

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.

San Pedro Bay Ports Clean Air Action Plan

In November 2006, the Los Angeles and Long Beach Boards of Harbor Commissioners voted to approve the San Pedro Bay Ports Clean Air Action Plan – the most comprehensive strategy to cut air pollution and reduce health risks ever produced for a global seaport complex.



This landmark action commits the ports to an aggressive plan to reduce pollution by at least 45 percent in the next five years. The Clean Air Action Plan addresses all port-related emission sources — ships, trains, trucks, terminal equipment and harbor craft. Under the plan, the ports will invest hundreds of millions of dollars in air quality improvement programs along with the local air district, the state, and port-related industries. The plan calls for the ports to eliminate “dirty” diesel trucks from San Pedro Bay cargo terminals within five years by helping to finance a new generation of clean or retrofitted vehicles. It requires extensive use of ship-to-

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Final AQMP to Be Released for Public Review

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) is expected to release its Final Draft Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) in early to mid-February 2007 for public review and comment. This final draft will be preceded by the release of a policy paper in January that will discuss several policy issues and options for resolving them. A preliminary draft AQMP was released in October 2006, with comments due in December. Because of increasingly stringent air quality standards and the inherent difficulty in meeting these requirements, the 2007 AQMP addresses a wide range of air pollution sources and will have a particular emphasis on pollution from vehicles and other mobile sources.

The strategies selected in the AQMP will touch everyone in the basin. The Policy Paper and Final Draft AQMP will be posted on the AQMD's website at www.aqmd.gov. The preliminary draft AQMP and the public comments received to date are currently posted. Public comments on these documents are encouraged. The public workshop schedule will also be posted on the AQMD website. Consideration of the Final 2007 AQMP by the AQMD Governing Board is expected in late April or early May 2007.

For more information, visit <http://www.aqmd.gov>.

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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The Great Backyard Bird Count, February 16–19

This month, the tenth annual Great Backyard Bird Count, sponsored by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, will give everyone a chance to discover the birds in their neighborhood and "Count for the Record." People of all ages are invited to join this event which spans all of the United States and Canada. Participants simply count the highest number of each species they see during an outing or a sitting, and enter their tally on the Great Backyard Bird Count web site at www.birdsource.org/gbbc. Visitors to the web site can also compare their sightings with results from other participants as checklists pour in from throughout the U.S. and Canada.



This year the GBBC, and Audubon and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology are striving to increase the amount of participants. Greater participation, with more checklists submitted, provides more information about bird population trends – and helps to better inform conservation efforts. Last year, participants submitted more than 60,000

checklists – and reported 7.5 million birds overall and 623 different species. The count helped reveal the ongoing range expansion of introduced Eurasian Collared-Doves, and recorded declining numbers of American Crows. For more information, visit <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>.

California Law Restricts Heavy Metals in Electronic Devices Similar to E.U. Standards

To meet the mandates of SB 20 "Electronic Waste Recycling Act, of 2003" the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) announced that beginning on January 1, 2007, a provision of the law will limit the levels of lead, mercury, hexavalent chromium, and cadmium in certain electronic devices. The provision requires the DTSC to mirror aspects of electronic manufacturing regulations of the European Union (EU). The new regulations would ban the sale of electronic devices in California that are prohibited from being sold in the EU due to the presence of certain heavy metals. Electronic devices listed under the provision include covered electronic devices, including televisions, computer monitors, and LCD displays. These listings apply only to devices with a video display of four inches or larger.

Under the provision:

- California's restriction of the use of certain hazardous substances will be consistent with the European Directive (2002/95/EC), but narrower in scope.
- An electronic product that legally can be sold in the EU (one that complies with the requirements of the EU directive) will not be banned from sale in California.
- Electronic devices that are restricted from sale in the EU, but are not covered electronic devices, will not be banned from sale in California even if they exceed one or more of the maximum concentration values.



