

# An Environmental Affair

Volume 21, Issue 3

March 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.

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## Climate Action Plan for Los Angeles

Last month, the Los Angeles City Council Environmental Quality and Waste Management Committee approved a Climate Action Plan to move forward the City's efforts to reduce global warming and its potentially significant local impacts. The Plan, sent to the full Council for its consideration, indicates that by 2010, Los Angeles can reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with municipal operations by 30 percent compared to 1990.

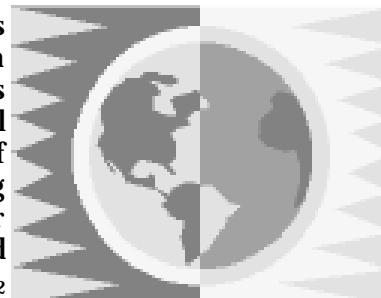
Prepared by the Los Angeles Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) in partnership with the City's Department of Water and Power (DWP) and the International Council on Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), the Climate Action Plan outlines cost-effective City programs that assist, on a local scale, with global climate protection initiatives, mainly by reducing energy use. Specifically, the plan inventories existing emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>, a primary greenhouse gas) from City operations; outlines the measures currently being taken to reduce energy use and associated CO<sub>2</sub> emissions; recommends new measures for emission reductions; and analyzes the anticipated effects of these efforts.

Scientific research demonstrates that the Earth's climate is warming at an unprecedented rate, with increasing evidence pointing to humans as responsible for intensifying the Earth's natural greenhouse effect and accelerating the rate of global warming. Activities causing this warming to occur include the burning of fossil fuels for transportation, electricity generation, and industrial operations, which results in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and the destruction of carbon-sequestering forests. "It is important for Angelenos to understand that global warming can have local affects, especially for coastal cities such as Los Angeles," said Detrich (Dee) Allen, General Manager of the EAD, which serves as chief advisor to the City on environmental issues. "Rising global temperatures, if not dealt with, could result in flooding of coastal properties, erosion of beaches, exacerbation of heat-related illnesses and increased ground-level smog, which aggravates existing respiratory ailments. This is why Los Angeles is addressing the global warming issue with aggressive action."

The Climate Action Plan recommends continuing and expanding ongoing City activities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including:

- ♦ **Cleaner power production:** Using cleaner fuels in local power plants and promoting non-polluting renewable energy (green power) resources.
- ♦ **Energy efficiency programs:** The City will retrofit approximately 800 municipal facilities to reduce energy consumption, and will complete the conversion of the City's nearly 250,000 streetlights to more efficient lights.

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*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](mailto:info@ead.ci.la.ca.us), or visit our Web site at [www.lacity.org/ead](http://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**

## EAD Bids Farewell to Esther Umeno

EAD extends its best wishes to Esther Umeno on her retirement at the end of February. The first EAD employee to retire, Esther has spent 34 and a half years with the City of Los Angeles. After spending most of her career at the Department of Water and Power, Esther came to EAD five years ago, where she has served as the Fiscal Coordinator for Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction programs.

Following her retirement, Esther will move to Las Vegas to be closer to her daughter, son-in-law, and two grandchildren. She will be busy in her retirement—her daughter is expecting twins this spring!



## Caltrans Anti-Litter Campaign Underway

Caltrans District 7, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board and the California Highway Patrol have joined forces to implement a public outreach campaign to remind motorists that they play an important role in keeping litter away from our roadways and drainage systems. Each year, Caltrans spends nearly \$10 million to remove litter and clear storm drains on freeways and highways in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties.

The campaign, which began last summer, involves a three-phase litter generation study and follows the overarching theme,

*Motorists who litter forget the impact it has on the environment. They forget the connection between the litter they throw onto freeways and highways and the litter that ends up in our ocean.*

—Dennis Dickerson,  
Executive Officer,

**“Please  
Don’t Tarnish**



**the Golden  
State”.**

*The millions of dollars spent on litter could be used on soundwalls and projects that relieve congestion. Instead, we have to pick up the trash left by careless travelers.*

—Robert W. Sassaman,  
Director,

The study is being conducted along the westbound San Bernardino Freeway off-ramp from Eastern Avenue to Campus Drive, near downtown Los Angeles. Anti-litter signs have been placed on the route and campaign personnel have distributed literature to motorists at designated study locations. The Highway Patrol has stepped up its enforcement in the target area by issuing warning notices to those seen littering—and subsequently larger signs have been added to the area in each phase. Caltrans maintenance forces have been picking up the litter in the area and measuring it by volume (gallons) to see if the pilot project is having an impact—and particularly, which anti-litter methods are most effective. The results will be organized into a report—to be released later this year.

