An assessment of Southern California's most significant environmental achievements of 2004
Environment Now is a private foundation based in Southern California. Its mission is to be an active leader in creating measurably effective programs to protect and restore California’s environment. The foundation commissioned this report to highlight those organizations throughout Southern California who took action and created tangible change in 2004.
Year In Review 2004:

Introduction

Southern California’s Environmental Year In Review 2004 is the first of its kind. This report serves as a resource on the environmental movement of Southern California, a guide to successful models of change that are likely to have a substantial impact well beyond our region and a means to recognize the results-oriented achievements that pushed the environmental movement forward in 2004. In order to create a balanced and objective report, Environment Now turned to experts from academia and government. These experts comprised the selection panels that chose the environmental achievements for 2004 based on their knowledge and experience.

Southern California’s Environmental Year In Review 2004 provides a closer look at the environmental movement’s greatest achievements in Southern California. The collaborative efforts by the environmental community reflected here have led to significant changes that will have a positive effect on communities throughout the United States. This review includes examples of successful models of change in Southern California, focusing on six major achievements that helped advance the environmental movement in 2004.

The Environmental Community Profile section of this review provides information regarding the make-up and structure of Southern California’s environmental groups. These organizations vary in size, ranging from grassroots groups of two people, to large regional offices of national organizations. Also, Cerrell Associates, Inc. reported on what environmental news is communicated through various media outlets.

Finally, Southern California’s Environmental Year In Review 2004 looks to the future, focusing on the most critical problems the region expects to encounter in the next five to ten years. By evaluating these threats against the backdrop of today’s successes, the environmental movement will be equipped to recognize new opportunities to overcome the challenges of tomorrow.
To determine Southern California’s most significant environmental achievements in 2004, environmental issues were divided into the following six categories:

- Air Quality
- Coastal Protection
- Forest Protection
- Land Use and Open Space
- Water Quality, Supply and Watershed Management
- Energy

Environment Now conducted a survey of nearly 100 environmental groups in Southern California to create a list of significant achievements in each category. Distinguished academics and public officials, each an expert in their assigned issue area, were then invited to join selection panels. Panelists were not limited to the nominated list of achievements for the selection process. Proposed achievements were evaluated based upon the following criteria:

Criteria for Achievements

- Significant and measurable environmental improvement
- Permanent change
- Precedent-setting
- Collaborative effort
- Impact or potential impact beyond Southern California
- Innovative approach
- Environmental justice issues addressed
- Must have occurred during 2004 calendar year

The geographic scope of this report is Southern California. (For purposes of this review, Southern California is comprised of Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Orange, Riverside, San Diego and Imperial Counties). Culturally, the environmental community of Southern California is unique. As a group, its members work collaboratively and focus on getting results. Because of these shared values, a lot of exciting and precedent-setting work gets done. The rest of the country often follows California’s lead and this report presents our greatest achievements of 2004.
2004 Achievement Overview:

Snapshot of Environmental Achievements

Air Quality
Permanent Funding of Carl Moyer Program to Reduce Diesel Pollution Finally Assured

The permanent funding of the Carl Moyer Program is 2004's most significant achievement in air quality. Between $125 and $140 million will be available each year to the program to replace high-polluting diesel engines in buses and trucks, accelerate vehicle replacement or repair, and reduce emissions from agricultural engines. This is more than twice the funding level of any year since the program's inception.

Coastal Protection
Groundbreaking Legal Settlement Forces City of Los Angeles to Clean Up Sewage System

The $2 billion settlement with the City of Los Angeles to repair its sewage system is 2004's most significant achievement in coastal protection. The settlement, which ended a six year legal battle brought by the Santa Monica Baykeeper, requires the City to rebuild at least 488 miles of sewer lines, clean 2,800 miles of sewer annually and increase the sewage system's capacity.

Forest Protection
California Adopts Climate Protocols that Promote Forest Stewardship in the Fight Against Global Warming

The adoption of the California Climate Action Registry's Forest Protocols is 2004's most significant achievement in forest protection. The system of protocols is the first major program designed to provide incentives to forest landowners to participate in a greenhouse gas registry program. Increases in carbon sequestration will result in improved forest and ecosystem health as well as water quality.

Land Use and Open Space
New Parks and Open Spaces Created in Los Angeles

The City of Los Angeles' Urban Parks Program Expansion is 2004's most significant achievement in land use and open space. The creation of new parks and open spaces in some of Los Angeles' most densely populated neighborhoods is an accomplishment that will continue to deliver benefits to county residents for decades to come. In addition, this achievement serves as a model for other urban areas in California and across the country.

Water Quality, Supply and Watershed Management
Los Angeles Passes 'Proposition O' in a Landslide Victory to Protect Local Waters from Contaminated Runoff

The passage of Proposition O is the most significant achievement in Watershed Management for 2004. In November, Los Angeles voters approved Proposition O by an overwhelming 76%. This bond measure will generate $500 million for storm water cleanup, pollution prevention technologies, habitat and wetlands restoration, drinking water protection, and the creation of green space to filter storm water.

Energy
Nation's Largest Municipal Utility Commits to Renewables, Dumps Coal

The adoption of an aggressive renewable energy portfolio standard for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) is the most significant achievement in energy for 2004. A two-year campaign involving many Southern California and western states environmental organizations reached fruition in 2004 when DWP committed to a major increase in the amount of renewable energy it supplies, and defunded a massive coal power plant expansion in Utah. DWP established a goal to increase its power generated from renewable sources from 3% today to 20% by 2017.
Air Quality

Permanent Funding of the Carl Moyer Program to Reduce Diesel Pollution Finally Assured

2004 Achievement in Air Quality

In this category, selection panelists considered a number of different projects to be singled out for their efforts to reduce pollutants or toxins in Southern California’s air. To make their decision, panelists took into account public health impacts, education and environmental justice, and results of measurement and quantification work. Only outdoor air quality achievements were considered.

Due to its significant environmental impact on air quality in Southern California, the Year In Review 2004 Achievement in Air Quality is awarded to the permanent funding of the Carl Moyer Program.

>> The Achievement

Carl Moyer was an innovative mechanical engineer who spent much of his career seeking ways to improve air quality and reduce harmful emissions. Although Mr. Moyer passed away in 1997, his legacy is the work now being done to implement financial incentives that phase out antiquated, high-polluting diesel engines.

Created in 1999, the Carl Moyer Memorial Air Quality Standards Attainment Program is recognized as one of the most cost-effective and important pollution reduction programs in history. However, year after year, air quality activists are forced to fight for funding through the state’s budget process. Despite the dire need to reduce diesel pollution, the program never exceeded annual funding of more than $50 million statewide. At one point, with California’s worsening fiscal woes, this program appeared to be doomed.

In 2004, the collaborative effort of creative government leadership and the resolve of air quality activists resulted in a permanent commitment to provide between $125 and $140 million annually for the Moyer program. The annual allocation is recognized as a “down payment” toward a fully funded program of about $200-300 million annually.

