

An Environmental Affair

Volume 18, Issue 8

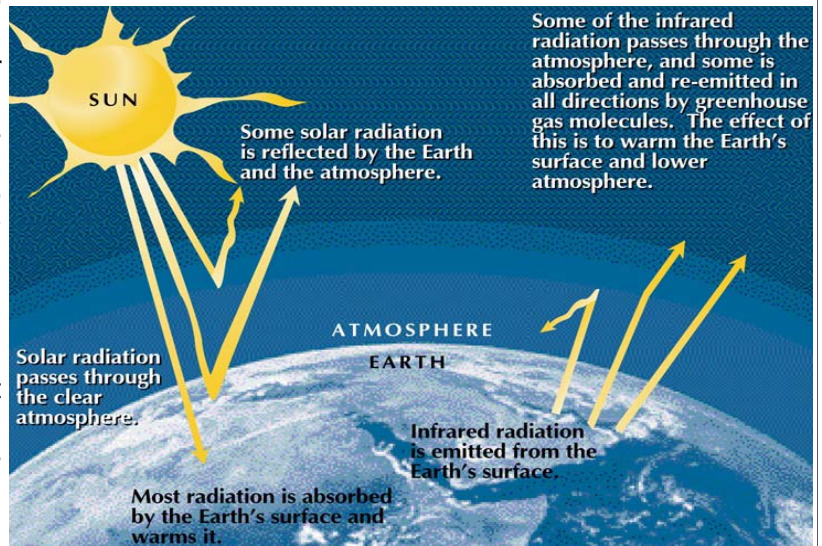
August 2007

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.

Climate Change 101

With this issue, and in conjunction with the City's release of its Green LA Climate Action Plan, the Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) begins a regular monthly feature on climate change. In this newsletter, the Department will publish its updates on the City's efforts to reduce and respond to global warming, provide in-depth information on specific emission reduction programs, and give tips on how you can reduce your carbon emissions. We begin this month with a tutorial on climate change and a few suggestions on reducing harmful emissions.

When sunlight enters our atmosphere, some of its energy is absorbed by land masses and



Inside this issue:

Nation Says Goodbye to Lady Bird Johnson: First Lady and Environmentalist

2

Pollution Prevention Week
September 17-21

2

City of LA Interim Ordinance Bans New Fast Food Restaurants in Two Districts

3

Next Month, Remember the Importance of Biodiversity

3

Grant Opportunities

4

Calendar of Events

5-6

oceans, and some is reflected back into space as heat (or infrared radiation). In a balanced system, the inputs and outputs are about the same, so the earth's temperature remains relatively stable. While there are naturally occurring climate cycles, human activities have upset earth's system. The combustion of fossil fuels (in power plants, vehicles, and equipment), deforestation, and other processes have helped accelerate the greenhouse effect. The result is increasing temperatures ("global warming") and changing weather patterns or "climate change."

The most prevalent of the greenhouse gases, carbon dioxide (CO₂), results from the combustion of fossil fuels (diesel, gasoline, natural gas, landfill/digester gases) in industrial uses, stationary equipment, and vehicles. CO₂ is also used in fire suppression systems. Naturally-occurring CO₂ rotates between our atmosphere and living organisms, and between surface water (oceans, rivers, lakes) and the atmosphere. According to scientific research, once heat-trapping emissions enter the atmosphere, they can remain there for many years. Carbon dioxide, for example, lasts about 100 years. The California Energy Commission (CEC) has stated that the atmospheric concentration of CO₂ has increased more than 30 percent above pre-industrial levels.

(Climate Change 101...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@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.

Printed on recycled paper.
PLEASE POST

Nation Says Goodbye to Lady Bird Johnson: First Lady and Environmentalist 1912-2007

In her public life, Lady Bird Johnson almost always talked about the importance of wildflower conservation. Since 1964, beautification had been the main focus of her legacy. She had been brought up in rural Texas, where much of her time was spent outdoors. As First Lady, she made several trips out west, to the Rocky Mountains, and to Utah. In 1964, she visited Indian reservations where she told audiences that 'natural beauty' needed to be protected. In an interview, she once emphasized that beautification meant "clean water, clean air, clean roadsides, safe waste disposal and preservation of valued old landmarks as well as great parks and wilderness areas."



