

# THE LAKE MERRITT INSTITUTE

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

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## VOLUNTEER LETTER

**MAY TRASH TALK:** Whew! The rainy season finally ended and fresh trash is no longer washing into the Lake. We are back to the season of "hand thrown and wind blown" trash, which we find in significantly smaller quantities. Only 3,080 pounds were collected, and about half of that was from the first eight days of the month when 0.71 inches of rain fell. Prediction for June: about 1,500 pounds, unless it rains. A total of 94 bags were collected by 128 people, including groups from: St. Paul's School; Family Support Services; I Have A Dream Foundation; Campfire Girls and the West High School.

Exotic trash also diminished, as we found only a Cal cap, a shoe, jewelry, several traffic cones, a pacifier and several turtles.



**MEANWHILE, DOWN IN LA:** <Coastkeeper.org> reprinted a May 3<sup>rd</sup> news article entitled: *Tougher Watch on Water Possible*. The article states that in Newport Beach, a new City division may be established to enforce water quality rules. It would include a five person team to ticket businesses and residents who violate rules for keeping pollutants out of storm drains.

Five enforcement officers for water quality! Now that would be good news. "The move is in response to strict rules for storm drains that went into effect last year for about 22 cities in Orange County. The rules forbid residents and businesses from sending pollutants into storm drains, including through a number of common activities such as car washing and sidewalk cleaning."

Oakland Inspector William Madison, hang in there. Perhaps (when our economy turns around) there will be additional water quality enforcement officers to help you.

More from LA: A February 10<sup>th</sup> article in the Orange County Register mentioned that in Aliso Viejo, remodeling a home might cost you \$195 for a water quality permit. And in San Clemente residents approved a new runoff fee to help pay for a system to kill water borne bacteria in contaminated urban runoff.



Urban runoff fines in Newport Beach would start at \$100. A second offense would be \$200, a third \$500 and criminal offenders could face up to \$25,000 in penalties if convicted (from the Daily Pilot). Cities in southern California are realizing that pollution costs money, and that polluters should pay these costs. Northern California would do well to do the same.

You pollute,  
You pay.



**MORE VIDEOS:** We have just received: After the Rain - Urban Runoff, by the Oregon State University extension department. Very thorough in its presentation, the video runs 29 minutes. To be delivered soon is: Keepers of the Coast from <bullfrog films.com.>, the story of how wind surfers are helping to reduce urban runoff. It will be shown to wind surfing classes this summer at Lake Merritt.