What Made the Difference?

In this case, it was the collaborative effort of many groups working with the shared vision of securing permanent funding for the Moyer Program that made all the difference. When Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger took office in 2003, he promised Californians that he would work to reduce air pollution by 50%. Environmental and public health groups jumped at the opportunity to work with the Administration to identify a funding stream for the popular Moyer program. The Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies (CEERT) and the South Coast Air Quality Management District led a coalition of the state’s leading air quality nonprofit groups, including the Natural Resources Defense Council, Environmental Defense, American Lung Association of California, Union of Concerned Scientists, Sierra Club, Environment California, Coalition for Clean Air and the California League of Conservation Voters. Together, these groups reached out to community organizations, including the California Environmental Rights Alliance and California Communities Against Toxics, to engage them in building support for a measure that would meet the program’s goals of moving toward health-based air quality standards, especially in low-income communities that often bear the brunt of diesel fuel related health problems.

The coalition secured the support of key legislators in California’s Central Valley – an agricultural region now competing with Los Angeles for the worst air quality in the United States. Community based groups in
For further information on this achievement, please go to: www.environmentnow.org/publications

the Valley, particularly Fresno Metro Ministries, Latino Issues Forum and others participating in the Central Valley Air Quality Coalition, worked closely with Sacramento colleagues in helping to educate so-called “Valley-crats,” moderate and conservative legislators from the San Joaquin Valley, about the benefits of permanent funding for the Moyer Program. Working with the advocates from the Central Valley also helped ensure that program funding would target heavy-polluting agricultural equipment.

Key California business groups also played a vital role in securing permanent funding for the Moyer Program. Environmental Entrepreneurs, the California Farm Bureau and the California Council for Environmental and Economic Balance all worked with air quality advocates to secure final approval of the funding strategy. A letter supporting the final agreement circulated by Governor Schwarzenegger’s office helped the measure pass by a significant margin during the closing hours of the legislative session.

The Impact
Since its inception in 1999, the Moyer Program has successfully helped to remove more than 3,000 tons of nitrogen oxide from the air each year. This translates to a $54 million dollar investment in the South Coast Air Basin. As of March 2004, more than 3,000 heavy-polluting engines were purchased through the Moyer program.

Funds generated must be spent in the following areas:
- The existing Moyer Program
- “Clean” school buses
- Accelerated vehicle replacement or repair
- Emission reductions from agricultural engines

It was a nine-month process of ups and downs. Each organization had a particular value they brought to the table – a truly collaborative effort.

- Jose Carmona, policy analyst for CEERT

During the first four years of the Carl Moyer Program, 580 clean alternative fuel refuse haulers were purchased in the South Coast Air Quality Management District alone. This liquefied natural gas vehicle is used by Waste Management to collect trash in San Diego.

2004 Air Quality Honorable Mention
Historic Port Pollution Solution Sets Precedent

Final settlement of a lawsuit brought by the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Coalition for Clean Air and residents living near the Port of Los Angeles assures real reductions of environmental impacts associated with the largest fixed source of air pollution in Southern California. The settlement requires the Port of Los Angeles to construct a new terminal that employs clean technologies. This may lead to major emission reductions at ports worldwide.

In June of 2004, the 863-foot container ship Xin Nan Tong docked at the Port’s new China Shipping Terminal. Instead of burning dirty bunker fuel, the ship shut down its engines and plugged into shore power – a system known as cold ironing or Alternative Maritime Power (AMP). Nearly 3,000 ships dock at the Port of Los Angeles each year and each of those ships releases about one ton of nitrogen oxide per day. Ship traffic is projected to triple by 2020, and left unchecked, would certainly have a devastating effect on air quality. As a result of the Port settlement, 70% of China Shipping’s vessels docking at the new terminal will convert to AMP. Additional elements of the settlement will address emissions from diesel trucks carrying cargo from the Port as well as from the diesel equipment used to transport goods from ships to trucks and trains.
2004 Achievement in Coastal Protection

In this category, selection panelists considered projects that directly impacted Southern California’s coastal ecosystem. They considered projects that dealt with water quality, biodiversity, ecosystem functionality, wetland or coastal land preservation, coastal habitats, as well as restoration, protection, or preservation efforts. Panelists also evaluated projects related to education and environmental justice. Projects on islands off the coast of Southern California were also considered.

Due to its significant and precedent-setting impact on coastal protection in Southern California, the Year In Review 2004 Achievement in Coastal Protection is awarded to the settlement of the Santa Monica Baykeeper’s sewage lawsuit with the City of Los Angeles.

>> The Achievement

InNovember of 1998, the Santa Monica Baykeeper filed suit in federal district court against the City of Los Angeles, alleging some 20,000 violations of the federal Clean Water Act due to ongoing city sewage spills. The majority of these spills occurred in low-income, minority communities. Some of the spills overﬂowed into storm drains and reached river and ocean waters, causing bacterial contamination and beach closures. In January 2001, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State of California EPA also sued the City of Los Angeles for its continuing violations. That same summer, residents of South Los Angeles, Baldwin Hills, the Crenshaw District, and other communities, joined in the litigation against the City, alleging unlawful sewage spills and severe odor conditions in their communities.

In August 2004, after six years of litigation, a $2 billion settlement was negotiated. The suit resulted in one of the largest clean water projects in recent years, and provides other communities with a roadmap for change.

What Made the Difference?
The Baykeeper originally ﬁled suit for a Clean Water Act violation after water quality data gathered from its own volunteer monitoring program suggested a correlation between high levels of bacteria in the Santa Monica Bay and sewage spills. After ﬁve years of being in and out of courts and mediation, U.S. District Court Judge Ronald Lew ruled that the City of Los Angeles was liable for the spills and set a trial date. In a fight that pitted a small environmental non-proﬁt against the city with the largest sewage collection system in the nation, resourcefulness was needed. Preparing for the case meant ﬁnding money to pay for expert testimony. The Baykeeper went to work, asking every potential donor, including Baykeeper Board members and individuals. As a result, they raised funds to pay the best experts. “The expert reports really turned the tide for us,” remarked Tracy Egoscue of the Santa Monica Baykeeper. The impact of this testimony was enough to move the City to settle the case out of court.

Although the Santa Monica Baykeeper led the ﬁght during the six-year court battle, collaboration made the real difference. Government agencies such as the Federal and State EPAs and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, joined the lawsuit in 2001 and provided the Baykeeper with expert reports and legal support. Community groups, including the Baldwin Hills Estates Homeowner’s Association, Inc., Baldwin Hills Village Garden Homes Association, United Homeowner’s Association, Village Green Owners Association and Concerned Citizens of South Central Los Angeles all contributed support to the Baykeeper’s suit.
The Impact

The impact of the settlement is enormous. The City of Los Angeles has about 6,500 miles of sewer lines serving almost 4 million residents. This $2 billion settlement requires the City of Los Angeles to rebuild at least 488 miles of sewer lines, clean 2,800 miles of sewer annually, enhance its program to control restaurant grease discharges, increase the sewage system’s capacity and plan for future expansion. The terms of the settlement require aggressive maintenance practices and a more proactive approach on behalf of the City of Los Angeles. All terms of the settlement must be met and progress reports submitted to the Santa Monica Baykeeper and the EPA for the next ten years, with penalties for unmet requirements.

