



**May 6, 2011**

### **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon**

The Corps held its annual Russell Kantor Scholarship Luncheon this past Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at the Los Angeles State Historic Park. Both past and present corpsmembers participated in the program honoring The Boeing Company, AES Redondo Beach Generating Station and Austin Beutner for their contributions to the organization. The Corps' first Executive Director, Martha Diepenbrock joined current Executive Director, Bruce Saito on stage to recognize all 193 Scholarship Recipients for their accomplishments and wish them great success with their future goals.



*Martha Diepenbrock, Mickey Kantor, and Bruce Saito at the luncheon; 2011 Russell Kantor Scholarship Recipients*

During the program, Eric Pendergraft, President of AES Redondo Beach, spoke about the decade-long partnership the Generating Station has built with SEA Lab, which hosts nearly 20,000 students and visitors each year. Austin Beutner challenged the business community to provide employment opportunities for the young people who have successfully completed the Corps' programs and are ready to take the next step towards a successful future. Nan Bouchard, Vice President of Program Management for Boeing Defense, Space & Security, announced that The Boeing Company is granting \$100,000 to the LA Corps to support its rainwater harvesting program for a second consecutive year!

View more pictures from the Luncheon [here!](#)

### **California YouthBuild Programs Annual "Government Education Day"**

Alex Lopez and Denise Haynes accompanied six corpsmembers to Sacramento for the YouthBuild Government Education Day on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Joined by 30 other YouthBuild Programs from across California, our young people participated in a youth workshop on April 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> where they met with state legislators and or their aids. Our corpsmembers shared what they do at the Corps and how the Corps has impacted their lives. In addition, they demonstrated different aspects of our program, by sharing the community service work projects they participate in, the green jobs training, our great educational opportunities and how programs like the LA Conservation Corps impact their lives and communities around them. Special thanks to Fran Ford for setting up our state legislator appointments!



*Youth Workshop at Sacramento Conservation Corps; Corpsmembers at Senator Ted Lieu's Office*

### **Young Adult Corps**

On Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, corpsmembers from the East LA site along with volunteers joined forces to plant 32 trees at Ford Park and Sports Complex in the City of Bell Gardens. The Corps worked in partnership with Chau Vu, Public Works Manager, to organize the planting to celebrate Earth Day. We were joined by Cub Scout pack 422 of Bell Gardens which is lead by Scout Leader Marco Hidalgo. These kids were amazing. All of these scouts were between the ages of 8 and 10 years old, and worked extremely hard and with efficiency. They were true leaders and picked up the skill of proper planting techniques immediately. The look of amazement and willingness to make their community better was such a joy to see and facilitate. It was a great event and a day full of learning.



*Tree planting in Bell Gardens*

This week South LA crews along with the Water Efficiency Crews continued their work on the Compton Natural Park Project. Efforts are underway to build an entire park by the end of this summer. SLA crews are the lead on this project and will be working to construct decomposed granite pedestrian and vehicle paths, bio swale, planter/swale filtration systems, picnic & seating areas, community & an entry plaza with full custom paver system, a parking area, work-out fitness areas and they will also install fitness equipment. In addition, crews will install a full irrigation system, an electrical installation which will include Solar lighting, park trails, a bike path, open lawn recreation area, native plants and trees, sod installation, and hydro-seeding. Crews are also going to install an entire underground CMP cistern water catchment & filtration system that will be used to reclaim rainwater run-off as well as park and surrounding water run off collection to name a few things being constructed.

On May 5<sup>th</sup>, SLA crews worked hard to pass a major sub-grade compaction and grading inspection by the inspection agency Ninyo & Moore. Co. Corpsmembers are gaining vital work experience with construction inspection requirements, 100% construction plan blue prints and specification on how areas

are to be constructed. SLA corpsmember, Freddy Hernandez operated an 8 ton heavy compactor roller, William Ordonez operated the Bobcat to perform fine grading, and corpsmember, Josue Soto, operated the 646 front wheel loader to haul excess soil from within CMP cistern box. Corpsmember, Josue Arcienega operated the Corps's own 210LE skip loader as he performs precision grading to meet inspection requirements along side LA Corps' Technical Specialist/ELA general B Contractor, Frank Vuoso as he guided the Ninyo & Moore inspector through construction grades and elevation requirements met by LA Corps' crews. We passed this major inspection on our first attempt due to all the hard work put in by our crews!



*Crews preparing for the sub-grade inspection*

On May 5<sup>th</sup>, Water efficiency crews, under the coordination of Melinda Grodsky, worked to meet elevation requirements for the inspection. Crews also worked on drain line excavation and grading for drains leading into the CMP Cistern unit.



*Corpsmembers at Compton Park prepping CMP pipes for installation*

This week SLA crews unloaded 7 trucks which contained pipes to build the underground CMP cistern unit. Corpsmember Josue Arcienega works under the coordination of William Ordonez to unload one of the seven 48' 5,000lb pipes off a truck and trailer.



*Corpsmember Josue Arcienega operating a 646 front wheel loader*

Today, South LA staff will continue their tree planting training with the Tree Academy Training program which is being offered to Corps staff under a Cal-Fire grant. As seen in the picture below, Crew Supervisors Martin Martinez and Jesus Curbelo receive instructions from Larry Smith – LA Corps’ Urban Forestry Education Coordinator on how to correctly measure the depth of the hole to correctly plant a tree.



*Staff participating in the Tree Academy Training program*

### **LA River Cleanup Day**

On April 30<sup>th</sup>, LA River Corps and Clean & Green joined Mayor Viallaraigosa and FOLAR to clean up the LA River.



The Wildland’s Recovery Team (WRT) also had the opportunity to assist in cleaning the LA River to help create access for kayaks. WRT in collaboration with Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority (MRCA) staff provided a first aid station with 2 EMTS along with food/water and documentation stations to assist the 500 volunteers working that day. The crew was able to get their hands dirty and dig out at least three loads of trash from the river and made sure it was disposed of properly.



*WRT with Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and Councilmember Ed Reyes*

### **Dress for Success!**

Today, as part of our training and coaching, our Admin office corpsmembers participated in “Dress for Success Friday”. Corpsmembers took a break from their uniform and used this opportunity to dress professionally while still both expressing their own style and being appropriate for the workplace. This is a follow-up to the second unit in our workforce training entitled “First Impressions”.



*Admin office corpsmembers LaSaun Gardner, Angelo Golden, Iliana Sermano, Humberto Mendoza, Byron Villagran and Sheena Romero*

### **RACLA**

A RACLA crew will be diverting and recycling cans and bottles this weekend, May 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> at the Nokia Theatre in Downtown LA.