

An Environmental Affair

Volume 16, Issue 9

September 2005

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.

EAD Participates in Lights, Power, Action Expo

On August 17, 2005, the "Lights, Power, Action" Energy Expo highlighted the importance of energy independence and fuel efficiency to the nation's environment and national security. The Expo, held at the Torrance Civic Center, presented alternative energy vehicles featuring hybrid, hydrogen fuel cell and electric (EV) cars. In addition to showcasing alternative energy vehicles, the Expo featured local alternative technology companies providing information about their programs and services. The City of LA Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) was invited to participate by bringing a fuel cell car for display and hosting a booth with information about the City's Climate Action Plan and Alternative Fuel Vehicle (AFV) Program. Panel discussions included a demonstration called "Oil Shockwave," a



Congresswoman Harman joined by the "Oil Shockwave" panelists answers questions about energy security.

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The 21st Annual California Coastal Cleanup Day Saturday, September 17, 2005



California's Coastal Cleanup Day is a volunteer event focused on the cleanup of debris from our coasts and inland waterways throughout the state. Over 50,000 volunteers turn out at over 700 cleanup sites statewide to conduct what has been hailed by the Guinness Book of World Records as "the largest garbage collection" (1993). Since 1985, over 650,000 Californians have removed more than 10 million pounds of debris from our state's shorelines and coast.

Organized by The Ocean Conservancy, and taking place on the same day as the International Coastal Cleanup, California Coastal Cleanup Day is part of one of the largest volunteer events of the year.

Coastal Cleanup Day is a way for families, students, service groups, and neighbors to join together, take care of the fragile marine environment, show community support for shared natural resources, and learn about the impacts of marine debris and how we can prevent it. Coastal Cleanup Day is also the kick-off event for Coastweeks, three weeks of coastal and water-related events for the whole family. For more information, call (800) COAST-4U or visit www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/coastweeks/coastweeks.html. Event takes place on Saturday, September 17, from 9 am to noon.

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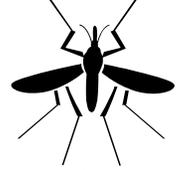
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An Environmental Affair is produced monthly by the EAD to inform residents about environmental issues and activities in Los Angeles. For questions, or to update or cancel your free subscription, call the Environmental Information Center Hotline at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

In early August, the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services (DHS) reported a case of locally acquired West Nile virus (WNV). The case was an adult female who lives in the San Fernando Valley. She experienced signs and symptoms of West Nile virus fever and later recovered. This is the first confirmed case of WNV for a Los Angeles County resident this year. While human WNV infection has arrived much later in the season compared to previous years, DHS urges residents to remain vigilant and take recommended precautions. As of August 16, 2005, the total number of confirmed cases for the year of WNV infection in the State of California is 146.



WNV is spread to humans from the bite of an infected mosquito; mosquitoes are infected by biting a bird that carries the virus. Most mosquitoes do not carry the virus and most people bitten by a mosquito have not been exposed to the virus. The virus is NOT spread by person-to-person contact or directly from birds to humans.

To reduce exposure to the virus, the health department strongly advises residents follow several precautions, including using an insect repellent when out of doors. Recently, the CDC released new guidelines for effective mosquito repellents. The new options include the addition of two active ingredients - picaridin and oil of lemon eucalyptus - which have been shown to offer long-lasting protection against mosquito bites. These repellents join those containing DEET as highly effective in warding off mosquitoes. Picaridin, also known as KBR 3023, is an ingredient found in many mosquito repellents used in Europe, Australia, Latin America and Asia. Evidence indicates that it works very well, often comparable with DEET products of similar concentration. One product, containing 7% picaridin, is being distributed in the U.S. for the first time this year.

Additional precautions to avoid mosquitoes include:

- Avoid mosquito-infested areas at dawn and dusk.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants whenever you are outdoors.
- Use insect repellent products with no more than 35% DEET for adults and less than 10% for children.
- Ensure your window screens don't have holes.
- Do not allow water to stagnate in old tires, flowerpots, swimming pools, birdbaths, pet bowls, etc.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools; drain water from pool covers.
- Stock garden ponds with goldfish or mosquito fish. They eat the mosquito eggs and larvae.

The county health department has established a toll-free hotline that will provide callers with updated information (in eight languages) on West Nile Virus. The hotline is: 1-800-975-4448.

Where to call with questions about mosquitoes and mosquito fish:

- Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District (562) 944-9656
- Los Angeles County West Vector Control District (310) 915- 7370
- San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District (626) 814-9466
- Antelope Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District (661) 942-2917
- Compton Creek Mosquito Abatement District (310) 639-7375
- DHS Vector Management Program (626) 430-5450.

