

An Environmental Affair

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June 2003

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.

U.S. EPA Honors the Environmental Affairs Department

On April 22, 2003 United State Environmental Protection Agency Regional Administrator Wayne Nastri presented a 2003 Environmental Leadership Award to the City of Los Angeles Environmental Affairs Department (EAD). The award is for those individuals and entities that go above and beyond the call of duty in their role as public servants to protect the environment. EAD was specifically chosen for its successful commitment to alternative-fuel vehicles, its work on over 60 brownfield sites, planting over 20,000 trees to green the city and working with over 100 schools in its "Gardens for Kids LA" program.

Other winners included the Chumash People working with Ventura Coastkeeper, Juan Garcia of Concerned Citizens of South Central Los Angeles, Warner Brothers and Southern California Edison. This was the fifth annual event honoring what US EPA calls "Environmental Heroes," nominated by businesses, media, local, state and federal government officials, tribes, environmental organizations and citizen activists.



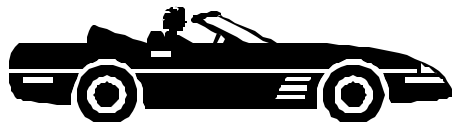
EAD General Manager Dee Allen accepting the award from EPA regional administrator Wayne Nastri

Consumer Advice for Your Car's Emission Standards

The type of car or truck you buy is an important choice affecting Southern California's air quality. Motor vehicles are responsible for more than half of all smog-forming emissions in this area. Although emission technology continues to lessen car exhaust, even making today's models cleaner from those of five years ago, there are variations in how much they pollute.

All cars sold in California have advanced emission control systems and are certified to a specific emission standard. The cleanest vehicles are rated as ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEV), super ultra low emission vehicles (SULEV), or zero emission vehicles (ZEV). To find out to which standard a California vehicle is certified, check under the hood for the Vehicle Emission Control Information Label. This label clearly shows the standards a vehicle was designed to meet and includes important tune up and engine identification information. For information on deciphering this label and to see a sample label, you can visit <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/ccbg/eci.htm>.

Some older vehicles and cars that are im-



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An Environmental Affair is produced monthly by the EAD to inform residents about environmental issues and activities in Los Angeles. For questions, or to update or cancel your free subscription, call the Environmental Information Center Hotline at (213) 978-0888, send an e-mail to: eadinfo@mailbox.lacity.org, or visit our website at <http://www.lacity.org/ead>, TDD (213) 978-0899. You can also reach us by fax at (213) 978-0893. As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services and activities.

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PLEASE POST

Productivity Award to Air Quality Division's "A Breath of Fresh Air" Program

On Thursday, May 8, 2003, the City's Quality and Productivity Commission presented the General Services Department (GSD) and the Environmental Affairs Department's (EAD) Air Quality Division with the *Best in Class Project* Environmental Marvels Award in recognition of the departments' efforts to reduce pollution from heavy-duty diesel vehicles.

The "A Breath of Fresh Air" project involves the use of ultra low sulfur diesel fuel (ULSD) for all diesel vehicles (less than 15 parts per million (ppm) of sulfur, compared to the 200 ppm allowed in the standard diesel sold in California) and the installation of diesel particulate traps, which capture and incinerate 85% of the particulate matter emitted by these vehicles. The GSD's Fleet Reengineering Division began purchasing the ULSD in November 2001 and now uses this fuel for all diesel vehicles under its responsibility. The Environmental Affairs Department was responsible for obtaining over \$3.4 million in grant funds to purchase and install the particulate traps on a wide range of vehicles, including

street sweepers and dump trucks. Fleet Reengineering's excellent negotiating skills resulted in another \$3.9 million in price savings on the traps themselves. Particulate traps already have been installed on 350 refuse collection trucks, and GSD plans to install another 585 on other vehicle types by the end of the year.

Each year, the Quality & Productivity Commission presents awards to a selection of innovative City projects that not only result in better service or new benefits to residents, but also generate greater operational efficiencies and cost savings to the City. This year the Commission awarded 28 projects from a field of 122 applicants. The awards luncheon was held at the downtown Omni Hotel, with Fritz Coleman of Channel 4 News as the Master of Ceremonies. Several Commission members, as well as elected officials, assisted with the distribution of awards.