This lawsuit demonstrates the effectiveness of enforcement of our nation’s environmental laws. It also sends a message to other cities that they cannot ignore the Clean Water Act. Collaboration with government agencies and local community groups was critical to the Baykeeper’s success. Los Angeles City Councilmember Jack Weiss, who chairs the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, said, “This settlement marks the beginning of a new environmental policy direction.”

According to the Santa Monica Baykeeper, the City of Los Angeles experiences an average of two sewage spills each day.

Santa Monica Baykeeper Case Timeline

- **August 1998**: Baykeeper notifies the City of Los Angeles of its intent to sue for violations of the Clean Water Act due to sewage spills.
- **November 1998**: Baykeeper sues the City of Los Angeles, alleging some 20,000 violations of the Clean Water Act. The City files a motion to dismiss Baykeeper’s case.
- **2000**: Federal EPA and State audit of Los Angeles sewer system reveals enormous problems.
- **January 2001**: Federal EPA and California EPA consolidate lawsuits with Baykeeper against City of Los Angeles.
- **July 2001**: Residents from Baldwin Hills, Crenshaw, South Los Angeles and Leimert Park join the litigation.
- **2001**: City of Los Angeles motion to dismiss Baykeeper’s case is denied.
- **December 2002**: Federal judge finds the City of Los Angeles liable for 297 sewage spills from July 2001 to July 2002.
- **August 2004**: All parties enter into a $2 billion, 107-page settlement agreement.

For further information on this achievement, please go to: [www.environmentnow.org/publications](http://www.environmentnow.org/publications)
2004 Achievement in Forest Protection
In this category, panelists considered projects addressing unsustainable logging, grazing, development, forest restoration work, sustainable forestry operations and species protection. In addition to forests in Southern California, projects in the Sierra Nevada and other regions of the state were eligible for consideration because healthy forests are critical to Southern California’s water supply. Both private and public forests were considered. Panelists also evaluated work related to education or environmental justice.

Due to its significant environmental impact on forest protection in Southern California, the Year In Review 2004 Achievement in Forest Protection is awarded to the California Climate Action Registry’s Forest Protocols.

Healthy, growing forests combat climate change by removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. When forestland is harvested aggressively or converted to another use, trees release the carbon dioxide back into the atmosphere. Humans act as a catalyst in this equation. Conservation and reforestation leads to the capture of carbon dioxide thereby slowing the warming of the atmosphere. Deforestation, on the other hand, releases carbon dioxide and increases global warming.

In 2004, a great stride was made in the fight against global warming, as well as in forestry protection with the adoption of the California Climate Action Registry’s Forest Protocols. The Protocols allow forest landowners and managers to participate in the Registry’s greenhouse gas registry program by calculating their entity-wide emissions footprint, as well as quantifying and reporting carbon sequestered through projects undertaken on their land. The impetus for producing the protocols came from State Senate Bill 812 Air Pollution: California Climate Action Registry that requires the development of incentives to conserve and protect the state’s native forests for their ecological benefits and carbon sequestration value. The Protocols provide a practical means to account for the emission of forest-generated carbon dioxide as well as increases in sequestration of the gas resulting from forest conservation, reforestation, and other beneficial management practices.

Currently neither state nor federal government offers rewards to landowners who participate in the program, but the State is required to make its best effort “to ensure that participants receive appropriate consideration for early actions in the event of any future state, federal or international greenhouse gas regulatory scheme.” Protocols are expected to influence evolving standards for greenhouse gas regulatory program offsets that might be adopted in the future. In addition, the Chicago Climate Exchange, a voluntary greenhouse gas reduction program and exchange, already provides a national market whereby California forest owners will be able to sell credits generated through the sequestration of carbon as guided by the Registry’s Protocols.

Completing California Climate Action Registry’s Forest Protocols required collaboration among the environmental community, the business sector, and state government. Not only will forest landowners see added economic benefit from keeping their trees standing, but rural economies will also benefit from sustainable logging practices.
What Made the Difference?

Early on, the Pacific Forest Trust (PFT) recognized the importance of healthy California forests to its people, its environmental quality and to world climate. Realizing that an innovative forest carbon trading system would be a significant impetus to protect California’s forests, the PFT began advocacy efforts to move the concept forward. In collaboration with other nongovernmental organizations, including the Nature Conservancy and Winrock International; government agencies; and progressive business interests including Mendocino Redwood Company, the PFT formed a working group to design the necessary protocols. The PFT also worked with legislators to develop and pass the facilitating legislation and with the California Climate Action Registry, a nonprofit, public-private partnership, to administer the system. “These protocols mean more forests and less global-warming – a win-win for California,” said Laurie Wayburn, President of the Pacific Forest Trust.

The Impact

Worldwide deforestation accounts for about 20% of the human-related increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide, second only to the burning of fossil fuels. In California, 60,000 acres of forests are cleared for development every year. In terms of carbon dioxide generation, this forest loss is the equivalent of putting 2.5 million new cars on our roads every year. Since half of the 31 million acres of California’s forestland is privately owned and thus at risk of development, this sequestration program has tremendous potential for moderating the state’s carbon dioxide emissions.

The California Climate Action Registry Forest Protocols also provide the beleaguered forestry industry with a real opportunity to glean new economic advantage from owning, protecting, and enhancing forestland. While the system guidelines require that forests be managed beyond existing requirements and permanently preserved, they do not require an end to logging, if it is conducted in a sustainable manner. Thus, the program helps to control global warming while improving forest and ecosystem health and water quality in California.

This forest protocol system is the first major program designed to protect native forests, and it provides a valuable model for carbon sequestration. Protocol-driven forest projects are already under development here in California, and since this precedent-setting system makes sense from economic, political, and ecological standpoints, other states and countries are also working to develop similar systems based on the model. Diane Wittenberg, President of the California Climate Action Registry, said, “This is a major boost for forest and climate protection. The California standard links the two by creating a ‘currency’ for forest landowners who use forest protection to sequester carbon.”

Environmental Benefits of Forest Carbon Sequestration Projects

- Improved forest health
- Reduced runoff & flooding
- Reduced soil erosion
- Improved water quality
- Improved salmonid habitat
- Improved wildlife habitat

Source: California Energy Commission/Public Interest Energy Research Program

For further information on this achievement, please go to: www.environmentnow.org/publications
2004 Achievement in Land Use and Open Space

In this category, panelists considered projects that worked to improve sustainability in Southern California by preserving environmentally sensitive open spaces, wetlands and wildlife corridors; creating or improving urban parks; improving efficiency of human development patterns, land use planning and the reduction of human development patterns. Panelists also considered projects related to education or environmental justice.

