

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.

Cleaner Water at Los Angeles Beaches

Southern California is defined to many people by its beautiful beaches and associated cultural activities such as surfing, sun bathing, volleyball, and swimming. The majority of Los Angeles County Beaches are along Santa Monica Bay. The Los Angeles Regional Water Control Board (LARWQCB) recently reported that these beaches are a valuable resource visited by 55 million people annually and generating \$1.7 billion in annual economic activity. Protecting these valuable resources is a high priority of the City of Los Angeles.



Beachgoers enjoy the day near the Hermosa Pier

The City of Los Angeles' Environmental Monitoring Division (EMD) collects water samples daily at 18 sites within the Santa Monica Bay Watershed and analyzes them for indicator bacteria. Indicator bacteria do not necessarily cause illness; rather, they indicate the probable presence of pathogens, which are the organisms (bacteria or virus) that cause diseases. The results of EMD's analyses are forwarded daily to the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services (DHS). In turn, DHS provides the information to the public and when necessary posts or closes beaches.

Overall, Santa Monica Bay water sample data indicates water quality at most Santa Monica Bay Beaches is good to excellent, and the risk of contracting illness from swimming at these beaches is low, especially during dry weather. Risks increase during wet weather and near flowing storm drains during both dry and wet weather. Studies have shown storm drains to be the major conveyors of pollution to Santa Monica Bay Beaches. Risks also are higher at beaches located in enclosed bays or harbors than at beaches along the open coast.

Efforts are underway to further improve water quality at Santa Monica Bay Beaches. Under the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) provision of the Clean Water Act, LARWQCB has mandated that bacterial water quality standards at beaches impacted by storm drains will not be exceeded more frequently than bacterial water quality standards at beaches impacted by streams draining areas with minimal human impact.

To date, LARWQCB has adopted three of these bacterial TMDLs that impact

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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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PLEASE POST

CALIFORNIA RIDESHARE WEEK

Rideshare to Work, Walk to School Week
October 6-10, 2003

This year's annual statewide event that encourages commuters to try alternatives to driving alone will be held October 6-10, 2003 and coincides with International Walk to School Week. During California Rideshare Week, commuters are encouraged to explore and utilize some alternative form of transportation such as carpooling, vanpooling, biking, walking, telecommuting, or using mass transit.

These are easy ways that individuals can reduce their impact on the environment by leaving their cars at home and reducing the amount of pollution that an activity such as driving can emit. In addition, options such as walking and biking can offer health benefits. More information on California Rideshare Week will be available soon, online at <http://www.rideshare.cc>. You can also check out Metro Commute Services,



a part of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA), at <http://www.mta.net> for help in finding carpool partners, transit itineraries, and more.

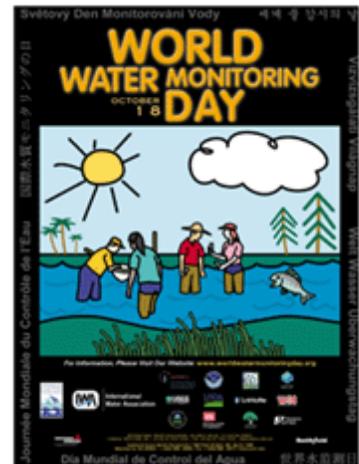
October 6-10, 2003 is also International Walk to School Week, with October 8th being Walk Our Children to School Day. More information on this event, including designating safe routes to school, launching a creative walking promotion, and spreading information about the health benefits of walking can be found at <http://www.walktoschool.org>.

First World Water Monitoring Day is October 18

As a follow-up to 2002's National Water Monitoring Day, the Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) is partnering with America's Clean Water Foundation and the International Water Association to encourage people around the world to test the quality of their streams, lakes, wetlands and coastal waters on October 18.

In 2002, 75,000 people in the United States participated in America's Clean Water Foundation's National Monitoring Day by collecting and analyzing water samples. By having a partnership between the International Water Association, US EPA and federal partners, as well as state and interstate agencies, watershed organizations and individuals, the First World Monitor Quality Day can promote personal stewardship and individual responsibility for the world's water at a global level.

World Water Monitoring Day will become an annual event to involve people throughout the world to establish a baseline for evaluating water quality trends. Volunteers of World Water Monitoring Day will perform four tests to measure dissolved oxygen, pH levels, water clarity and water temperature. They enter their findings on the World Wide Web. To become a monitor, order tests kits, and find out more information about World Water Monitoring Day, visit America's Clean Water Foundation at www.watermonitoringday.org.



Professional Wet Cleaning Grant Program

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), The California Wellness Foundation and the Wet Cleaning Equipment Manufacturers will be hosting seminars in October and November on the effectiveness of wet cleaning technology (an environmentally preferable alternative to dry-cleaning,) provide information on SCAQMD's equipment grant and information on obtaining technical support for the transition into professional wet cleaning.

