

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.

Inside this issue:

Clean Cities Award	2
Ahmanson Ranch	2
Grants	4
Calendar of Events	5-6
Air Quality Facts	7

California Condors Soar Again

The Los Angeles Zoo is one of only four centers in the world breeding and caring for California Condors. While ornithologists estimate that 600 condors existed in the wild in 1890, their number had reached nine living birds on the entire planet by 1985. California Condors represent both a frightening example of species decline and near extinction, but also a remarkable success story of restoration. Now numbering 218 worldwide, due to reintroduction efforts, the first chick born in the wild hatched in April 2002 in Ventura County. Three more chicks were born earlier this year also in Ventura.



Ahmanson Ranch, recently purchased by the State of California for permanent open space, is believed to be potential and historical habitat for the California Condor (see article on page 2).

These enormous birds, *gymnogyps californianus*, have a ten-foot wingspan that allows them to fly at speeds over 55 miles per hour at heights up to 15,000 feet. Archeological records indicate the condor has been on earth at least 10,000 years. One of their identifiable physical characteristics is a bald head and neck with skin that ranges from pink, red, orange, yellow and light blue. This skin becomes very pink and orange during times of excitement and during breeding season. The chicks are born covered with white down which is quickly replaced with gray down and eventually striking black feathers. Reaching sexual maturity around seven years of age, condors can live to be over seventy years old. Although their size is already intimidating, condors have air sacs located under the skin around their throat and neck, which they can inflate in times of agitation or excitement to make them look larger and more impressive.

Male condors perform a highly ritualized courtship display for females during breeding season. The male stands before the female with his wings partially held out, head down, and neck arched forward; he slowly turns around, rocking from side to side. This dance is followed by graceful acrobatic flights where one partner follows the other. Once partnered, condors stay together for life. They make their nests in caves and the faces of steep cliffs, where the female lays a single egg which weighs just under a pound. The male and female take turns incubating the egg and chicks hatch after 54 to 58 days. Both parents then share in feeding and caring for the young chicks. The chick is dependent on its parents for the first two years of life.

Condor preservation efforts date back to 1939 when Carl Koford, a biologist

(Condors...continued on page 3)

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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City of Los Angeles Honored by Clean Cities Coalition

Last month in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, the 10th National Clean Cities Conference and Expo highlighted the achievements of member cities in ensuring better air quality and health through use of alternative fuel vehicles (<http://www.eere.energy.gov/cleancities>). A veteran honoree, General Manager Detrich B. Allen of the Los Angeles Environmental Affairs Department (EAD), accepted the Excellence in Advancing Propane award on behalf of EAD and the Los Angeles Department of Transportation. EAD also received Honorable Mention for the Excellence in Advancing 'Advanced Technology Vehicles' award, for its promotion and use of hydrogen fuel cell vehicles.



EAD General Manager Dee Allen accepting the Excellence in Advancing Propane Award

EAD has secured grant funding for the purchases of DASH shuttle buses, expanding the LADOT fleet to 170 buses entirely powered by propane. Moreover, LADOT has actively encouraged the industry to further develop higher horsepower propane engines, and has sought research and development funds to purchase such vehicles (<http://www.lacity.org/LADOT>).

Propane fuel releases fewer toxic and smog-forming emissions than diesel combustion, is widely available and frequently costs less than gasoline, and is generally produced by domestic sources. For more information about propane or other alternative fuels, please log onto the Alternative Fuels Data Center at <http://www.afdc.doe.gov>.

Ahmanson Ranch: Saved and Ready for Enjoyment

Ahmanson Ranch is not only potential habitat for California Condors (see article beginning on page 1), but is home to dozens of endangered species, including the Red Legged Frog, old growth oak trees, and undisturbed Las Virgenes Creek, all amid 2,890 acres of prime open space. Combining funds from local, state and federal sources, Ahmanson Ranch has been purchased and will be preserved as a State park. A broad coalition of civic, environmental and other groups (including the City and County of Los Angeles), opposed a proposal to place 3,050 residential units, two 18-hole golf courses, a town hall complex, three schools, a 300-room hotel, and 400,000 square feet of commercial and office space in the pristine site, all outside of the developed edge of Southern California.



