

An Environmental Affair

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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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Downtown Areas to Become Community Parks



Governor Gray Davis celebrates new parks with City officials.

Mayor Jim Hahn welcomed Governor Gray Davis to downtown Los Angeles on December 21st to announce the development of two new State Parks, the Taylor Yard and Cornfields, two large vacant areas along the Los Angeles River. Joining in the celebration were State Senator Richard Polanco, City Council members Ed Reyes, Tom La Bonge, Mark Ridley-Thomas, and Eric Garcetti, State Secretary of Resources Mary D. Nichols, Director of the California Department of Recreation and Parks Rusty Areia. Many community and Los Angeles River activists, including Chi Mui, Lewis McAdams, and Melanie Winter, also were on hand to cheer the official announcement of the purchase of the Taylor Yard and Cornfields sites. Both sites are former rail yards near the Los Angeles River that instead of being developed into industrial complexes will be transformed into open green space.

Los Angeles is in great need of park space in its urban center. "As someone that grew up in these neighborhoods, I know first-hand how desperate the need for open space has been in our communities," noted Council member Ed Reyes. The purchase of the 40-acre Taylor Yard and the 32-acre Cornfields will ease congestion at the very few park sites available to the surrounding communities. The parks will offer recreational amenities, such as soccer fields, as well as natural areas for strolling and observing native habitat. The Taylor Yard and Cornfields sites also play an integral role in the new Los Angeles River Parkway plan that hopes to reintroduce Angelenos to the river and create a greenbelt flowing through the city.

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"It is a great day for the people of Los Angeles because an old rail yard that has been an eye-sore for many years is now going to provide open space and green land in the heart of downtown," said Mayor Hahn of the Cornfields site. The City of Los Angeles is committed to on-going greening projects in the urban core and we work on reclaiming these types of brownfields for use as park space. The Environmental Affairs Department's Brownfields Program assisted with the effort to secure the Cornfields as park space. (See Brownfields article on page 2 for further information).

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: info@mailbox.lacity.org, or visit our website at 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

EAD's Newly Enhanced Website Debuts



EAD recently launched its new and improved website. The website has been updated and visually enhanced with more pictures and more information regarding each of EAD's divisions: Air Quality, Water & Natural Resources, and Materials and Waste Resources. Detailed information on EAD's major programs, including Brownfields, Business Assistance, Global Climate Change, and Greening, also is provided. If you have questions or concerns relating to the website, please let us know. EAD's goal is to make the website an interactive resource for Los Angeles and your input would be greatly appreciated. Please visit the EAD website at: <http://www.lacity.org/ead>

LA Auto Show Presents Alternative Fuel Vehicles

This year, several automobile manufacturers displayed alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) at the LA Auto Show, held at the LA Convention Center in January. The vehicles featured included a Honda Civic hybrid electric vehicle and FCX hydrogen fuel cell vehicle; a Toyota Prius hybrid electric vehicle and RAV4 electric vehicle; and a GEM neighborhood electric vehicle. Inclusion of these vehicles at the Auto Show demonstrates a growing marketplace for AFVs, based on consumer demand for environmentally friendly vehicles, gasoline cost savings, and United States energy security.



A new environmentally friendly vehicle

The City's own vehicle fleet now includes approximately 807 AFVs with plans for more in the next year. These AFVs support our Clean Cities Program and the Clean Fuels Policy. For more information about these City programs, contact Lisa Wunder, our Clean Cities Coordinator, at (213) 978-0855.



Honda FCX-V4 Fuel Cell

Interested in purchasing an environmentally friendly vehicle? Check out the California Air Resources Board's "Buyer's Guide to Cleaner Cars" at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/ccbg/ccbg.htm> or the United States Environmental Protection Agency's "Green Vehicle Guide" at <http://www.epa.gov/autoemissions/>.

Brownfields Helps Revitalize Cornfields Site



The City Brownfields Program, at the request of the State and the Trust for Public Land, provided funding and supervision of the environmental assessments required before the State could agree to purchase the Cornfields. The goal of this effort was to determine the nature of the contamination on the site, the likely requirements for a future cleanup program, and the cost of the environmental remediation.

