

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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Regional Transportation Plan: Destination 2030 - Draft 2004 Regional Transportation Plan

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is responsible for compiling a Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for the Southern California region. The RTP is a long-range (minimum 20-year) plan that provides a blueprint for future transportation improvements and investments based on specific transportation goals, objectives, policies and strategies. The RTP is based on federal transportation law requiring comprehensive, cooperative, and continuous transportation planning. SCAG meets these requirements by developing comprehensive transportation plans that include all surface transportation modes, to ensure efficient people and goods movements throughout the region.

The RTP includes an assessment of overall growth and economic trends in the region, and provides strategic direction for transportation capital invest-

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Pioneers of Preservation

On November 10, 2003 the National Park Service celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA) being signed into law. Compromising 153,075 acres, the Santa Monica mountains had been designated by Congress in 1978 as valuable open space that would help conserve the airshed for the Los Angeles Basin, and conserve archeological sites of the Chumash and Gabrielleno-Tongva tribes. This area is also home to the Mediterranean forest, with rare and endangered plants found only in a few locations on the earth. Park Ranger Jack Gillooly, who has been with the National Park Service (NPS) for over eleven years, looks back at the people who brought the mountains to national attention.

As a boy growing up in the San Fernando Valley, the Santa Monica Mountains were always the last obstacle in escaping the summer heat for the cool breezes of the Pacific Ocean. Driving the scary, cliff-hanging roads gave an even greater sense of relief when, over the last rise, you finally caught a glimpse of blue. But the jumbled rock and dense brush along the way made little room for a sense of wonder, especially with no parklands to welcome a carload of kids.



Circle X Ranch courtesy of the NPS

All that began to change in the mid-1960s, when the state acquired land for

(SMMNRA 's 25th Anniversary...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) 978-0888, send an e-mail to: eadinfo@mailbox.lacity.org, or visit our website at <http://www.lacity.org/ead>. TDD (213) 978-0899. You can also reach us by fax at (213) 978-0893. As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services and activities.

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PLEASE POST*

Audubon Society Opens Urban Nature Center in Los Angeles

On Thursday, November 6, 2003 the new Audubon Center at Debs Park opened its doors in the Highland Park/Montecito Heights community. The center will provide opportunities for residents of some of Los Angeles' most densely populated neighborhoods to learn about the natural world through hands-on outdoor experiences and guided walks in the park's 282 acres of urban wilderness. It is also a model of sustainable design, operating entirely on solar power and using a sophisticated water treatment sewage system. The building is the first in Los Angeles to fully function off both the electric and sewer grids; Audubon is seeking a Platinum Rating for it from the U.S. Green Building Council.

The grand opening of the Audubon Center was marked by an All Species Parade, which trailed up the driveway leading to the Audubon Center entrance. Nearly 100 students from local schools carried papier mâché masks and giant puppets that



The All Species Parade reflects the diverse wildlife found at Debs Park

they made of the birds and bugs of Debs Park. Mayor Jim Hahn, National Audubon Society President John Flicker, neighborhood residents, and representatives of area businesses and local governments joined the students and the organizations that helped bring the Audubon Center at Debs Park to life.

The facility at Debs Park is only the second Audubon Center in the U.S. to be located in the heart of a city. These urban centers are cornerstones of Audubon's national initiative to bring conservation to a broader, more diverse audience. Over 25,000 kids live within two miles of the Audubon Center at Debs Park. With family-oriented bilingual educational programming and informational materials the Audubon Center at Debs Park will serve as a model for urban nature centers across the country. New programs to be offered at the Audubon Center include evening wildlife walks, family nature festivals, and an array of hands-on habitat restoration projects. Audubon plans to establish 1,000 of these urban educational centers by the year 2020.



Total cost of the project is \$10 million and is being made possible through generous donations from several organizations as well as support from various government agencies. "The Center gives residents direct access to nature," said Los Angeles Mayor Jim Hahn. "I'm so pleased that the City of Los Angeles helped to preserve another green space in the City for people to enjoy."