Selection Panelists:
- Honorable Eric Garcetti
  Los Angeles City Councilmember, District 13
- Stephanie Pincetl, Ph.D.
  Visiting Professor with the Institute of the Environment at University of California, Los Angeles

Due to its significant innovation and impact on land use and open space in Southern California, the Year In Review 2004 Achievement in Land Use and Open Space is awarded to the City of Los Angeles’ Urban Parks Program Expansion.

>> The Achievement

In 2000, the report “Creating Community Greenspace: A Handbook for Developing Sustainable Open Spaces in Central Cities,” was released with the intention of helping city planners think more creatively about creating green spaces in the urban core. The goal of the handbook was to expand availability of neighborhood parks and green spaces that community residents can access on foot. The report, issued by the California League of Conservation Voters Education Fund and the University of Southern California Sustainable Cities Program, helped jump start a process that ultimately brought nonprofit groups, neighborhood and community groups and city officials to the table to hammer out a strategy for expanding park space in Los Angeles.

The result of many years of collaboration and creative thinking has been an explosion of new parks and open spaces in some of the most densely populated neighborhoods of Los Angeles – a city that ranks last among major U.S. cities in per capita open space. The situation is worse in the city’s poorest neighborhoods, where low-income residents often lack the resources to drive to regional parks or beaches.

Environmental nonprofit groups capitalized on the voter support of urban parks. A recent series of park bonds on state and local ballots met with overwhelming approval. And there is growing demand for better neighborhoods that link green space with schools and housing.

What Made the Difference?
Frustrated by burdensome government funding guidelines, small neighborhood and community groups found it difficult to access voter-approved funding for parks. From that frustration emerged a reinvigorated Verde (Green) Coalition, bringing together environmental groups, economic development organizations, local unions and neighborhood groups working together to improve the quality of life in the urban core of the city. Among the organizations involved in the Verde Coalition were:
- ARTSCorpsLA
- Central City Neighborhood Partners
- Coalition LA
- Environmental Defense
- Figueroa Corridor Coalition for Environmental Justice
- Livable Places
- Los Angeles Conservation Corps
- Los Angeles Community Garden Council
- New Economics for Women
- North East Trees
- Pacoima Beautiful
- Strategic Action for a Just Economy
- The Blazers
- UEPI-Center for Food & Justice

The Verde Coalition established a goal to find the most effective and fair ways to ensure that all residents of Los Angeles live within a one-quarter mile walking distance...
of a community park, garden or playground. The Verde Coalition engaged Los Angeles City Councilmembers, the Mayor and the City Attorney, as well as representatives from several city departments, developers and economic development specialists. The unprecedented collaboration resulted in a report, “Walking to the Park,” that unanimously recommended the creation of a separate, private nonprofit land trust that could act both as a technical advisor to community groups looking to develop parks and green spaces, as well as a landowner if another public or private landowner failed to emerge. Coalition members recruited a board of directors and incorporated the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust (LANLT), which officially opened its doors in 2004.

The mission of LANLT is to engage residents and neighbors in dense, low-income, park-poor areas in a participatory process designed to make public spaces an integral part of neighborhoods.

Los Angeles has not been the only creative element to surface in the expansion of city parks. The parks themselves represent a whole new approach to making public spaces an integral part of neighborhoods.

The Impact

After many years of determination, innovation and collaboration, parks and green spaces are popping up all over Los Angeles – an achievement that will continue to deliver benefits to the residents of Los Angeles for decades to come and serve as a model for other urban areas around the state and the country.

City planners now realize that size isn’t important in providing community green space. In the summer of 2004, the city opened Madison West Park, a 1/3 acre neighborhood park in an East Los Angeles neighborhood long deprived of adequate green space. The playground equipment and landscaping provide a haven for residents to enjoy the outdoors. Community members drove through their neighborhood searching for possible park space, and worked closely with the city in securing the land and funding for improvements as well as designing the park to best meet the needs of the neighborhood.

Community gardens are evolving as a critical element of urban green space. There are close to 70 community gardens in Los Angeles – including one at 1225 N. Mansfield Ave. in Hollywood that opened in 2004 – where neighbors come together to plant and cultivate free, healthy, fresh foods. The gardens can reduce food budgets, improve nutrition, help teach young people about growing fruits and vegetables, and improve housing values.

Bimini Slough Ecology Park was one of the most innovative parks to open in the city in 2004. The East Hollywood park is owned and operated by the Bresee Foundation and was designed by North East Trees to serve as a model for addressing urban environmental challenges. Indigenous plants were used for landscaping and a state-of-the-art drip irrigation system was installed to reduce water consumption. The park makes use of permeable surfaces to enable ground water recharge and a 180-foot vegetated bio swale and trash

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Source: “No Place to Play: A Comparative Analysis of Park Access in Seven Major Cities” by the Trust for Public Land, November 2004

For further information on this achievement, please go to: [www.environmentnow.org/publications](http://www.environmentnow.org/publications)
Los Angeles Passes Proposition O in a Landslide Victory to Protect Local Waters from Contaminated Runoff

2004 Achievement in Water Quality, Supply and Watershed Management

In this category, panelists considered work in water resource protection, including efforts to reduce contamination and runoff, mitigation measures and technologies, protection and restoration of inland waterways and habitats such as rivers and streams, water conservation measures and groundwater recharge. The achievement must have been completed in Southern California; however, statewide achievements were eligible if significant effects were seen in Southern California. Achievements related to education or environmental justice were also evaluated.

Due to its precedent-setting environmental impact on watershed management in Southern California, the Year In Review 2004 Achievement in Water Quality, Supply and Watershed Management is awarded to the passage of Proposition O.

>> The Achievement

Each year, maintenance crews clear more than 10,000 tons of trash from local beaches. Most of this burden is transported to the coast by storm water runoff, especially during “first flush” episodes when a large rainfall follows a dry period. The trash is just the visible component of runoff’s pollution load. Accompanying the trash is a witches’ brew of herbicides, pesticides, fertilizer, paint products, detergent, motor oil, grease, animal waste, various additional toxins, viruses, and bacteria. Polluted urban runoff poses a threat to public health when people, usually children, come in contact with it in our gutters, catch basins, creeks, rivers, lakes as well as the ocean.

Southern California beachgoers are all too familiar with pollution warning signs advising people to stay out of the water. During 2002, 269 such warnings were posted on Los Angeles County beaches for a total of 1,181 days when the ocean was too polluted for human use.