Air Quality Division Winners Gretchen Hardison, Wayne King and Lisa Wunder with their award.

Clean Air Tips

Keep your car's tires properly inflated to improve its gas mileage. When you fill up at the gas station, try to prevent spills and overfills. Spilled gasoline pollutes the air when it evaporates. Avoid "topping off" gas tanks, whether it's in your car or power equipment, especially in hot weather.

Planning trips outside rush hour and peak traffic periods (6-10 AM, 3-7 PM) whenever possible also reduces the use of gasoline. "Smooth" your driving by accelerating and decelerating gradually, anticipating stops and starts for traffic lights, and changing traffic speeds.

EAD Announcements

Congratulations to Nadia Dale, Student Professional Worker in the Air Quality Division, for earning her master's degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Southern California, to former Environmental Information Center Student Professional Worker Damian Pipkins also graduating from the University of Southern California with a master's degree in Public Administration, and to Gina Mooty, former Intern in the Air Quality Division, for earning her bachelor's degree in Public Policy Analysis from Pomona College! Congratulations to the Classes of 2003!



ArroyoFest 2003 Turns the 110 Freeway into a Big Bike Path, Horse Trail and Sidewalk Festival

On Sunday, June 15th people will have a chance to bike, walk and ride a horse on the oldest freeway in the American West and enjoy a community festival celebrating the Arroyo Seco.

The goal of the event is to connect the communities of the Arroyo Seco, from Pasadena to downtown Los Angeles, and show how the Arroyo can become a model for creating more livable communities, communities with abundant parks, clean and convenient transportation, a strong sense of history and an appreciation for our region's cultural diversity. The Arroyo Fest Volunteer Steering Committee consists of representatives from environmental, transportation, community and cultural groups from up and down the Arroyo and throughout the region.



courtesy of North East Trees

ArroyoFest will draw attention to efforts to restore the Arroyo stream and wildlife habitat throughout the area. Currently, the Army Corps of Engineers is studying the potential to remove portions of the flood control channel and restore a free flowing stream. It's hoped that the restoration of the Arroyo Seco could become a model for the restoration of the Los Angeles River. ArroyoFest also does its share in the fight against global warming. What better way to show support for clean air than to fill Los Angeles' first freeway with bicycles for a Sunday morning ride?

The northbound and southbound lanes of the Parkway will be closed from 6 am to approximately 11 am. For the first time in more than 60 years, the Arroyo Seco's scenic canyon will be free of freeway noise and full of bicyclists, walkers, and families out for a day of enjoyment. Giant puppets of steel-head trout will also be "swimming" down the freeway alongside their human friends. This historic event will allow participants to experience the Arroyo Seco in an entirely new way.

For additional information and on-line registration for the bicycle and equestrian walks, visit www.arroyofest.org. Call (323) 341-5091 or e-mail arroyofest@oxy.edu if you'd like an entry form mailed to you, or if you are interested in becoming a volunteer. The event is sponsored by the SoCal Gas Company, LA Department of Water and Power, and the Urban & Environmental Policy Institute.

EAD Announces E-Mail Reminders for Monthly Newsletters

Many loyal subscribers to *An Environmental Affair* have asked us to provide paperless copies of our monthly editions. Although we have online editions of the newsletter available, we thought it would be a good idea to send out an e-mail notice to let our readers know when we send the copy to our website!



If you would like to receive an e-mail notice for the newsletter, news and other events that we find interesting, e-mail us at eadinfo@mailbox.lacity.org and we will gladly include you on our e-mail list.

California Governor's Awards

The State of California currently is seeking nominations for the 2003 Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Awards. These awards recognize achievements in conserving, protecting and enhancing California's environment through work in the following categories: 1) Children's Environmental Education; 2) Watershed & Ecosystem Restoration; 3) Sustainable Practices; 4) Environmental-Economic Partnerships; 5) Land Use; 6) Technology Innovation; and 7) Sustainable Facilities. For more information visit <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/Awards/GEELA/>. Nominations are due August 1.

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

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

Surdna Foundation seeks to prevent irreversible damage to the environment and to promote more efficient, economically sound, environmentally beneficial and equitable use of land and natural resources. Please visit www.surdna.org for application information or call (212) 557-0010.