The required studies were overseen by the CRA engineering staff and EAD's Brownfields Program representative from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. EAD also coordinated review by the State Department of Toxic Substances Control, assuring that, as the responsible state regulatory body, they would have a complete picture of the issues involved throughout the process.

The City's efforts were communicated in a series of reports to and consultations with the DTSC, the State Departments of Recreation and-

(Continued on page 3)

(Brownfields Helps Revitalize Cornfields Site continued from page 2)

Parks and General Services, the Trust for Public Land, and City officials, providing the necessary information for all the parties to understand the environmental issues involved and agree to complete the purchase and future remediation of the Cornfields.

EAD's HTM Office Recognized for Pollution Prevention Efforts



In December, EAD's Hazardous and Toxic Materials (HTM) Office was recognized for its "exemplary work in promoting pollution prevention" by the California EPA, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). The certificate was signed by Edwin F. Lowry, Director of the DTSC. The HTM Office has conducted numerous projects and outreach efforts to encourage businesses to reduce the amount of hazardous wastes generated. Recent activities included a technical workshop for metal finishing businesses on pollution reduction and on trouble-shooting wastewater pretreatment systems, a program to eliminate mercury at community clinics through substitute products, and visiting and informing automotive repair shops of good environmental practices. The HTM Office also provides free publications on pollution prevention practices for specific industries. For publication orders check the Environmental Business Assistance information on EAD's website at <http://www.lacity.org/EAD/eba>, or call the HTM office at 213-978-0891.

Cerritos College Evolves Plastic!!!



Wouldn't it be cool if people could convert used plastic bottles into "frisbee type" flying disk or "Frog" Paper Clips? That is exactly what took place at a Cerritos College Plastic Trailer Recycling event in the first week of January. Cerritos College recently hosted the event with the goal of educating the public on the correct preparation of plastics for recycling, the process itself, and in turn create public awareness to increase volumes of recycled materials. The Plastic Recycling Trailer made its debut May 11, 2000 and has been well received at previous events. How does it work? Clean number 2 plastic bottles are inserted into a hopper at the back of the trailer and are shredded and made into pellets. The pellets are then placed into a molding machine. Once molded the freshly reformed recycled material is ready for distribution to kids who love watching their plastic bottles become toys. This program is sponsored by American Plastics Council, Western Plastic Pioneers, Universal Plastifab, Inc. and others. For more information, or to join as a sponsor for the Plastics Recycling Trailer, call (562) 860-2451 ext. 2927.

Guide to 2002 Air Quality Rulemaking for Residents and Businesses



The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), California Air Resources Board (CARB), and South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) recently published summaries of upcoming 2002 air quality rulemaking at the federal, state, and local levels. The following will help those wishing to learn more about these proposed rules and/or participate in the rulemaking process. Questions about individual matters should be referred to the agency proposing the item.

- ♦ USEPA Semi-Annual Regulatory Plan and the Unified Agenda of Federal Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions made available by the Regulatory Information Service Center of the US General Services Administration (Federal) can be obtained by calling (202) 512-1800 or by visiting <http://www.epa.gov/epahome/rules.html>.
- ♦ CARB Rulemaking Activity in 2002 (State) (updated monthly) can be contacted by calling (916) 322-4011 or by visiting <http://www.arb.ca.gov/regact/regact02.htm>.
- ♦ SCAQMD Rule and Control Measure Forecast (Local) (updated monthly) can be contacted by calling (909) 396-2000 or by visiting <http://www.aqmd.gov/rules/rules.html>.

\$\$\$ FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES \$\$\$
 (Visit <http://www.lacity.org/ead> for other current grant opportunities.)

Federal

Clean Water State Revolving Fund

Loan program established by the Clean Water Act to support local agencies for water quality improvement projects. Call the EPA 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 <http://www.doc.gov/eda> for more information.

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 information.

