

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.

October is International Walk-to-School Month October 2-6 is California Rideshare Week

This year, promote healthy and safe transportation such as walking and biking, by participating in the USA Walk-to-School Day on October 4, 2006 as part of the 1st Annual International Walk-to-School Month.



Walking or biking to school is a simple way to stay healthy and alleviate the stresses associated with driving. The month-long event is part of an international effort to provide communities with the opportunity to focus on the importance of physical activity, safety, and air quality, often becoming a catalyst for on-going efforts to increase safe walking and bicycling all of the time.

In addition, October 2-6 is California Rideshare Week. Reduce your impact on the environment by helping to reduce the amount of cars on the road — car-pool! The Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) is at the forefront of innovations and efforts to battle smog and congestion by providing commuters with efficient alternatives. MTA has resources to help find fellow car-poolers, as well as a variety of incentive programs to encourage participation in traffic alleviation.

For more information on MTA rideshare services and incentive programs, visit http://www.metro.net/riding_metro/commute_services/share.htm.

Inside this issue:

California to Regulate Greenhouse Gas Emissions	2
Alternative Fuel Outreach	2
California Recycles Half of Its Trash	3
2007 Air Quality Management Plan	3
California Creates Marine Havens	3
Grants	4
Calendar of Events	5-6

Bolsa Chica Wetlands and the Pacific Meet Again



For the first time in more than a century, the Bolsa Chica Ecological Preserve has been reunited with the Pacific Ocean. In August, bulldozers pushed aside the remaining mounds of beach sand that lay between them to re-establish the flow of ocean water that had been cut off by members of a duck hunting club in 1899. It was the most significant and visible step in the ambitious 30-year effort to revive the degraded wetlands and transform them into a major wildlife sanctuary, capping a three-year, \$147 million state project to reclaim a portion of the 880 acre wetlands that for years had been used for oil drilling.

Before the restoration, only freshwater from urban runoff and flood channels had been able to drain into the marshlands, with the ocean blocked from reaching that area. Now linked together, the ocean will provide a myriad of additional marine life and migratory birds to the area. The wetlands are al-

("Bolsa Chica Wetlands" ... Continued on page 7)

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@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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California to Regulate Greenhouse Gas Emissions

In a bill passed by state legislature, California will become the first state to impose a limit on all industrial greenhouse gas emissions, with a goal to reduce carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions 25% by 2020. Monitored by the California Air Resources Board, the program will go into effect in 2012, driven by a market mechanism of cap-and-trading; firms would be allowed to buy, sell or trade emission credits with one another as an alternative to making their own reductions if considered to be too costly or technologically difficult. Additional to the market-based incentive, regulators will be given the authority to enforce emissions limits via financial penalties.

A rise in temperature of 2-3 degrees would have the capacity to melt the Sierra Nevada snowpack earlier in the year, leading to potential flooding in the Central Valley and compromising the long-term water supply of cities and farms. California is the world's 12th largest emitter of greenhouse gases, and the new program will reduce the state's

total carbon emissions by an estimated 124 million tons.

Critics argue that the new imposed regulations will discourage companies from entering or remaining in California by increasing their amount of costs; others argue that emissions standards should be addressed at a national, rather than a state, level. However, supporters of the law say that the program would increase demand for technological innovations to develop new and more efficient energy resources, expanding an entire sector of economy to new jobs, giving California the capacity to become the leader in the development of innovative energy sources.

For additional information, visit <http://www.climatechange.ca.gov>.

Alternative Fuels Outreach

Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young Concert at the Hollywood Bowl

The Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young (CSN&Y) tour invited the Los Angeles Clean Cities Coalition and other environmental and social organizations to perform public outreach to more than 15,000 concert goers at the Hollywood Bowl on July 31, 2006. The Los Angeles Clean Cities Coalition is part of a national network of Clean Cities coalitions, recognized by the U.S. Department of Energy as promoting and implementing the use of alternative fuels and alternative fuel vehicles.



The LA Clean Cities Coalition is coordinated through the City of Los Angeles Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) and chaired by Detrich B. Allen, General Manager of EAD. The coalition is composed mostly of City of L.A. government fleet representatives. L.A. City government fleets operate over 2,200 alternative fuel vehicles. At the concert, EAD distributed literature and informed the concert attendees about alternative fuel progress in the City of Los Angeles.