The First Lady's conservation legacy lives on at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, which she helped found with actress Helen Hayes in 1982. Today, the Center does much to preserve on its acreage rare species of wildflowers, some of which have had habitat loss. In addition to consulting on restoration projects, the Center also holds symposia for conservation development, a method of developing land for housing in a way that preserves open space for future generations (involving building homes in groups with smaller lots, protecting natural features, and protecting open space for use by all the residents). The Center also promotes native plant green roofs, and has listed nine species of native plants that can be used.

The First Lady had a concern that the richness of nature needed to be passed on to future generations. When asked how, with so little exposure to the outdoors, children could be expected to take good care of the environment, Mrs. Johnson answered, "The problem ... is very real. I guess television has some responsibility. Our teachers have some responsibility. And, parents, the most. If they don't become interested, they will be the poorer." More information on the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center can be found by visiting www.wildflower.org.

Pollution Prevention Week September 17-21

This year's pollution prevention week will be September 17th-21st. The week originated in California in 1992 and has grown so much in popularity that it has become a nationwide effort.

Pollution prevention week began and continues to be a week which is focused solely on pollution and the environmental problems that it causes. The week is an opportunity for businesses and the general public to get involved in environmental issues and to work together to improve environmental quality and prevent pollution.

During this week, everyone is encouraged to do their part in the environmental process. Politicians as well as past presidents have supported Pollution Prevention week and have participated in various events. Participants are not only expected to tell others about the week, but also to incorporate eco-friendly activities into their daily routines.

For tips on how you can participate in Pollution Prevention Week, please visit <http://www.p2.org>.

City of LA Interim Ordinance Bans New Fast Food Restaurants in Two Council Districts

With studies and national concerns rising about transfat in diets, the Los Angeles City Council has adopted an Interim Control Ordinance (ICO) prohibiting new fast food restaurants from opening up in certain areas designated in the West Adams-Baldwin Hills-Leimert, South Los Angeles, and Southeast Los Angeles Community Plans.



The ICO will be in effect for one year with two possible six month extensions by Council Resolution, or until regulatory controls are adopted regarding fast food. The City follows other municipalities in their efforts to reduce the proliferation of food package littering, the establishment of fast food restaurants in many low-income areas where food security is an issue, and the problem of childhood obesity.

The ICO aims to address the problem of fast food package littering that comes from Styrofoam and paper cups, as well the introduction of healthy foods to fight the fast food proliferation in low-income areas. To read about the motion, visit http://clkrep.lacity.org/councilfiles/07-1658_mot_5-25-07.pdf.

Next Month, Remember the Importance of Biodiversity

September 2007 is Biodiversity Month, which serves as a time to celebrate California's rich diversity of life through educational activities and scientific exploration.

What is biodiversity? Biological diversity, or the shorter "biodiversity," simply means the diversity, or variety, of plants and animals and other living things in a particular area or region. For instance, the species that inhabit Los Angeles are different from those in San Francisco, and desert plants and animals have different characteristics and needs than those in the mountains, even though some of the same species can be found in all of those areas. Biodiversity also means the number, or abundance of different species living within a particular region. In practice, "biodiversity" suggests sustaining the diversity of species in each ecosystem as we plan human activities that affect the use of the land and natural resources.

Why is biodiversity important? Everything that lives in an ecosystem is part of the web of life, including humans. Plant, animal, and insect species interact and depend upon one another for what each offers, such as food, shelter, oxygen, and soil enrichment. Maintaining a wide diversity of species in each ecosystem is necessary to preserve the web of life that sustains all living things.

There are numerous groups and foundations throughout Southern California with which the general public may become involved. There also are various educational outlets, such as the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles where one can learn and even experience the rich biodiversity of the area in which we choose to live. Biodiversity related links may be found on the California Biodiversity Counsel homepage at: <http://ceres.ca.gov/biodiv/links.html> and educational as well as recreational events may be found in the *Calendar of Events* section located at the end of this newsletter.

Technical Assistance Needed for Green LA Climate Action Plan

Please be advised that the EAD may solicit technical assistance from consultants over the next several months as we further develop and implement the City's Green LA climate action plan and associated public participation program. Please check our website, www.lacity.org/ead and the City's Business Assistance Virtual Network (BAVN), at www.labavn.org for upcoming notices of proposal opportunities.

