

An Environmental Affair

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July 2003

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.

Sun Valley Residents Plan for a Sustainable Watershed

A chronic flooding problem in a San Fernando Valley community may be just the thing to put in place a sustainable innovation. A plan is currently being developed to manage the 2700-acre Sun Valley watershed that may become a model for urbanized drainages across the country.

Like many urban areas, Sun Valley has many roads, parking lots and rooftops that prevent rain from soaking into the ground. Currently, the community is lacking a storm drain to carry the resulting runoff to the Los Angeles River and the ocean. The situation has caused problems for residents for over three decades, but the Sun Valley Watershed Stakeholders Group has been working for the past five years to develop a groundbreaking remedy.



Sun Valley Watershed Stakeholders are looking at sustainable watershed management practices to clean runoff to the LA River and ease flooding problems

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Connecting the Community with Help From L.A. SHARES

Since 1991, L.A. SHARES has been accepting goods and materials (both new and used) that have been donated by the local business community and redistributed free-of-charge to non-profits and schools throughout Los Angeles County.

Leading up to the actual implementation of the program was the recycling concept that was conceived by Bert Ball, then a graduate film student at UCLA. Anticipating the teardown of one film's set, Bert believed that recycling such a large amount of useful material was vitally important. He pursued the concept in his Master's Thesis.



Donations of valuable goods and materials have made LA Shares the single largest, non-profit materials reuse program in the US

In 1991, his idea took form as "Materials for the Arts", a pilot program for the City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department. In an effort to expand services beyond the City limits, L.A. SHARES became an independent, non-profit organization in 1994. Over the last

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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) 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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The California Fuel Cell Partnership's "Rally Thru the Valley" Showcases Innovative Fuel Cell Technology

On Friday, May 16th, a caravan of advanced fuel cell vehicles concluded their "Rally Thru the Valley" by arriving in Los Angeles' Griffith Park. Revving up on May 14th, the group of zero emission fuel cell cars drove a total of 400 miles from West Sacramento, through Fresno and Bakersfield, and into Los Angeles. The California Fuel Cell Partnership put on the event to showcase innovative fuel cell vehicle technology.



Honda Civic Hybrids and FCX fuel cell vehicles on display at City Hall on June 4th and 5th bring awareness of Alternative Fuel Vehicles by American Honda to the City of Los Angeles

Fuel cell vehicles run on hydrogen and do not emit pollutants or greenhouse gases associated with internal combustion engines. These highly advanced vehicles use an electrochemical process to create onboard energy for powering their electric drive motors. Fuel cell vehicles run on hydrogen that combines with oxygen to power a vehicle. Hydrogen can be made from renewable energy sources, providing a viable option for a

sustainable energy supply. When run on hydrogen, the byproducts of their operation are just heat and water vapor, making them the ideal "zero emission" vehicle. In addition to improving air quality, fuel cell technology can lead to greater diversity of the nation's energy supply. Raising public awareness and acceptance is one of the most important elements of moving fuel cell technology toward competitive commercialization.

Arriving in Griffith Park, the caravan was greeted by a cheering crowd of onlookers and several representatives from various groups and organizations such as the South Coast Air Quality Management District and the American Lung Association. Deputy Mayor Brian Williams presented the California Fuel Cell Partnership with a beautiful proclamation announcing May 16, 2003 as "Fuel Cell Awareness Day" in Los Angeles.

The City of Los Angeles received the first fuel cell vehicle certified for commercial use, the Honda FCX, in January of this year. (See *An Environmental Affair*, January 2003.) The City soon will receive four more vehicles to complete its fleet of five fuel cell cars. For more information on fuel cell vehicles, visit the <http://www.fuelcellpartnership.org/>.

Keep Plastic Bottles Out of Landfills

A bottle of water is a perfect companion to a morning run or afternoon hike but those bottles are ending up in our landfills by the millions. About three million water bottles land in the trash everyday, meaning over one billion bottles per year that could have been recycled. As reported by the Los Angeles Times and the California Department of Conservation, only 16% of plastic water bottles are recycled. The good news is plastic water bottles are fully recyclable with very little effort.

