

# THE LAKE MERRITT INSTITUTE

(Lake Trash Removal, Fountains, Education, Lake Expertise)

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## VOLUNTEER LETTER

**AND THE TRASH JUST KEEPS ON FLOWING IN:** It was a typical February. More than 4 inches of rain washed in the trash, and we removed **5,860 pounds** of it from the Lake. Kudos to **175 people** who removed **159 bags** of trash, many tree branches, lots of wood, and a whole lot of reasons to feel bad about our favorite natural resource. We cleaned up on 19 of 28 days.

Some people have expressed disbelief about all this trash. "We have street sweepers, the say." Well, do the street cleaning machines work every day? If not, do they only work on the day *before* a rain? Obviously is a street is swept on Tuesday and it rains on Saturday, there have been three days during which trash can (and does) accumulate.

If anyone wants to know where the trash comes from, just look along the gutter of any commercial street in our 4,650 acre watershed. You will see trash. If you want further proof, open one of the two storm drain filters and look inside. Trash; lots of it (see below).

Unusual items removed in February included: A bicycle wheel, automobile headlight, 18 foot leather jacket.



**TOM JOB: CLEANER OF THE LAKE:** Tom not only runs around the Lake, he also cleans it up. One of our "regulars" he gives of his time so that others may better enjoy this unique, downtown tidal lagoon. He is also interested in renovation of the Cleveland Cascade, where the scenic waterfall may someday be revived and add its sparkle to that of Lake Merritt. Thanks Tom!

**CITY TO REQUEST BIDS FOR FOUR MORE STORM DRAIN FILTERS:** Convinced that they work, Oakland Public Works is preparing to request bids for four more storm drain filters in the Lake Merritt watershed. These will be big units (receiving drainage from 66 to 230 acres) much larger than the 12 and 28 acre units now installed. Considering that our watershed is 4,650 acres, they are badly needed. The

RFP should be out by early April and if everyone stays on schedule, the filters could be in place by the end of September. Funds are available from Measure DD bonds, and were approved and appropriated for this purpose by City Council. Next we need to find funding to get these filters cleaned more often so they don't fill up and spill trash into the Lake.

*Starbucks, McDonalds, Coca Cola and other sources of litter:  
Wouldn't you like to help Oakland find funding to clean out storm  
drain filters?*



*Inside a storm drain filter*

**The Lake Merritt Institute is supported and sponsored by the Oakland Public Works Agency and people like you.**