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

The Liberty Hill Environmental Justice Grant

This fund gives grants to grassroots organizations that are working to decrease exposure to toxic substances in neighborhoods and workplaces, particularly in low-income areas and communities of color. Groups engaged in community organizing, applied research, policy advocacy, litigation, or popular education are eligible to apply. For more information visit www.libertyhill.org/ejf/. The grant cycle for 2008 begins **August 2007**.

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. For more information, call (310) 451-1567, visit www.thelawrencefoundation.org or e-mail inquiries to info@thelawrencefoundation.org. For December grant cycle, letters of inquiry are due **September 1, 2007**.

The Healthy Sprouts Awards These awards support school garden programs that use the garden to teach about nutrition and the issue of hunger in the United States. In this grant cycle, awards will be presented to 25 schools or organizations. Each will receive a \$200 gift certificate to Gardener's Supply Company and a curriculum package from the National Gardening Association. For more information, visit <http://www.kidsgardening.com/healthysprouts.asp>. Applications are due **October 15, 2007**.

The non-profit **SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund** focuses on species research, animal rescue and rehabilitation, habitat protection and conservation education. The Fund supports solution-oriented projects that benefit both wildlife and people throughout the U.S. and around the world. Expense limits for salary, compensation, and indirect costs. The Fund has no set minimum or maximum grant amount. Applications are accepted year-round. For more information, visit http://www.swbg-conservationfund.org/get_involved.html.

Sierra Club Angeles Chapter Conservation Grant

The purpose of this conservation grant is to further the conservation objectives of the Sierra Club, as proposed by the Chapter's activists, within Angeles Chapter's boundaries. Grants may also be used to assist in international, national, and regional conservation projects of the Club. Grants may be used to fund the activities of other 501 (c)(3) organizations that contribute to the conservation goals and objectives of the Sierra Club. For more information, visit their Conservation Grants website at <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/environmental/ConsGrants.asp>.

The SeaWorld/Busch Gardens/FUJIFilm Environmental Excellence Awards Grants for Students & Teachers Working to Protect & Preserve the Environment 2008

recognizes the outstanding efforts of students and teachers across the country who are working at the grassroots level to protect and preserve the environment. Maximum award: \$10,000. Eligibility: all schools (grades K-12) and community groups. Visit www.swbg-animals.org/conservation-matters/eea/about.htm for more information. The deadline for applying is **November 30, 2007**.

Apprentice Ecologist Initiative The goal is to elevate young people, including disadvantaged and at-risk youth, into leadership roles by engaging them in environmental stewardship projects. A \$500 scholarship will be awarded annually to the author of the top Apprentice Ecologist essay. For more information, visit www.wildernessproject.org

Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement

The John and Alice Tyler Prize is awarded for environmental science, energy and medicine conferring great benefit upon mankind. The Prize is endowed by gifts from the Alice C. Tyler Charitable Trust and the John C. Tyler Trust. The John and Alice Tyler Prize is awarded for environmental science. The University of Southern California is Administrator of the Tyler Prize. The annual award is \$200,000. Deadline: **Sep. 15, 2007**. The official announcement and description of this opportunity may be found on the funding agency's website at <http://www.usc.edu/dept/LAS/tylerprize/> Discipline: Environmental & Life Sciences.

AUGUST CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ONGOING:

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)

LA County Smart Gardening Workshops

County residents are taught how to effectively reduce yard waste and improve their lawn and gardens through Smart Gardening Workshops. These workshops cover all of the program components in a presentation of approximately two hours in length. Residents not only receive step-by-step instructions on how to compost, but are also educated on the benefits and biology of compost. To attend a workshop, visit www.smartgardening.com or call (888) CLEAN LA.



Discovery Carts for Kids

Saturdays, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Kids of all ages can explore the world of nature every Saturday at The Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens. "Discovery Carts" located at the Lily Ponds and in the Japanese Garden welcome budding young botanists with a variety of hands-on learning activities. On the first Saturday of each month, Nature Crafts also are offered near the Entrance Pavilion. There are no reservations required. Free with museum admission (children under 5 enter free). *Activities are subject to cancellation without notice due to inclement weather and/or volunteer availability.* The Huntington Gardens are located at 1151 Oxford Road San Marino, CA 91108, (626) 405-2100. For

more information please visit www.huntington.org

Goose Bumps! The Science of Fear

is a 5,000 square foot traveling exhibition developed by the California Science Center that provides an experiential and holistic view of fear science, examining physiological, neurobiological, and sociological aspects of fear. Engaging activities in Goose Bumps! allow visitors to experience fear in a safe and enjoyable environment, rate their response, understand the science behind the emotion, and reflect upon its personal meaning. The California Science Center is located at 700 State Drive in Exposition Park, Los Angeles. For more information, visit their website at www.californiasciencecenter.org or call the Center at 323-SCIENCE.