For more information about the campaign and study, contact Peter Van Riper : (213) 897-5638 or by e-mail: [Peter\\_VanRiper@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Peter_VanRiper@dot.ca.gov).



## TEACHER’S CORNER

### Student Volunteer Opportunity...

On Saturday, April 7, from 11 am until 2 pm, students from colleges and high schools in the LA area will participate in the “Second LA Hunger Cleanup”—sponsored by the National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness. Students will volunteer to perform community service at different sites while raising money for the hungry at home and abroad. If you have an idea for a work project or need more info., call Amy Turk of the Pepperdine Volunteer Center for a work site application: (310) 456-4143. Possible projects include cleaning up, painting, sorting food or clothes, and gardening. Applications must be returned by **March 9, 2001**.

## KEEPING LA'S WATER CLEAN: A LOOK AT CHROMIUM 6

Chromium 6 (Cr-6) or hexavalent chromium has received considerable attention in recent years as a compound of concern in drinking water supplies. The movie, "Erin Brockovich" helped to personalize the issue and to raise awareness of Cr-6 nationally. A number of individuals have called EAD's Environmental Information Center hotline with questions regarding Cr-6 in LA's drinking water, so we are presenting the following information, courtesy of the City's Department of Water and Power.



**Chromium** is a naturally-occurring element (the eleventh most common in the earth's crust) and is also an inorganic chemical used in many industrial processes, including electroplating, wood treatment, pigments manufacturing, and cooling tower treatment for corrosion control. Chromium is found in air, water, and soil, and, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), food contributes 93-98% of humans' total chromium intake while water contributes 1.9-7%. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) states that chromium may also enter water through plumbing fixtures—such as pipes or faucets. Cr-6 in particular may naturally occur in certain rock formations, but its most common source is human activities.

Chromium 3 and Chromium 6 are the two most prevalent species of chromium. Cr-6, which can be **toxic**, may constitute anywhere from 7-80% of the total chromium found in drinking water supplies. Cr-3 is an **essential dietary nutrient**, but may be converted to Cr-6 in some instances when oxidized via disinfection treatment at water treatment facilities. Also, the WHO and EPA support research that has shown certain amounts of Cr-6 may be converted into the nutrient Cr-3 when ingested—after interacting with gastric acids in the stomach.

### The Nation

The U.S. EPA sets nationwide drinking water standards in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974. The EPA, according to drinking water research performed in 1998, does not consider Cr-6 to be a carcinogen (cancer-causing agent) when ingested, but it does consider it to be harmful if inhaled. (However, this is not a problem during showering because Cr-6 is a *heavy metal* and does not separate from water drops—and therefore it does not take the form of a substance that may be inhaled.) Currently, the EPA has set standards for **total chromium** of 100 parts per billion (ppb) in drinking water, but it has not set standards specifically for **Cr-6**. (The EPA actually raised this total level from 50 ppb to 100 ppb in 1991.) The WHO level is currently 50 ppb. For comparison, the Cr-6 levels in the drinking water of the town Hinkley, Calif., described in "Erin Brockovich" were in the 1,000 or greater ppb range.

### The State

Prior to a State standard being established in California, the EPA's Office of Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) is required to provide a scientific assessment of the compound and determine a numerical value that would be an ideal goal to achieve. This is called the public health goal (PHG), and is usually a very small number that is often not yet reachable, because of limitations of current technology or analytical ability or even affordability to society. In 1999, OEHHA established a PHG of 2.5 ppb for total chromium in drinking water. A PHG is a health risk assessment *not* a drinking water standard—it is the level below which a contaminant will cause no adverse health effects over a lifetime of exposure. The California Department of Health Services (DHS), which regulates drinking water for the entire state, must consider this PHG as well as the statewide occurrence of Cr-6, its detectability, the ability to treat or remove it from water, and the cost of the removal or treatment in establishing a standard for compliance. Presently, the DHS has an existing 50 ppb standard for total chromium in drinking water and is researching a standard for Cr-6 specifically. The DHS conducted a survey of northern California ground water sources and found natural levels of Cr-6, as high as 50 ppb in some locations. Since the recent controversy began, many water systems are now additionally testing Cr-6 in their water supplies.

