

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.

Reducing Pollutants in the Los Angeles River and Ballona Creek: A TMDL Stakeholder Effort

The 51-mile Los Angeles River and 10-mile Ballona Creek were lined with concrete (except for a small percentage of soft bottom, vegetated area) decades ago to provide flood control for the region. Despite this, these waterbodies are designated to support several beneficial uses such as those for recreation, commercial, or habitat activities. Unfortunately, both waterbodies are among the many in the state listed as impaired, which means that they do not meet water quality standards due to excessive amounts of pollutants including trash, metals, and bacteria. Water quality must be improved to eliminate these impairments and allow the designated beneficial uses to be fully supported.



Los Angeles River photo courtesy of S. Birosik.

During the past several years, Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) regulations (see April 2004 issue "TMDLs Impacting The City of Los Angeles") became an increasingly important regulatory and management strategy for reducing pollutants and ensuring protection of waterbodies.



Willow Street Bridge where the vegetation grows. Photograph courtesy of S. Birosik.

The goal of a TMDL is to determine measures needed to meet water quality standards in impaired waterbodies. TMDLs impact the City and affect the way the City operates its facilities, treats its wastewater, disposes of its wastes, and cleans its streets. Several TMDLs, including those for bacteria, metals, and organics, are required for the Los Angeles River and Ballona Creek in the next few years. The state's Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board), or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) develop the TMDLs, and ensure the associated requirements are met through various regulatory programs. Cities, counties, or water districts are responsible for complying with

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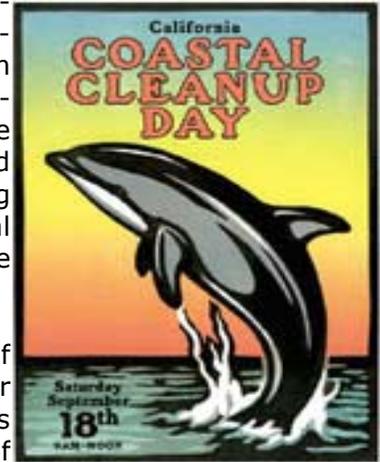
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An Environmental Affair is produced monthly by the EAD to inform residents about environmental issues and activities in Los Angeles. For questions, or to update or cancel your free subscription, call the Environmental Information Center Hotline at (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

20th Annual California Coastal Cleanup Day Saturday, September 18, 2004

Each year, more than 40,000 volunteers turn out to over 400 sites statewide to conduct "the largest garbage collection" ever to clean up the California coastline. Since the program started in 1985, over 552,000 Californians have removed almost 8.5 million pounds of debris from our state's shorelines and coast. When combined with the International Coastal Cleanup, organized by The Ocean Conservancy and taking place on the same day, California Coastal Cleanup Day becomes part of one of the largest volunteer events of the year.



Coastal Cleanup Day is the highlight of the California Coastal Commission's year-round Adopt-A-Beach program and takes place every year on the third Saturday of September, from 9 a.m. to Noon. This year, that day falls on September 18. Coming at the end of the summer beach season and right near the start of the school year, Coastal Cleanup Day is a great way for families, students, service groups, and neighbors to join together, take care of our fragile marine environment, show community support for our shared natural resources, learn about the impacts of marine debris and how we can prevent them, and have fun! Coastal Cleanup Day also is the kick-off event for Coastweeks—three weeks of coastal and water-related events for the whole family.

For more information about California Coastal Cleanup Day and Coastweeks, and to find locations where you can participate in the cleanup, visit the California Coastal Commission's webpage at www.coastal.ca.gov.

National Pollution Prevention Week (NP2W) September 20-26, 2004

The 2004 National Pollution Prevention Week (NP2W), sponsored by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), Cal/EPA, and U.S. EPA, gets underway this month to promote public health, environmental quality and economic vitality.