NASA's Planet Hunt Website en Español

Spanish-speaking space aficionados can track the latest news in the hunt for planets around other stars thanks to a new NASA website, Planet Quest, that also can be read in Spanish.

The Spanish language site, at <http://planetquest.jpl.nasa.gov/espanol/>, features information about NASA missions designed to find extrasolar planets, meaning those that orbit other stars. The ultimate goal is to find earth-like planets, which are considered more likely to host some type of life. So far, more than 150 planets have been discovered beyond the solar system.

The site includes explanations of the science and technologies involved in the search, as well as images and artists' concepts. As new planets are discovered, they will be added in Spanish to the site's "Atlas de Nuevos Mundos."

The English language version of the Web site is at <http://planetquest.jpl.nasa.gov>.

NASA's planet-hunting missions include the current Keck Interferometer on Mauna Kea in Hawaii, and such future missions as SIM PlanetQuest and Terrestrial Planet Finder.



Read about HD 188753 Ab on Planet Quest, the first known planet to reside in a classic triple-star system.

National Pollution Prevention Week (NP2W) September 19-26, 2005



The 2005 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/htmofc.htm.

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

The National Science Foundation 's (NSF)

Graduate Research Fellowship The National Science Foundation aims to ensure the vitality of the human resource base of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in the United States and to reinforce its diversity by offering approximately 1,000 graduate fellowships in this competition. The Graduate Research Fellowship provides three years of support for graduate study leading to research-based master's or doctoral degrees and is intended for students who are at the early stages of their graduate study. The Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) invests in graduate education for a cadre of diverse individuals who demonstrate their potential to successfully complete graduate degree programs in disciplines relevant to the mission of the National Science Foundation. For more information on the Fellowship, call the NSF offices at (703) 292-5111, or visit www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf05601. Depending on fields of study, applications are due **November 2 through November 9, 2005**.

Submit a Lesson Plan to the Chemical Education Foundation and Win \$1,000

The Chemical Education Foundation (CEF) is sponsoring a You Be The Chemist (YBTC) lesson plan competition for educators in grades K-8. The Foundation will award \$1,000 for first prize and \$500 for runner-up entries in three categories: Scientific Inquiry, Structure of Matter, and Safety and Recycling. The six winning lesson plan entries and their authors will be published on the CEF Web site. Visit www.chemed.org/ or www.chemed.org/Lesson_Plan.html for more information. You also may contact comments@chemed.org. The deadline is **Friday, October 21, 2005**.

The City of Los Angeles Community

Beautification Grant (CB Grant) is a competitive matching grant program that awards funding of up to \$10,000 for beautification projects to community-based organizations. New applications, updated guidelines, and a new citywide workshop schedule are available for download at www.lacity.org/bpw/ocs/nmf. For more information, contact the Community Beautification Grant Office at (213) 978-0226. The proposed due date for the grant application will be **October 27, 2005**.



The Discovery Corps

Fellowship Program is a pilot program by the National Science Foundation (NSF) that is seeking new postdoctoral and professional development models to combine research expertise with service-oriented projects. For this pilot

program, successful Fellows will have research expertise in areas supported by the NSF Division of Chemistry. The Discovery Corps Fellowship Program comprises two categories of awards: recent doctoral recipients serve as Discovery Corps Postdoctoral Fellows; and mid-career professionals serve as Discovery Corps Senior Fellows. For more information, visit www.nsf.gov/pubs/2005/nsf05593/nsf05593.htm, or contact Katharine J. Covert, Program Director, Directorate for Mathematical & Physical Sciences, Division of Chemistry, at (703) 292-4950; by fax at (703) 292-9037; or by email at kcovert@nsf.gov. Deadline for submissions is **December 2, 2005**.

California Environmental Protection Agency (CAL/EPA) Environmental Justice (EJ) Small Grants Funding Announcement

The Cal/EPA Secretary has established the EJ Small Grants Program to assist eligible community-based, grassroots, non-profit entities with federal Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3) status, and federally recognized Tribal governments to address environmental justice issues as authorized by California Code of Regulations Title 27, Division 1, Chapter 3, Article 1. However, organizations that are tax-exempt under the 501(c)(4) section of the federal Internal Revenue Code, and individuals are not eligible for grant funding. The EJ Small Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis. Two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) in grant funds are available for this grant cycle. Projects may be funded with a maximum amount of \$20,000 per project. For more information or to obtain an application package, please visit <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/EnvJustice/Funding/SmallGrants.htm>, or contact: Ms. Malinda Dumisani by e-mail at dumisani@calepa.ca.gov, or by telephone at (916) 445-9480. The deadline to apply is **October 14, 2005**.

SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EACH MONTH:

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)

Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed is a groundbreaking exhibit that examines how human societies have recognized or ignored—and solved or failed to solve—key environmental issues, including those that concern contemporary global society. A dynamic collage of images, graphics, and live interviews asks the visitor to consider the environmental challenges facing Southern California, and how decisions today may shape its future. **Collapse?** exhibits at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, located at 900 Exposition Boulevard in Los Angeles. For more information, call (213) 763-DINO, or visit www.nhm.org. Ends **January 16, 2006**.



Encounters: The Fur Trade at the Museum of the American West Using computer media, hands-on sets, interactive displays, and rich eyewitness accounts,

this fascinating and unique exhibit depicts the political, environmental, and often disastrous consequences of trade between indigenous peoples and the new explorers of the American West, as the latter ventured to capitalize on the richest of America's natural resources. Runs through **October 8, 2006** at the Museum of the American West, located at 4700 Western Heritage Way in Griffith Park. For more information, call (323) 667-2000.

Adventure with a Ranger Saturdays and Sundays in the California State Parks



Join the Park Service at Point Mugu State Park on Saturday at 9 am, or at Leo Carrillo State Park on Sundays at 9 am, to explore these California State Parks. Participants meet at the entrance stations. For more information, call the California State Park office for directions and information at (805) 488-1827. Free.

Sundays at the River! Join Friends of the Los Angeles River (FoLAR) on the third Sunday each month through November. "Down by the River" walks are non-strenuous and open to all ages. Tours are free to FoLAR members with a suggested contribution of \$5 for non-members. Rain cancels. For more information call FoLAR at (323) 223-0585, or visit www.folar.org.



Cabrillo Marine Aquarium's Special Exhibits: Did You Sea? and Seventy Years and Counting Back

when bread was 8 cents a loaf and gas cost 10 cents a gallon, a retired dentist took over a collection of marine life collected by L.A. City Lifeguards that was moved to the Cabrillo Beach Bathhouse in 1935. What started as a card table display on Venice Beach back in the early 1930s has blossomed into a world-renowned educational aquarium. *Seventy Years and Counting* highlights the 70-year growth of Cabrillo Marine Mu-

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.

seum and Aquarium in a special exhibit on display for six months. *Did You Sea?* is a photograph exhibit highlighting the beauty of Southern California marine life. Both exhibits are available for viewing at the Aquarium, located at 3720 Stephen White Drive in San Pedro. For additional information, contact CMA at (310) 548-7562, or visit www.cabrilloaq.org. The exhibits run through **January 6, 2006**. Free.

THIS MONTH:

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)



2005 World Festival Of Sacred Music A powerful coalition of arts, faith, cultural, community, and environmental groups make up the largest citywide festival in Los Angeles, offering forty-three events over sixteen days in venues across the Los Angeles region from

THIS MONTH: (continued)

September 17th to October 2nd. From the throat singers of Tuva, Siberia to music from the Czech Republic, Korea, Thailand, Mexico, and the magnificent diversity of Los Angeles artists - the Festival provides opportunities to cross boundaries of religion, class, culture, race, and language, to share cultural traditions and to contemplate spiritual, ethical and ecological questions. The 43 events in the Festival are an invitation to witness music both familiar and new. Concert ticket prices vary. For more information, go to festivalofsacredmusic.org, or call (310) 825-0507. Sponsored by the UCLA Center for Intercultural Performance, Earthways Foundation, and the Foundation for World Arts.



83rd Annual Los Angeles County Fair

Los Angeles County celebrates its 83rd Fair with carnival rides and games 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 9 through October 2 at the Fairplex located at 1101 W. McKinley in Pomona. Sponsored by Los Angeles County. For more information, visit the Fair's website lacountyfair.com or call (909) 623-3111. Ride metrolink to the Fair! Visit www.lacountyfair.com/2005/generalinformation/metrolink.asp.

Sat, Sept 10

Channel Islands Adventure: San Miguel Island, the Landing of Cabrillo Cabrillo Marine Aquarium is offering a special Channel Island Adventure to San Miguel Island on Saturday, September 10, 2005. CMA's Director Emetrius John Olguin will direct a reenactment of the 1542 landing of Portuguese explorer Juan Cabrillo and hike to the historical marker commemorating Cabrillo. Passengers will board the high speed catamaran, the Islander, in Ventura for an early morning crossing of the Santa Barbara Channel. During the crossing, staff will guide passengers in spotting marine mammals, birds and other animals of the channel. Board the boat in Ventura at 7:30 am on September 10 and return at approximately 6 pm. Fee. \$100 (\$91 for CMA Friends members) Pre-registration required. Note: Moderate physical agility is required of passengers to board skiffs for the shore landing. For more information please call (310) 548-7562.



