



LA CONSERVATION CORPS

**November 5, 2010**

*Celebrating 25 Years!*



**Simboa Wright**  
**City of Los Angeles Wastewater Division**

**When did you work for the Corps and for how long?**

I worked for the Corps as a youth in a program called Youth and the Environment. It was through the Los Angeles Employment Development Department. We completed a project in Mark Ridley Thomas' district, which was the 8<sup>th</sup> District at the time. It was '91, I believe. I was 13 -14; I'm 32 now. It was my first job.

**Please tell us about your life now, both professionally and personally.**

Well, personally, I have 3 children, a wonderful wife, and am currently employed by the City of Los Angeles. I'm a crew/field supervisor with the city's Wastewater Division, which is responsible for maintaining the sewers and storm drains for LA and a few smaller cities. I am also the chair of the Joint Labor Management committee for Wastewater; an executive board member for SEIU, Local 721; and the chair of the African American Caucus of Local 721.

**How did the Corps influence who you are and what you are doing currently?**

The Corps opened my eyes to the environment and what we can do to help it rather than create more havoc within it. Ever since my time with the Corps, I've loved working with the environment – I even got a job with CA Parks through the Corps. A while back, I had a choice of working for the zoo, parks or Wastewater, and I gladly chose wastewater because I wanted to be a part of ensuring that water remains clean in LA rivers and oceans.

**Is there anything particularly memorable about the Corps that you would like to share?**

The Corps actually gave me the opportunity to go to Yosemite with backcountry! I didn't get to finish because my mother was sick and she was watching my son, but going to Yosemite National Park was still a really incredible experience for me. That was the most beautiful place that I'd been at that time. I do a lot of dirt bike riding now and, as a result, have been to some pretty beautiful places, but I've yet to see anything as gorgeous as Yosemite.

## Clean & Green

This morning, Clean & Green assisted with the American Indian Heritage Month kick-off event at City Hall.

The C&G crews will be very busy this weekend working on a variety of events, including:

- The Greater San Fernando Valley “2010 Community Clean Up”
- *Crenshaw Goes Green* Day of Service at Crenshaw High School
- Walk to Cure Diabetes at Dodger Stadium
- Diabetes Association Health Fair at Olvera Street

## Recycling Across LA

This weekend RACLA will be busy once again recycling at two football games, UCLA v. Oregon at the Rose Bowl and USC v. Arizona at the Coliseum on Saturday, November 5th. Additionally, the crew will conduct a bowl pick at City of Pasadena Rose Bowl, where they retrieve all recyclables from the stadium after the game. Best of luck to our hometown teams!

## Young Adult Corps

On Wednesday November 3rd, East LA corpsmembers Sean Lopez, Melody Pruitt, Fernando Huerta, and Ernesto Escareno worked with supervisor Norma Reyes and 30 Tesoro Refinery employees to plant five 15-gallon trees, 38 bougainvillea plants, and cleaned up 50 sandbags worth of debris at their Wilmington plant. Tesoro made a \$2500 donation to LA Corps to sponsor this employee service project.



*Corpsmembers and Tesoro volunteers plant trees and vines to beautify the plant*

This week, the Solar crew began work on the installation at CBS Studios “Television City” in Hollywood. The corpsmembers will be working on this project throughout the month of November. Stay tuned for updates on the project!



*Corpsmembers on the Solar Panel Installation crew at their new job site*

This week crews at ELA continued work on the El Cariso County Park Smart Garden in Sylmar. With the transition from school to work (and vice versa), Frank Vuoso had a new set of corpsmembers out at the construction site this week. All three took to it right away - it's amazing how corpsmembers respond to meaningful projects. They learned about taking elevations so that we have all the proper clearances for our bioswale drain lines, they learned how to operate a mini excavator, and we all got to do some good old fashioned hand trenching with shovels and picks. In addition, LA Corps had an enormous and hazardous Eucalyptus tree removed that was also interfering with the project grading. As you can see from the photos below, it is quite a sight!



*Corpsmembers continue their hard work at El Cariso County Park Smart Garden*