The law does not require manufacturers to register with the DTSC to track the sale of electronic products meeting the provision. However, manufacturers are required to submit an annual report to the California Integrated Waste Management Board by July 1 for products sold during the previous calendar year. Manufacturers also are required to provide the estimated average amount in milligrams for mercury, cadmium, lead, and hexavalent chromium – including alloys and compounds – and Polybrominated Biphenyls which are used in covered electronic devices, and all of their component parts by product category. For more information on SB 20, visit www.dtsc.ca.gov/.

The Bicycle Kitchen: Cooking Up a Love For Riding

The Bicycle Kitchen is a non-profit organization run by volunteers with a mission to provide a friendly environment in which cyclists of all ages and experience levels can learn about building, maintaining and riding a bike, while creating a sense of community amongst riders. It has become the focal-point of an ever-expanding community of cyclists traveling through the urban streets of Los Angeles.

At the Bicycle Kitchen, you can bring in a bike of your own or select a bike from their collection of community-recycled bikes, and build it as your project. Volunteers work beside you and teach you how to fix it yourself. They provide the workspace, tools, bike stands, recycled and basic parts – all that you need to build or fix your bike.

In an effort to maximize their community outreach, the Bicycle Kitchen workspace is open throughout the week and offers a variety of special-topic workshops. Additionally, Monday nights are weekly ladies-only nights to encourage women of all skill levels to experiment and explore while learning bike mechanics and maintenance in a comfortable atmosphere. There also is outreach toward 12-18 year olds in which, with a \$20 donation, teens are invited to participate in the Bicycle Kitchen's "Earn-a-Bike" program. At the end of the 8-week program, participants will have a bike of their own to keep, basic bike building/maintenance skills and the knowledge to ride their bikes safely.



The Bicycle Kitchen is located at 706 Heliotrope Ave., at Melrose Ave., in Los Angeles. For more information on their available programs, hours of operation, or how to make a tax-deductible donation, visit <http://www.bicyclekitchen.com>.

Alternative Car and Transportation Expo

Last December, the Alternative Car and Transportation Expo gave the public a first view of the latest environmentally responsible cars and modes of transport available. Over 11,000 people attended the Expo which included numerous seminars and advanced technology displays, all of which were free. The City of Los Angeles' Clean Cities Coalition and the Southern California Association of Governments Clean Cities Coalition helped to sponsor the event and staffed a booth at the Expo. The City of Los Angeles Environmental Affairs Department, chair of the Coalition, participated in an alternative fuel vehicle demonstration by providing the public with rides in a hydrogen fuel cell vehicle and a hybrid. The City's General Services Department supplied the "ride n' drive" vehicles and assisted with the kick-off, car rally, media event at the Santa Monica Pier. The City's Department of Public Works, Bureau of Sanitation assisted with the "ride n' drive," public outreach, and displayed their brand new Condor refuse collection vehicle which runs solely on liquefied natural gas (LNG).



More than 100 alternative fuel vehicles were showcased at the Expo, including hybrid, electric, hydrogen, compressed natural gas, plug-in hybrid, high MPG gasoline, ethanol and biodiesel. Other eco-friendly vehicles were the Segways, electric skateboards, bicycles, mopeds and two-and three-wheeled scooters. Car manufacturers, alternative and green fuel advocates and public transportation, air quality and energy agencies presented new technologies, viable sustainable fuel alternatives, health solutions, urban planning and renewable energy concepts.

For more information please visit www.altcarexpo.com.

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

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

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

The Lawrence Foundation
530 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 207
Santa Monica, CA 90401

For more information, call the Foundation at (310) 451-1567, or visit their website at www.thelawrencefoundation.org, or e-mail the foundation at info@thelawrencefoundation.org.

Applications are due March 1, 2007.