Since 1993, the DTSC has dedicated an entire week to educate the public, businesses, schools, and industry associations about pollution prevention, which is an effective tool in protecting the environment, and in helping the industrial economy recognize that pollution is best eliminated or reduced at the source. The goal is to have businesses, government agencies, citizens and consumers become more aware of the opportunities to avoid pollution and provide the resources and information to successfully implement prevention.



Activities for recognizing pollution prevention take place statewide. For more information on NP2W, visit the DTSC's website at <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/PollutionPrevention/index.html> or call (800) 72-TOXIC. DTSC resources for teachers and students on pollution prevention also can be downloaded at <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/Education/index.html>. The City's Environmental Affairs Division also maintains the Hazardous and Toxic Materials Office and Hotline, which can be reached at (213) 978-0891 or www.lacity.org/ead/EADWeb-EBA/htmofofc.htm.

EAD to Walk Again with City in AIDSWALK L.A.

The Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) again will join other City departments in the City of Los Angeles' annual campaign for AIDS Walk Los Angeles (AWLA). One of California's largest fundraisers, AWLA is a ten-kilometer walkathon, which raises much needed money for AIDS Project Los Angeles (APLA). The 20th annual AIDS Walk will take place on Sunday, October 17, 2004, beginning and ending in West Hollywood.

EAD is wholeheartedly supporting the City's tremendous effort to surpass last year's accomplishment. Due to our department's relatively small size, EAD's team has been recognized among the City departments as the "tiny giant," having consistently ranked among the top City departmental teams. This year, EAD is determined to continue its legacy of compassion and greatness and to rank among the top City teams, but, as always, we need your help.



EAD welcomes participation from any of our many friends who are willing to join us for such a worthy cause. Join our team and support humanity as much as you support the environment. To contact the Department about its participation in AIDSWalk L.A., call (213) 978-0888.

(Reducing Pollutants...Continued from page 1)

the TMDL requirements and implementing local programs to achieve compliance.

The City's lead in TMDLs for waterbodies wholly or partially under the City's jurisdiction is the Bureau of Sanitation. The Bureau, in conjunction with EAD and other City Departments, is working to ensure the development of effective TMDLs that protect both public health and the environment, consider economic impacts, and result in responsible utilization of public funds. Recently, the Bureau has embarked in an innovative "TMDL Stakeholder" partnership with the Regional Board, the U.S. EPA, and interested stakeholders to develop TMDLs that will restore and protect the Los Angeles River and Ballona Creek. The term "stakeholders" as used here includes community members, environmental groups, agencies, community and business organizations, and others with stake or interest in these efforts. For the last several months, Bureau staff, through its Regulatory Affairs Division, has been directly working with the Regional Board and U.S. EPA and meeting



Trash runoff from Los Angeles stormdrains after rains raise TMDL levels in the Los Angeles River and Ballona Creek.

with various stakeholders to get their input and obtain support for the TMDL stakeholder effort. This effort is occurring throughout the watershed. Watershed refers to the area that drains to a common waterway, or waterbody such as a stream, lake, estuary, wetland, or even the ocean. Discharges and runoff from adjacent land affect and can negatively impact these waterbodies. The Bureau hopes to engage participation from diverse stakeholders in the watershed in recognition that communities, environmental organizations and businesses play an important part in the health and quality of the City's watersheds.

For more information on how TMDLs play a role in curbing water pollution, visit the Environmental Affairs Department's website at www.lacity.org/ead for TMDL links.

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

Making Smart Growth Work: Reuse and Revitalization of Vacant and Abandoned Properties, Request for Initial Proposals (RFIP)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking proposals from eligible organizations to translate local efforts to prevent and redevelop vacant properties to state, regional, and/or national level applications-- to make those lessons available and applicable to a large number of localities, states, trades, and other relevant organizations. EPA has previously provided funding to support the National Vacant Properties Campaign, an effort to prevent abandonment, redevelop vacant properties and revitalize existing communities. This RFIP seeks to support and further the work of the National Vacant Properties Campaign. Collaboration with the National Vacant Properties Campaign and with organizations seeking to implement smart growth by returning vacant properties to productive use are encouraged. For more information, visit www.epa.gov/smartgrowth, or contact Carlton Eley at (202) 566-2840 or by e-mail at eley.carlton@epa.gov. Proposals must be submitted by **October 4, 2004**.

