

# Los Angeles River Watershed

Increasing water use efficiency in the Los Angeles River Watershed.

Los Angeles and Ventura Counties; State Senate Districts 17, 19-30, State Assembly Districts 38-46, 48-52, 54, 55, 57, 58, 59

## COUNCIL FOR WATERSHED HEALTH

The Watershed Coordinator focused on innovative education projects to reduce water use, increase water use efficiency, and thereby reduce the region's reliance on imported water.

The Coordinator planned and conducted a series of 10 sustainable landscape design seminars which also addressed the quality and reliability of local water resources. When the 586 seminar participants were surveyed, 90% said they would work to improve their water use efficiency by implementing some of the landscape design and maintenance practices they learned about during the workshops.

The Watershed Coordinator also took the lead in removing noxious weeds detrimental to the watershed. As chair of the Los Angeles County Weed Management Area (WMA) group, the Coordinator administered an invasive plant management program, established a community lending program for weed control tools, and developed and distributed literature on the watershed benefits of removing non-native plant species and replacing them with water efficient native plants.

Following the devastating 2009 San Gabriel Mountains Station Fire, the Coordinator conducted a symposium which focused on post-fire natural resource conservation and recovery challenges and successes; 132 people attended.

For more information visit the Council for Watershed Health website at <http://www.watershedhealth.org>



- Developed the County of Los Angeles' Drought Tolerant Landscape Ordinance; as a result 34 cities in Los Angeles County updated their landscape ordinances
- Developed an approved plant list for the Los Angeles Unified School District
- Trained 50 employees of the City of Los Angeles and 'North East Trees' on sustainable landscape practices and maintenance
- Eliminated over 10 acres of non-native noxious weeds within the watershed
- Trained more than 120 Green Gardeners
- Created and distributed 48,000 'Sustainable and Fire Safe Landscape' calendars and guidebooks
- Organized 30 Landscape Ethic Committee meetings

***"Through our programs and projects we are redefining Southern California as a region providing a far greater proportion of its own water than previous generations could have imagined."***

***- Drew Ready, Watershed Coordinator***

**PARTNERS INCLUDED:** Arroyo Seco Foundation • Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy • Baldwin Hills Conservancy • CA Invasive Plant Council • California Department of Parks and Recreation • City of LA • Department of Interior, National Park Service • Environment Now • Generation Water • Los Angeles County Agricultural Commissioner Weights and Measures • LA County Parks and Recreation • LA County Weed Management Area • LA Unified School District • Metropolitan Water District of Southern California • North East Trees • Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden • San Gabriel and Lower LA Rivers and Mountains Conservancy • San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments • RCD of the Santa Monica Mountains • Southern California Edison • The River Project • Theodore Payne Foundation • TreePeople • USDA, Forest Service Angeles National Forest • UC Cooperative Extension • US Fish and Wildlife Service, Schoolyard Habitat Program