The Norman Foundation seeks support efforts that strengthen the ability of communities to determine their own economic, environmental and social well-being, and that help people control those forces that affect their lives. These efforts may: promote economic justice and development through community organizing, work to prevent the disposal of toxics in communities, and to link environmental issues with economic and social justice, or promote civil rights. The foundation provides grants for general support, projects, and collaborative efforts. They also welcome innovative proposals designed to build the capacity of social change organizations working in their areas of interest. For more information, about the grant and application process, visit <http://www.normandfdn.org>. The application deadline is **March 1, 2007.**

Kodak American Greenways Grants The Kodak American Greenways Awards Program, a partnership project of the Eastman Kodak Company, The Conservation Fund, and the National Geographic Society, provides small grants to stimulate the planning and design of greenways in communities throughout America. Grants may be used for activities such as: mapping, ecological assessments, surveying, conferences, and design activities; developing brochures, interpretive displays, audio-visual productions or public opinion surveys; hiring consultants, incorporating land trusts, building a foot bridge, planning a bike path, or other creative projects. In general, grants can be used for all appropriate expenses needed to complete a greenway project including planning,

technical assistance, legal and other costs. For any questions or comments, contact:

American Greenways Program Coordinator
1800 North Kent Street, Suite 1120
Arlington, Virginia 22209-2156; by telephone at (703) 525-6300; by fax at (703) 525-4610; or e-mail the coordinator at greenways@conservationfund.org.

For more information, visit <http://www.conservationfund.org/?article=2106>

Applications are accepted starting March 1, 2007 and are due by June 1, 2007.

Captain Planet Foundation funds and supports hands-on environmental projects for children and youth interested in solving environmental problems. Project should be neighborhood in scope. For more information visit www.captainplanetfdn.org. Applications are due **March 31, 2007.**

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

Ben & Jerry's Foundation

30 Community Drive

South Burlington, VT 05403;

Visit <http://www.benjerry.com/foundation>.

Applications are accepted throughout the year.

Surdna Foundation seeks to prevent irreversible damage to the environment and promote efficient, economically sound, environmentally beneficial and equitable use of natural resources. Grants are offered to non-profit organizations in the areas of biological diversity, human systems, transportation and land use, and energy. Grants range from \$5,000 to over \$100,000. For more information and application instructions please visit www.surdna.org or call (212) 557-0010. Application are accepted throughout the year.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ONGOING:

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)

Cabrillo Marine Tidepool Walks in Spanish Are you or do you know a Spanish speaker that is interested in tidepools? On selected days the Cabrillo Aquarium will provide an overview of tidepool animals and a guided walk to the tidepools of the Point Fermin Marine Life Refuge, all in Spanish. Hablas Espanol? Esta clase de la costa rocosa, ensenara sobre los animales de las posas de marea tendra una caminata guiada por Point Fermin Marine Life Refug. Fee \$1. Instructor: CMA Educator Alfonso Montiel. For more info, call Cabrillo Marine Aquarium at (310) 548-7562 x217 or visit www.cabrilloaqu.org/science.html/.

The African American Heritage Celebration is a citywide commemoration of African American heritage and history in Los Angeles, acknowledging Southern California's African American contributions in areas of education, religion, art, culture and humanities. Events include a reception, dance concerts, and gallery exhibitions held at various sites throughout Los Angeles. To find information about the different events being held in the city, visit <http://www.AfricanAmericanLA.com>.

Sat & Sun, Feb 3-4

Black History Month Celebration at the LA Zoo Journey to the heart of Africa at the LA Zoo through a week-long celebration for the entire family

featuring the traditions, culture, people and music of Africa. There will be children's crafts, festive foods, exciting entertainment and much more. Animals from Africa will be featured during zoo keeper talks and self-guided tours. 10am-5pm. Free with paid admission (\$10/adults, \$5/child ages 2-12). The LA Zoo is located at 5333 Zoo Dr. in Los Angeles. For more information call (323) 644-4200 or visit <http://www.lazoo.org>.

THIS MONTH:

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)

Sat, Feb 3

African American Art Festival at STAR ECO Station Celebrate African, American Heritage month with Capoeira, hip hop dancers, live music, spoken word, visual art and jewelry - plus food vendors, crafts and more! Call the Eco Station at (310) 842-8060. Located at 10101 Jefferson Boulevard in Culver City. \$8 for children and adults.