Here in Los Angeles all you need to do to recycle your water bottles is place them in your blue trash can or bring them to any recycling center. If you are away from home and cannot locate a recycling bin, bring the bottle home to recycle. If you return your bottles to a recycling center you will even receive a payment for the bottles. In California a deposit, also known as California Redemption Value, increases the amount a person receives when they bring in cans or bottles for recycling. Water bottles can be recycled into fibers for use in everything from garments to flooring. Please do your part by recycling your water bottles and all plastic beverage containers and spreading the word!

City of Los Angeles Unveils New East Valley Solid Resources Management Complex

At a dedication ceremony held on Thursday, May 29th, the City of Los Angeles unveiled the new East Valley Solid Resources Management Complex in Sun Valley at 11050 Pendleton Street. The state-of-the-art facility includes a vehicle repair shop, a container service facility, a household hazardous waste collection area, a fueling station for unleaded, diesel, and liquefied natural gas/compressed natural gas (LNG/CNG), and parking.

The new facility, in addition to being safer for the employees who work there, offers benefits to the environment and to residents. "Green building" practices were incorporated into the design of the facility, such as the use of recycled materials in the roofing shingles and in the bathroom stalls, and an advanced water treatment system to collect and treat all runoff water. The East Valley Solid Resources Management Complex also houses a SAFE (solvents, automotive, flammables, electronics) Center which will give residents a place to safely recycle or dispose of used motor oil, paints, pesticides, batteries, e-waste, and other toxic products.



The East Valley facility's liquified natural gas (LNG) tanks will be the refueling spot for many of the City's alternative fuel sanitation trucks

The facility includes four 15,000-gallon LNG tanks that will provide fueling for alternative fuel sanitation trucks. The use of these vehicles supports the City's Clean Fuel Policy.

The Environmental Affairs Department secured \$600,000 in grant funding for the LNG fueling station component of this project, including \$200,000 from the Carl Moyer Program, \$250,000 from the California Energy Commission, and \$150,000 from the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee.

The new East Valley Solid Resources Management Complex will be open for use this month and will replace the East Valley District Collection Yard currently located at 9701 San Fernando Road (which suffered severe structural damage during the Northridge Earthquake). The old yard will be redeveloped into a light industrial complex.

(LA Shares...Continued from page 1)

ten years, the program has established partnerships with over 1,000 local companies to give away more than \$40 million worth of goods and materials to over 2,500 organizations throughout Los Angeles.



Reusable goods and materials benefit Los Angeles County's thousands of under-funded schools and non-profit organizations

Utilizing L.A. SHARES interactive website, prospective donors can find out items that are accepted for donation. Donor organizations can contact LA SHARES using a web-based relational database that pairs the goods and materials they donate to the specific needs of the non-profits. LA SHARES trucks will then pick up the donated items free-of-charge if the value is over \$3,000. When a need is matched with a donor, the recipient is notified to either come to one of two warehouses to retrieve their items or to go directly to the donor. Interested schools and non-profits can create an online profile of their organization that includes a prioritized wish list of needed items.

According to Bert Ball, L.A. SHARES is the largest single donor of goods and materials to the Los Angeles Unified School District, After School Enrichment Programs, and the recreation and parks, arts, theater, and alcohol and drugs recovery communities. The program is identified as a model example for similar materials

(LA Shares...Continued on page 7)

\$ \$ \$ 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.

Reuse Assistance Grants Program has been developed by the California Integrated Waste Management Board to help local public agencies promote reuse activities at the local public agency level. All local public agencies in California are eligible to apply. For more information, call Sarah Weimer at (916) 341-6613 or email sweimer@ciwmb.ca.gov.

The California Community Foundation accepts grants year-round for projects that seek to revitalize low-income neighborhoods. Funds will support the development, rehabilitation and beautification of affordable housing and living areas, and will support the establishment or maintenance of safe recreation areas and parks, including community gardens. Please visit www.calfund.org or call (213) 413-4130.