In November of 2004, Los Angeles voters approved Proposition O – Clean Water, Ocean, River, Beach, and Bay Storm Water Cleanup Measure General Obligation Bonds – by an overwhelming 76%. This bond measure will generate $500 million for storm water cleanup, pollution prevention technologies, habitat and wetlands restoration, drinking water protection, and the creation of park and open space projects to filter storm water. Proposition O also will fund innovative projects, such as those introduced over the past decade by TreePeople, aimed at conserving storm water for future use through groundwater recharge.

What Made the Difference?

Environmental nonprofit organizations were actively involved in all aspects of the Proposition O campaign. They participated in initial polling and framing of the measure, advocating for it before the City Council – which voted unanimously to put it on the ballot – and supporting it in the press. The nonprofits actively involved included The Nature Conservancy, TreePeople, and the Trust for Public Land, all of which participated in the process from the beginning, as well as Friends of the Los Angeles River, Heal the Bay, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), and the Santa Monica BayKeeper, among others.

In addition to environmental nonprofits, broad-based support also came from business and labor leaders along with neighborhood associations from across the city.

> Proposition O will clean up L.A.’s contaminated storm water runoff, which festers with bacteria, pesticides, oil, grease and trash, and is the number one source of beach pollution.

- David Beckman, Senior Attorney with NRDC
The Impact

The passage of Proposition O will allow Los Angeles to design and construct projects to achieve compliance with water quality standards referred to as Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) adopted by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Nine TMDLs have or will soon be adopted out of more than 67 that are mandated for future implementation. TMDLs are written for specific pollutants and specific water bodies, such as rivers and beaches.

The passage of Proposition O also puts the City of Los Angeles in a leadership position on the prevention of coastal contamination. Its passage sends a strong message to all our elected representatives, as did the passage of Propositions 12, 13, 40, and 50 before it -- Californians want clean water and a healthy environment. Innovative groundwater recharge components should lead to savings by reducing the need to purchase expensive imported water, and clean oceans and beaches will benefit tourism.

California Court of Appeals Upholds San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board’s Groundbreaking Storm Water Permit

The 2001 San Diego Municipal Storm Water Permit requires that all county municipalities have an approved urban runoff management plan in place or face enforcement action. The Building Industry Association of San Diego County and several municipalities sued to overturn the permit claiming the board exceeded its authority in passing such a comprehensive measure. In December, however, a three-judge panel of the state appellate court concurred with a lower court decision and upheld the San Diego storm water permit. This decision affirms that agencies can institute regulations requiring water bodies to be clean, not merely requiring polluters to make an effort to reduce contaminated runoff.

For further information on this achievement, please go to:
www.environmentnow.org/publications

Of the $500 million allocated for Proposition O:

- $250 million will be spent to clean rivers, lakes, beaches, bays and the ocean
- $100 million goes to improve water quality and stop polluted runoff
- $75 million is set aside for water conservation projects
- $75 million will go to clean and reuse storm water

Watershed Management
2004 Achievement in Energy

In this category, achievements considered reflected significant environmental impacts from improvements in transportation, mobile or stationary energy production or use. Projects could include conservation, fuel efficiency, renewable energy, alternative fuels, clean and/or energy efficient technologies or transit. Achievements related to education or environmental justice were also evaluated.

Due to its precedent-setting innovative approach to energy resources in Southern California, the Year In Review 2004 Achievement in Energy is awarded to the Los Angeles DWP’s renewable energy victory.

**>> The Achievement**

A two-year campaign involving many Southern California and western states environmental organizations reached fruition in 2004 when the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) committed to a major increase in the amount of renewable energy it supplies and defunded a massive coal power plant expansion in Utah. DWP is the nation’s largest municipal utility, serving 3.8 million residents and businesses over 464 square miles with a $3.27 billion annual budget, $2.4 billion of which is dedicated to electricity.

As a result of the pressure to bring renewables into its energy portfolio, DWP committed to a goal of increasing its power generated by renewable sources to 20% by 2017. Renewable sources include wind, solar, geothermal and biomass power. Currently, the DWP is developing a 120-megawatt wind farm located in Kern County that would be the largest municipally owned wind farm in the country. DWP has also committed to a project that would turn yard clippings into clean energy, and is currently soliciting other proposals for renewable energy, aimed at meeting a 13% target by 2010.

Today, more than half of DWP’s power comes from coal, and only 3% from renewable sources. DWP had recently invested more than $2 million toward adding a third coal-burning generator at the Intermountain Power Plant in Delta, Utah. The city is already the largest customer of, and the primary investor in the massive plant that provides 75% of its power to Southern California. In response to pressure from the diverse coalition of labor and environmental groups, Mayor James Hahn halted DWP’s plans to expand its use of coal power.

Turning such a massive utility toward a sustainable future was no small task. An important victory in the campaign included omitting large hydroelectric plants, such as Hoover Dam, from the calculation of the renewable portfolio. Large hydroelectric plants are neither environmentally responsible due to the broad land and ecosystem impacts, nor are they sustainable since there is little likelihood that new large hydro projects will be built.

DWP’s historic focus on lowest-cost power, however, had become glaringly contrary to its customers views about how power should be responsibly produced. Ultimately, labor, business, and environmental groups made this clear, and City Council members such as Tony Cardenas and Council president Alex Padilla joined in the call for clean energy.

DWP’s entrenched position was out of line with the rest of California’s utility industry as well. In 2002, the California Legislature passed Senate Bill 1078 that established the California Renewables Portfolio Program, which mandated all investor-owned utilities to increase their use of renewable resources by at least 1% per year, until 20% of their retail sales come from renewables, which must occur by 2017. Municipal utilities like the DWP are exempt from these state requirements, but the law strongly encouraged municipal utilities to adopt comparable programs. Municipal utilities distribute roughly 20% of California’s power. In fact, DWP’s annual retail power deliveries represent almost 10% of the statewide total.

Selection Panelists:
- Shannon Eddy
  Advisor on Energy Efficiency and Renewables, California Public Utilities Commission

- Daniel Sperling, Ph.D.
  Director, Institute of Transportation Studies, University of California, Davis
What Made the Difference?

This action comes as a result of two years of hard work by a broad coalition of environmental groups. The achievement represents the best of the Southern California environmental movement’s collaborative approach to problem solving. The core group included:

- Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technology (CEERT)
- Coalition for Clean Air (CCA)
- Council on the Environment and Jewish Life
- Earth Day LA
-Environment California
- Global Green USA
- Los Angeles Interfaith and Environmental Council
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- Physicians for Social Responsibility – LA
- Sierra Club
- Union of Concerned Scientists

Critical to the success of this group was outreach to the Interior West, since the affected power plants are in this region. Sierra Club, Grand Canyon Trust, Western Resource Advocates and others provided technical and political support. The coalition also included Southern California business and labor organizations. The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 11 represents the vast majority of DWP’s 8,450 employees, and opposed the coal plant expansion alongside environmentalists due to the financial structure of the investment.