The Ranch is in Ventura County, just north of the Los Angeles County line and south of Simi Valley. On October 1, 2003, then Governor Gray Davis joined local leaders and activists for the escrow signing ceremony on the Ranch. Proposition 50, a state parks bond passed in November of 2002, provided the majority of funds for the purchase. Now preserved, the property will function as a State park under the management of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMCC). Established by the California Legislature in 1980, the SMCC has helped to save over 55,000 acres of wildlife in the greater Santa Monica Mountains.

Further park programming is expected, but the public already can enjoy this excellent natural resource. Future programs being planned include trail systems, educational programs, and visitor centers. The Ahmanson Ranch property promises to be an exciting and rewarding opportunity for many future generations to enjoy. You can learn more about the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Ahmanson Ranch at <http://www.smmc.ca.gov>.

(Condors...continued from page 1)

instrumental in creating the Condor Sanctuary north of Fillmore, began studying the California Condor as a part of his doctoral research. Beyond determining their basic biological characteristic and reproductive behavior, Koford concluded that the condors were in decline because of shooting, pesticide poisoning, and habitat disappearance. About 150 California Condors were alive at the time of Koford's research. In 1966 the United State Congress passed the Endangered Species Preservation Act, and the California Condor was on the first official published list of endangered species. An estimated 50 to 60 condors were alive at that time.

By 1979, condor population numbers were down to 25 to 35. The American Ornithologists Union, National Audubon Society, California Fish and Game Commission, and United States Fish and Wildlife Service agreed on a joint aggressive research and captive-breeding program. This effort led to an observation that was a key breakthrough for scientists at the Condor Research Center in Ventura, California in 1981: condors who lose eggs early in the breeding season will lay replacement ones. This allowed officials to capture early eggs, hatch them in captivity, and allow the wild condors to care for the replacement egg. The San Diego Wild Animal Park raised the condor chicks from this program, with the first captive hatch, named Sisquoc, occurring in 1983.

In 1985, the wild population of condors had fallen to only nine individuals. Wildlife officials captured all the remaining wild birds to avoid their outright extinction. Between 1983 and 1986, thirteen condor chicks were born in captivity. Molloko, the first California condor both conceived and hatched in captivity, was born at the San Diego Wild Animal Park in 1988. Eight condors were released into the wild in 1992. Unfortunately, five of these condors died after colliding with power lines. Because of the trouble these birds had adjusting to life in the wild, the Los Angeles Zoo pioneered power-line and human aversion training programs for young condors before their release. This training involves the use of mock power poles inside the flight pen where young condors live prior to release. This mock pole emits a noticeable, but harmless, electronic charge that quickly teaches condors to stay away from power poles.

There are now over 90 condors flying and living free in the wild lands of California, Arizona and Baja California. The current federal plan for the California Condor sets a goal of having at least two separate populations of over 150 birds each living in the United States. Loss of habitat and habitat fragmentation are believed to be the leading cause of condor decline over the last century, but pesticide and lead poisoning were also key to the condor's near extinction. Because condors are scavengers, feeding on dead animals such as bison, elk, deer, and cows, they consume pesticides that have accumulated through the food chain. Condors have a very long, sharp and powerful beak which can pierce the hide of a horse. Condors use this beak not only to tear flesh from carcasses, but also to touch, fell and explore their surroundings. Researchers have recorded condors using their beaks to remove foliage from trees to create better roosting sites and rearranging rocks inside caves to improve nesting areas. You can tell if a condor has recently eaten by the crop found below the throat where food is stored and partially digested before entering the stomach. An adult condor can store up to four pounds of food in its crop, creating a noticeable bulge in the condor's upper chest area. Because of the weight gain, condors often wait hours after eating to fly again.



Unfortunately, many condors have died after consuming game that had been shot with lead bullets and left to rot by hunters. Once their stomach acids break down bullets and bullet fragments, the heavy metals then are absorbed into the bloodstream. The metals cause the digestive system to shut down, and the bird slowly starves to death. Wildlife officials and ammunition manufacturers are work-

(Continued on page 7)

\$\$\$ FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES \$\$\$
 Visit <http://www.lacity.org/ead> for more grant opportunities.