Leaf-It-To-Us Tree Planting Grant Opportunity for Schools

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection is introducing the tree-planting program Leaf-It-To-Us, designed to motivate kids to care for and improve their educational environment. The purpose of the program is to distribute funds for community school tree-planting projects initiated and undertaken by school kids in partnership with school volunteers. For more information call (909)782-4140 x6123 or e-mail eric.oldar@fire.ca.gov. For online information and applications visit <http://www.ufe.calpoly.edu> and click on "News and Announcements." Application deadline is **September 1, 2003**.

 **Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools 2003 National Symposium** The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA), in cooperation with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), is offering a significant training opportunity for environmental health professionals working in city, county or state health or environmental protection agencies, or individuals that have been active with community groups working on school health and safety issues. The USEPA will host their 4th Annual Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Tools for Schools National Symposium, October 26-28, 2003, in Washington, DC. **IAQ Tools for Schools** is a nationwide initiative to help school officials assess, resolve, and prevent indoor air quality problems and reduce exposure to asthma triggers in school facilities. An awards ceremony will be held to honor schools with exemplary IAQ programs. **NEHA will select up to thirty people for training in Washington, DC, with all expenses paid.** Letters of interest should be sent to:

Larry Marcum, Manager
Research and Development
National Environmental Health Association
720 South Colorado Boulevard
South Tower — Suite 970
Denver, Colorado 80246-1925

Letters of interest must be received by no later than the close of business on **Friday, August 22, 2003**. All applicants must include their e-mail on the application. Any questions regarding this project should be addressed to Larry Marcum, who may be reached at (303) 756-9090 ext. 303.

JULY 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.

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. For more information on this event or events for youth, please 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 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 Saturdays

From 10 am to 4pm 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. 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.

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.

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

Join the Friends of Madrona Marsh for a day of **Habitat Restoration and Enhancement** at the Madrona Marsh Preserve located at 3201 Plaza Del Amo in the city of Torrance from 8 am to noon on the first Sunday and second Saturday of the month. Learn about the native plants and other eco information. If you enjoy being outdoors, then this is an event you won't want to miss! For more information, call (310) 326-3840.

THIS MONTH:

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)

All Month Long

Music by the Sea Free outdoor musical concerts with a variety of musical genres are set in Point Fermin Park that overlooks the Pacific Ocean. Bring a picnic and a blanket, family and friends. Concerts take place every Sunday from 1 pm to 3 pm, and again from 4 pm to 6 pm. Point Fermin Park is located at 807 Paseo del Mar in San Pedro. For more information, call the City of Los Angeles Recreation and Parks at 888-LAPARKS.

18th Annual Shakespeare in the Square

The 2003 Summer Festival will present Shakespearean plays for three weeks of performances in Pershing Square. The performances take place each night from July 2 to July 20 at 7:30 pm. Free. Pershing Square is located at 532 South Olive Street, Downtown Los Angeles. Sponsored by the Shakespeare Festival Los Angeles. For more information, call (213) 481-2273 or visit www.shakespearefestivalla.org.

Fri, July 4**7th Annual Fourth of July Celebration**

A holiday celebration in the San Fernando Valley featuring music and other live entertainment, food, and fireworks. Booths offer information about

safety, health, community resources, and more. Come take a swim in the 1.5 acre swim lake available for use during the day. Free. The celebration takes place from noon to 10 pm at Hansen Dam Recreation Area, 11770 Foothill Blvd., Lake View Terrace. Sponsored by the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks. For more information, call (818) 896-6215 or visit www.laparks.org.

Sat, July 12**White Point Nature Preserve**

This walk visits the newly preserved 102-acre site which was inaccessible to the public until recently. The easy-to-moderate 1.5-hour walk takes you to the former Nike missile base and bunkers that were part of the Los Angeles coastal defense. You'll hear about the goals for the property, see results of recent habitat restoration work, learn about the military history of the area. Park on the Preserve (enter gate on Paseo del Mar near Weymouth) or on the ocean-side of the street along Paseo del Mar. The walk begins at 9 am. Cosponsored by the City of Los Angeles. Free. For more information contact the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy at (310) 541-7613.