By collaborating with each other and with new allies, environmental groups created enough pressure to gain the interest of Los Angeles’ elected leaders to force change at DWP. CCA acted as a coordinator for the large group of allies, as others provided technical and political support. For example, CEERT and Environment California hired an energy analyst to provide an independent perspective from city reports. Once the City Council and Mayor were convinced of the need for and ability of Los Angeles to move to renewable power, they implemented the change at DWP.

The Impact

As the largest municipally owned utility in the nation, DWP’s commitment to renewables and withdrawal from the Intermountain Power Plant is of enormous significance. It is a victory for the environment and public health across the western United States.

By relying on coal power, Southern California exports its pollution problems. Currently, there are more than 35 proposed new or expanded coal-fired power plants in the Interior West. They will emit huge amounts of carbon dioxide, which contributes to global climate change. If all of the proposed coal plants were developed, they would add approximately 185 million tons per year of carbon dioxide emissions - a 58% increase from 2000 levels, according to Western Resource Advocates.

An expanded Intermountain Power Plant would likely run for 60 years or more, representing an essentially irreversible long-term commitment to dirty power. Such a commitment crowds out investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency. With their high capital costs and relatively low fuel costs, once these coal plants are built they will have to be used around the clock to justify their costs of construction.

Coalition for Clean Air claimed that the proposed expansion would have made Los Angeles power customers responsible for a 20% increase in Utah’s carbon dioxide pollution, as well as increased mercury contamination, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, water consumption, and haze over some of the nation’s most cherished wild places, including five national parks.

For further information on this achievement, please go to:

www.environmentnow.org/publications

Los Angeles Department of Water & Power’s Current Energy Sources

Note: Data covers calendar year 2003, as submitted to the California Energy Commission. Renewable power sources include small hydro-electric, solar, wind, geothermal, biomass & waste.

Source: Los Angeles Department of Water & Power 2004
Environmental Community Profile

To understand what environmental work is being done in Southern California, it is helpful to know more about who is doing the work. Environment Now conducted two surveys with the Southern California environmental community in 2004. The results in this report are based on the qualitative and quantitative data collected from online surveys of more than 100 environmental organizations.

Note: Statistics stated are results from one survey (results of the two surveys are not combined). Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number.

Snapshot of Survey Respondents

50% of survey respondents are the Executive Director of their organization

35% of survey respondents have a graduate degree

55% have been working in the environmental sector for 10 years or more

Executive Directors’ Top Work Responsibilities
(respondents could select up to three)

75% fundraising

67% operations

59% advocacy

46% policy

37% communications

4% enforcement

Organizational Data

17 - Average number of Years in Operation for Organizations

27% of respondents in business for 25 years or more

5% of respondents in business for 5 years or less

18 - Average Number of Full Time Staff

26% of respondents have a staff of one or two persons

10% of respondents have a staff of 25 people or more

8% of respondents have no full time staff

2,500 - Average Membership Size (within Southern California)

36% of respondents have 1,000 members or less

17% of respondents have 3,000 or more members

29% were not membership organizations
Volunteer Time on the Rise

- 40% Decrease in Volunteer Hours Over 2003
- 2% Had Not Changed from 2003
- 58% Increase in Volunteer Hours Over 2003

Environmental Organization 2004 Funding

- 20% Saw a Decrease in Funding Over 2003
- 17% Did Not See a Significant Change in Funding from 2003
- 63% Saw an Increase in Funding Over 2003

Environmental Community Media Work

42% contact the media less than once per month or as needed

24% contact the media two times per month

30% contact the media between one and three times per week

Only 3% of responding organizations speak to the media on a daily basis

Top reasons environmental groups contact the media:

- 91% press releases/events
- 56% follow up/maintaining relationships
- 47% story pitches
- 41% Op-Ed pieces

Number of staff hours per month spent on media:

- 44% less than five hours
- 25% five to ten hours
- 16% twenty to thirty hours
- 4% thirty or more hours

2004 funding from government grants:

- 75K or less: 26%
- 75K to 150K: 11%
- 150K or more: 21%

2004 funding from foundation grants:

- 75K or less: 46%
- 75K to 150K: 13%
- 150K or more: 32%

2004 funding from private individuals:

- 75K or less: 62%
- 75K to 150K: 4%
- 150K or more: 29%

2004 funding from memberships:

- 75K or less: 42%
- 75K to 150K: 7%
- 150K or more: 5%

2004 funding from events:

- 75K or less: 51%
- 75K to 150K: 9%
- 150K or more: 6%

- None: 34%
Any environmental organization competing for the attention of legislators, key stakeholders or the community should have an effective strategy for garnering media coverage on issues they view as most critical. Whether it is print, broadcast or online, the media helps inform and influence the public on issues of importance and ultimately the legislators that serve them.

Cerrell Associates, Inc. (CAI) examined how environmental news is communicated across Southern California. This helped discern which environmental issues garnered the most attention, helping to elevate them on the public’s environmental priority list.

What was Southern California’s big story in 2004?

To better understand the environmental issues that Southern Californians care about most, CAI researched more than 50 newspapers, magazines and web sites, generating a distinct picture of what topics were making the news on a consistent basis. Additionally, Cerrell asked environmental reporters and stakeholders to give their opinions on what stories mattered most during 2004. CAI also looked at different counties in Southern California on an issue-by-issue basis to gain a better understanding of which issues received coverage and which did not. Of all the media stories reviewed only one topic was covered across the region by nearly every paper.

The number one story is…. Air Quality, or more specifically, the degradation of it throughout Southern California.

In each newspaper examined throughout the region, from the Los Angeles Times to the Desert Dispatch, articles about poor air quality that local residents were breathing or would be breathing dominated the environmental headlines. Most of the press coverage dedicated to air quality focused on two distinct areas, emissions and growth. Many articles focused on how Southern California’s air quality problems are exacerbated by dramatic increases in population.
Best Newspapers for Environmental Coverage

(Those newspapers that presented the most stories across the spectrum of important environmental issues)

- Riverside Press Enterprise
- Los Angeles Times
- San Diego Tribune

Reporters clearly favored negative headlines to positive ones nearly 10 to 1.

