

# An Environmental Affair

Volume 21, Issue 12

December 2001

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.

## “Voices for Healthy Environments, Healthy Communities and Healthy Jobs” A Town Hall Meeting

Join more than 20 community-based groups and their members working on environmental health and justice issues in Southern California at a Town Hall Meeting December 7th and 8th. The event will be a chance for community groups and concerned citizens from the Los Angeles area to meet and discuss environmental issues that affect their health. There will be community group presentations, an open microphone, and a chance to discuss research needs and issues with the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Dr. Kenneth Olden, local scientists, regulators, health officials and legislators. Workshop topics will include environmental justice and health disparities, children’s health, air pollution, school siting, asthma and public participation in environmental health decisions.



The Town Hall meeting will occur on Friday, December 7, 2001 from 1-7:30 pm and Saturday, December 8, 2001, from 8 am—5 pm. The location of the meeting is at the First Church of God located on 9550 Crenshaw Blvd in the City of Inglewood.



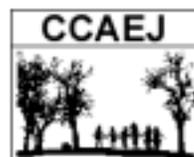
The event is co-sponsored by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Southern California Environmental Health Sciences Center (USC and UCLA), UCLA-Labor Occupational Safety and Health Program, and more than 20 organizations in Southern California who are “community partners” in organizing the event.

Pre-registration is required for meals. For more information or to register, please contact Quintin Robinson of UCLA-LOSH at 310-794-5962, or visit their website at <http://www.losch.ucla.edu>.

Si tiene preguntas en español, llamele a Mirna Troncoso (USC) 323-442-2745

### Inside this issue:

Compliance Strategy Workshop	2
Teacher’s Corner	3
Fundraising Opportunities	4
Calendar	5-7
Helpful Information	8



Southern California Environmental Health Sciences Center



Partnership of USC and UCLA

*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, TDD (213) 978-0899, send an e-mail to: [info@mailbox.lacity.org](mailto:info@mailbox.lacity.org), or visit our website at [www.lacity.org/ead](http://www.lacity.org/ead). 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.

*Printed on recycled paper.*

**PLEASE POST**

## **EAD's Water & Natural Resources Division Welcomes New Arrivals**



The Water and Natural Resources Division welcomes Frank Hong, Amy Schulenberg, and Damian Pipken as Student Professional Workers, and Garen Yegparian as an Environmental Specialist I. Frank is a senior undergraduate in the Environmental Science Program at UC Riverside. Amy is a senior graduate student in the Landscape Architecture Program at California State Pomona College, and Damian is a beginning graduate student in the Public Advocacy Program at the University of Southern California. Garen was promoted from the City Bureau of Street Lighting where he was an Engineering Associate I.

## **Compliance Strategy Workshop Held for Businesses**



On October 17, the EAD, Bureau of Sanitation, and Metal Finishing Association of Southern California held a free workshop entitled, "What to Do When a Good Pretreatment System Goes Bad", for metal finishers, electroplaters, and other businesses who operate and maintain a wastewater pretreatment system. The workshop was held to provide businesses information and tools to maintain compliance while saving time, effort, and money.

Experts in the field of wastewater pretreatment presented ways to quickly identify and solve discharge problems before they become compliance issues. The presentations included an update in industrial wastewater pretreatment regulations, the role of Environmental Management Systems in maintaining compliance, troubleshooting problems with precipitation systems, adjusting pH and oxidation/reduction potential controls, and preparing Toxic Organic Management Plans. Over 100 workshop attendees received a copy of two new City of Los Angeles documents: "The Pretreatment Program Compliance Guide", and the "Guide to Preparing a Streamlined Toxic Organic Management Plan".



For more information on the workshop or for a copy of the Guides, call the EAD's Hazardous and Toxic Materials Office at (213) 978-0891.