California Integrated Waste Management Board Recycling Market Development Zone Revolving Loan Program provides direct loans to eligible businesses that use post-consumer or secondary waste materials to manufacture new products or that reduce the waste resulting from the manufacture of a product. For more information call (916) 341-6530 or visit www.ciwmb.ca.gov/grants.

Captain Planet Foundation funds and supports hands-on environmental projects for children and youths interested in solving environmental problems in their neighborhoods and communities. Please visit www.captainplanetfdn.org for details and an application, or write to Captain Planet Foundation, One CNN Center, Suite 1090, Atlanta, GA 30303.

Home Depot — Community Grant Program provides assistance to non-profits that direct efforts toward forestry, ecology, green building design, clean-up, recycling, and lead poisoning prevention. This grant is for non-profits only. For more information contact your local Home Depot store manager or visit www.homedepot.com and search for "community involvement" or call 1-800-430-3376.

Reuse Assistance Grants Program has been developed by the California Integrated Waste Management Board to help local public agencies promote reuse activities at the local public agency level. All local public agencies in California are eligible to apply. For more information, call Sarah Weimer at (916) 341-6613 or email sweimer@ciwmb.ca.gov.

The California Community Foundation accepts grants year-round for projects that seek to revitalize low-income neighborhoods. Funds will support the development, rehabilitation and beautification of affordable housing and living areas, and will support the establishment or maintenance of safe recreation areas and parks, including community gardens. Please visit www.calfund.org or call (213) 413-4130.

FMC Corporation Bird and Habitat Conservation Fund

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and FMC Corporation have formed a multi-year partnership to fund habitat conservation programs benefiting birds, with a particular focus on prairie species and waterfowl. The pre-proposal due date is **June 1, 2003** and the final proposal deadline is **July 15, 2003**. Open to governmental and non-profit organizations. For more information, contact Peter Stangel at (404) 679-7099.

Leaf-It-To-Us Tree Planting Grant Opportunity for Schools

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection is introducing the tree-planting program Leaf-It-To-Us, designed to motivate kids to care for and improve their educational environment. The purpose of the program is to distribute funds for community school tree-planting projects initiated and undertaken by school kids in partnership with school volunteers. For more information call (909)782-4140 x6123 or e-mail eric.oldar@fire.ca.gov. For online information and applications visit <http://www.ufe.calpoly.edu> and click on "News and Announcements." Application deadline is **September 1, 2003**.

Environmental Justice Grants in Transportation

This program promotes the participation of underserved communities in transportation planning to prevent or mitigate negative impacts of transportation plans and projects while improving their mobility, access, equity and quality of life. Eligible applicants are cities, counties, metro planning organizations, regional transportation planning agencies, Native American tribal governments, universities, transit agencies, nonprofit organizations, community-based organizations, local transportation commissions, port authorities and airport commissions. Funds are awarded annually by state fiscal year. The grant is funded through the State Highway Account (Local Assistance) Funds. For more information contact Norman Dong at (916) 651-6889 or by e-mail at norman_dong@dot.ca.gov. For more information on this grant visit <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/grants.htm>.

JUNE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EACH MONTH:

Down-by-the-River Walks



Friends of the Los Angeles River and the Sierra Club are sponsoring monthly walks along the banks of the LA River. Join them at 4:30 pm on the third Sunday of each month for an informal, leisurely, hour-long walk. The walk is canceled if it rains. For more information, visit the FoLAR website, www.folar.org, or call Joe Linton at (213) 381-3570.

Japanese Garden Tours

Docent-led tours of the Japanese Gardens at the D.C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant in Van Nuys are offered during the day on Monday through Thursday and again on Saturday. Reservations are required. For more information or to make reservations call (818) 756-8166.

Hyperion Wastewater Treatment Plant Tours

Free public tours of the facility (located near El Segundo in Los Angeles) are available Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday starting at 9 am. For more information, please contact Felcie Kidd at (310) 648-5363 for details or to schedule a tour.

Habitat Restoration Days



Help restore wildflowers, trees and shrubs that were once here 200 years ago at the Madrona Marsh Preserve. You are invited to help in planting, weeding and collecting and growing seeds every second Saturday of the month. Morning maintenance is done from 9 am-noon every Tuesday and Wednesday. For more information on this event or events for youth, please call (310) 32-MARSH.

