago at the Madrona

Marsh Preserve. Everyone is invited to help in planting, weeding and collecting and growing seeds in this rewarding work project. **Every second Saturday of the month.** Morning maintenance is done from 9am-noon **every Tuesday and Wednesday.** Call (310) 32-MARSH.

Hyperion Water 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 a.m. Contact Felice Kidd: (310) 648-5363 for details or schedule a tour.



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 are required. Call (818) 756-8166.

Satwiwa Sundays



From 10am to 5pm at Rancho Serra Vista/Satwiwa. Meet guest hosts, watch demonstrations and share the experiences of the Native

American LA Community. Call (805) 370-2301.

Smart Gardening Workshops

The Los Angeles Countywide Yard Waste Program hosts Smart Gardening workshops year-round throughout the County. 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. "Smart Gardening" and **Composting**

workshops are also held from March through November at Griffith Park. Call the Department of Sanitation: (213) 473-8228 for more information.



Nature-Bird Walk (Regular Fourth Weekend monthly event)

Two walks will take place—one on Saturday, and one on Sunday—both at 10 am. The walks will meander through the Madrona Marsh Preserve, starting at the Natural History Center in Torrance. Call (310) 32MARSH.



The EAD Web site, 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 Web site 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.

Recycling Workshops and Seminars

Many workshops and seminars are regularly provided throughout the year on source reduction, recycling and composting. They have included topics as Buying Recycled, Organics, Certified Buy Recycled Training Seminars, and Sustainable Construction. Please call the Department of Sanitation: (213) 473-8228 for information on upcoming events.

Tyke Hike

This hike is scheduled every first Thursday of the month in the Madrona Marsh Preserve and involves looking for animal tracks, listening for singing birds, looking for ducks and their babies, observing habitat changes and wildflowers blooming. A \$5 donation per family is requested for the Natural History Center Education Programs; reservations are appreciated. For more info., call the Friends of Madrona Marsh: (310) 32MARSH.



THIS MONTH:

October 3**Become a Whalewatch Guide!**

Cabrillo Marine Aquarium will train you to be a guide. Training sessions start at 7 pm (Applications will be accepted through

October 17.). For more information, call (310) 548-7562, ext. 5011.

October 5**Farmers' Market**

At Meridian St. and Mission St. in South Pasadena from 4-8 pm.

October 6**Farmers' Market**

One block south of Colorado and east of Eagle Rock Boulevard in Eagle Rock from 5-9 pm.

October 7**Open Ocean Plankton Trip**

Come along on a mid-water trawl in search of unusual specimens. Orientation begins at 4 pm and then participants will hop on the research vessel in San Pedro for the ocean trip—returning around 10 pm. Note: Space is limited and trip is for those aged 12 and over. For more information, contact Mike Schaadt of the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium: (310) 548-7562.

Plant and Flower Pruning Class

This is a hands-on class which begins at 10 am and ends at 1 pm. The class focuses on pruning California native shrubs and perennials.

The cost is \$15 for members and \$30 for nonmembers. To register, call the Theodore Payne Foundation: (818)

768-1802 or for more information, visit: www.theodorepayne.org.

**October 8****Family Bike Trip**

North East Trees, Friends of the Los Angeles River, and the LA County Bike Coalition will sponsor a bike trip along the LA River—beginning at the LA River Center, 570 West Avenue 26 at 10 am. For more information call: (323) 441-8634.

October 13**A Killer Appetite: When Keiko & Flipper Raid the Refrigerator**

The Friends of Cabrillo Marine Aquarium are sponsoring a lecture by Dr. Terrie Williams of UC Santa Cruz on the predatory nature of marine mammals. The lecture begins at 7:30 pm. Call Elone Miller at (310) 548-7562, ext. 4003 for more information.

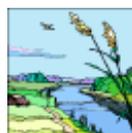
October 14**Nature Walk**

The Children's Family Nature Institute (CNI) will conduct a family nature walk in Temescal Canyon, Pacific Palisades at 10 am. Note: Registration is required and dates and locations are subject to change. For more information, call (310) 364-3591.

**October 14****River Walk**

Northeast Trees riverwalk will take place from 9am - 12pm. Staff will guide the walk as they weed and water the recently completed Riverwalk project. They will be working north from Los Feliz Blvd. Meet at Eatz on Los Feliz Blvd. (off the 5 fwy.) Look for NETrees banner marking meeting place. Bring sunscreen, a hat, sturdy shoes and gloves if desired. Refreshments and tools will be provided. Call (323) 221-1778 or email:

netrees@earthlink.net for more information.

**October 15****Sea Fair!**

Celebrate the Sea! This fun filled event takes place from 10am-4:30pm. A day filled with activities, games, music, arts& crafts, and exhibits. Bring the whole family! Hosted by Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, for more info., call: (310) 548-7562.

**October 21-22****Weekend Birding Fieldtrip**

The Whittier Area Audubon Society will sponsor a weekend field trip to San Diego, Chula Vista, and Tijuana Estuary. For more information, contact Jean Beaton: (562) 869-6545.

Fall Festival!

The Theodore Payne Foundation for wildflowers and native plants will offer free talks on topics such as garden design, hillside gardening, and butterfly gardens. The festival lasts from Friday to Sunday, 8:30 am until 4:30 pm each day. Call (818) 768-1802 or visit www.theodorepayne.org.