Sun, Feb 4

Storytime at the Southwest Museum of the American Indian *Between Earth and Sky: Legends of Native American Sacred Places and Hawk, I'm Your Brother* In *Between Earth and Sky*, you can take a journey with Old Bear and Little Turtle to understand the seven directions — the four cardinal directions familiar to most, plus the Native American directions of earth, sky and our own inner direction. In *Hawk, I'm Your Brother*, a little boy

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

Commissioners:

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

determined to fly establishes a special friendship with a hawk. Storytime is free with Museum Admission. Storytelling begins at 1:30 pm. For more information, call the Museum at (323) 667-2000. The Southwest Museum is located at 234 Museum Drive in Los Angeles.

Thurs, Feb 8

The Downtown Art Walk is a monthly, self-guided tour of the art exhibition venues in Downtown Los Angeles, which includes commercial art galleries, public museums, non-profit spaces, and grassroots art venues. From noon to 9 pm, Downtown Los Angeles. Free. For more information, call (213) 842-8574 or visit <http://www.downtownartwalk.com>.

Sat, Feb 10

February Critter Club Meeting: Everyone Loves Babies! Do animals have families? Some animals are protective parents, just like people! Visit with the LA Natural History Museum and learn. Sing a turtle love song, play a matchmaking game, and make cute critter crafts! Love is in the air! Free with Museum admission, and no reservations necessary. Critter Club begins at 10 am and takes place at the Natural History Museum, located at 900 Exposition Boulevard in Los Angeles. For more information, call (213) 763-DINO.

Sat & Sun, Feb 17-18

Divers' Weekend Learn about the history and recent advancements in diving at the Aquarium of the Pacific's 5th annual Divers' Day. The aquarium will feature displays of both vintage and modern gear, educational presentations, live diving demonstrations and more. From 9 am to 5 pm, free with Aquarium admission. The Aquarium is located at 100

Aquarium Way in Long Beach. For more information call (562) 591-3100 or visit <http://www.aquariumofpacific.org>.

Sat and Sun, Feb 17-18

Lunar New Year Celebration at the LA Zoo The Chinese zodiac dates back to 2600 BC and is based on lunar cycles. To celebrate the Year of the Pig, the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens will be spotlighting the swine — Visayan warty pigs, red river hogs, Vietnamese pot-bellied pigs, and babirusas. Whether you enjoy watching colorful dance performances or prefer getting in on the action at a martial arts demonstration, sampling foods from across Asia or learning new fun craft ideas, there's something to oink about at the Los Angeles Zoo's Lunar New Year Celebration. Events take place from 10 am to 4 pm. Free with Zoo admission. The LA Zoo is located at 5333 Zoo Drive in Los Angeles. Call (323) 644-4200 for more info or visit www.lazoo.org.

Sat, Feb 24

Golden Dragon Parade The Year of the Boar celebration features a parade with beautifully decorated cultural floats, colorful dance troupes, and magical lion and dragon dancers. Watch the parade go through Los Angeles Chinatown and then visit the Chinese New Year Festival for an all-day event. Free. 2 pm to 5 pm. For more information call (213) 617-0396 or visit <http://www.lachinesechamber.org>.



Los Angeles Central Library Program: "Big and Tall Trickster Tales." Larger than

life tricksters like Brehr Rabbit, Anasi the Spider, and Coyote are brought to life by nationally acclaimed storyteller Leslie Perry. Free. The event takes place at 2 pm in the Mark Taper Auditorium of Central Library, located at 630 W. Fifth Street in Downtown Los Angeles. Call (213) 228-7000 for more info.

Sun, Feb 25

Satiwa Sunday at the Santa Monica Mountains Listen to the soothing flute melodies and stories of Bill "Elk Whistle" Neal. Satiwa takes place at Satiwa Native American Indian Culture Center. Free. For directions to Satiwa and performance times, call the Santa Monica Mountains Recreation Center at (805) 370-2301. Sponsored by the National Park Service.