Afternoons in the Lab



Cabrillo Marine Aquarium's education staff and volunteers are available every Wednesday from 3-5 pm to answer questions and involve students of all ages in exploring local marine life in the hands-on Discovery SEA Lab. Activities cover a wide range of scientific fun. The science education afternoon is free and opens with a different theme each week. Groups should make reservations. For more information, call (310) 548-7562 or visit www.cabrilloaq.org.

Satwiwa Saturdays

From 10 am to 4pm at Rancho Sierra Vista/Satwiwa. Meet guest hosts, watch demonstrations and share the experiences of the Native American LA Community. Call (805) 370-2301.

Smart Gardening Workshops



The Los Angeles Countywide Yard Waste Program hosts Smart Gardening workshops year-round. Topics covered include backyard and worm composting, grass recycling, and water-wise gardening. For more information, call (888) CLEAN-LA or visit www.smartgardening.com. For more information call the Bureau of Sanitation at (213) 473-8228.

Amigos de Bolsa Chica



offer free public tours of the wetlands for individuals the first Saturday of each month. Visitors who arrive between 9 and 10:30 am will be led on a 1 1/2 hour tour which makes 5 stops along the walkbridge and loop trail. Trained tour guides discuss bird identification, ecology, endangered species, early history and current status. For more information, visit <http://www.amigosdebolsachica.org> or call (714) 840-1575.

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.

Baldwin Hills Hikes are held by the LA Audubon Society on the 3rd Saturday of each month at Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area. For more information call (323) 876-0202 or visit www.LAAudubon.org.



Augustus F. Hawkins Natural Park

offers youth activities including day-long trips to destinations like Point Mugu, Franklin Canyon and Malibu Creek. These trips are held each Saturday and transportation is provided. For information, please call (323) 585-3205.

Join the Friends of Madrona Marsh for a day of **Habitat Restoration and Enhancement** at the Madrona Marsh Preserve located at 3201 Plaza Del Amo in the city of Torrance from 8 am to noon on the first Sunday and second Saturday of the month. Learn about the native plants and other eco information. If you enjoy being outdoors, then this is an event you won't want to miss! For more information, call (310) 326-3840.

THIS MONTH:

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)

Saturday, June 7

**"LA Kids Read Festival!"**

Meet cowboy stuntmen, storytellers, musicians, and clowns at the largest free children's library festival in Southern California. Takes place at the Los Angeles Central Library located on Fifth and Flower Streets in downtown LA from noon to 4 pm.

**Saturday and Sunday
June 7-8**

Noah's Ark of animals at the LA Zoo.

A Self-guided walk through the zoo and a child-themed guidebook for zoo visitors, including activities for home. For more information visit <http://www.lazoo.org>.



Saturday, June 14

"Hop on Pop!"

Stories, poems, and a puppet show, celebrating Dads everywhere. Free. Begins at 2 pm at the Los Angeles Central Library's KLOS Story Theater. Call (213) 228-7000.



Sunday, June 15

Father's Day Walk Marvel at a hermit-built boulder home, a melodic marshland; savor

majestic oak woodlands in a pristine chaparral canyon in Cold Creek Preserve located in Malibu.

Meet at Preserve's Lower Gate. Free. Walk is 2 1/2 hours. Sponsored by the Cold Creek Docents. For more information, call the Docents at (818) 346-9620.



ArroyoFest 2003 Ride your bike, walk, or ride your horse when the Parkway section of 110 Freeway closes for foot, bike, and horse traffic in this unique Sunday festival. From the mountains to where the Arroyo joins the Los Angeles River, meet on the freeway for a community celebration that will change the way we think about life in Southern California.

To register for the walks and bike/equestrian rides, or to obtain more information, visit the ArroyoFest's website at www.arroyofest.org or call (323) 341-5093. Sponsored by the Urban and Environmental Policy Institute, the Gas Company, and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.



Thursday, June 19

Shakespeare by the Sea Get in the "swim" with Shakespeare by the Sea's Sixth Anniversary. The Company kicks off its 6th season with *Twelfth Night* on Thursday, June 19 at 8 pm. Then one week later, on Thursday, June 26 at 8 pm, *Romeo & Juliet* opens. Both plays will run in repertory every Thursday, Friday and Saturday



night at 8 pm until July 19 at Point Fermin Park at 807 Paseo Del Mar in San Pedro. Bring your picnic baskets, beach chairs, and blankets! Warm clothing recommended. Free. For more information, call (310) 548-7705 or visit the Company's website at www.shakespearebythesea.org.