## **BEDI Grant Awarded for Redevelopment in Wilmington**

The City of Los Angeles was recently awarded a Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) grant for \$1,260,000. These funds will be used to assist businesses in the Wilmington Industrial Park, a redevelopment area bordered by Anaheim St. on the North, Broad Ave. on the West, Alameda St. on the East and Harry Bridges Blvd. on the South. The area was first developed as oil fields interspersed with salvage yards, boat yards, and container storage. Many of the roads had never been paved. Its poor appearance attracted illegal activities and made it difficult to get new businesses to move in.



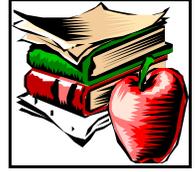
In 1974 the City established redevelopment area in Wilmington. The City paved the streets, cleaned up abandoned sites and brought in many new businesses giving the area a bright new appearance. But

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Teacher's Corner

### Protecting Your Children

Children experience and learn through play. For many kids, favorite play time (and hence learning time) includes art and craft projects. When designing and leading art lessons, it is extremely important to choose materials that are safe for children to handle. Some art and craft materials contain toxic substances and are not appropriate for use by school children. It is essential to reduce the exposure of students to toxic materials, including those found in arts and craft materials.



The California Environmental Protection Agency's (Cal EPA) Office of Environmental Hazard Assessment (OEHA) has Guidelines for the Safe Use of Art and Craft Materials and a list of art and craft materials which cannot be purchased for use in kindergarten and grades 1 - 6 (see [www.oehha.ca.gov/education/art/index.htm](http://www.oehha.ca.gov/education/art/index.htm)). Generally, products that include a health label or warning (i.e., from the Arts and Creative Materials Institute or under California's Proposition 65) should not be used by school children.

As noted in the Guidelines from OEHA, there are special concerns regarding children in kindergarten and grades 1 - 6. Young children are not as able to follow instruction for safe use so that contact with toxic material can occur. Children are generally less able to tolerate exposure to hazardous substances than are adults because of children's smaller size, higher metabolic rates, and immature organ immune systems.

Ways to limit exposure and ensure safe and fun play include safe storage and proper labeling of supplies, good housekeeping, and adequate ventilation and by always using the least-toxic products.

### Educational Resources

#### Caring for the Land Program

Free to grades K-6, the year-round outdoor/educational area located permanently on the Los Angeles Fairgrounds was built and managed cooperatively by the Bureau of Land Management, USDA Forest Service, National Park Service, California Department of Forestry and Fire, and the Los Angeles County Forestry and Fire Warden to allow school kids to explore, experience, and learn about the complex environment. The outdoor site includes an interpretive trail through Southern California's native ecosystems, an amphitheater, and a restored fire tower. There are also additional programs taught by Native Americans on native plant usage, tree potting, and more. For more info, contact Elayn Briggs at (909) 697-5200.

#### California Environmental Resource Evaluation Service (CERES)

CERES is an online resource that provides access to educational information for both student and teacher. The website includes multiple links on a wide range of natural science related issues for students and a host of links pertaining to environmental education and tutorial guides for teachers. The CERES website is an extensive database with information and educational programs directed towards grades K-12 to raise awareness of the importance of environmental and ecological processes. For more information, visit <http://www.ceres.ca.gov/education>.

#### U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Website

Seeking to educate or learn about endangered species? The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have compiled several links to various websites offering comprehensive information on a broad range of issues concerning endangered and threatened species, the history of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, helpful ways to improve the situation and much more. The site includes links for pictures and maps detailing location of endangered species. For more information, visit <http://endangered.fws.gov/kids/heyteach.htm>.

\$\$\$ FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES \$\$\$  
(See the EAD website for other current grant opportunities.)



### **2002 Earth Day Program Grants**

The California State Parks Foundation is offering grants to State & community parks, schools and nonprofit organizations for support of environmental restoration or cleanup projects that enhance public open spaces. The deadline is December 3, 2001. For more information, call 1-888-98-PA RKS or (415) 258-9975, or can email to California State Parks Foundation at <http://www.earthday@calparks.org>.