To be eligible for the grant program, applicants must be located in Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino and Orange County, have at least three years of experience in garment cleaning, and be willing to serve as a professional wet cleaning demonstration site.

The seminars will take place in the following locations:

- October 11, 25
Anawood Cleaners, All Natural
1223 S. Euclid
Anaheim, CA 92802
10 am to Noon
- October 16, 30
Sunny Brite Natural Cleaners
4927 Eagle Rock Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90041
11 am to 1 pm
- October 18, 23 & November 1
Del Mar Natural Cleaners
701 Washington Boulevard
Marina Del Rey, CA 90292
10 am to noon
- October 18
San Clemente Natural Cleaning Center
913 S. El Camino Real
San Clemente, CA 92672
1 pm to 3 pm
- October 25
Eli's Airport Cleaners
16500 Sherman Way
Van Nuys, CA 91406
10 to noon
- November 1
San Clemente Natural Cleaning Center
11 am to 1 pm

The grant program is administered by Occidental College. For more information on the program, or to request an application package, contact Angela Namkoong, Outreach Coordinator, at (323) 259-1457 or by fax at (323) 259-2734.

Staff Updates

The Environmental Affairs Department is pleased to welcome back George Payba. As the new Environmental Supervisor in the Environmental Business and Neighborhood Services Division. George returns from DWP where he has worked since he transferred from EAD's Materials and Waste Resources Division last July. We look forward to utilizing his knowledge and experience with hazardous and toxic materials issues.

The Air Quality Division is proud to announce the promotion of Nadia Dale to Environmental Specialist. Nadia has been assisting the air division as a student professional worker and project coordinator since March 2002.

The Water and Natural Resources Division is pleased to announce the hiring of Gerry McGowen as Environmental Supervisor. Previously he worked at the Bureau of Sanitation in both the Environmental Monitoring Division and the Regulatory Affairs Division. Gerry received his B.S. and M.S. in biology from San Diego State University and his Ph.D. in biology from the University of Southern California.

\$\$\$ 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.

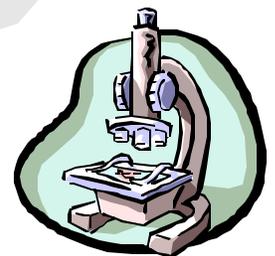
Reuse Assistance Grants Program has been developed by the California Integrated Waste Management Board to help local public agencies promote reuse activities at the local public agency level. All local public agencies in California are eligible to apply. For more information, call Sarah Weimer at (916)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

Liberty Hill provides assistance to grassroots groups in Los Angeles County and provides training and technical assistance to organizations, increasing their ability to transform lives and communities. The foundation accepts proposals for projects that support social and racial equality, environmental sustainability, economic justice, and shared social responsibility. For more information please visit www.libertyhill.org or call (310) 453-3611.

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. If you have a great way to make science come alive, apply for a Toyota TAPESTRY grant that recognizes outstanding science teachers and gives students hands-on exposure to science at an early age. 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. All applicants must have at least three years of science teaching experience in a K-12 school not including the current school year. 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.



SEPTEMBER 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)

Fri thru Sun, Oct 10-12**Fall Festival Open House and Plant Sale**

held by the Theodore Payne Foundation in Sun Valley. Fall is the time to plant California natives and wildflower seed.



Visit the Foundation to view their special exhibits and garden demonstrations, and receive discounts on their large selection of plants and books. For more information contact the Foundation at info@theodorepayne.org, call them at (818) 768-1802, or visit their website at www.theodorepayne.org. The Foundation is located at 10459 Tuxford Street in Sun Valley.

Sat, Oct 11

"Halloween Stories" The LA Central Library will present scary stories, spooky poems, and a spine-tingling puppet show at 2 pm in the Library's KLOS Story Theater. Free. Central library is located at 630 West Fifth Street at Downtown Los Angeles. Call (213) 228-7000 for more information.

Sat and Sun, Oct 11 and 12**California Native Plant Society (CNPS)****Annual Plant Sale**

Thousands of native California plants and seeds (along with books, posters, and gifts) are sold by the California Native Plant Society to benefit their



ongoing projects. The sale is held at the Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Boulevard in Encino. For more information or to volunteer, e-mail Halli Mason at plantsale@lacnps.org or call CNPS at (818) 881-3706.

Sat, Oct 18

"Author Q.L. Pearce" Meet a scientist-magician who is also a wonderful scary-story teller. See him perform his tricks at 2 pm in Central Library's KLOS Theater for free. Call (213) 228-7000 for more information.