Lawrence Foundation Grants The mission of The Lawrence Foundation is to make a difference in the world by providing contributions and grants to organizations that are working to solve pressing educational, environmental, health and other issues. Grants are awarded twice per year. Letter of inquiry required. Letters of inquiry are open to any organization that wishes to be considered for a grant that meets the grant guidelines. Submit letter to:

The Lawrence Foundation
 530 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 207
 Santa Monica, CA 90401
 For more information, call the Foundation at (310) 451-1567, or visit their website at www.thelawrencefoundation.org, or e-mail the foundation at info@thelawrencefoundation.org.

Acorn Foundation Grants Established in 1978, the Acorn Foundation supports projects dedicated to building a sustainable future for the planet and to restoring a healthy global environment. The Acorn Foundation is particularly interested in small and innovative community-based projects which preserve and restore habitats supporting biological diversity and wildlife; advocate for environmental justice, particularly in low-income and indigenous communities; and prevent or remedy toxic pollution. The Acorn Foundation makes grants in the \$5,000 to \$10,000 range to grassroots organizations. Grantees are asked to submit year-end reports, and Acorn will consider renewal grants to organizations that have fulfilled its reporting requirements. For application information and guidelines, visit the Foundation's website at www.commoncounsel.org/pages/foundation.html#acorn.

Ben & Jerry's Foundation Grants Foundation Grants focus on, but are not limited to, activities and strategies an organization uses for creating social change in any number of areas. The Foundation will only consider proposals from grassroots, constituent-led organizations that are organizing for systemic social change. The Foundation supports programs and projects that are examples of creative problem-solving. Grant applicants need to demonstrate that their projects will lead to societal, institutional and/or environmental change; address the root causes of

social or environmental problems; and lead to new ways of thinking and acting. For more information, contact:

Ben & Jerry's Foundation
 30 Community Drive
 South Burlington, VT 05403;
 by telephone at (802) 846-1500, or visit their website at www.benjerry.com/foundation.

Patagonia Grants Patagonia supports small, grassroots activist organizations with provocative direct-action agendas. Local groups with 501(c)3 tax-exempt status working to protect local habitat are encouraged to apply. Most grants are in the range of \$3,000 to \$8,000. Proposals are welcomed during the month of August. For more information, visit Patagonia's grants website at www.patagonia.com/enviro/grants_app.shtml, or write to Shannon Rowan at:

Patagonia, Inc.
 PO Box 150
 Ventura, CA 93002

BP A+ for Energy Grants BP, a global energy provider, is launching an education program to recognize and award cash grants to California K-12 educators who use innovative ideas to teach kids about energy and energy conservation. BP will award \$2 million in grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$10,000. BP will also award each grant recipient a scholarship to attend a five-day energy training conference hosted by the National Energy Education Development (NEED) Project in Long Beach in July 2005. The NEED Scholarship will cover travel, meals, and lodging expenses in addition to a NEED Science of Energy Kit valued at \$500. The deadline for submitting grant applications is **June 30, 2004**. Winners will be announced by August 23, 2004. For more information, visit the BP A+ for Energy website at www.aplusforenergy.com, or contact BP at (714) 228-6760. For more information, write to Irene Brown, Director of California Community Relations at:

BP America, Inc.
 6 Centerpointe Drive, 7th Floor
 La Palma, CA 90623-2503

JUNE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EACH MONTH:

Birding That Works for Families

Sponsored by the Santa Monica Audubon Society.



A short (about an hour) bird walk at 10 am in one of the few places in the LA area where the kids don't have to stay quiet so as not to scare the birds. In the lagoon, and on the beach these birds want to be seen! Binoculars and scopes will be provided. The viewing takes place at Malibu Lagoon State Park. From Santa Monica take Pacific Coast Highway to Cross Creek Rd. Turn left and park in the pay parking lot, or turn right and park on the street. Parking on PCH is not recommended. Meet at the first bridge, walking from parking lot towards the beach. Call Lu Plauzoles at (310) 395-6235 or Lillian Almdale at (310) 393-6205 or visit the Society's web site at <http://smbas.cjb.net>.

Down by the River Monthly walks along the Los Angeles River take place every Sunday at a different location. Sponsored by Friends of the Los Angeles River (FoLAR). For more information, call FoLAR at (323) 223-0585 or visit their website at www.folar.org.