Most Reported Environmental Topics in 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Newspaper</th>
<th>Circulation</th>
<th>Most reported:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles Times</td>
<td>circ. 902,164</td>
<td>Air Quality, Gas Emissions Issues, Open Space, Coastal Protection, Storm Water and Runoff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Diego Union Tribune</td>
<td>circ. 334,283</td>
<td>Air Quality, Recycling Efforts, Watershed Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riverside Press Enterprise</td>
<td>circ. 204,755</td>
<td>Air Quality (Smog issues/AQMD issues), Development/Land Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles Daily News</td>
<td>circ. 177,652</td>
<td>Renewable Energy, Air Quality, Open Space Issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Gabriel Valley Tribune</td>
<td>circ. 110,335</td>
<td>Air Quality, Green Energy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Beach Press Telegram</td>
<td>circ. 97,070</td>
<td>Alternative Energy at the Port of Long Beach, Land Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ventura County Star</td>
<td>circ. 62,393</td>
<td>Alternative Energy, Energy Deregulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pasadena Star News</td>
<td>circ. 45,000</td>
<td>Air Quality, Development/Land Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antelope Valley Press</td>
<td>circ. 34,916</td>
<td>Water Quality, Waste Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whittier Daily News</td>
<td>circ. 21,105</td>
<td>Renewable Energy, Land Use, Air Quality</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Environmental Coverage from Public Service Announcements:

Cable networks such as Adelphia, Comcast and Charter Communications receive a high number of requests to place Public Service Announcements (PSAs) on their stations. Because the volume of PSAs far outweighs the number that can actually be aired, the audience ultimately sees a very limited number. In interviews conducted with cable companies, it was recommended that organizations wishing to make a real impact with their PSA should partner with interested cable companies and develop an outreach program containing specific goals and public interest.

Cerrell Associates, Inc.

For more than 38 years, Cerrell Associates, Inc. (CAI) has enjoyed a reputation as one of California’s most respected public affairs firms. CAI is a specialty agency with a professional staff capable of handling a variety of public relations needs, including media relations, crisis management, special events, and government relations and advocacy at the local, state and national levels. Joseph and Lee Cerrell founded the company in 1966. CAI maintains a total staff of 30 full-time employees, consisting of 19 professional account staff and 11 support and administrative staff. Cerrell Associates currently has 60 different accounts comprising of corporate, non-profit, governmental, political and individual clients.
Southern California’s Environmental Outlook

The achievements of 2004 provide models of change that environmentalists can apply to new challenges. Notably, the activists involved in these efforts utilized outreach, litigation, political organizing, creativity, collaboration, legislation and regulation, and more. The question that remains is “To what threats and opportunities will we apply these models in the future?” To answer that question, Environment Now returned to its expert panelists. Combined, their answers provide an insight into Southern California’s environmental priorities in the coming years.

Impacts of Power Generation

In energy and water supply, Southern California is increasingly recognizing that we must take responsibility for the environmental impacts of our infrastructure decisions. Like the DWP achievement, which reduced the projected share of coal in our energy mix, Southern California will have to act now to affect our long-range energy mix. The state faces the challenge of aggressively embracing renewable energy sources while federal policies are encouraging more coal production in the West and creating downward pressure on California electricity prices. Our energy experts believe that the environmental community should force power plants to use the cleanest coal available today and that liquefied natural gas imports present a promising alternative to coal generation in the medium-term. Addressing the challenge of creating renewable sources for the long-term given the current state of the industry will require investment in research and development of new technologies, similar to the investments made in alternative on-road vehicle technologies. In addition, demand-side pressures for efficiency, such as green building, are a crucial component.

Maximizing Local Water Supply

About half of the water that Southern Californians rely upon is sourced locally. Our ability to utilize local water supply resources, however, is not nearly maximized. Underutilized local resources include groundwater recharge, storm water, and reclaimed water. These sources of supply are natural assets that should be managed to maximize their value. Increasing our ability to utilize these assets would take some pressure off the importation of Sierra Nevada and Colorado River water. Historically, these imported sources are far less reliable than local sources. Our watershed experts believe that by practicing integrated watershed management, which includes utilizing permeable ground surfaces, recharging groundwater aquifers, increasing conservation, and capturing storm water, Southern California will reduce the risk to humans from drought or catastrophe, including terrorism, and decrease our impact on water-based ecosystems. They warn however, that the quality of our local water is threatened. Local water supplies are under constant pressure from new pollution and the legacy pollution in our soils. Increased enforcement must also target polluters to resolve these threats.

Rising Land Prices

In land use and forests, rising land prices are a serious threat to progress in environmental protection and restoration. Residential development is creeping into our forests, forced by increasing property values in urban areas. It is fragmenting habitats, creating runoff problems, endangering species, increasing fire risk to people, and limiting the management options for the forests, such as prescribed fire. In urban areas, rising land values makes it difficult to build new parks, and what is needed, according to our experts, is more regional parkland that reflects the natural ecosystem.

Public Opinion Advances

A generation of environmental education has been credited with a turnaround in public opinion about environmental issues in Southern California, as witnessed by the overwhelming support for Proposition O in Los Angeles and other bonds statewide. Such unequivocal public support stands in stark contrast to the actions of cities that are pursuing lawsuits against storm water regulation. The environmental community is representing the public interest through sewage spill elimination cases currently underway in San Diego, Garden Grove, and other California cities, as well as litigation on storm water runoff in many smaller cities. However, if Los Angeles residents believe so strongly in clean water and beaches, citizens in other cities are likely to share these values, and our public leadership should respond.
Diesel Killer and Disproportionate Impacts

The ongoing problem of pollution from diesel engines is becoming even clearer as new reports shed light on the health risks from very small particulate pollution. Though the Carl Moyer achievement this year was critical, the program needs even more funding. Growing evidence of impacts on children’s health makes cleaning up school buses especially urgent. In addition, given the projected tripling in volume of goods from the Ports of LA and Long Beach, pollution from goods movement, including diesel ships, yard equipment, trucks, and trains, will be a significant challenge for years to come.

Pollution from personal transportation and goods movement has a disproportionate impact on poor communities and communities of color. Due to the proximity of these communities to pollution sources (sea and airports, freeways, transfer yards, etc.), and potential permit streamlining for refineries that removes the protection of local input, their residents face a growing threat from our transportation system. We need to reduce our dependence on petroleum-based fuels and move toward viable and sustainable alternatives if we are to solve these disproportionate impacts.

Final Thoughts

We hope that Southern California’s Environmental Year In Review 2004 will be used as a case study and resource for the environmental community. The highlighted achievements demonstrate effective tools used locally to achieve results that improved our environment. The report can be referenced in confronting the myriad environmental challenges in our communities, including the ones mentioned above. Its lessons can also be leveraged in other communities facing similar challenges. As global leaders in the environmental movement, Southern Californians have a responsibility to learn from and communicate our successes as we tackle our most pressing environmental reforms.
Selection Panelist Biographies

Air Quality

Cynthia Verdugo-Peralta
Governor Gray Davis appointed Cynthia Verdugo-Peralta to the South Coast AQMD Governing Board as the Air Pollution Control Specialist member in April of 2000, becoming the first Hispanic female to assume this position. She was reappointed in 2003. Verdugo-Peralta has over 12 years experience in air pollution control. Before becoming a Board Member, she served on several AQMD technical committees and managed several U.S. Department Of Energy energy efficiency and environmental small business programs. She also represents the AQMD on the Steering Team of the California Fuel Cell Partnership and the DOE’s International Partnership for a Hydrogen Economy. Verdugo-Peralta is a California Energy Commission-certified Energy Efficiency Specialist with 30 years’ experience in the utility industry.