Saturday, June 21

Night Hike

See the sunset and the moon rise over the Madrona Marsh Preserve and watch for nocturnal animals. Free. Meet at the Preserve located at 3201 Plaza Del Amo in Torrance. The hike begins at 8 pm. For more information, call the Preserve at (310) 768-3989.



Sunday, June 22

Machu Picchu: Unveiling the Mystery of the Incas

A new traveling exhibition, makes its only West Coast stop at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. Delve into the mysteries behind Machu Picchu in the largest US exhibition on the Incas ever assembled, showcasing more than 400 priceless artifacts. For more information, call the Natural History Museum at (213) 763-DINO or visit their website at www.nhm.org. The exhibit ends on Sunday, September 7, 2003.

**Long Day's Night Evening Hike**

Walk the annual 7-mile hike in Topanga State Park led by the Sierra



THIS MONTH:

(EAD recommends contacting event sponsor prior to event)

Club. Free. Meet at Santa Ynez trailhead. Bring water and a snack to eat when the hike finishes at Trippet Ranch. For more information, call (310) 559-3126. Hike begins at 4 pm and lasts approximately 4 hours.

Saturday, June 28

The ABC's of Plants: Taught in Korean

Participants will gain basic plant knowledge to understand how a garden grows. Walk in the garden to view and identify plants in their

environment. This class will cover the basic structure of the tree, the relationship between its structure and function, photosynthesis, and how trees relate to each other. This will be the first of a series of classes taught in Korean about botany and the planning and tending of a successful garden. Class takes



place at the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanical Garden from 1 to 3 pm. \$18 for non-members. For more information, call the Arboretum at (626) 821-3222.

Los Angeles Department of Public Works announces the "Clean Community Environmental Services Fairs"

Saturday, June 7, 2003 - Council District 7—Sylmar Park and Recreation Center, 13109 Borden Ave., Sylmar, CA 91342 from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Call 818-756-8409.

Saturday, June 14, 2003—Council District 14; call 323-526-3059 for details.

Saturday, June 21, 2003—Council District 15; call 310-732-4515 for details.

(Emission Standards...continued from page 1)

properly maintained emit at least 20 times more pollution than newer models in good working order. If your vehicle fails a smog test you must have it repaired at a smog-repair certified station and pass the smog check so that you can register your vehicle. The Bureau of Automotive Repair has Consumer Assistance Programs (CAP) that provide state-funded financial assistance for drivers who need smog repairs. To read the guidelines and download the application package, visit http://www.smogcheck.ca.gov/ftp/pdfforms/cap_app.pdf, or speak with a California Department of Consumer Affairs representative by calling (800) 952-5210. For general information on the SMOG Check Program please visit <http://www.smogcheck.ca.gov>. You can also report vehicles with smoking exhaust pipes and suspected air pollution violations to the Air Quality Management District by calling (800) CUT-SMOG.

Be informed about emission ratings before you prepare to purchase a vehicle. Included below are links to useful websites with information on the emissions of a wide variety of vehicles available for sale:

- ◆ For a comprehensive list and emission ratings of all vehicle makes and models, please visit the US Environmental Protection Agency's Green Vehicle Guide on line at <http://www.epa.gov/autoemissions/index.htm>
- ◆ The California Air Resources Board offers a Buyer's Guide to Cleaner Cars, which lists certified low emission vehicles at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/ccbg/ccbg.htm>.
- ◆ The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing energy efficiency as a means of promoting economic prosperity and environmental protection, publishes a yearly "Green Book," available online, that rates and scores all vehicle models. You can visit them at www.greenercars.com.

In September 2003, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) and the Greater Los Angeles New Car Dealers Association anticipates launching an innovative car-labeling pilot program designed to help new car buyers easily identify the cleanest available cars, sport utilities, pickups, and vans. Under the new "Clean Air Choice" car-labeling program, participating auto dealers will prominently post a colorful Clean Air Choice label on all new vehicles offered for sale that meet California's ULEV, SULEV, and ZEV standards.



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**, or toll-free in Los Angeles only at **(800) 439-4666**. 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 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 moh o
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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