The entire CSN&Y tour bus fleet runs on 100 percent biodiesel. Biodiesel is a renewable fuel that is manufactured from vegetable oils, cellulose or animal fat materials.

The CSN&Y tour is working with the Guacamole Fund (GF) and local Clean Cities coalitions to coordinate this type of outreach at each of their 2006 tour destinations. GF is a non-profit organization that assists with activities that serve, publicize, and raise consciousness about issues that are important and timely to environmental and social progress.



California Now Recycles Half of Its Trash



California has finally achieved its goal of reducing landfill waste by 50%, thanks to diligent recycling by residents and businesses. The milestone culminates a 16-year campaign by the state to persuade people to separate recyclables out of the trash. In 2005, a total of 88 million tons of solid waste was recycled for a 52% recycling rate. As a result, no new landfills have opened in California in a decade.

The state passed AB939, a landmark law in 1989 mandating that communities establish waste-management plans for residents and businesses that would ultimately divert at least 50% of all recyclable trash from landfills. The law was considered a national model that other states have since adopted. California was supposed to reach the goal in 2000, but preliminary data shows that the goal wasn't reached until last year.

Officials attribute the rise to the many businesses that either agreed, or were required to recycle. Increasingly, businesses are realizing the cost-savings associated with recycling and that many consumers prefer to patronize companies viewed as environmentally friendly.

For more information, visit <http://www.recycle.ca.gov/50Percent>.

Draft of 2007 Air Quality Management Plan to be Released this Month

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) is currently in the process of developing the draft 2007 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) and is anticipating release of the draft plan for public review in late October 2006. The 2007 AQMP is an update to the previous plan adopted in 2003, and will contain control measures designed to achieve and maintain the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for criteria pollutants in the South Coast Air Basin. This AQMP will address attainment of the new 8-hour ozone and fine particulate matter (PM 2.5) standards and the significant impact of mobile source emissions, including goods movement-related emissions.

Upon release of the draft AQMP, the SCAQMD plans to conduct a series of public meetings to ensure awareness of the regional air quality challenge and to solicit input on the plan. For more information on the 2007 AQMP, visit the SCAQMD website at <http://www.aqmd.gov/aqmp/AQMPintro.htm>.

California Creates Marine Havens

The California Fish and Game Commission (CFGF) recently placed severe restrictions on fishing across nearly 18% of the waters off Central California, beginning the nation's first network of marine reserves next to a heavily populated coastline. The restricted areas will be composed of a network of 29 marine protected areas, stretching from Santa Barbara to Santa Cruz counties, covering approximately 200 square miles of state waters.

About half are reserves that forbid any fishing; the other protected areas ban commercial fishing or impose other restrictions. The areas span from Point Sur along the Big Sur coast to Vandenberg Air Force Base near Lompoc.

The set of reserves, more than six years in the making, is expected to be a model for additional reserves to be created along the entire California coast to help depleted fish populations rebound. Southern California waters, from Point Conception in western Santa Barbara County to the Mexican border, will be the next region in this innovative approach to ocean management.

Marine reserves represent the most restrictive effort to revive plummeting fish stocks, some of which, experts say, have fallen by as much as 95% in recent decades. Regulations that limit the number of various types of fish that can be caught have failed to stave off the decline marine scientists fear could

("Marine Havens" ... Continued on page 7)

\$ \$ \$ **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES** \$ \$ \$

Visit <http://www.lacity.org/ead> for more grant opportunities.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Watershed Grants The EPA plans to award up to \$19 million in grants to help clean up and restore the nation's waterways. The focus will be on supporting community-based approaches and strengthening local capacity to protect and clean up water resources. Capacity-building grants provide for education and training and implementation-grants involve actions such as protection and preservation. EPA will evaluate and rank submissions based on criteria outlined in each notice. Watershed organizations receive the awards based on how likely they are to achieve environmental results in a relatively short time. Proposals must reach the EPA by **October 16, 2006**, for capacity-building grants and **November 15, 2006**, for project-implementation grants. For more information visit <http://www.epa.gov/twg>.