Wed, Feb 28

Coral Reefs: Trouble in Paradise Coral reef ecosystems serve as nurseries for young marine life, support local economies, and protect coastlines from damaging storms, and their incredible diversity may hold secrets for biodiscovery and new medicines. Despite their tremendous importance however, the world's coral reefs are in decline. The future of coral reefs is threatened by such dangers as non-sustainable fishing, habitat destruction, introduced species, ocean warming, and pollution. Join the Aquarium of the Pacific for a lecture on this important topic by scientist Dr. Karla Heidelberg to learn more. \$7. Reservations can be made by calling (562) 590-3100 ext. 0. The talk begins at 7 pm at the Aquarium of the Pacific, located at 100 Aquarium Way in Long Beach.

(Port...Continued from page 1)

shore electricity for ships at berth as well as the use of low-sulfur fuels in ship engines, and specifies implementation of numerous other emission-reduction measures and technologies.

During preparation of the Plan, Geraldine Knatz, Executive Director for the Port of Los Angeles said "We simply cannot grow our ports to accommodate future cargo trade volumes without a comprehensive plan like this in place to minimize port-related pollution in our region."

The five-year plan was created with the cooperation and participation of the South Coast Air Quality Management District, California Air Resources Board and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The San Pedro Bay Ports Clean Air Action Plan Overview, Technical Report and related documents are available at http://www.portofla.org/environment_air.htm.



China Freshwater Dolphin Extinct

The recent story of China's Freshwater Dolphin, or the baiji, not overcoming extinction has made headlines around the world. The baiji, also known as the Yangtze River Dolphin, was one of only four species of dolphins found in the world that have freshwater habitat, and the only one to live in China's Yangtze River. It was described as a small white dolphin that is nearly blind, which uses sonar to catch its prey. Last November, using high-tech optical instruments and underwater microphones on two research vessels, the international search team had scoured almost 2,175 miles of the Yangtze River, from Yichang near the Three Gorges Dam to Shanghai, for any signs of the dolphin.

After six weeks of searching, the expedition yielded no results. August Pfluger, Swiss financier of the investigation and a naturalist, stated that the dolphin was "functionally extinct," meaning that although a few members of the species have survived, they are unable to reproduce due to poor health, age, sparse distribution over a large range, or a lack of individuals of both sexes. Pfluger admitted to the possibility that one or two animals could have been missed on the search.

Conservation efforts of the Yangtze River Dolphin began in 1979 when the Chinese Government named it as an endangered species. However, illegal hunting of the animals continued, and other factors figured into their declining numbers. Pollution, fishing, and boat traffic had increased on the Yangtze. From the late nineties and up to 2003, dams that were built further diminished the range of the dolphin's habitat.

Chinese conservationists and scientists came to the aid of the flailing species by establishing foundations and working with the Chinese government to establish five reserve areas along the Yangtze, as well as observation stations to prevent illegal fishing. In 2001, the Chinese government approved a Conservation Action Plan to protect the endangered animal. Despite the plan, more funding was needed to commence the program and to maintain it. Although conservation scientists established a captive dolphin program, the mammal was too elusive to capture. In 2002, a male dolphin, Qi Qi, who had lived at the Wuhan Institute of Hydrobiology "dolphinarium" for 22 years, died.

The Yangtze is described as being less polluted than other main, heavily used tributaries of China. Even with the declaration that the dolphin is functionally extinct, there is an ongoing effort by their rescue organizations to aid in the recovery of this sensitive environmental habitat where they once thrived. The foundation that was established to aid the baiji, headed by August Pfluger, also is turning its attention to the matter of all freshwater habitats in the world for the next decades, and to the critically endangered plights of the other freshwater dolphins. For more information on their efforts, and for more information on the baiji international expedition and its Southern Californian participants, visit <http://www.baiji.org/>.



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) 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

Spaying/Neutering Pets

City of L.A. Animal Services
(888) 452-7381

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