Performance Verification Testing of Monitoring Systems for Air, Water and Soil Grants Notice

The EPA's National Exposure Research Laboratory (NERL) supports the widespread use of credible, cost-effective environmental technologies and therefore solicits proposals to organize, develop, and implement a private sector program for the continued verification of monitoring systems for air, water and soil technology performance through the Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) Program's Advanced Monitoring Systems (AMS) Center. The recipient of the award will be expected to establish itself as an independent third-party verification entity to evaluate private sector technologies that are commercial ready. The verification entity will perform a variety of activities including, but not limited to: selection and prioritization of technology areas for verification; testing and evaluation of performance of selected technologies; and documentation of the preceding items in reports and verification statements. Proposals are due **September 27, 2004**. For more information on the grant, visit www.epa.gov/nerl/opportunities/etvrfp.pdf, or contact Walter Stutts, Project Officer, by telephone at (513) 569-7487, by e-mail at stutts.walter@epa.gov.

National Estuarine Research Reserve Graduate Research Fellowship (GRF) Program FY05

The National Estuarine Research Reserve System consists of estuarine areas of the United States and its territories which are designated and managed for research and educational purposes. Each reserve within the system is chosen to reflect regional differences and to include a variety of ecosystem types in accordance with the classification scheme of the national program. Each reserve supports a wide range of beneficial uses of ecological, economic, recreational, and aesthetic values which are dependent upon the maintenance of a healthy ecosystem. Each reserve has been designed to ensure its effectiveness as a conservation unit and as a site for long-term research and monitoring. The graduate fellowship program offers opportunities for research in a unique environmental and cultural settings. For detailed descriptions of the sites, refer to the NERR Web site at www.nerrs.noaa.gov/fellowship or contact Steve Drescher, Policy Advisor, by telephone at (301) 713-0942 ext 122, by fax (301) 713-0947, or by e-mail at Steve.J.Drescher@noaa.gov. Applications are due no later than **November 1, 2004**.

Ecological Effects of Sea Level Rise (SLR) Grant

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is soliciting research proposals for projects of two to three years in duration for the development of useful modeling and mapping tools to better assess and predict the fate of ecologically and economically valuable natural resources threatened by sea level rise. Funding is contingent upon the availability of Fiscal Year 2005 Federal appropriations. It is anticipated that final recommendations for funding under this announcement will be made in early Calendar Year 2005, and that projects funded under this announcement will have a May 1, 2005 start date. For more information contact contact Steve Drescher, Policy Advisor, by telephone at (301) 713-0942 ext 122, by fax (301) 713-0947, or by e-mail at Steve.J.Drescher@noaa.gov. Proposals are due by **October 5, 2004**.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EACH MONTH:

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to the event)

Adventures with a Ranger



Join a State Park Ranger to explore the many wonders of the Santa Monica Mountains. Free. Walks take one hour. Begins at 9 am. Meet Saturdays at Point Mugu State Park, or Sundays at Leo Carrillo State Park. For more information, call the State Park Headquarters at (805) 488-1827.

Smart Gardening Workshop,

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 90-minute 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 www.amigosdebolsachica.org, or call (714) 840-1575.

Ocean Neighbors

September 18 through October 10. Roundhouse Aquarium on Manhattan Beach is a new activity to increase the awareness of visiting guests at the Roundhouse. There will be informational handouts, prizes for those who participate in Coastal Cleanup Day, and a raffle. The aquarium is located at the end of the Manhattan Beach Pier. The closest intersection is Manhattan Beach Boulevard and Ocean Drive. For information, contact the aquarium at (310) 379-8117. Free.

