



September 24, 2010

This week, the **LA River Keepers** participated in Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's press conference announcing the Cities of Service initiative, along with Councilmember Tom LaBonge, LAUSD School Board President Monica Garcia and civic leaders from throughout Los Angeles. "We Serve LA," a blueprint to increase civic engagement in Los Angeles, was distributed at the press conference and addresses three issues: Education, Economic Development and the Environment. The LA Conservation Corps is a managing partner in both environmental focus areas – creating and maintaining community gardens and increasing awareness and community use of the LA River.



LA River Keepers join civic leaders from throughout Los Angeles to launch "We Serve LA"

Saturday, September 25th

Tomorrow is **National Public Lands Day** and **California Coastal Clean-up Day** and the Corps will be out in force preserving the environment! YAC and C&G will be planting trees with United Airlines volunteers in the LAX neighborhood to increase the canopy and decrease air pollution near the airport. SEA Lab will host over 300 volunteers, including Disney VolunTEARS, to clean the beach at the Redondo pier from 9am to noon. Upstream, LA River Keepers invite you to join them in cleaning up the river from 9am to noon at 497 N. San Fernando Road (90031) with Councilmember Ed Reyes. Bring your own reusable water bottle and save the planet!

Corporate Partnerships

On Wednesday, September 22nd, Clean & Green and the Young Adult Corps teamed up for FedEx Cares Day at El Sereno Middle School, sending two crews from each program. More than 100 FedEx volunteers came out to paint the school's bleachers, clear brush from the hillside and around the athletic field, plant roses and natives on campus and restore murals which were faded and defaced with graffiti. Students from the Environmental Science magnet came out to thank the volunteers with a handmade sign and Principal Duardo expressed his appreciation for the community's support in getting the school year

started on an energetic note. The project covered by ABC News on their 5pm broadcast. Many thanks to our hardworking crews! Click [here](#) to view the photo album on Facebook.



The group poses with the FedEx Special Delivery truck before deploying to their work sites

Young Adult Corps

This week, our Solar Crew just wrapped up four days of training for the CBS project in the new NELA Solar Lab. Corps Members worked with the tools and equipment specific to the project under the guidance of Mike Mahon from Sustainability for All and Brano Goluza from LATTC. The training was concluded by a visit from Grid Alternatives, Los Angeles Trade and Technical College (LATTC), Permacity Solar, CA Powersave Solar, SolarCity, and the Head of Operations for CBS Studios.



Corpsmembers get hands on training in solar panel installation at NELA

Corpsmember Victor Hernandez on the LA River Keepers was invited by Tori Kjer from The Trust for Public Lands to be a judge for the *2010 Los Angeles River Gate Design Contest*. Several sets of decorative gates will be placed at various entrances to the Los Angeles River in Reseda and the designs were submitted on a competitive basis. The judges completed their scores on September 17, 2010 and the winners will be announced before the end of the year. Great job, Victor!



LA River Keeper Victor Hernandez helped select the decorative gates that will be placed in Reseda

Weatherization Program

The LA Conservation Corps Network Low-Income Weatherization Assistance Program has sent 14 newly hired Field Supervisors and Technicians to the San Bernardino Community Action Partnership for special state training in Basic Weatherization, Duct Blaster/Blower Door Testing and Combustion Appliance Safety testing. The new staff has been hired from the 4 sites that make up the LA Conservation Corps Network: the LA Conservation Corps, California Conservation Corps, San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps and Conservation Corps of Long Beach. We will be working together to provide low-income weatherization services under the Long Beach Community Action Partnership. In the next couple weeks, all 24 of the Field Supervisors and Technicians will be trained and ready to go for an October 25th program start date. This is an exciting opportunity for the Corps to expand its services in the emerging green fields of energy efficiency and weatherization.



New weatherization staff being trained at San Bernardino Community Action Partnership