Sat, Sept 24

National Public Lands Day 2005 This year's traditional planting season kick-off will take place on two national forests, planting trees on burned or beetle-damaged areas throughout Southern California. Join TreePeople and the U.S. Forest Service for a National Public Lands Day reforestation project from 9 am to 2 pm at the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests. For information contact Tom Persons at (818) 623-4846 or email tpersons@treepeople.org. Free.

Campus Forester Training for Teachers and School Administrators During this one-day training, teachers will receive a training workbook that includes everything they need to know to complete a campus tree planting. The training will cover logistics, use of the teacher curriculum, tree selection, tree site selection and more! TreePeople will guide participants through every part of the campus greening project, working with local volunteers to organize a fun-filled planting event and continuous tree care. For more information call Rachel Dawson at (818) 623-4843. The training takes place from 9 am to 3 pm. Location to be announced.

NEXT MONTH: (check with event sponsors)

All Month Long

Ecological Restoration Class: A College Level Class Madrona Marsh Preserve, 3201 Plaza Del Amo, Torrance 2 pm to 4 pm. Tuesdays October 4, 11, 18 and 25. Call (310) 32MARSH for more information.

Sun, Oct 9

Second Sunday Science: Fossils Chuck Herzig will have samples from the El Camino Science Department collection to introduce fossils to families. \$5 per person or \$10 per family. For more information call the Nature Center at (310) 782-3989 or Friends of Madrona Marsh at (310) 32MARSH. Madrona Marsh Preserve Nature Center is located at 3201 Plaza Del Amo in Torrance. The event takes place from 2 pm to 4 pm.

(Lights, Power, Action...Continued from page 1)

discussion about the impact of a simulated terrorist attack on a major source of oil such as Nigeria. Former CIA Director Jim Woolsey, Governor Pete Wilson, Congresswoman Jane Harman, and others role-played as leaders of the National Security Council to discuss the impacts of the attack, such as the doubling and tripling of gasoline prices by the end of the week, and the alternative transportation solutions for Americans. As they engaged in the simulation, they came to the conclusion that there were no viable alternative energy sources in place yet because of a lack of infrastructure, and that America had to invest in an infrastructure for alternative fuels and energy.



Several automotive manufacturers brought their latest fuel cell vehicles for display, such this Toyota Fuel Cell station wagon.

In the Expo's press conference, former CIA Director James Woolsey underscored the contributions of alternative energy businesses and organizations to the environment and to national security. The Expo was presented by Global Green USA, the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, Securing America's Future Energy in cooperation with Congresswoman Jane Harman. For more information on alternative energy vehicles, visit Glogal Green USA Website at www.globalgreen.org.

Carpool Lanes Now Allow Single Occupants in Clean and Efficient Vehicles



California's new law authorizes single occupant HOV lane access to the cleanest and most efficient hybrid and alternative fuel vehicles.

AB 2628, authored by Assemblymember Pavley, D-Woodland Hills and sponsored by Treasurer Phil Angelides and the Schwarzenegger Administration, allows hybrid electric vehicles that meet tough emissions and fuel efficiency standards, access to California's high occupancy vehicle (HOV), or carpool, lanes regardless of the number of people in the vehicle. President Bush's signing of the federal transportation bill on August 10, 2005 will allow single occupant drivers in high fuel efficient, low

emission vehicles to use HOV lanes.

Eligible vehicles must meet California's advanced technology partial zero-emission vehicle (AT PZEV) standard for criteria pollutant emissions, and achieve 45 miles-per-gallon or better in highway fuel economy. Current vehicles that meet specific standards are the Honda Civic Hybrid, Honda Insight, and Toyota Prius. Vehicles using alternative fuel such as compressed natural gas that does not result in evaporative emissions can qualify without meeting the above requirements as long as they are certified to California's Super Ultra Low Emissions Vehicle (SULEV) standard. Pavley's bill expires in 2007 and the total number of qualifying vehicles is set at 75,000 to ensure the traffic congestion benefits of HOV lanes is guarded.

To take advantage of this new program, vehicles must display labels issued by the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). The application form, REG 1000, is available on the DMV's web site (www.dmv.ca.gov). Mail the completed form along with a fee of \$8 to DMV headquarters. The labels, are awarded on a first come first served basis, and will be mailed to the applicant from Sacramento. Applicants residing in the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area must also submit a form issued by the Bay Area Toll Authority proving the vehicle is enrolled in FasTrak, the automated vehicle identification system used on Bay Area bridges. Information regarding qualifying vehicles is listed on ARB's website <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/carpool/carpool.htm> or by calling (800) 242-4450.



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*.

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 and E-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 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

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