The 2006 President's Environmental Youth Awards



Since 1971, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has sponsored the President's Environmental Youth Awards. The program recognizes young people across America for projects

which demonstrate their commitment to the environment. Young people in all fifty states and the U.S. territories are invited to participate in the program. Projects submitted in the past have covered a wide range of subject areas including environmental science projects, recycling programs in schools and communities, construction of nature preserves, major tree planting programs, videos, skits, and newsletters created by students that focused on environmental issues. To be eligible to compete, a student or group of students, sponsored by an adult, must submit to their local EPA regional office evidence of a completed project as defined in the President's Environmental Youth Award application, as well as a completed application. The application deadline is **October 31, 2006**. For more information and to download an application, visit <http://epa.gov/enviroed/awards.html>.

Humane Teen of the Year The Humane Society of the United States presents the Humane Teen of the Year Award in recognition to a teenager (in grades 7 – 12) who has made a significant contribution to

animal protection, such as direct work on behalf of animals, aiding in the passage of humane legislation, or educating others to be kind to animals. The award consists of a \$300 cash prize and a feature story in www.humaneteen.org. The application is due **November 15, 2006**. For more information, and to fill out an application, visit http://www.humaneteen.org/HTYear_Form.asp.

The Padi Foundation encourages and supports underwater science, environmental projects, and education. The foundation will fund and assist projects that will enrich mankind's understanding of the aquatic environment and encourage sensitivity to and protection of the delicate ecological balance of underwater life. It also will fund projects to increase understanding of sport diving physics and physiology that will benefit the general diving public and add to the scientific understanding of man's ability to survive in the underwater environment. For more information, visit <http://www.padifoundation.org>. The deadline is **February 15, 2007**.

The Ben & Jerry's Foundation offers competitive grants to non-profit, grassroots organizations throughout the United States that facilitate progressive social change by addressing the underlying conditions of societal and environmental problems. Grants range from under \$1000 - \$15,000. For more information as well as a complete list of guidelines and criteria, visit <http://www.benjerry.com/foundation>. Applications are accepted throughout the whole year.

The Fields Pond Foundation provides financial assistance to nature and land conservation organizations that are community-based and that serve to increase environmental awareness by involving local residents in conservation issues. The foundation hopes to nurture conservation efforts by making grants under the priorities of land acquisition, assistance in establishment of endowments, enhancement of public access to natural resources, and education programs and publications. Grants range from \$500 to \$25,000. Multiple-year grants are also considered. Applications are accepted throughout the year. For more information visit <http://www.fieldspond.org>.

OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ONGOING:

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)

Through Nov 5



Spider Pavilion

Shake off your fears and join the Natural History museum in welcoming their newest exhibit. Learn that these creatures aren't spooky at all. See amazing Orb Weaver spiders create fascinating webs, and then see what happens at feeding time! Adults \$3; Students and Seniors \$2; Children \$1. The museum is located at 900 Exposition Boulevard in Los Angeles. Call (213) 763-DINO or visit <http://www.nhm.org/> for more information.

Through Jan 7, 2007

"Chrysanthemums on the Eastern Hedge," at the Huntington Library



The art of garden building in China has long been considered an artistic endeavor, encompassing the composition of scenic views, landscapes, and floral colors. The artworks in this exhibition illuminate some of the hidden cultural meanings that are richly embedded in the Huntington's Library's garden. The exhibit includes a collection of maps, porcelain, and paintings which depict Chinese culture through artistic representations of horticulture. The Huntington Library is located at 1151 Oxford Road in San Marino. For more information visit <http://www.huntington.org> or call (626) 405-2100.



Key to the Sea

is Heal the Bay's marine environmental education program for teachers and elementary school children. Participants learn about watershed stewardship, stormwater pollution prevention, and marine conservation - all accomplished through fun, hands-on, engaging educational activities culminating in a field trip to the beach! Teachers receive professional development training before the field trip along with standards-based curriculum, all for free! For more information visit <http://www.healthebay.org/education/> or call (310) 451-1500.