The Bolsa Chica Foundation offers free public tours of the Bolsa Chica Wetlands the first Saturday of every month. Tour times are between 9 am and 10:30 am. For more information on these wetlands, visit their website at www.amigosdebolsachica.org or call the Foundation office at (714) 840-1575.

Interpretive Nature Tours of the Ballona Salt March and Dunes Join the Friends of Ballona Wetlands on the second Sunday of each month for an exciting, informative nature tour. Explore the wonders of nature right in the middle of urban Los Angeles. Enter the Wetlands through the gate located in the parking lot behind Gordon's Market at 303 Culver Boulevard in Playa del Rey and meet at the trailer. Tours begin at 1 pm and last for two hours. For more information, call the Friends of the Ballona Wetlands at (310) 306-5994 or visit their website at www.ballonafriends.org.

IMAX Theater Presents Volcanoes of the Deep Travel deep beneath the surface of the sea, to environments of crushing pressure and extreme temperatures, where strange communities of life are thriving in toxic water. *Volcanoes of the Deep Sea* transports you there via the giant screen. The film is the result of the largest effort ever undertaken to film the creatures and habitats of these extreme depths. Fees for IMAX are based on age. For more information, call the IMAX Theater at (213) 744-7400, or visit their website at www.californiasciencecenter.org. The IMAX Theater is located at 700 State Drive in Exposition Park.

The Blooming Rose Garden at Exposition Park. This seven-acre garden today contains more



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.

than 10,000 rose bushes representing over 100 different varieties. Admission is free at 741 State Drive in Exposition Park. For more information call (213) 763-0114 or email rosegarden@rap.lacity.org.

THIS MONTH:
(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to the event)

Fri to Sun, June 4-6

22nd Annual Salute to Recreation Family Festival in Northridge Park in Van Nuys features activities for the whole family. The City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks will provide a children's zoo, carnival games, games, food booths, an International Village, and teen night. For more information about this free event visit <http://www.laparks.org> or call (818) 349-7341.

Sat and Sun, June 5-6

Noah's Ark Animals at the Los Angeles Zoo. Free with

THIS MONTH:
(continued)

paid zoo admission the two-day event provides tours, educational displays and crafts for children of all ages. For more information visit <http://www.lazoo.org> or call (323) 644-6400.

Sat, Jun 5

7th Annual South Robertson Street Festival celebrates the cultures and food of Egypt, France, China, Thailand, Japan and the world, complete with music, crafts and games for children of all ages. On Robertson Boulevard between Beverlywood and Cattauragus. Brought to you by the Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department, for more information visit <http://www.soro.org> or call (310) 839-7639.



Kids' Nature Festival in Pacific Palisades. Brought to you by the Children's Nature Institute. Touch, splash, make believe, and even get a little messy at the thirty plus hands-on activity stations. Tickle your senses at Sensation Station, get a grip at the ponds of slimy Goop, search for fossils at the Dino Dig, explore the depths of the Bat Cave, and crawl through kid-size Mole Mazes! Held at 15601 Sunset Boulevard, Temescal Gateway Park, Pacific Palisades, \$8 for adults and \$7 for children. For more information visit <http://www.childrensnatureinstitute.org/kidsfestival.html> or call (310) 998-1151.



childrensnatureinstitute.org/kidsfestival.html or call (310) 998-1151.

Fri-Sun, June 11-13

Multi-Cultural Expo in celebration of Juneteenth and Black Music Month at Ted Watkins Park, 1335 East 103rd Street from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Live entertainment and kids' zone brought to you by One Child Our Village Foundation. For more information visit <http://www.onechildourvillage.org>.

Sat, June 12

Youth Fishing Derby at Lincoln Park Lake. The Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks provides free fishing and prizes to children ages 15 and younger. Community booths and food will also be available. Held at 3501 Valley Boulevard, for more information call (213) 847-1726.



Keep Trash out of the Storm Drain Join Santa Monica Baykeeper as they Clean-up Lincoln Boulevard in Marina del Rey. Meet at 3100 Washington Boulevard at 9 am. For more information call (310) 822-4522 or visit <http://www.smbaykeeper.org>.



