



December 3, 2010

The Corps will soon be bidding a fond farewell to Wendy Butts, our Contract Compliance Officer. Wendy joined the Corps in August 1998 as an Environmental Skills Instructor and eventually served as the Corps' Development Director before moving to her current position 5 years ago. Wendy was responsible for ensuring the Corps' compliance with all legal and contractual requirements associated with the 100+ funding sources that support our youth, conservation and education programs each year. She is leaving behind a strong foundation for the Corps to continue to expand its services to the community. Wendy will be joining QueensCare where she will leverage her years of experience to build their compliance program. Thank you, Wendy for everything you have done for the Corps! You will be missed!



Wendy with Phil Matero and Tiffany Aldridge at the Hotel Figueroa

On Wednesday, December 1st, the LA Conservation Corps was invited to participate in the Warner Bros IMPACT program kick-off event at the studio where employees were invited to a free barbecue lunch to learn more about the 12 organizations that are part of their employee giving program. CEO and Chairman of WB Entertainment, Barry Meyer, announced that the company would match any employee contributions to their IMPACT partners 2:1 during the month of December! The Development Department distributed information about the Corps and corporate volunteer opportunities. We look forward to a great partnership with our friends at WB!



Viki Goto and Priya Das at the WB IMPACT Event

Young Adult Corps

This week, corpsmembers on our Solar Installation and RACLA crews were interviewed by CBS Entertainment's Eco Media division for an internal campaign showcasing the company's sustainability efforts and partnerships in the community. Staff members, Karla Ramos (pictured below) and John Medina, provided information about the Corps' programs and history with CBS Studio Center and Television City. Many thanks to David Limon, Director of Environmental, Health & Safety at CBS for providing this opportunity for the Corps! Stay tuned for information on where you can view the video online!



Karla Ramos is interviewed by Eco Media at CBS

East LA corpsmembers from the new session #290 worked this week to remove over 2000 sq. ft. of asphalt from just Hollywood's school yard to make way for a new school garden. The Corps will install three new garden beds with irrigation. The project will be completed next week.



Corpsmembers clearing way for a new garden

Supervisor Frank Vuoso and 3-4 corpsmembers continued work on the El Cariso Smart Garden. Currently, the first set of concrete forms has been rigged and the first concrete pour took place this past Tuesday. Corpsmembers are really starting to take ownership of this project. Re-hire Dean Payne has been on this project since the start, he can't ask enough questions: "What's this called that I'm doing;" "Can I put this on my resume?" He now knows it is called setting concrete forms, and when he is good at it, he can use it on his resume. For many of us, our victories come along the way rather than at the completion of a project.



Corpsmember Dean Payne working with Frank on a technical section of concrete forms

The large two acre lot at Marsh Street Park has been graded and weed abatement completed. We are currently working with the MRCA to hydro seed the lot for a couple of reasons. Hydro-seeding with native plants provides lots of habitat for insects, birds, and small mammals, it also controls erosion and dust, and lastly it looks a lot nicer than a dirt lot. Hopefully this will happen with the rhythm of the seasons so little or no supplemental water will be needed for germination and growth.

Weatherization

YAC Solar Crew is continuing to install a photovoltaic system at CBS “Television City” studios. Corps Members are engaged in racking assembly, staging, and anchoring the system on the roof top of the main studio building. The project is nearing completion.



Corpsmembers on the main studio building constructing the racking system.



Crew member Irving Hernandez in the foreground with Ryan Wilson of California Powersave and Supervisor Tim Bonilla and Maria Garcia are in the background.

Erik Diaz from the YAC Solar Crew was hired this week by Permacity Solar to be a Junior Solar Installer. This position will allow Erik to continue to install solar systems. Permacity Solar was extremely impressed by Erik's performance at the Obregon Park Solar Project. Erik was also selected for this position because of his experience with pipe fitting, which he learned at projects (irrigation) for Caltrans. Erik's first project will put his pipe fitting skills to good use as he will be installing Solar Thermal Systems. We all wish him good luck in his new career!



Solar crewmember Erik Diaz has been hired by Permacity Solar

SEA Lab

West Basin has the public opening of their Water Education Center and Pilot Desalination project this Saturday, December 4th, from 10am to 2pm at the SEA Lab. Come out to learn how West Basin provides reliable future water and protects the ocean! [Click here](#) for more details!



Former corpsmember and West Basin Water District employee, Christopher Atkins, and the exhibit Designer, at an earlier private opening

Recycling Across LA

This Saturday December 4th, RACLA crews will be collecting recyclables at the Rose Bowl Stadium during the UCLA v. USC football game. Also on Sunday the 5th crews will make sure all cans and bottles are picked up from inside stadium. Go Trojans & Bruins!

LA River Keepers

Don't forget to join the River Keepers this Saturday, December 4th as they celebrate the grand opening celebration of the Elysian Valley Pedestrian/Bike Path. Councilmember Ed Reyes and KCET are inviting everyone to participate in [KCET's Departures LA River StoryShare Initiative](#). Everyone is invited to go

and record your story for this historic documentation of life along the river! Please follow the link to sign up on the website and receive more information.