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## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



### **GRANT OPPORTUNITIES**

**Mobile Source Outreach Assistance**—State agencies and their bona fide agents are eligible for these grants. The deadline is March 2, 2001 and the contact person is Susan Bullars: (202) 564-9856.

**Aggregate Exposure for Pesticides**—Institutions of higher learning and nonprofit agencies are eligible for these grants. The deadline is March 7, 2001 and the contact person is Chris Saint: (202) 564-6909.

**Natural Resource Conservation Farmland Protection Program**—State and local governments, tribal governments, and public and private organizations are eligible for these grants. The deadline is March 9, 2001 and the contact person is Douglas Lawrence: (202) 720-1510.

**Office of Environmental Justice Small Grants**—Non-profit community-based organizations and tribal governments. The deadline is March 9, 2001 and the contact s are EPA regional offices or: (800) 962-6215.

**The Argo Project: Global Ocean Observation for Prediction of Climate Variability**—Institutions of higher education and nonprofit agencies are eligible for these grants. The deadline is March 16, 2001 and the contact person is Stephen Piotrowicz: (301) 713-2465.

**Environmental Statistics Research Grants**—Institutions of higher education and nonprofit agencies are eligible for these grants. The deadline is March 21, 2001 and the contact person is Chris Saint: (202) 564-6909.

**Investigator-Initiated Grants**—Public and private organizations and agencies are eligible for these grants. The deadline varies by program and receipt dates vary depending upon the specific research areas within the specification. The contact person is Barbara Karn: (202) 564-6771.

**Technology Opportunities Program**—The National Telecommunications and Information Administration of the U.S. Dept. of Commerce offers grants to state and local governments, as well as tribal governments universities, and non-profit groups through the Technology Opportunities Program (TOP). The program "promotes the widespread availability and use of advanced telecommunications technologies in the public and non-profit sectors." Some examples of year 2000 recipients are the City of Portland, OR (\$480,000) for a comprehensive electronic catalog of city housing resources, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services (\$536,500) for a "human services case coordination system," and the South Carolina Dept. of Education (\$347,316) to provide internet access to underserved rural areas. As coastal state programs and coastal local governments increase their use of advanced telecommunications and other technologies, this program may be able to offer funding assistance. A notice of availability for year 2001 funds was announced on January 11, and applications are due on March 22. There is much more information (including a copy of the announcement and an application) at: <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/otiahome/top/index.html>

### **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 website at [www.calfund.org](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, construction of public access facilities and others. Projects must show linkage to the coast. Call (510) 286-4169 for more info.

**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.

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# MARCH 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. Location varies each month—some walks feature brief talks highlighting natural, historical, artistic, or political aspects of the River. 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.

### 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 9am-noon **every Tuesday and Wednesday**. Call (310) 32-MARSH.

### Hyperion Waste 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 to 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.



### 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. The lab, located at 3720 Stephen White Drive in San Pedro, opens with a different theme each week and activities include: using microscopes, examining specimens, creating art, playing games, exploring coastal habitat, and much more! The science education afternoon is free. Groups should make reservations. For more info., call: (310) 548-7562.

### Satwiwa Sundays

From 10am to 5pm at Rancho Sierra 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](http://www.smartgardening.com).



"Smart Gardening" and Composting workshops also are held from **March through November** at Griffith Park. Call the Bureau 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.



876-0202

The EAD web site, 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 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

Many workshops and seminars are regularly provided throughout the year on source reduction, recycling and composting. They have included topics such as Buying Recycled, Organics, Certified Buy Recycled Training Seminars, and Sustainable Construction. Please call the Bureau of Sanitation: (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 Programs; reservations appreciated. Call Friends of Madrona Marsh: (310) 32MARSH.