Pavilion of Wings at the Natural History Museum



Enter a world of flying butterflies and stroll through a beautifully landscaped temporary exhibit housed at the Museum's South Lawn. Over the summer, thirty different butterfly and moth species will call the Pavilion home. Discover how butterflies interact with the plants and gain a new understanding of various environmental issues. \$3 for adults, \$2 for seniors and students and \$1 for children ages

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.

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

5 to 12. Through September 3, 2007. The Natural History Museum is located at 900 Exposition Boulevard in Los Angeles. For more information, call (213) 763-DINO, or visit their website at www.nhm.org.

Dinosaurs Alive! 3D at the IMAX is a global adventure of science and discovery. Join the world's preeminent paleontologists as they hunt for dinosaur remains, and then experience these gigantic creatures reincarnated on the 7-story IMAX screen in breathtaking 3D. For show

times, call (213) 744-7400, or please visit: www.californiasciencecenter.org/Imax/. IMAX is located at 700 State Drive in Los Angeles.

Star Parties Free public star parties are held monthly with the assistance of the Los Angeles Astronomical Society and the Los Angeles Sidewalk Astronomers at the Griffith Observatory. They are a chance for the whole family to look at the sun, moon, visible planets, and other objects, and to try out a variety of telescopes. The Observatory is located at 2800 East Observatory Road in Griffith Park, but visitors must make shuttle reservations to attend. For more information, visit the Griffith Park's Star Parties Webpage at www.griffith-observatory.org/pstarp.htm or visit the Los Angeles Astronomical Society's webpage at www.laas.org/.

THIS MONTH:

Sat, Aug 4

Million Trees @ LA Zoo Million Trees LA is an initiative launched by the Mayor of Los Angeles, Antonio Villaraigosa. The plan entails planting a million trees in the city of Los Angeles over the next several years. Join the Million Trees effort as they aim to inform the public on the importance of trees and participate in tree-related activities. It is estimated that by planting four trees around your home, you can reduce your summer cooling costs up to 30%! The Los Angeles Zoo is located at 5333 Zoo Avenue in Los Angeles. For more information

about the Million Trees initiative, visit their webpage at www.milliontreesla.org or dial 311.

Sat, Aug 11

Greenscaping Your Company Landscape Currently Southern California's landscape designers, architects, business owners, facility managers, and operations managers are facing potential fresh water shortages. At this event, executive speakers will provide field-tested methods on how to choose among the many irrigation technologies; reduce landscape maintenance costs; and choose the best plant species. This event will be held at the Energy Resource Center, 9240 Downey, CA. For registration information, contact Carolyn Allen at 310-827-2510 or visit the Green Solutions webpage at: www.californiagreensolutions.com/

Sun, Aug 12

Great Tomato Tasting The Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanical Gardens will host a special tomato tasting event from 10am-2:00pm. The event will exhibit many different varieties of tomatoes. Come taste and enjoy all of the tomatoes and figure out which one is your favorite! The Los Angeles Arboretum is located at 301 N. Baldwin Ave in Arcadia. For further information, please visit the Los Angeles County Arboretum's webpage at <http://www.arboretum.org> or call (626) 821-3222.

Sun, Aug 18

Eaton Canyon Bird Walk Bird watching walks are available through the Eaton Canyon Nature Center. The walk is free

to the public and begins at 7am. Participants are to meet at the Eaton Canyon Nature Center. This is a great opportunity to learn about local different bird species and you are encouraged to bring a pair of binoculars! Eaton Canyon Nature Center is located at 1750 N. Altadena Dr. in Pasadena. For more information, please visit Eaton Canyon's Nature Center webpage at <http://www.echnca.org/Information/Events/BirdWalks/BirdWalk.htm> or call (626) 398-5420.