According to Rosa Delgado, volunteer coordinator of the Audubon Center at Debs Park, the Center will have a rock climbing area, a Children's Garden, a "Little Arroyo" modeled after the Arroyo Seco, a playhouse area, and a butterfly meadow. Family events are scheduled to take place on Saturdays. Debs Park is located at 4700 North Griffin Avenue in Highland Park, and is open Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For general information on The Audubon Center at Debs Park, visit their website at http://ca.audubon.org/debs_park.htm or call the Center at (323) 221-2255.



Children and adults enjoy the lily pond located at the center

(Regional Transportation Plan...Continued from page 1)

ments. The RTP:

- Addresses how to improve mobility and solve congestion problems;
- Evaluates federal, state and local funding available for transportation improvements;
- Estimates costs of projects and develops funding strategies to meet these costs; and
- Meets air quality requirements.

Every three years, SCAG revises the RTP with updated information and a new environmental clearance. The 2004 Draft Plan, called "Destination 2030 - Draft 2004 Regional Transportation Plan" is available for viewing and download at <http://www.scag.ca.gov/rtp/2004draft/>. Written comments deadline for the 2004 Draft RTP are due January 16, 2004 and can be sent to Bernice Villanueva, c/o SCAG, 818 West 7th Street, 12th Floor Los Angeles, CA 90017. Comments may be submitted online with the SCAG Public Participation Form <http://mapsvr.scag.ca.gov/feedback/index.asp> and select 2004 Regional Transportation Plan - Destination 2030 - under the "Select a topic" drop down menu. The SCAG regional council will consider adopting the RTP in April 2004.

The release and public comment period for the RTP is a good opportunity to participate in issues of concern to you and your community and to let your voice be heard. Please visit SCAG's Calendar at <http://www.scag.ca.gov/calendar/index.cfm?fuseaction=showtextonly> to learn about and participate in current RTP activities or contact Nancy Pfeffer at (213) 236-1869 or email pfeffer@scag.ca.gov.

The Environmental Affairs Department will participate in a City working group, chaired by the Department of Transportation to review the RTP and provide comments as appropriate.

EAD Promotes Brownfields Viability at National Conference

EAD's Materials and Waste Resources Division--represented by Wayne Tsuda, Craig Tranby, and Noemi Emeric--attended the 2003 national Brownfields conference in Portland, Oregon in late October. Along with staff members of other City agencies on the Brownfields Team—including CRA, CDD, and the Mayor's Office—the three representatives from EAD participated in the annual meeting to share their experiences in redeveloping brownfields and to learn from the experiences of their peers doing brownfields work. Thousands of participants from public and private organizations throughout the country attended the gathering. According to federal law, brownfields are defined as "real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant." They are an ongoing challenge for the City of Los Angeles.

The 2003 Brownfields' Conference theme was "Growing a Greener America," which examines how brownfields may be converted to green spaces in urban areas. EAD staff members created a conference poster consistent with the theme to illustrate the work that the Brownfields Team has done and continues to do throughout Los Angeles. The poster's message was that that brownfields may be abandoned, neglected, overlooked, or "lost" properties at first glance, but if creative attention and action are directed to them, these brownfields can be "found" again as valuable properties for residents of the City. The poster included information about five key brownfield sites that have presented difficult challenges, but which have also attracted successful reuse projects. Before-and-after pictures and stories helped to show how the "lost" properties could become "found" treasures.



Noemi Emeric with Brownfields poster

The poster attracted the attention of conference participants and, as a result of their votes, was selected as the People's Choice Award. The poster is on display at EAD and has already been converted into a brochure-format to help in the Brownfield Team's public outreach efforts. For more information on the conference, visit the website at www.brownfields2003.org. To learn more about the Brownfields Team, please contact Noemi Emeric at nemerich@mailbox.lacity.org.

\$ \$ \$ FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES \$ \$ \$

Visit <http://www.lacity.org/ead> for more grant opportunities.

Surdna Foundation seeks to prevent irreversible damage to the environment and to promote more efficient, economically sound, environmentally beneficial and equitable use of land and natural resources. Please visit www.surdna.org for application information or call (212) 557-0010.

California Integrated Waste Management Board Recycling Market Development Zone Revolving Loan Program provides direct loans to eligible businesses that use post-consumer or secondary waste materials to manufacture new products or that reduce the waste resulting from the manufacture of a product. For more information call (916) 341-6530 or visit www.ciwmb.ca.gov/grants.