### **2002 Brownfields Program**

The National Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots Program for 2002 is eligible to state, local governments and Indian tribes. The deadline is December 10, 2001. For more information, contact the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, Outreach and Special Projects at (202) 260-4039.

### **Whale Tail Grants Program**

Funds educational projects to support and teach California's children and the general public to value and take responsibility for the health of the State's marine and coastal resources. Grant funds will be made available in the Spring of 2002. Applicants must be a non-profit organization or gov't. entity. For more information, visit <http://www.coastal.ca.gov> or call (800) 262-7848.

### **Public Involvement and Education (PIE) Mini-grants Program**

Starting in January 2002, The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project will begin its sixth run of its PIE Program, offering communities and agencies throughout LA County seed money to start-up projects focusing on the Bay, its watershed, and its resources. For more info, contact Stephanie Katsouleas at (213) 576-6641, or email to [smbp@rb4.swrcb.ca.gov](mailto:smbp@rb4.swrcb.ca.gov), or visit the SMBRP website at <http://www.smbay.org>.

### **California Community Foundation**

Support for the rehabilitation, maintenance and beautification of parks and recreation areas. Contact the Sr. Program Secretary at (213) 413-4130, or visit the website at <http://www.calfund.org> for more info.

### **California State Coastal Conservancy**

Proposition 204 funding specifically allocated for LA River Projects that focus on habitat restoration and construction of public access facilities. Projects must show linkage to the coast. Call (510) 286-4169 for more information.

### **Clean Water State Revolving Fund**

Loan program established by the Clean Water Act to local agencies for water quality improvement projects. Call the Environmental Protection Agency Water Division at (415) 744-1948 for more information.

### **Economic Development Administration Grants**

The US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration will give priority consideration to projects that achieve and sustain economic growth. Visit the website at [www.doc.gov/eda](http://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. Contact the US Dept. 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

*(Continued on page 7)*

# DECEMBER 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 4:30 pm. on the third Sunday of each month for an informal, leisurely, hour-long walk. The walk is canceled if it rains. For more info., visit the FoLAR website: [www.folar.org](http://www.folar.org), or call Joe Linton: (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 are required. For more info 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 a.m. Contact Felice Kidd: (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 and collecting and growing seeds

every second Saturday of the month. Morning maintenance is done from 9 am - noon every Tuesday and Wednesday. Call (310) 32-MARSH.

### Afternoons in the Lab

Cabrillo Marine Aquarium's education staff and volunteers are available every Wednesday from 3-5 pm to answer questions and involve students of all ages in exploring local marine life in the hands-on Discovery SEA Lab. Activities cover a wide range of scientific fun. The lab, located at 3720 Stephen White Drive in San Pedro, opens with a different theme each week. The science education afternoon is free. Groups should make reservations. For more info, call: (310) 548-7562.

### Satwiwa Sundays

From 10 am to 5 pm at Rancho Sierra Vista /Satwiwa. Meet guest hosts, watch demonstrations and share the experiences of the Native American LA Community. Call (805) 370-2301 for info.

### 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](http://www.smartgardening.com). "Smart Gardening" and Composting workshops also are held at Griffith Park. Call the Bureau of Sanitation: (213) 473-8228 for more information.



### Nature-Bird Walk

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) 32-MARSH.



The EAD website, located at [www.lacity.org/EAD](http://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.

### Recycling Workshops

Many workshops and seminars are regularly provided throughout the year on source reduction, recycling and composting. For info, please call the Bureau of Sanitation at (213) 473-8228

### 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, observing habitat changes and wildflower cycles. A \$5 donation per family is requested for the Natural History Center Education Program; reservations appreciated. Call Friends of Madrona Marsh at (310) 32-MARSH.



### Baldwin Hills Hikes

These are held by the LA Audubon Society on the 3rd Saturday of each month at Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area. For details, see the LA Audubon Society website: [www.LAAudubon.org](http://www.LAAudubon.org) or call: (323) 876-0202.

