

THE LAKE MERRITT INSTITUTE

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

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VOLUNTEER LETTER

TRASH TALK: Rainfall / Trash Levels: Sadly, we broke a record for September – 4,060 pounds of trash taken out of the Lake. September is usually when trash is at its lowest (the average for the last six years being only 1,300 pounds) but an unusually intense rainfall of 0.67 inches on the 19th brought in the first flush of the season. All in all, 232 people removed 196 bags of trash, plus the bags picked up by the City after Creek to Bay Day.

Special thanks to the St. Paul's 6th grade, Jan and Jack from Fairyland and the many employees from Geomatrix consultants (engineers, geologists and environmental scientists) who came out on the 29th.

Unusual items included: A fresh water fish, a sleeping bag, two winter coats, car door, car seat, pack of 38 special bullets, car radio and speaker, golf flag, boom box, purse and a wooden Christmas tree stand.



WERE YOU HERE? At least 75 good volunteers showed up at Lake Merritt on the City's Creek to Bay Day, taking part in a world wide effort to improve the edges of our public waters. When they were done, about 67 bags of trash had been removed - not counting the channel where several of our volunteers joined a group from the Oakland Parks Coalition (Bravo OPC !). In addition to the whole shoreline, folks removed trash in the park and parking lot. They even found a hula hoop; now how long has THAT been there? And we learned a big lesson: Next time – more pizza.

POLLUTION CONTINUES IN GLEN ECHO CREEK: This is what the mouth of Glen Echo creek looked like on September 15th. If it was this concentrated here, you may not want to imagine how bad it was in the creek itself. As with most such events, no body (as far as we know) was caught. No penalties were levied and no measure of the damage was taken. Although the incidence of these spills in Glen Echo have decreased, they are still far too frequent.



Although trash is more visible, paint, oil, cement washings et cetera are equally, if not more, deadly to the fish, insects and other life in our creek and Lake Merritt.

Citizens, hear me out. This is happening to you. We need neighborhood block captains to educate every residence and business in the watershed, and to document spills and call in enforcement when the education fails. Its not rocket science.

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