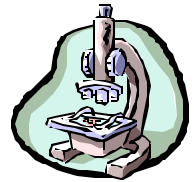
Captain Planet Foundation funds and supports hands-on environmental projects for children and youths interested in solving environmental problems in their neighborhoods and communities. Please visit www.captainplanetfdn.org for details and an application, or write to Captain Planet Foundation, One CNN Center, Suite 1090, Atlanta, GA 30303.



Home Depot — Community Grant Program provides assistance to non-profits that direct efforts toward forestry, ecology, green building design, clean-up, recycling, and lead poisoning prevention. This grant is for non-profits only. For more information contact your local Home Depot store manager or visit www.homedepot.com and search for "community involvement" or call 1-800-430-3376.

The 2004 Toyota TAPESTRY program will award 50 grants of up to \$10,000 each and a minimum of 20 "mini-grants" of \$2,500 each to K-12 science teachers. Interested teachers should propose innovative science projects that can be implemented in their school or school district over a one-year period. Toyota TAPESTRY projects demonstrate creativity, involve risk-taking, possess a visionary quality, and model a novel way of presenting science. The deadline for completed proposals is **January 16, 2004**. The program is open to all middle and high school science teachers who teach at least two science

classes per day. The program is open to elementary teachers who teach some science in the classroom or as teaching specialists. To download an application and view more details about the grant, visit www.nsta.org/programs/tapestry; call the program's Fax on Demand service at 1-888-400-6782 and request document number 591 to receive an application; or write to Toyota TAPESTRY, c/o NSTA, 1840 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22201-3000.



Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) SBIR PROGRAM EPA's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program provides financial support to help small science and technology based firms develop new environmental technologies and ready them for commercialization. The program targets research to prevent pollution, reduce water and air pollution, manage solid and hazardous wastes, and improve environmental monitoring – in each case, addressing priorities that are based on the Agency's Strategic Plan. In 2004, EPA will issue four (4) Phase I Solicitations. There will be three special solicitations – Pacific Environmental Problems, Hazardous Waste Minimization and Pollution Prevention – and the regular SBIR Solicitation. **Phase 1 opens March 25, 2004. Closing date for Phase 1 is May 25, 2004.** For more information on the SBIR Program, visit <http://www.epa.gov/ncer/sbir>.

The Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program (EEMP), established by the State Legislature, offers a total of \$10 million each year for grants to local, state, and federal governmental agencies and to nonprofit organizations for projects to mitigate the environmental impacts caused by new or modified state transportation facilities. State gasoline tax monies fund the EEMP. Program procedures and criteria, including specific application dates and funding limits, are available, and grant applications for Fiscal Year 2003/2004 are due **December 19, 2003**. The EEMP Program Procedure Guide and application form are available online. For more information, visit <http://resources.ca.gov/eem/> or call the EEMP coordinator at (916) 653-5656.

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 information, visit the FoLAR website, www.folar.org, or call Joe Linton at (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 information or to make reservations 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 am. For more information, please contact Felcie Kidd at (310) 648-5363 for details or to schedule a tour.



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 science education afternoon is free and opens with a different theme each week. Groups should make reservations. For more information, call (310) 548-7562 or visit www.cabrilloaq.org.

Satwiwa Sundays From 11 am to 3 pm at Rancho Sierra Vista/Satwiwa. Meet guest hosts, watch demonstrations and share the experiences of the Native American LA Community. Sponsored by the Friends of Satwiwa and the National Park Service. For more information call the National Park Service at (805) 370-2301.



Smart Gardening Workshops

The Los Angeles Countywide Yard Waste Program hosts Smart Gardening workshops year-round. 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. For more information call the Bureau of Sanitation at (213) 473-8228.



Amigos de Bolsa Chica offer free public tours of the wetlands for individuals the first Saturday of each month. Visitors who arrive between 9 and 10:30 am will be led on



a 1 1/2 hour tour which makes 5 stops along the walkbridge and loop trail. Trained tour guides discuss bird identification, ecology, endangered species, early history and current status. For more information, visit <http://www.amigosdebolsachica.org> or call (714) 840-1575.