Smart Gardening Workshops

Los Angeles County residents can reduce yard waste and improve their lawn and gardens through the Los Angeles County's Department of Public Works Smart Gardening Workshops. The workshops provide information on composting, grasscycling, water-wise and fire-wise gardening through demonstrations and hands-on teaching. No reservations are required. At most of the workshops, interested residents can purchase backyard composting bins at discounted prices. For more information and to obtain a schedule, visit <http://www.smartgardening.com> or call 1 (888) CLEAN LA.



Free Tours at Bolsa Chica are available to the public on the first Saturday of each month. Tours meet at the south lot of the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve at 3842 Warner Avenue

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, call listed event contacts to verify information.

City of Los Angeles Environmental Affairs Commission Meetings

The City of Los Angeles Environmental Affairs Commission (EAC) meets the third Thursday of each month in City Hall, 200 N. Spring Street in Los Angeles. The General Public is invited to attend. Commission Agendas, minutes, meeting times and places are posted at http://www.lacity.org/EAD/EADWeb-NewsEvents/updateagenda_&_minutes.htm

Commissioners:

Misty Sanford—President
Alina Bokde—Vice President
Maria Armoudian—Member
Teresa Villegas—Member
Joyce Perkins—Member

in Huntington Beach. Visitors who arrive between 9 and 10:30 am will be led on a 1 1/2 hour tour by trained tour guides who will discuss bird identification, ecology, endangered species, and early history. No reservations are required. For more info, visit www.amigosdebolsachica.org or call (714) 840-1575.

THIS MONTH:

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)

Thurs, October 5, 12, 19, 26

California and the Ocean As Californians living on the coast, it is especially important to be ocean literate. This class will explore how each of us impacts the ocean and how the ocean affects us on a daily basis. Each of four sessions will feature a variety of environmentalists, scientists, environmental managers, and policy makers exploring the Pacific Ocean. Learn about the Pacific's environmental setting and geologic characteristics, as well as alternative futures for California's coastal and ocean habitats and ecosystems. Located at the Aquarium of the Pacific's conference facility at 320 Golden Shore, Suite 100 in Long Beach. Visit <http://www.aquariumofpacific.org> or call (562) 590-3100 for more information.

Sat, October 7**Native Plant Horticulture**

From 10am-12:30pm, the Theodore Payne Foundation presents the basics of gardening with California native plants including pruning, proper watering, soil analysis, location evaluation, as well as the fundamentals of garden design. \$65/non-members, \$50/members. For further information or to reserve and pay for a class, call (818) 768-1802 or visit <http://www.theodorepaynefoundation.org> and click on "events".

Wed, October 11**New Bird Walk**

Join expert bird-finder Bob Shanman of Wild Birds Unlimited at the Madrona Marsh Preserve Nature Center in a walk to look for migrating bird species and birds feeding on the sunflower seeds. See some of the 240 species that have been observed and recorded at the preserve. The walk begins at 8am. The preserve is located at 3201 Plaza Del Amo, Torrance. For more detail, contact the Nature Center at (310) 782-3989.

Sat, October 14

Trail Maintenance From 8am-11am, volunteer your time to participate in light trail maintenance and exotic plant removal for the Eaton Canyon Nature Center. Please bring work gloves, heavy tools, and a hat. Meet in front of the Nature Center located at 11750 N. Altadena Drive in Pasadena. For more information, visit <http://www.ecnca.org/Information/Events/TrailMaintenance/TrailMaintenance.htm> or call (626) 398-5420.

Sat & Sun, October 21-22**Kidspace Pumpkin Festival**

Kidspace Children's Museum is proud to present the 12th Annual Pumpkin Festival, featuring rides, games, crafts, food, and entertainment for the entire family. Festivities include children's costume parades, live stage performances, opportunity drawings, and much more. The festival will take place in the grassy horseshoe and park area surrounding Kidspace Children's



Museum, located at 480 N. Arroyo Blvd. in Pasadena. Admission is free. For more information visit <http://www.kidspacemuseum.org/calendar/pumpkin.asp> or call (626) 449-9144.