### Baldwin Hills Hikes

These are held every 3rd Saturday at Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area. Join them to learn about the nature and birds of the largest undeveloped area within the LA Basin. For more information, see the LA Audubon Society website: [www.LAAudubon.org](http://www.LAAudubon.org) or call: (323)

## THIS MONTH:

### March 3\*

#### **Franklin Canyon Hike Leaders Training**

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) will begin its Spring 2001 training session for volunteer naturalists in Franklin Canyon from 9am until 12 noon. Classes will be held every Saturday until graduation on May 19<sup>th</sup> (9 total classes). This first class will introduce the program, staff and park. Topics covered throughout the course will include: the art of sharing the natural world with visitors ("Interpretation"), Native American culture, CPR and first aid, birds, mammals, ecology, geology and insects. For more information, contact Angi at MRCA: (310) 858-7272, ext. 132.

**Free Wetlands Tour**—Sponsored by the Amigos de Bolsa Chica—beginning at 9am at the Reserve Walk Bridge. Call Linda Moon: (714) 840-1575 or visit: [www.amigosdebolsachica.org](http://www.amigosdebolsachica.org).

### March 10

**Mt. Washington Tree Planting**—Help restore a native walnut woodland from 9am until 12 noon in Rainbow Canyon Park. Meet at Avenue 45 and Glenalbyn. Call Northeast Trees for more information: (323) 221-1778.

### March 14

**Baldwin Hills Park Planning Workshop**—From 5:30-9 pm at West LA College Fine Arts Theater, attend the workshop to make your voice heard—view and comment on the draft plans for the proposed Baldwin Hills Park.

This is your opportunity to provide input on the design and vision for this world-class park. For more info., contact Silissa at Community Conservancy International: (310) 475-0797, ext. 4 or [silissa@ccint.org](mailto:silissa@ccint.org). There will be another workshop on 3/17.

### March 15

#### **Annual Conservation Dinner**

Members of the public are welcome to this event, to be held at the Downey Women's Club by the Whittier Area Audubon Society. Local naturalist, Bonnie Caylor, is the featured speaker who will discuss her recent trip to Alaska. Advanced dinner reservations (at \$17 per person) are required—prior to 3/10. Call Jean Beaton: (562) 869-6545. Also, see: [www.w.hittieraudubon.org](http://www.w.hittieraudubon.org).

### March 16-18

#### **Local Trip with the LA Zoo: Anza-Borrego**

This getaway will take you into the stunning back country of Palm Desert, near Palm Springs. Anza-Borrego is the largest state park in California; activities will include guided hikes to a desert oasis and waterfall, exploration of cactus gardens, evening star walks and campfires. In addition to the expansive vistas, you may be lucky enough to see some of the park's famed bighorn sheep. Costs for Zoo members/nonmembers are \$110 / \$120 (ages 13 and up), \$70 / \$70 (ages 3-12) and free for children under two. Call Lisa Arnold: (323) 644-4708.



### March 17

**Zookapers: Zoo Moves**—This is an educational adventure program at the LA Zoo for kids ages 5-6. Join them for a marvelous morning of movement as they slither, leap, hop, and brachiate through the Zoo to observe some animals in action. The session will take place from 9:30 am until 12 noon. Registration is required. Call (323) 644-4211 for more information.

**Baldwin Hills Park Planning Workshop**—The workshop will be held from 1-4:30 pm. See 3/14 listing for details.

### March 19

**Critters 'N Kids: The Three Not-So-Little Pigs**—This is an educational adventure program at the LA Zoo for kids ages 3-4 accompanied by an adult. The kids will learn about babirusas, warthogs, and red river hogs. The sessions take place at 10 am or 1pm and may also be held on March 24 or 25. Registration is required. Call (323) 644-4211 for more information.

### March 22

**Community Meeting**—Forum to discuss the Arroyo Seco Watershed Restoration Feasibility Study, from 7-9 pm at the River Center, 570 W. Avenue 26. Call Northeast Trees: (323) 221-1778.

### March 29-30

**Training the Trainers: The Stream-walk Component**—This workshop in Calabasas will focus on citizen water quality monitoring; it is open to Resource Conservation District and other agency personnel interested in starting (or enhancing existing) volunteer water quality monitoring programs. Call Jennifer Allen at Wild on Watersheds: (530) 758-9476.