IMAX Theater presents Lewis & Clark: Great Journey West

Take a journey across the great West as one of the most remarkable adventures in American history comes to life on the giant IMAX screen. For more information visit www.californiasciencecenter.org/Imax/Features/Features.php, or call 213-744-7400. The IMAX Theater is located at the California Science Center at Exposition Park, 700 State Drive in Los Angeles. Opens **October 1, 2004.**

THIS MONTH:

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to the event)

Sept 10-26

82nd Annual Los Angeles County Fair

Los Angeles County will celebrate their 82nd year with carnival rides and games

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.

that will flank the midway along with traditional exhibits that delve into fair mainstays such as education, art, horticulture, agriculture, and livestock. The Fair takes place from September at the Fairplex located at 1101 W. McKinley in Pomona. Sponsored by Los Angeles County. For more information, visit the Fair's website at www.lacountyfair.com or call (909) 623-3111.

Sat, Sept 11



Channel Islands Adventure: San Miguel Island, the Landing of Cabrillo

Join CMA's education staff and Director Emeritus John Olguin on an adventure to San Miguel Island, the most remote of the Channel Islands chain. Under the direction of Olguin, watch a reenactment of the landing of Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, "Discoverer of California," climb a trail of steps to visit the

THIS MONTH:
(con't)

Cabrillo Memorial for a sweeping view of Cuyler Harbor, and explore the pristine sandy shore, dunes and natural history of the island. Board the boat in Ventura at 7:30 am and return at approximately 7 pm. Fee. Pre-registration required. Note: Moderate physical agility is required of passengers to board skiffs for the shore landing. For more information and to register, call the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium at (310) 548-7562.

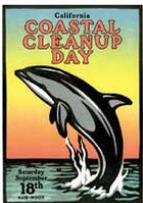
Upper Pt. Vicente Park Hike



This two-hour walk combines beautiful views with interesting habitat, World War II bunkers and a Nike missile site. Walk leaders will discuss the military history of the site and recent action by Rancho Palos Verdes which will preserve its natural areas. Co-sponsored by the City of Rancho Palos Verdes. Free. The walk begins at 9 am. For more information, visit the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy at www.pvplc.org, or call (310) 541-7613.

Sat, Sept 18

20th Annual Coastal Clean-Up California Coastal Cleanup Day - Various Locations



Kick-off COASTWEEKS by joining over 40,000 other Californians in cleaning up our state's shorelines and coast. There are hundreds of Coastal

Cleanup Day sites throughout California. For information call (800) Coast-4U. Events take place from 9 am to noon.

Bolsa Chica Stewards Day from 9 am to noon. Help the Bolsa Chica Land Trust with habitat restoration, trail maintenance, etc. Meet in the parking lot at Pacific Coast Highway and Warner Avenue. For more information, call (562) 920-4215.

Sat, Sept 25

Harbor Kayaking in Marina Del Rey



From 10 am to noon take part in a two-hour class with kayaking and water safety instruction at Mother's Beach. The cost is \$30 for adults and \$25 for youth. Contact the Department of Beaches and Harbors at 310-305-9595 to register.

Sun, Sept 26

Bluffs Ramble to the Sea

Enjoy great views on this 2-mile walk through Malibu Bluffs Park. Dip your toes into the bay; look for dolphins, sea lions and wildflowers. Free. Contact the California Native Plant Society at (818) 348-5910. The ramble takes place from 10 am to noon.

Sat, Oct 2

Travel the Windward Side of Santa Catalina Island

The Catalina Island Conservancy's Education Department is heading to the windward side of the island. This strenuous hike features amazing views. Join the conservancy to view the side of the island very few get to see. Reservations

must be made by September 25. Space is limited. Call the Education Office to reserve a spot at (310) 510-0954. Transportation, discovery tools, and lunch will be arranged. Fee. The event takes place from 8 am to 3 pm.

Sat, Oct 9

Ballona Stewards Clean-Up Day

Enjoy good company and fulfilling work while protecting the Ballona Wetlands. This fun-filled morning of habitat restoration and guided eco-tours is free and open to all ages. For information, contact Ballona Wetlands Land Trust at landtrust@ballona.org or (310) 264-9468. The clean-up takes place from 10 am to 2 pm.