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 job creation. Call Julia Wolfe with the EPA Waste Management Division at (415) 744-2131 for more information.

Environmental Justice Small Grants

Financial assistance to eligible community groups and federally recognized tribal governments that are working on or plan to carry out projects to address environmental justice issues. Applications must be postmarked by Feb 21, 2002. Visit <http://www.epa.gov/oeca/ej> for more information.

State

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 <http://www.calfund.org> for more information.

Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund—Provides funding to drinking water programs to ensure that drinking water remains safe and affordable. Call EPA's Drinking Water Office: (415) 744-1852 or visit <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/dwsrf.html> for more information.

Regional

Public Involvement and Education (PIE) Mini-grants Program

The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project has begun 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. The deadline is March 4, 2002. For more information contact Stephanie Katsouleas at (213) 576-6641, send email to smbrp@rb4.swrcb.ca.gov, or visit <http://www.smbay.org>.

Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project

The SCWR Project is requesting proposals for acquisition, restoration, and enhancement projects for coastal wetlands and watersheds in SoCal. Project proposals must be postmarked by Feb 15, 2002 to be considered for the 2002-2003 WRP Work Plan. For more information, visit <http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/scwrp>.

FEBRUARY 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, 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. 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) 32MARSH (62774).

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.

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 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) 32MARSH (62774).



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.

Recycling Workshops

Many workshops and seminars are regularly provided throughout the year on source reduction, recycling and composting. 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 (62774).



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 or call: (323) 876-0202.

THIS MONTH:

February 8 & 9



First-Ever Winter Sale! The Theodore Payne Foundation is holding a winter sale for those of you wanting to focus on shrubs and other plants that feature berries, so your gardens will attract a wide variety of birds and butterflies this spring. The hours are Saturday 8 -10 am for members and 10 - 4:30 pm for the public. For more information call (818)-768-1802 or visit <http://www.theodorepanye.org>.

February 9

North East Trees Needs You North East Trees will be in Eagle Rock where volunteers can help plant and care for North East Trees' urban forest at Fiji Hill. Meet at the top of Townsend between York and Yosemite. For information call (323) 221-1778 or visit <http://www.northeasttrees.org>

February 10

Second Sunday Science: Fossils



El Camino College geology professor, Charles Herzig, will share fossil bones with the class and explain where they can be found. This event will be held at the Madrona Marsh Preserve Nature Center at 3201 Plaza Del Amo. The hours are from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. For reservations call (310) 618-2720. For more information call (310) 326-2774 or visit <http://www.tprd.tornet.com/marsh.htm>.

February 9 - 10

L.A. Zoo Lovin' Love is in the air! The Los Angeles Zoo is the place for Valentine's Day weekend with loads of heartfelt fun for the whole family. L.A. Zoo Lovin' embraces the weekend with entertainment, a craft area for making wild Valentine's Day cards, face painting, special guests, and sweet goodies. Soothing chamber music fills the air, and educational activities will feature long-time Zoo couples such as the Zoo's hippos, Maggie and Otis. All activities are free with paid Zoo admission. For more information call (323) 644-6400 or visit <http://www.lazoo.org>.



February 16

Outdoor Science Classroom The Pasadena Middle School is constructing a nature trail and a biopond. These workdays will include general gardening work (digging, weeding, raking, clean-up) as well as laying down railroad ties for the nature trail steps and shoring up the path, caring for the fruit orchard, trimming plants and preparing the garden maze for planting! Food and beverages are provided. Workers should bring gloves and hand tools. Large tools are available. Everyone of any age is welcome! The hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information call David Ginsberg 818-559-2572 or send email to dave99ca@yahoo.com



February 17

Plants of the Chaparral Have you ever looked at the brush-covered hills of California and wanted to know more about the plants found there?

Here's an opportunity to gain new understanding and appreciation for the chaparral! The event will be held from 2:30-4:30 pm For more information call (310) 589-3200.

