

THE LAKE MERRITT INSTITUTE

A Center For Urban Runoff And Watershed Research
510/238-2290 or lmi@netwiz.net
www.lakemerrittinstitute.org

June, 2006

VOLUNTEER LETTER



Public Works Employees Volunteer

As part of the celebration of National Public Works Week, non-field staff from Oakland's Public Works Agency descended upon Lake Merritt on a Friday in May and went to work. Secretaries, accountants, supervisors and more all pitched in to trim bushes & trees, fix signs, paint, plant, trim, sweep, pick up trash and even vacuum out storm drain filters. You could really see the difference when they were done.

Thanks guys!

Office staff put on safety vests and went to work outside

Cookie Robles Wong (right) and co-workers paused in the clean-up long enough for this snapshot. Cookie coordinates activities for "Keep Oakland Beautiful", a non-profit organization that plants gardens, removes litter and educates folks about why a clean environment is important.

KOB programs include "Adopt-A-Spot", Adopt-A-Block", Maintain-A-Drain", "Citywide Cleanups", and "Clean & Green."



SUMMARY FOR MAY:

- 0.69 inches of rain
 - 3,420 pounds of trash
 - 164 people
 - 138 bags of trash.
- Clean ups were conducted on 21 out of 31 days.

Whew - the rain finally quit! Now that summer is here, our trash source will be only from what is "hand thrown & wind blown" into our Lake. Without rain, only about 1,000 pounds per month will be removed (as opposed to 4,000 – 9,000 pounds when at least an inch of rain falls).

June will bring algae, goose feathers, and trash; perhaps even widgeon grass. See you around the Lake.

This newsletter was published with private funding donated to the Lake Merritt Institute.

To donate to the Institute, contact us at 238-2290 or 568 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610.