*\*Please see the EAD website for additional events—as some may have been eliminated because of space*

*constraints or were not available prior to printing: [www.lacity.org/EAD/](http://www.lacity.org/EAD/)*

—Continued from page 4 [Funding Opportunities]—

**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](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. 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

—Continued from page 1 [Climate Action Plan]—

- ♦ **Recycling programs:** Save energy in the manufacturing of products and reduce the generation of methane (another greenhouse gas) from landfills.
- ♦ **Transportation programs:** Los Angeles has deployed more than 700 alternative-fuel vehicle technologies (and will expand this effort in the future), and more than 200 bicycles for law enforcement patrol, utilizes state-of-the-art technology for traffic signal timing to maintain traffic flow, and will expand employee ridesharing efforts.
- ♦ **Tree planting programs:** The City has already planted more than 16,000 trees, which lower energy use by providing shade for buildings and by helping cool ambient air temperatures and which also remove atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>.

In addition, the plan recommends three new greenhouse gas reduction measures:

- ♦ Implementing a plan for City departments to purchase 10 percent green power through DWP's Green Power Program.
- ♦ Replacing City office equipment with Energy Star®-compliant products (meaning those that meet the highest standards for energy efficiency).
- ♦ Improving the average fuel efficiency of the City's vehicle fleet.

According to Councilmember Ruth Galanter, "By following the blueprint in the Climate Action Plan, in 10 years Los Angeles can lower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from municipal operations by more than 734,000 tons annually," and, in recognizing the Plan's energy-conservation potential, she added "...given today's uncertain energy situation around the State, programs such as those in the plan that enable Los Angeles to lower energy demand can increase the amount of electricity the City can make available to other parts of California, thus helping to avoid rolling blackouts."

Development of the Climate Action Plan began in 1997 when the City Council adopted a resolution in support of the ICLEI Cities for Climate Protection Campaign-U.S., a program that has proven instrumental in coordinating local responses to global warming. With this resolution, the City pledged to develop a greenhouse gas reduction plan. "Los Angeles' Draft Climate Action Plan represents one of the most aggressive plans we've seen by any U.S. city to tackle the global warming challenge on a local level," noted Abby Young, director of the ICLEI Campaign, which includes nearly 80 cities and counties across the nation, "As other municipalities undertake efforts to address this vital issue, we will point them to Los Angeles as a prime example of what can be achieved."

—Continued from page 3 [Chromium Six]—

### **The City**

In addition to assisting DHS with its new standards development process, the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) has established self-imposed operating conditions, which include: more frequent monitoring, stopping use of any well that exceeds 20 ppb of total chromium, and ensuring that all water served to customers is below 10 ppb of Cr-6. The Los Angeles City Council has been working closely with DWP to ensure that Cr-6 polluters are identified and that proper monitoring/detection equipment and practices are engaged. Also, DWP has teamed with universities and consultants to identify the most effective treatment technologies; the ion exchange method has proven most effective in removing Cr-6 from water, but additional strategies are being examined. Presently, DWP is developing a Public Health Goals Report that will identify all constituents in the City's water supply that are detected and are above the PHGs but below the drinking water standards. Of special interest for improvements may be constituents such as trihalomethanes, arsenic, disinfection by-products, and radio-nucleides. In managing drinking water quality this way, DWP hopes to provide a more comprehensive approach to investing public funds in improving water safety beyond regulatory compliance — as opposed to a more narrowly-focused compound-specific strategy.

### **To Learn More**

The Association of California Water Agencies has put together a "Chromium Fact Sheet" that is available by calling Krista Clark, ACWA Regulatory Affairs Specialist, at (916) 441-4545 or Dave Spath of the California Department of Health Services, at (916) 322-2308. Within Los Angeles, you may call DWP's "Water Quality Hotline" with any questions regarding Chromium 6 or any other issues pertaining to water quality: (213) 367-3182.

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### ***Get Ready for Earth Day...April 21, 2001***

*Remember to send us information about your events and other accomplishments in celebration of Earth Day—by Thursday, March 15—for consideration to be included in next month's newsletter! Mail or fax them (213-580-1038) to the attention of the Environmental Information Center (EIC).*



#### **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](http://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