Saturday, October 25

Things That Go Bump in the Night! One of Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden's most anticipated events every year. Bring family, flashlights, and a picnic dinner and explore the Garden's nightlife with volunteers. They will lead evening hikes from 5:30 to 9:30 pm. Pre-registration is required. For more information, please contact Lorrae Fuentes at (909) 625-8767 ext 243. The Garden is located 1500 North College Avenue, Claremont, California 91711-3157.

Sat, October 25**A Walk On The Dark Side**

Explore the "dark side" of The Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens through dramatizations of works by Edgar Allan Poe from the Library's literary holdings, and a flashlight tour of the gardens after sundown. You'll also be introduced to some of nature's most malevolent---and marvelous---plants by Botanical



Gardens Director Jim Folsom. Ages 9 to adult. Members: \$14 Adult / \$10 Child. Non-members: \$18 Adult / \$12 Child. For more information call (626) 405-2125. The Huntington Library is located at 1151 Oxford Road in San Marino. The event takes place from 6 to 9 pm.

Sat and Sun, Oct 25 & 26**Halloween at the Zoo!**

Have a wild, spooky, and safe Halloween at



the Los Angeles Zoo. Trick-or-treat throughout the Zoo and watch animals Stomp-n-Chomp pumpkins, too! Discover eerie entertainment, tasty treats, spooky crafts, and ghoulish games on your journey through the Zoo. And if you wear a costume you get \$1 off admission! For more information, visit the Zoo's website at www.lazoo.org, or call (323) 644-6400.

Sun, October 26**Little Chamber of Botanical Horrors**

Pitcher plants that drown their dinner, carnivores that gobble up flies, flowers that smell like rotting garbage---these are just a few of the weird denizens of the plant world that will be unveiled by Jim Folsom, Director of the Botanical Gardens at the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, in an entertaining one-hour presentation suitable for the whole family. The presentations take place at 2 pm and at 4 pm. Free with general admission, but reservations required. Call (626) 405-2128 for more information or visit the Huntington's website at www.huntington.org.

(Los Angeles Beaches...Continued from page 1)

the City of Los Angeles. Two focus directly on Santa Monica Bay Beaches, one for dry weather and one for wet weather. These have been approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA). The third, focusing on Mothers' Beach in Marina del Rey Harbor, was adopted by the LARWQCB on August 7, 2003. It is anticipated that U.S. EPA will approve it by March 2004.

The City of Los Angeles supports the goals of these TMDLs and is committed to achieving compliance with them. The City has already made major strides towards compliance during dry-weather periods. During these periods runoff will be diverted to the Hyperion Treatment Plant and treated prior to being discharged to Santa Monica Bay. Several of these diversion projects have been completed, and all of the City's major storm drains to Santa Monica Bay are scheduled for diversion within three years, which will eliminate them as sources of pollution to Santa Monica Bay beaches.



Mother's Beach in Marina del Rey

Eliminating storm drains as sources of pollution during wet weather is much more difficult due to the large volumes of water involved. The City of Los Angeles intends to comply with these bacterial TMDLs through its Integrated Resources Plan (IRP). This plan is intended to integrate the City's water, wastewater, and storm water management activities.

The goal for complying with these TMDLs is to use a variety of approaches that include source reductions and techniques to capture and beneficially use storm water runoff. The City of Los Angeles imports much of its water, and competition for this imported water is increasing; therefore the City is looking to capture and beneficially use some portion of storm water runoff. This approach has the advantage of both cleaning up pollution and increasing the water supply. Despite these benefits, this is not the total solution. Source reduction, such as more street sweeping to reduce the flow of trash to storm drains or getting people to use "Pooper Scoopers" to clean up pet wastes so they do not wash into storm drains and ultimately to the beaches, must be a major component also. Source reduction is the more cost effective approach because it is generally cheaper to not create a problem than to create one and then clean it up. We all need to participate to make this approach work. We need to use water and other resources wisely, and reduce our individual contributions to pollution.

The LARWQCB, recognizing the technical, political, and financial challenges of an integrated resources approach, as well as its environmental benefits, is allowing up to 18 years to achieve compliance during wet weather using this type of approach. As the integrated resources approach develops, it also will be used for compliance during dry weather, allowing the dry weather diversion projects referred to earlier to be phased out.

Watch this newsletter for future articles with more information on the City's IRP as it develops, and information on what you can do to help reduce pollution and conserve resources.

CITIZEN FORESTER TRAINING

TreePeople offers "Citizen Forester" training to support those eager to improve and green their neighborhoods. This intensive course is for anyone serious about leading a community tree-planting project in their neighborhood within a year of the training. Held over three Saturdays, participants will learn, share, and discover new ideas in a relaxed educational environment in the northeast San Fernando Valley community of Sun Valley. Training takes place on Saturdays, October 18, 25 & November 1 from 9 am to 3 pm. There is a \$50 materials fee; some scholarships are available. Please call Liz Altschule at (818) 623-4875 for more information, directions, and to register.





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 mohó
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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