February 21

Saving Open Spaces The Whittier Area Audubon Society will show a new video named "Saving Open Spaces", which will be explained by Andrea Gullo, executive director of the Habitat Authority. The event is free to the public and will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Whittier Community Center on Washington Ave and Mar Vista in Whittier. For more information call (562) 869-6545 or visit <http://www.whittieraudubon.org>.



February 24

Weekend Tidepool Walks Cabrillo Marine Aquarium Education staff will conduct tours of the Point Fermin Marine Life Refuge. Attend an informative slide show in the John M. Olguin Auditorium, then come along on a naturalist-led ramble on the rocks. Outdoor clothing and sneakers advised. Fee: \$1. Reservations required for groups. The event will take place from 12:30 - 2 pm. For more information call (310) 548-7592 or visit <http://www.cabrilloaq.org>.

Town Hall Meeting Held

More than 300 attendees packed the First Church of God in Inglewood on December 7 and 8 of 2001 to discuss environmental health concerns in the Los Angeles area. "Voices for Healthy Environments, Healthy Communities, Healthy Jobs" was the first of its kind in Southern California and was part of a nationwide series of meetings sponsored by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to "solicit community input into the NIEHS research agenda and to help insure that the NIEHS research is responsive to the needs of the American people."

The program included presentations from prominent Southern California university scientists on research they are conducting on key environmental health problems. Open microphone sessions allowed community residents to voice their concerns, in the hopes that scientists and government regulators would understand what new research community groups believe is needed to protect public health. Panel discussions and exhibits from more than 30 community groups and government agencies, including the EAD, aimed to help residents learn how to obtain information about public health issues in their community and to help regulators understand the challenges to effective public participation.

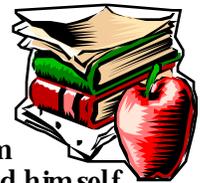
In addition community groups told success stories that provided a sense of solidarity and inspiration to those involved in the environmental justice movement. Also eight workshops were held on topics such as children's health, air pollution, public participation, and more. Recommendations from each workshop were presented at a wrap-up session, which will be compiled and provided to all participants. The Southern California Environmental Health Sciences Center and the UCLA Labor Occupational Safety and Health Program organized the Town Hall meeting, with the assistance of more than 30 community partners.

TEACHER'S CORNER



In honor of President's Day, EAD would like to salute George Washington's efforts as a conservationist. History speaks of his wartime heroics and his honesty involving the chopping down of a cherry tree, but did you know George Washington was also a land surveyor and conservationist? George Washington was not only a leader for our nation, but also a leader in agriculture. Washington studied agriculture books, corresponded with leading farmers in America and abroad, and tested over 60 different crops and many different planting techniques at his 8,000 acre Mount Vernon plantation. He gave advice to farmers regarding which varieties of wheat to plant to combat Hessian fly's destruction of local wheat crops.

Washington also experimented with "new husbandry", a method that included the use of deep plowing to mix topsoil with subsoil, applying natural fertilizers, and replenishing the land by using buckwheat as a green cover to increase the productivity of his lands. In addition, Washington developed his own 7-year crop rotation system and changed his plowing methods to reduce erosion. To find more information related to George Washington's conservation efforts, visit <http://www.mountvernon.org>.



February is Black History Month and the EAD would like to recognize George Washington Carver for his achievements in conserving America's natural resources. Starting from humble beginnings, Carver developed himself into one of America's premiere agriculturalists by becoming the first African American student and professor at what is presently Iowa State University. Carver discovered over 300 practical uses of the peanut and worked on improving soils, growing crops with low nutrient inputs, and using species that fixed nitrogen to increase soil fertility.

His concern for the land became a way of life, earning Carver international acclaim for teaching and outreach. During his lifetime, Carver received many awards including the Roosevelt medal for Outstanding Contribution to Southern Agriculture in 1942 and commemorative postage stamps in 1947 and 1998. He was elected to the Hall of Fame for great Americans in 1977 and inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 1990. In 1994, Iowa State awarded Carver the degree, Doctor of Humane Letters. To find more information related to George Washington Carver visit <http://www.lib.iastate.edu/spcl/gwc>.



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 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

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