**Sat and Sun, July 12 and 13****26th Annual Lotus Festival**

celebrates the people and cultures of the Asian and Pacific Islands. This event features a variety of cultural entertainment, food, boutiques, dragon boat races, and a carnival. Don't miss the Saturday night fireworks display over the lake. Begins Saturday at noon



and ends at 10 pm. Begins Sunday at noon and ends at 8 pm. The Festival takes place at Echo Park Lake at 1632 Bellevue Avenue at Glendale Blvd., south of Sunset in Los Angeles. Free. For more information visit www.laparks.org or call 888-LAPARKS. Sponsored by the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks.

Thurs, July 17

River Art A multi-media art exhibition inaugurating Gallery 727, will feature avant-jazz and will present the opportunity to acquire river-related artworks, including architectural photography, metal sculpture, paintings, and installation art. The Gallery is located at 727 Spring Street, Los Angeles. Presented by Friends of the LA River. Admission is set at a sliding scale. For more information, contact FoLAR at (323) 223-0585 or visit them at www.FoLAR.org.

**Sat and Sun, July 19 and 20****Ho`olaule`a 2003**

All day entertainment by performing groups representing Hawai'i's multicultural heritage.

Enjoy the highly diverse food that represents Hawai'i and its unique people. An exciting two-day event filled with beautiful Polynesian arts, crafts, music, dance, and good fun. Takes place at Alondra Park adjacent to El Camino Community College in Lawndale. Free. Sponsored by the Hawaiian Inter-Club Council of Southern California. The fun begins at 10 am and lasts until 6 pm. For more information, contact the Club at (949) 458-0933 or visit their website at www.hicccsc.org.

(Continued from page 3)

reuse efforts throughout the country and has been recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the White House Task Force on Recycling and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for its outstanding environmental achievements.

Not only do donors receive a tax-deduction letter stating the estimated value of their donations, but also the knowledge that they are participating in an environmentally sound method for disposal and helping the non-profit or school who receive the contribution. Donors can participate today by contacting L.A. SHARES at (213) 485-1097. Non-profit recipients are requested to contact L.A. SHARES by email only at Registration@lashares.org. For more information on how and what items donor organizations can give, please contact L.A. SHARES Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 213-485-1097, or visit their website at <http://www.lashares.org/index.asp> for round-the-clock information.

(Watershed...continued from page 1)

Throughout the city storm drains are built to control symptoms like flooding, but by moving water quickly to the ocean, they inadvertently facilitate the waste of water, a potentially valuable resource. As the Sun Valley area is not yet served by a concrete storm drain, the Sun Valley Watershed Stakeholders Group see an opportunity to demonstrate the efficacy of sustainable watershed management. The approach uses an array of techniques and devices to capture rainwater, store some of it for use in irrigation, and allow the rest to recharge the groundwater. Among the options being considered are retention basins and parks of mined-out gravel pits, infiltration facilities in power line easements, the use of mulch to slow and absorb runoff, strategic tree planting to enhance natural watershed functioning, and cisterns for water storage and reuse on residential properties.



A computer-generated image of a gravel pit park illustrates an innovative plan to clean rainwater

The integrated approach advocated by the stakeholders group would provide multiple benefits, including flood control, water quality improvements, water conservation, increased recreational space, enhanced wildlife habitat, and community greening. The value of these benefits has been estimated by the Sun Valley Watershed Stakeholders Group at well above the cost of implementation.

The stakeholders were convened by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, but the project's potential benefits have drawn a range of infrastructure agencies, elected officials, civic groups and environmental organizations to the table. Its potential as a model has attracted funding from CALFED, the state-federal consortium working on restoring the San Francisco Bay-Delta ecosystem and improving its water management. Widespread adoption of plans like Sun Valley's could significantly reduce the drain on Northern California water resources and help CALFED fulfill its mission.

A Watershed Management Plan for Sun Valley is nearing completion and a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) is due out in late August. Initial projects at six locations within the watershed (Phase 1 of the plan) are in the design stage, and construction of some of these plans could begin early next year. The PEIR will be available for review at the project's website, www.sunvalleywatershed.org. There you'll also find background information on the watershed, descriptions of the Phase 1 projects, records of stakeholder proceedings, and copies of the quarterly newsletter, *Watershed Events*. The site is updated regularly for people interested in learning about this innovative project.



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
(213) 367-9411

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

The City of Los Angeles
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