October 28-29**Boo at the Zoo**

Adventure Island will be transformed into a scary place this Halloween (from 10 am to 4 pm on both days) as kids safely trick or treat around an area filled with spooky entertainment, fun crafts in Ghostly Grove, and tons of goodies. Children in costumes will receive \$1 off admission, (All activities free with paid admission).

October 30-31**Halloween Carnivals and Haunted Houses**

All Recreation Centers in the region will host carnivals with games, food, costume parades, and prizes. For more info., contact the LA Dept. of Parks and Recreation District Offices: West/Shoreline 310-8116; South/Southwest (213) 236-7392; Harbor (310) 548-7401.



AIDSWALK—from page 1—

has benefited APLA in such a positive way. Needless to say, the City is working even harder this year to regain our top ranking.

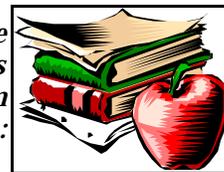
EAD is wholeheartedly supporting the City's tremendous effort to surpass last year's accomplishment. Traditionally, EAD's team has been known among the City departments as the "tiny giant," having ranked among the top five City departmental teams in six of the last seven AIDS Walk campaigns.

EAD welcomes participation from any of our many friends who are willing to join us for such a worthy cause. Many activities are being planned to make this event an enjoyable and memorable experience for all team members, including team T-shirts, prizes and gifts for the highest fundraisers, and a team barbecue/splash party after the walk.

Those interested in joining EAD's AIDS Walk Team should contact Billy Henderson, EAD's AIDS Walk Team Leader, at (213) 580-5299. Those interested in contributing to the team's fundraising efforts should send checks made payable to "AIDS Walk Los Angeles" to Billy Henderson at EAD's office. EAD, as well as APLA appreciates your support.

TEACHER'S CORNER

As teachers get ready for Halloween, here are some websites on pumpkin-related activities (from the University of Illinois Extension Service Urban Programs Resource Network):

**Museums in the Classroom Pumpkin Project**

<http://www.chias.org/www/edu/mitc/wkshp/pumpkin/pumpkin.html>

Hands-on educational pumpkin activity developed by teachers at a workshop sponsored by the Chicago Academy of Sciences.

Pumpkin Math, Songs & Science

<http://www.sillybilly.com/pumpkin.html>

Pumpkin activities for kindergartners.

Pumpkin Science

<http://www.monroe2bores.org/shared/esp/pumpkin.htm>

Use the scientific method to study pumpkins.

Pump Up the Curriculum With Pumpkins!

http://www.education-world.com/a_lesson/lesson028.shtml

Try pumpkin science, math and writing.

Pumpkin Homework

http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/curriculum/socialst/FT/Pumpkin_letter.html

How to measure a pumpkin with kindergartners.

Pumpkin Farm Trivia Quiz

<http://www.thepumpkinfarm.com/quiz.html>

A pumpkin quiz to check our pumpkin knowledge.

Pumpkin Exploration

<http://www.sedl.org/scimath/cmpass/v01n02/pumpkin.html>

The size, color, smell and taste of pumpkins make them perfect for this elementary observation and exploration activity.

The Educator's Activity Book About Bats: From Bat

Conservation International: <http://www.batcon.org/topedu.html>

or for the complete text of the book, including background information about bats, flash cards, diagrams for masks, bulletin boards, and mobiles, call BCI (1-800-538-BATS).

Jamba Juice



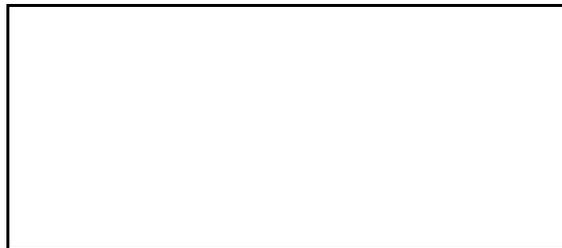
THE CITY OF
LOS ANGELES
TRIATHLON

On September 10, 2000, Los Angeles hosted its inaugural triathlon. The City of Los Angeles Triathlon was an Olympic distance course that incorporated a variety of the historical and beautiful landmarks of Los Angeles including Venice Beach, the Hollywood Walk of Fame, Angel's Flight and Dodger Stadium. The swim course consisted of a 1.5-kilometer swim transitioning to a 40-kilometer cycle. The final leg of the race was a 10-kilometer run with the finish line in Downtown Los Angeles.

City departments were encouraged to send teams to the triathlon; the Environmental Affairs Department's (EAD) team consisted of Julius Obembe, Gary Gero and Christopher Patton, who each completed one leg of the course. EAD congratulates our team members and all of those who participated.

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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) 580-1052**, or toll-free in Los Angeles only at **(800) 439-4666**. You can also visit our Web site at www.cityofla.org/ead and click on the Environmental Information Center Link.

AIR QUALITY

Calidad del aire

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

ASBESTOS – Asbestos

Environmental Hygiene
(213) 738-4078

BEE INFESTATIONS

Infestaciones de abejas
Vector Control
(800) 233-9279

BULKY ITEM PICK-UP

Recogida de artículos 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

ILLEGAL DUMPING INTO STORM DRAINS

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

LEAD POISONING – Veneno del plomo

National Lead Information Center
(800) 424-5323

LEAF BLOWERS – Sopladores de hojas

Leaf Blower Complaint Line
(800) 996-2489

MOSQUITOES

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

RECYCLING – Reciclaje

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