

THE LAKE MERRITT INSTITUTE

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

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VOLUNTEER LETTER

INSTITUTE SETS RECORD IN APRIL: A grand total of **339 volunteers and staff** cleaned Lake Merritt in April, more than in any previous month during the last eight years. About **80 folks** signed in on Earth Day, students from St. Paul's School came every Thursday, students from the new Baytech Charter school came on several Fridays, two classes from Redwood Day School helped out, Temple Sianai worked on a Sunday, Diversity Works did great job, Institute staff cleaned up and of course our stalwart, regular Tuesday and Saturday crews did their job.

Collecting trash on **23 of 30 days**, we brought **5,520 pounds** to the Davis Street Transfer Station, including **191 bags** and other items too large to fit into a bag. Most of this was brought into the Lake via storm drains from the **1.84 inches of rain** that fell during the month.

Catches Of The Day included:

- A bag of carrots
- A duck decoy
- 34 tennis balls
- Several turtles
- A scooter
- Parts of a park bench
- A city trash can concrete base
- One full size box spring.



*OK Trash, Come Out and
Meet Your Net!*

*Students from St. Paul's coax trash
from the Storm Drain.*

NBC TO AIR NEWS FEATURE ON LAKE MERRITT: Sometime in May at 10 am, NBC 11 News – The Bay Area Today - will present a special interest feature filmed at (an in) our unique downtown estuary. Featuring shots may include the reporter emerging from Lake Merritt, chasing down trash with the crawl stroke, the mural on our truck and a myriad of miscellaneous items we have found in the Lake, it promises to open with a live segment of the Gondola being rowed by Angelino, our resident gondolier. Not many reporters dive in to get their story. Don't miss this one.

INSTITUTE TEAM CHOSEN FOR CLEAN LAKE CONTRACT – COUNCIL APPROVAL NEXT? On May 10th and May 17th your City Council will act on a recommendation from the Public Works Agency and City Manager to award a two-year contract to the Institute for Clean Lake Services. Only one other bid was submitted, but our team (including you volunteers) was chosen as the most qualified. If approved, the Peralta Services Corporation of the Unity Council and Geomatrix consultants will assist us.

Not a member? Join the Institute and support your Lake!

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