

THE LAKE MERRITT INSTITUTE

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

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VOLUNTEER LETTER

MARCH TRASH TALK: It rained: Trash flowed into the Lake through storm drains. Then it rained some more and more trash flowed in. As of March 28, **4.68 inches** of water had fallen and **4,200 pounds** of "stuff" had been taken to the transfer station. March came in like a lion but shows no sign of going out like a lamb. So far we have collected **202 bags** on 23 of 27 days.

Special thanks to the groups who participated, including:

- St. Paul's School 6th Grade
- Baytech Charter School
- The National Charity League
- UC Berkeley Pre-Med Honor Society



SOURCE OF DUCKWEED DISCOVERED.

Countless tons of duckweed and fernweed float on the Claremont Country Club's lake as viewed from the Rockridge Center parking lot.

Rains wash the nasty stuff down Rockridge Branch into Glen Echo Creek and then into Lake Merritt where it dies and rots in the salt water.

Duckweed has also been seen on ponds by the Mountain View Cemetery on Cemetery Creek, which also flows into Glen Echo Creek.

According to studies by the Georgia Institute of Technology, these plants concentrate various persistent, chlorinated, fluorinated and mixed (chlorofluoro) chemicals from pesticides and pharmaceutical residuals. We will provide more details in future newsletters.

INSTITUTE SUBMITS QUALIFICATIONS: In response to the City of Oakland's Request for Qualifications for Clean Lake Services, the Institute has submitted 90 pages of why we should be allowed to continue our work at Lake Merritt. Submittals were due on March 23rd.

We believe that a volunteer based organization is the best way to keep Lake Merritt clean. A volunteer who picks soggy trash out of the Lake is not a person who will be littering the streets. And when you clean the Lake, you take pride in it, and in what you have done. Its hard to put a price on that. Next, City staff will decide who is most qualified, and negotiate a scope of work. Then it goes to City Council for approval, hopefully before the end of May, when our contract expires.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS: Earth Expo downtown on April 20th. Earth Day on 4/23 at Lake Merritt!

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