

THE LAKE MERRITT INSTITUTE

And Center For Urban Runoff & Watershed Research

510/238-2290 or lmi@netwiz.net

www.lakemerrittinstitute.org

November, 2005

VOLUNTEER LETTER

TRASH TALK FROM OCTOBER:

Catches Of The Day: Tree limbs, a traffic cone, turtles, and a tape recorder. The totals: Clean ups on 18 of 31 days, by 164 people, who collected 2100 pounds in 63 bags.

Rainy Season Starts: Now it begins, and continues until May. Rain, runoff and street pollution. Only 0.28 inches fell in October but you know that number will increase. And with it will come an increase in trash in the Lake, along with more organic matter, fertilizer, sediment, doggie doo, hydrocarbons (oil, gasoline etc.) and yes even pesticides and paint. Your help is needed, help to help it out of the storm drains which drain into our Lake.



Non-point source pollution (shown here as paint) from the watershed (portion shown is Fairmont & Kempton streets) is the biggest reason our lakes, creeks, bays and oceans are polluted. Note: The storm drain inlet just beyond the fire hydrant drains to Lake Merritt.

WATERSHED IGNORANCE: But according to the National Environmental Education & Training Foundation, less than 1 % of the general public knows what a watershed is!!!

Only 14 % of the public is familiar with the term non-point source pollution. And only 23 % of Americans know that run-off is the number one cause of water pollution in the U.S. We are polluting our waters without knowing it!

Ignorance (about watersheds, storm drains and street pollution) is our biggest problem. And yet not every storm drain inlet is marked; not every watershed has a neighborhood group to take care of it; hardly any storm drains have filters; hardly anyone is penalized for dumping or littering. Clearly more needs to be done. If it isn't, our growing population and urbanization will overwhelm our water resources.

Codornices Creek Watershed Coordinator Job Announcement: The Urban Creeks Council seeks a qualified and motivated individual for this position. Compensation: \$26.00/hr not to exceed \$28,000 annually. The candidate should have a BA/BS or four years relevant work experience, the ability to attend night & weekend meetings, and to work at home. Applications will be accepted until November 21, 5 pm. Interviews will be held the week of November 28th. To apply, submit: A cover letter of one page; a 2 page (no more) resume; three professional references (at least one should be a current or previous work supervisor). Mail or email in MSWord or PDF format to: Urban Creeks Council, ATTN: Emma Gutzler, 1250 Addison St., Suite 107C, Berkeley, CA 94702; or emma@urbancreeks.org.

This edition of the Volunteer Letter was published entirely with private funding donated to the Lake Merritt Institute.
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