Sat, Aug 25

Nature by Kayak Hosted by the Aquarium of the Pacific, this trip will include instruction on basic kayaking and a naturalist-guided expedition to learn about the plants, geologic features, archaeological sites, marine biology, and fascinating history of the Upper Newport Bay. Both double and single kayaks are available in this off-site class. Nature by kayak is designed to be an introductory bird watching and wildlife observation class. Participants will take part in a kayak excursion while viewing birds and wildlife in their natural habitat. Participants should be prepared for a two-hour low intensity paddle throughout the Bay's Ecological Preserve. Before the trip, participants will be sent a confirmation letter that will include a map to the location and a liability waiver. 9 am to noon. For more information visit the Aquarium of the Pacific's webpage at: www.aquariumofpacific.org/education/programdetails/nature_by_kayak/ or call (562) 590-3100.

(Climate Change 101...Continued from page 1)

A CEC analysis of climate change impacts in California concludes:

- If emissions are not reduced significantly, there is a strong likelihood that the amount of warming toward the end of the century will exceed 3° F.
- Sierra snowpack, which accounts for approximately half of the surface water storage in the State, would decline by 70% to as much as 90% over the next 100 years, threatening California's water supply.
- Climate change will slow progress toward attainment of air quality standards and increase control costs by accelerating chemical processes and raising inversion temperatures, both of which lead to increased emissions during summertime stagnation episodes.
- Higher potential for erosion of California's coastlines and sea water intrusion into the State's Delta and levee system may result as sea levels rise above present levels by as much as 35 inches during the next 100 years.
- Pest infestation and increasing temperatures would make the State's forest resources more vulnerable to fires.
- Rising temperatures will increase electricity demand, especially in the hot summer season.

The City recently released a new climate action plan: *Green LA: An Action Plan to Lead the Nation in Fighting Global Warming*. This plan sets forth a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 35 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2030. A very ambitious goal, but one that the city is ready to meet. The plan describes over fifty actions to reduce these emissions, with the cornerstone being the move by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to 35 percent renewable energy by 2020. Many of the actions are already ongoing. In fact, more than a decade ago, Los Angeles city government began employing a variety of measures, from purchasing alternative fuel cars to retrofitting buildings for greater energy efficiency, to *directly* reduce its own emissions. The City also helps *facilitate* emission reductions in the community, with tree-planting programs, energy efficiency rebates, traffic control systems, and more. Three of these are:

Renewable Energy - The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) continues to aggressively increase its use of renewables to generate electricity. In June 2004, the LADWP Board of Water and Power Commissioners and the City Council adopted a Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) goal of 20% by 2020. In December 2005, the Commissioners agreed to accelerate the 20% renewables goal by seven full years to 2010. The new goal for 2020 is 35% renewables. For every 1 percent increase in renewable energy, LADWP's CO₂ emissions decline by about the same percentage.

Energy Efficiency - Sixty-three City-owned buildings have been retrofitted with more energy efficient lighting and other systems. These retrofits have generated savings of nearly 731,000 kiloWatt hours to date, or the equivalent of a reduction of 502 tons of CO₂. Energy audits will be conducted at all City buildings, with recommendations for additional efficiency retrofits to follow.

Vehicles- The City owns nearly 1,000 hybrid passenger cars, which decreases fuel usage by almost 44% due to improved fuel efficiency.

There is an easy course of action for anyone to take. First, reduce your total electricity usage to save money and reduce CO₂ emissions from power generation and consumption. Electronic equipment that operates with a remote control is always on in order to allow the remote control to operate. When not in use, really turn it off by unplugging it, using a readily-accessible power strip with an on/off switch. Change to compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs in light fixtures that are used the most. CFLs are more energy efficient and last longer than standard incandescent bulbs. LADWP offers rebates for energy efficient equipment, including refrigerators, freezers, pool pumps and motors, dual pane windows, room air conditioners, central air conditioners, and clothes washers. For more information on rebates, please visit at www.ladwp.com, and select "Rebate Programs."



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) 773-2489

Housing and Building Complaints

Las quejas del construccion y albergar

Housing Code Enforcement
(213) 482-0000

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

The City of Los Angeles
Environmental Affairs Department
200 N. Spring Street, Suite 2005
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Presorted
First Class Mail
U.S. Postage Paid
Los Angeles, CA
Permit No. 12932