Sat, June 19

Kids Swim Free Day at seasonal pools throughout the City of Los Angeles. Children, age 17 and younger, seniors age 65 and older and disabled residents of all ages swim free at all city pools. Adults ages 18-64

pay a \$1.25 fee. There will be Swim Team competition and Inner-Tube Water Polo, and selected pools will offer Synchronized Swimming, traditional Water Polo, Springboard Diving and Junior Lifeguard Training. Most pools offer private and semi-private swimming lessons, as well as group swimming, level, lap, recreational, and adaptive swimming. Contact your local recreation center or call 1-888-LA-PARKS/1-888-527-2757. See also www.laparks.org.



Sun, June 20

Winnetka Summer Carnival at Winnetka Recreation Center 8401 Winnetka Avenue. The City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks and Elder Care bring you arts and crafts, music, rides and games for all ages. For more information call (818) 756-7876.

Sun, June 27

13th Annual Corn Festival in Hermon Park, Highland Park. Free art exhibits, delicious food, bike giveaways and a beautiful L.A. summer day in the park. Brought to you by Art in the Park, for more information call (323) 259-0861.



Mon, June 28

Music in Rustic Canyon from the 1920s and 1930s performed by the Johnny Crawford's Le Hot Club Quintet. Free. Rustic Canyon is located at 601 Latimer Road. For more information call (310) 454-5734.

(Continued from page 3)

ing together on tungsten-based bullets that will be just as effective for hunters without the poisoning impact on scavenging wildlife. Hunters also are encouraged to bury any "gut piles" from field dressed game. An ongoing threat to condor survival also is the fact that large game are not typically left to rot on the ground, but instead usually are salvaged for food, burned, or buried by ranchers and landowners. Wildlife officials are working on land preserves and national and state parks and forests to make sure that there is food on the ground for the condors and other species to feed on.

Like vultures, the California Condor does not have a syrinx, a voice box similar to the larynx in mammals. As a result the condors' communication abilities are limited to a few grunts, wheezes and noises similar to suppressed coughs. Despite this vocal ability, condors are highly intelligent and social birds with different ways of communicating. Young birds play tug of war and fetch with feathers, sticks, and grass, especially when relaxing around water holes. They also have a remarkable sense of eyesight that allows them to spot food from great heights. Their eyes change color as they age, going from tan to red as they mature. Unlike vultures, condors do not have a good sense of smell, but they do have excellent hearing.



Condors are very concerned with cleanliness: they bathe after eating and spend hours drying and manicuring their feathers. If no water is available the condors will use grass, rocks, and tree branches to brush their feathers clean. Most of their time is spent perched in the sun, ready to launch themselves into flight at any moment. Condors typically roost in groups and return to the same roost site each year. Dominant birds get their pick of the best tree, cliff, or rock outcrop as a roosting site.

You can learn more about the California Condor from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service at <http://pacific.fws.gov/condor>. The condors at the Los Angeles Zoo are not currently on display to the public, but they do have an interactive display at the zoo and more information online at <http://www.lazoo.org>. You can see condors at the San Diego Wild Animal Park, for more information visit http://www.sandiegozoo.org/wap/visitor_info.html.

Air Quality Fun Facts:



The number of household vehicles in the United States nearly tripled (181% increase) between 1969 and 2001. The rate of increase in household vehicles, which includes cars, vans, and SUVs, is 4.5 times the rate of the household population increase.

Purchasers of hybrid vehicles earn a Federal tax deduction. Though the deduction is a fixed dollar amount for a given year, the actual value of this deduction varies depending on the purchaser's tax bracket. For more information visit <http://www.eere.energy.gov/vehiclesandfuels/facts/index.shtml>.

Only 2 percent of the vehicles on California's roads are diesel-powered and yet, diesel vehicles account for 31% of the total smog forming oxides of nitrogen (NOx) and 79% of the total particulate matter (PM) emissions produced by on-road vehicles. For more information visit <http://www.coalitionforcleanair.org/cc/>.





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**. You can also visit our website at <http://www.lacity.org/ead> and click on *Environmental Information Center*.

One Call to City Hall
3-1-1

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 de 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 moho
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
Environmental Affairs Department
200 N. Spring Street, Suite 2005
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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