Arthur M. Winer, Ph.D.
Dr. Arthur M. Winer is Professor of Environmental Health Sciences, and a core faculty member in the Environmental Science and Engineering Program, in UCLA’s School of Public Health. His research focuses on experimental and modeling studies concerned with air pollutant exposure assessment, with particular emphasis on children’s exposure. His recent field studies have involved air pollutant measurements in diesel school buses, portable classrooms, and residential homes in Los Angeles County. His modeling research is aimed at improving epidemiological linkages between air pollution and health outcomes. Both his experimental and modeling studies have applications to environmental justice concerns about disproportionate air pollution exposures of vulnerable populations.

Forest Protection

Susan Britting, Ph.D.
Susan Britting received her doctorate in biology from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1992. Working as a consultant to non-profit organizations, her services include advising on implementation of federal and state environmental policies, analysis of management plans, habitat analysis using a geographic information system (GIS), and database development for natural resource management. Her primary area of interest is habitat planning in the Sierra Nevada, although her interests in policy development extend statewide. In 2002, she was appointed by Governor Gray Davis to serve as a member of the California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Thomas A. Scott, Ph.D.
Tom Scott is a Natural Resource Specialist with University of California Integrated Hardwood Range Management Program. His faculty position is at UC Berkeley; his office and laboratory are housed at UC Riverside, where he is Associate Director for the UCR Center for Conservation Biology. He has an MS in Ecology from San Diego State, and a Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley. Before pursuing these advanced degrees, Dr. Scott worked as a field biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and zoologist for the San Diego County Regional Growth Management Office. He was a Fulbright Research Fellow in 2003 and received the 2002 Education Leadership award from the American Planning Association.
Coastal Protection

Linwood Pendleton, Ph.D.
Dr. Pendleton joined UCLA as an Associate Professor in the spring of 2004. He received a B.S. in Biology (with a chemistry minor) from the College of William and Mary, an M.A. in Biology from Princeton University (for studies in tropical ecology), a Masters of Public Administration from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, and a Doctor of Forestry and Environmental Studies in Natural and Environmental Resource Economics from the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies at Yale University. Dr. Pendleton was an assistant professor of Economics, International Relations, and Environmental Studies at the University of Southern California and an assistant professor of Economics and Finance at the University of Wyoming.

San Diego County Supervisor Pam Slater-Price
For nearly two decades, Supervisor Pam Slater-Price has taken a common-sense approach to government that has made her a force in San Diego County politics. Slater-Price began her public service career in the late-1980s when she served as a local councilwoman and mayor. She was first elected to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors in 1992 and began her fourth term in January 2005. She is currently serving as chairwoman for the third time since joining the board. During her time in office, Slater-Price has established a reputation as an advocate for open-space preservation, economic growth, increased transportation spending, animal welfare, and the promotion of the arts.

Land Use and Open Space

Los Angeles City Councilmember Eric Garcetti
Councilmember Eric Garcetti represents the Thirteenth District, comprising the communities of Hollywood, Silver Lake, Echo Park, Atwater Village, Elysian Valley, Glassell Park, Temple-Beverly, Thai Town, Little Armenia, and Filipino Town. Prior to his election, Garcetti was a professor of public policy, diplomacy and world affairs at Occidental College and the University of Southern California. A fourth-generation Angeleno, Eric was sworn into office on June 15th, 2001. Councilmember Garcetti led the creation of a $100 million Affordable Housing Trust Fund, the country’s largest environmentally-sensitive Green Building Initiative. A committed environmentalist, Councilmember Garcetti serves as Vice-Chair of the Environmental Quality Committee and has consistently pushed policies that clean up the district’s water, from the Los Angeles River to city lakes and bays.

Stephanie Pincetl, Ph.D.
Stephanie Pincetl joined the Institute of the Environment in July 2003 as a Visiting Professor. With a Ph.D. in Urban Planning from UCLA in the mid-1980s, Dr. Pincetl concentrates her work on issues of land use and governance from an interdisciplinary environmental perspective. In 1999, Johns Hopkins University Press published her well-received Transfoming California, a Political History of Land Use and Development. For the past 5 years, she was a Research Associate Professor of Geography at USC, coordinating a new interdisciplinary program on Sustainable Cities. During this period she continued work on issues of land use and development in California, analyzing the evolution of land governance on the urban fringe, at the intersection of endangered species protection and urban growth.
Panelist Biographies [ continued ]

Water Quality, Supply and Watershed Management

H. David Nahai
David Nahai is the President of Nahai Law Corporation, a Century City law firm, specializing in real estate, corporate, environmental and commercial law. Mr. Nahai also serves as a member of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board. He was first appointed to the Board in 1997. In 2000, he was re-appointed by Governor Gray Davis, and in 2004, for a third time, by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. Mr. Nahai served as Chairman for three years, from 1999 through 2001. Mr. Nahai is also a Board member of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, and is currently its Vice-Chairman. Mr. Nahai is on the Board of the California League of Conservation Voters.

Robert C. Wilkinson, Ph.D.
Robert C. Wilkinson is Director of the Water Policy Program at the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management, and Lecturer in the Environmental Studies Program, at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Dr. Wilkinson’s teaching, research, and consulting focus on water policy, climate change, and environmental policy issues. Dr. Wilkinson is also a Senior Fellow with the Rocky Mountain Institute. He advises government agencies on water policy, climate research, and policy issues. He currently serves on the public advisory committee for California’s State Water Plan, and he represented the University of California on the Governor’s Task Force on Desalination. He advises various agencies including the California Energy Commission, U.S. DOE National Renewable Energy Laboratory, and the U.S. EPA on water and climate research.

Energy

Shannon Eddy
Shannon Eddy currently serves as the Advisor on Energy Efficiency and Renewables to the Schwarzenegger Administration, where she develops state energy policies and coordinates state agencies in achieving California’s clean energy and energy efficiency goals. Prior to joining the administration, Shannon spent 10 years working with the California environmental community, focusing on issues ranging from renewable energy and air quality to climate change and wetlands protection for groups such as the Sierra Club California and CEERT. She was instrumental in the creation and passage of California’s Renewable Portfolio Standard and the state’s landmark vehicle global warming standards.

Daniel Sperling, Ph.D.
Daniel Sperling is Professor of Civil Engineering and Environmental Science and Policy, and founding Director of the Institute of Transportation Studies at the University of California, Davis (ITS-Davis). Dr. Sperling is recognized as a leading international expert on transportation technology assessment, energy and environmental aspects of transportation, and transportation policy. He has testified numerous times to the U.S. Congress and provided keynote presentations and lectures in recent years at international conferences in Asia, Europe, and North America. In the past 20 years, he has authored or co-authored over 200 technical papers and eight books. He is a recent member of ten National Academies committees, including Hydrogen, Transport in China, Biomass Fuels R&D, and Sustainable Transportation.
2004 Southern California’s Environmental Year In Review

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