Sat & Sun, October 28-29

Boo at the Zoo The Los Angeles Zoo is transformed into themed areas for trick-or-treaters, with fun performers, treats, crafts, music and creepy crawlers for a not-so-scary weekend for all. From 10am-4pm. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. The Los Angeles Zoo is located at 5333 Zoo Drive in Los Angeles. For more information, visit <http://www.lazoo.org> or call (323) 644-4200.

**NEXT MONTH:****Sun, November 19**

Trash to Treasure Come and put the three environmental R's into practice with games, crafts, and activities that Reduce, Reuse and Recycle at the STAR Eco Station in celebration of America Recycles Day 2006! The STAR ECO Station is an internationally award-winning non-profit environmental education and exotic wildlife rescue center, dedicated to the mission of preservation through education. It is located at 10101 W. Jefferson Blvd. in Culver City. Call (310) 842-8060 for more information.



("Bolsa Chica Wetlands" ... Continued from page 1)

ready home to approximately 200 species of birds, including threatened ones such as the California least tern and the light-footed clapper rail.

Once slated to be developed into a marina, and then an oceanfront housing tract, the wetlands were spared by members of the preservation group, Amigos de Bolsa Chica, who lobbied for both financial and political support to restore the marshland. Eight state and federal agencies were involved in the project, and all called it the largest and most ambitious restoration of coastal wetlands in the history of California, where 95 percent of saltwater marshes have been given over to development. The obstacles to overcome in seeing the project through were steep, mostly due in part to the wetlands' role as an active oil field; soil potentially contaminated with oil-drilling residue had to be cleaned up, and Aera Energy LLC, the owner of the remaining oil wells, expressed concern over opening the active oil fields in the marsh to seawater. Although 65 oil wells have been removed thus far, there are still 55 remaining oil wells within a 250 acre section of the wetlands that will continue to be drilled until the operation is no longer economically viable.

As vital filters for urban runoff and a habitat for a multitude of species – many of which are endangered or threatened – the wetlands hold an important role in the ecosystem. Thanks to the revenue generated by state bonds, the \$25 million provided by the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, and the support of volunteers and the Amigos de Bolsa Chica, the dream was accomplished. The wetlands will continue to be used as a resource for ocean and marine life education.

For more information on the Bolsa Chica Wetlands restoration project, or on how you can get involved, visit <http://www.fws.gov/bolsachica> or <http://www.amigodebolsachica.org>.

("Marine Havens" ... Continued from page 3)

lead to a collapse of marine life. The reserves, by making all fishing off-limits, are designed to protect every marine creature in them — from the biggest bass to the smallest snail.

The reserves are designed to provide sanctuary for rockfish and halibut, lobster, abalone and shellfish that remain in the same area as opposed to albacore tuna, salmon, sardines and other pelagic fish that swim great distances in the ocean. Being a safe haven, the waters would provide a habitat for fish to grow older. These older, larger fish can produce many more eggs than their smaller counterparts and thus, do more to help restock areas that have suffered from excessive fishing.

The protected areas are also expected to benefit the endangered sea otter and other imperiled marine mammals by increasing available food, while also offering protection for undersea habitat, including kelp forests, rocky reefs, sandy seafloors, and deep ocean canyons.

After years of fighting the legislation, many fishermen subdued their disagreements and supported the initiative, adding that although areas isolated as coastal reserves are protected from excessive fishing, they will still be vulnerable to the assault of coastal pollution. In order to avoid low-oxygen dead zones, urban and farm runoff, as well as sewage discharges that force-feed the oceans toxic chemicals and nutrients, must be halted so as to not stimulate growth of harmful algae.

Only about 1% of the world's oceans are off limits to fishing. But marine reserves have been popping up all over the world as scientists, regulators — and some fishermen — have recognized that traditional catch limits have failed to halt steady declines of fish. More than two-thirds of commercially important fish are fully exploited or in steep decline. The new network of reserves should function to act like a "safety net" to protect remnant fish populations against catastrophic collapse, ensuring the opportunity to continue healthy fishing throughout the future.

For more information visit the CFGC's website at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov>.



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) 430-5100

Bulky Item Pick-up

Recogida de articulos grandes

L.A. City Bureau of Sanitation
(800) 773-2489

Hazardous Waste/e-Waste

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
Los Angeles County Lead Program
(800) LA-4-LEAD

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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