**THIS MONTH:****December 1-26****Light Festival**

Throughout most of the month from December 1-26, the Department of Water and Power and Griffith Park have joined together to bring you the Light Festival located at the Crystal Springs roads in Griffith Park. The Light Festival can be viewed in the comfort of your car or during a casual walk. The Light Festival includes a drive through a tunnel of lights featuring lighted representations of downtown L.A., the Staples Center, the Hollywood Sign, the L.A. Zoo and much more. For more info, contact Griffith Park at (213) 485-5501 or visit City of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks' website at <http://www.laparks.org/calendar/yrcalendar.htm>.

**December 1, 2001 —****January 1, 2002****Reindeer Romp**

Come to the Los Angeles Zoo and spend the holidays with some of Santa's Reindeers. Plenty of fun activities have been planned surrounding these gentle furry visitors from the North Pole. While at the Zoo, kids can ride the Zoo choo-choo train and make their own antlers to wear. The Zoo will be closed on December 25. For more info, call the L.A. Zoo at (323) 644-4211 or visit their website at <http://www.lazoo.org>.

**December 5****Discovery Lab**

Take part in activities concerning the local coastal environment at the free Discovery Lab at the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium from 3-5 pm. Explore marine specimens and participate in various weekly activities. Other scheduled lab dates are on December 8, 12, 19, 26 from 3-5 pm and on the 16th from 12-2 pm. For more info, visit <http://www.cabrilloaq.org> or call (310) 548-7562.

**December 6****Tyke Hike**

Walk among the brightly yellow colored Poplar trees that are shedding their leaves and enjoy the last moments of fall as you take a hike through Madrona Marsh Preserve beginning at 10 am. Partake in the various activities the hike provides such as looking for wildflowers and animal tracks, watching ants carry food to their underground home, and listening to the melodious singing of birds. A \$5 donation per family is requested for the Nature Center Education Programs. Reservations are appreciated. For more info, call the Friends of Madrona Marsh at (310) 326-2774.

**December 7-8****Merry Membership Nights**

As a holiday gesture to all its members, the Los Angeles Zoo is proud to offer an additional 10 percent off all merchandise in the gift shops to help make your holiday shopping a delightful experience. While at the Zoo, visit the reindeers, get your photo taken with Santa, visit the

Winnick Family Children's Zoo, and see the brilliant Lights along Crystal Springs Drive. For more info, including how to become a member, visit <http://www.lazoo.org>, or call (323) 644-6400.

**December 8****Habitat Restoration Days**

View many splendid native wildflowers, shrubs and trees that were once here 200 years ago and have now been restored as part of a 35 acre upland back dune system restoration project. Everyone is invited to participate by planting, weeding, collecting and growing seeds. The event will be held from 9:00 am-12:00 pm. For more info, contact the Friends of Madrona Marsh at (310) 326-2774.

**December 9****Second Sunday****Science: Use of the Compass**

If you enjoy treasure hunting activities or the use of compasses, bring yours to the Madrona Marsh Preserve Nature Center and explore. The event will provide instructions on how to use a compass and will also have a Global Positioning System for use. The event will run from 2-4 pm. There is a fee of \$5 per person or \$10 per family and reservations are required. For info, call the Nature Center at (310) 782-3989.

**Mammals of the Canyons**

Come and participate in this fascinating educational event where you will learn interesting facts about the well-hidden mammal East Canyon in the Santa Monica Mountains. The activity will take place between 2-4 pm. For more



info, call the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy at (310) 589-3200, or visit <http://www.ceres.ca.gov/smmc>.

**December 12  
New Bird Walk**

Participate in this free walk at the Mardrona Marsh Preserve and view some of the 103 spring migrates. The fall migrates may still be feeding on remaining fields of sunflowers and other dying annuals along with resident birds. The walk will begin at 8 am and will be lead by experienced birder Bob Shanman, owner of Wild Birds Unlimited in Rolling Hills Plaza. For more info, call the Friends at (310) 326-2774.