Baldwin Hills Hikes are held by the LA Audubon Society on the

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.

3rd Saturday of each month at Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area. For more information call (323) 876-0202 or visit www.LAAudubon.org.

Augustus F. Hawkins Natural Park offers youth activities including day-long trips to destinations like Point Mugu, Franklin Canyon and Malibu



Creek. These trips are held each Saturday and transportation is provided. For information, please call (323) 585-3205.

Temescal Canyon Association Evening Hikes

Join the Association every Tuesday night at 6 pm for a 4 to 5 mile evening hike in the Santa Monica Mountains. Participants meet at Temescal Gateway Park located off of Sunset Boulevard. The walk lasts approximately 2-3 hours. For more information, contact the Temescal Canyon Association at (310) 459-5931 or (310) 454-4188.



THIS MONTH:

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)

All Month Long**Downtown on Ice**

Holiday themed ice skating on a 60' x 80' rink at Pershing Square. The Square is located at 530 South Olive Street

between 5th and 6th Streets in Downtown Los Angeles. \$6 admission for an hour-long skating session and \$2 for skating rental. Sponsored by the City of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. For more information, call the Department at (888) 527-2757 or visit www.laparks.org. Skating ends January 19, 2004.

Griffith Park Lights The annual holiday lighting of Crystal Springs Roads in Griffith Park runs through December 26th. The Light Festival includes a drive or a walk through a tunnel of lights, lighted representations of downtown Los Angeles, the new Staples Center, the Hollywood Sign, the L.A. Zoo, and much more. The Light Festival will run daily through December 26 from 5 pm to 10 pm. Sponsored by the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks. For more information call (888) 527-2757.

Sat, Dec 6

All Aboard the Tierra Miguel Bus! The Tierra Miguel Farm Foundation in San Diego

County will host its annual all-day farm tour for Angelenos. Various pick-up spots and times in Los Angeles are available. The tour will include organic gardening demonstrations, lunch, a tour of the farm grounds, and an introduction to various sustainability projects ongoing at the farm. The cost is \$30 for adults and \$15 for children. For more information about times and pick-up locations, contact Wiep de Vries at (626) 798-1592 by e-mail at wiepfrog@cs.com. For more information about the Tierra Miguel Farm, visit www.tierramiguel.org.

Sat, Dec 13**Hike the Backbone Trail**

Known for its outstanding views, the Backbone Trail roughly follows the crest of the Santa Monica Mountains for approximately 70 miles from Point Mugu State Park to Will Rogers Historical State Park. Complete the Backbone Trail in a series of eight moderate hikes that begin now and end in June 2004. Sponsored by the National Park Service (NPS) and the Santa Monica Mountains Trail Council. *Free but registration is mandatory.* Time to be announced. For more information and to register, call the National Park Service at (805) 370-2394.

Hike Lunada Canyon Moderate to difficult 2-hour walk will show off the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy's first nature preserve and highlight the dramatic changes since the restoration efforts. The walk starts at the end of Posey Way at 9 am. Cosponsored by the Cities of Rancho Palos Verdes and Palos Verdes Estates and the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy. Free. For more



information and directions, contact the Conservancy at (310) 541-7613 or visit their website at www.pvplc.org.

Family Nature Walk at Debs Park

For families with kids of all ages. Animals, animals, animals. The flying, furry, four, six and eight legged kind. Seek out the animals of Debs Park on this morning walk from 9 am to 10:30 am for the whole family. Dress for LA fall weather. Meet at the Audubon Center located at 4700 North Griffin Avenue in Highland Park. For more information call (323) 221-2255 or visit the Audubon's Center website at http://ca.audubon.org/debs_park.htm.

Sat, Dec 20

"Holiday Tales Yule Love" by Storyteller Laura Pruden. A participatory storytelling event that explores the many holidays of the winter season through tales, folklore, and song. Free at Central Library's KLOS Theater at 2 pm. For more information, call Central Library at (213) 228-7000 or visit their website at www.lapl.org.