Water Efficient Landscape Classes

Metropolitan Water District in conjunction with the City of Torrance offers a series of hands-on Residential Landscaping classes to help you create a pleasing water-efficient outdoor environment that will save money and water. Take one or all these classes. The fee for each class is \$5. Classes take place from 9 am to noon at the Madrona Marsh Nature Preserve located at 3201 Plaza Del Amo in Torrance. For reservations, call the Nature Center at (310) 782-3989.

- Oct. 2** Basic Landscape Design
- Oct. 9** Landscape Plants
- Oct. 16** Irrigation Systems and Sprinklers
- Oct. 23** Landscape Maintenance, Sprinkler Controllers, Watering/Fertilizing

Recycle Your Old Electronics- for FREE

It's estimated that in California, 10,000 computers become obsolete each day. With an average life-span of two years, personal computers have become an increasing portion of the e-waste generated annually (Californians Against Waste, www.cawrecycles.org). Electronic equipment- such as household appliances, cell phones, televisions, etc. in addition to computers- can be assembled from over 1,000 materials, many of which are toxics gases, metals or other potentially harmful substances. Although the health impacts of these combinations are as of yet unknown, discarded electronics (e-waste) leak enough hazardous materials to be considered hazardous waste.

The Bureau of Sanitation offers free collection of household hazardous waste, including e-waste, at five S.A.F.E centers (Solvents/Automotive/Flammables/Electronics) throughout the City. The unwanted electronics are de-manufactured, separated into components and scrapped. Periodic mobile events, offered by the City and Los Angeles County, also collect bulky items, household hazardous waste and e-waste. Check the Bureau of Sanitation website for schedules and more information about electronics recycling at www.lacity.org/SAN/index.htm).

If you are one of the average Californians with between two and three obsolete computers in your garage, take advantage of these services offered to residents by the Bureau of Sanitation or the County. Not only will you be contributing to a healthier environment, but you'll also be contributing to the recycling sector, which provides over 1 million U.S. jobs and billions of dollars in taxable income (National Recycling Coalition, www.nrc-recycle.org).

More TMDLs to Impact the City of Los Angeles

The City of Los Angeles has jurisdictional responsibility for several waterbodies designated as impaired under Section 303 of the Clean Water Act for not meeting their designated water quality standards. In these cases, a TMDL or Total Maximum Daily Load, which is a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards, is to be developed for these waters (see related article, page 1). Several TMDLs, impacting the City, already have been developed and adopted by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB). These TMDLs address trash in the Los Angeles River and Ballona Creek, bacteria in Santa Monica Bay and Marina del Rey, and nitrogen/nutrients in the Los Angeles River.

On July 1, the LARWQCB approved another bacterial TMDL that will impact the City. It is for inner Cabrillo Beach and the main channel of the Los Angeles Harbor. It will become effective within the next few months after approval by the State Water Resources Control Board, the Office of Administrative Law, and the U.S. EPA. Bacteria levels at inner Cabrillo Beach and the main channel will be reduced to levels designated as safe for water contact recreation within five years after U.S. EPA approval of the TMDLs.

Two additional draft TMDLs that will impact the City were released in July. They address metals in Ballona Creek and the Los Angeles River. Public comments on these TMDLs are to be submitted to the LARWQCB by August 26, and a public hearing on these two TMDLs is scheduled for September 2.

Additional information on these and other local TMDLs can be found at the LARWQCB website at www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb4.

Help the Environmental Affairs Department Help the Environment!

Sign up to receive an online announcement of *An Environmental Affair* and then access the monthly edition at www.lacity.org/ead. It's no fuss, no hassle, and you will be a big help in saving paper!

To receive the announcement, send us an e-mail with your request at eadinfo@mailbox.lacity.org, and be sure to include your full name!



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

West Nile Virus Information and Reporting Hotline

Para informacion del virus 'West Nile' en Ingles y Espanol
(877) 968-2473

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