**December 15**

**Campfire Program**

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) is having a campfire program at the Ed Davis Park at Towley Canyon from 5-7 pm. The campfire program is a traditional campfire setting filled with stories, singing, and fun. Bring marshmallows and toasting sticks to create snack treats to enjoy. For more info, call SMMC at (310) 589-3200, or visit <http://www.ceres.ca.gov/smmc>.



[www.ceres.ca.gov/smmc](http://www.ceres.ca.gov/smmc).

**December 16  
Weekend Tidepool Walk**

Take a tour of the Point Fermin Marine Life Refuge conducted by Cabrillo Marine Aquarium (CMA) Education Staff. An informative slide show in the John M. Liguin Auditorium will be presented, followed by a naturalist-led ramble on the rocks. Outdoor clothing and sneakers are advised. There is a \$1 fee and reservations are required for groups. The event will be from 3-4:30 pm. For more info, contact CMA staff at (310) 548-7562 or visit <http://www.cabrilloaquarium.org>.

**December 22-23**

**Nature-Bird Walk**

The Meadowlarks have returned! Come and view these birds among other resident birds such as Kildeer, Hawks and Shrikes at the Mardrona Marsh Preserve. Water birds may also be present as the rainy season draws on. The walk will also take you to areas containing wetland plants where you will be able to harvest their seeds. The event will begin at 10 am. For more info, call the Friends at (310) 326-2774.



**December 17**

**Family Nature Walks**

Experience and observe the beauty of nature with The Children's Nature Institute's Family Nature Walk held at Malibu Lagoon at 10:30 am. Give your baby, toddler or young child the gift of nature with trained volunteer leaders who make the trails come alive for you and your children. Plenty of walks are scheduled throughout December and at other site locations. For more info, call (310) 364-3591 or visit <http://www.ChildrensNatureInstitute.org>.

**December 26**

**Winter Seafari**

Look at the impact of winter storms and discover the changes along the winter seashore during the two-day course. Sign up for one or both sessions as every day is different and learn about migratory animals, create projects and more. There is a fee of \$26 (\$23 FRIENDS) for grades K-6 and \$15 (\$13 FRIENDS) for preK. Session 1 begins Dec 26-28 and session 2 begins Jan 2-4. Time of activities depends on your child's grade level. For more info and times, call Cabrillo Marine Aquarium at (310) 548-7562 or visit <http://www.cabrilloaquarium.org>.



*(Funding Opportunities continued from page 4)*

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.

*(BEDI Grant Awarded continued from page 2)*

many properties are still vacant or underutilized. This grant will enable two existing businesses that are located in the Park to expand onto adjacent properties bringing new jobs and opportunities to Wilmington.

The grant application was sponsored by the City's Brownfields Program. Brownfields are commercial or industrial properties where either real or perceived contamination is a barrier to redevelopment. The Program is a collaborative project by the City's Environmental Affairs Department, Mayor's Office of Economic Development, Community Redevelopment Agency, and Community Development Department. For more information on the City's Brownfields Program, see the Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) website at <http://www.lacity.org/ead/labf>, or call the EAD at (213) 978-0888.



## 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 [www.lacity.org/ead](http://www.lacity.org/ead) and click on the Environmental Information Center

### **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 articulos grandes*  
L.A. City Bureau of Sanitation  
(800) 773-2489

### **Hazardous Waste Disposal**

*Desembolso de materiales peligrosos*  
L.A. County Dept. of Public Works  
(888) 253-2652  
L.A. City Bureau of Sanitation  
(800) 988-6942

### **Illegal Storm Drain Dumping**

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

### **Lead Poisoning**

*Veneno de 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

### **Smoking Violations**

*Infracciones 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  
Mail Stop 177

Presorted  
First Class Mail  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Los Angeles, CA  
Permit No. 12932