Birding at Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area—Los Angeles

Audubon sponsors this trip that covers landscaped parkland and natural coastal scrub habitats, and is paced for beginning birders. The park entrance is off of La Cienega Blvd. Between Rodeo Rd. and Stocker St. After passing the entrance kiosk (\$3 park entrance fee), turn left (leading to the "Olympic Forest") and park in the first available spaces. Meet at 8 am. For more information, call the Los Angeles Audubon at (626) 564-1300.



(SMMNRA's 25th Anniversary...Continued from page 1)

three large parks: Topanga, Malibu Creek, and Point Mugu. A handful of local residents started to explore and appreciate their "backyard," finding oak woodlands and streams, fields of flowers, and wildlife hidden among thickets and gullies. At the time, Jill Swift was raising a family in the hills of Tarzana, and taking them for walks up a canyon to Mulholland Drive. Margot Feuer and her family lived in the hills of Malibu, where there were big plans for coastal freeways, a nuclear power plant, and housing tracts. Sue Nelson and her family were feeling the same pressures in Brentwood, where she published a newsletter and helped defeat another neighborhood freeway. Over the next decade, these three would lead the charge to protect the Santa Monica Mountains.



(left to right): A photograph of the late Sue Nelson, Jill Swift, and Margot Feuer taken at Diamond X Ranch in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. Courtesy of the NPS.

In speaking with her, Swift once said, "Exposure and education were the keys to building a constituency... to help protect this unique Mediterranean area." As a member of the Sierra Club, she formed the Santa Monica Mountains Task Force and began leading hikes on her "Sundays in the Santa Monicas," a hiking series that continues today. Meanwhile, Margot Feuer was making her viewpoints known at Los Angeles County meetings, where the Sierra Club noticed and asked her to co-chair the Task Force as chief lobbyist. Feuer was soon talking with city, county, state, and national officials, playing up the mountains and the need to slow development.

Independently, Ralph Stone had formed the Friends of the Santa Monica Mountains and within a few years, the group had grown to 2,000. Nelson had also come aboard and was soon elected president, pushing for protection through petitions and neighborhood associations. Although their initial efforts were aimed at gaining new *state* parklands, Stone suggested a *national park* at the group's 1970 conference.

By 1971, the media saw a good story and started popularizing Jill Swift's hikes, which were drawing 50 to 100 people each. When she announced a "March on Mulholland" and the crowd swelled to 5,000, everyone was flabbergasted. It seemed the time had come for national recognition, and both Margot Feuer and Sue Nelson focused their efforts on Washington. According to Feuer, despite the developers "[fighting] ferociously against a national park," a congressional hearing was held in Los Angeles in 1974. All three women, and many others, testified to the value of a national park in one of the country's largest urban areas.

By 1977, Nelson was working closely with Representative Anthony Beilenson to include the Santa Monica Mountains in a park's bill working its way through Congress, one that would create fifteen national parklands. On November 10, 1978, with President Jimmy Carter's signature, a national park was granted to Los Angeles and recognized as the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. This was a park whose mighty oaks had descended from many acorns, with three women standing out among its pioneers.

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On November 15th, the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area premiered a new twenty minute park film "Mountains to Ocean" that will be shown daily at the Anthony C. Beilenson Visitor Center located at 401 West Hillcrest Drive in Thousand Oaks. The Visitor Center is open Sunday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and closed on major holidays. To contact the Visitor Center call (805) 370-2301. The SMMNRA will also commemorate its anniversary with a hike of the 70-mile Backbone Trail beginning this month (for details see Calendar of Events, page 6). More events are planned by the National Park Service for a year-long celebration that will end in November 2004. See the NPS' quarterly calendar, "Outdoors," or visit the National Park Service's website at www.nps.gov/samo, or contact them by telephone at (805) 370-2301.



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 <http://www.lacity.org/ead> and click on *Environmental Information Center*.

Air Quality

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

Asbestos

Asbestos
Environmental Hygiene
(626) 430-5440

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

Housing and Building Complaints

Las quejas del construccion y albergar
Housing Code Enforcement
(866) 557.7368

Illegal Storm Drain Dumping

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

Indoor Air or Mold Concerns

Aire interior ó preocupaciones de moh o
Environmental Hygiene
(626) 430-5440

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

Smoking Violations

Infracciones de fumar
Office of the City Attorney
(888) 333-0730

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