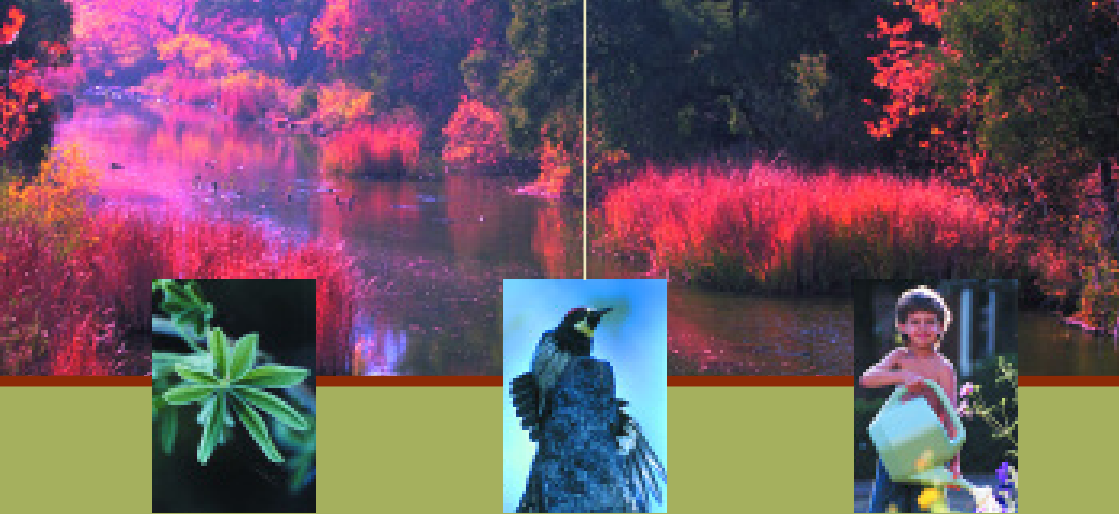


# Living Lightly

in Our Watersheds



## A Guide for Residents of the North Santa Monica Bay Watersheds

Includes the cities of Malibu, Agoura Hills, Westlake Village, Calabasas and portions of unincorporated Los Angeles County, including the communities of Topanga, Malibou Lake and Monte Nido

**Updated Summer 2005**



malibu creek watershed  
advisory council

## Living Lightly in Our Watersheds Partnerships

The Malibu Creek Watershed Advisory Council recognizes the following organizations and agencies as critical partners in creating the first edition of the **Living Lightly in Our Watersheds** Guide. From providing funding to lending technical expertise, these organizations are dedicated to preserving the natural resources of the North Santa Monica Bay Watersheds.



Contributors to this Summer 2005 update:

**City of Calabasas**

**City of Malibu**

**City of Agoura Hills**

**City of Westlake Village**

**Los Angeles County Department of Public Works –  
Watershed Management and Environmental Programs Divisions**

**Las Virgenes Municipal Water District**

**Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains  
(Melissa Cole Johnson, project coordinator)**

We would like to thank Persechini and Company for generously donating the original design of this document. Their creative talents are also responsible for this updated version. Without them, this project would not have been possible.



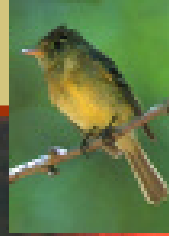
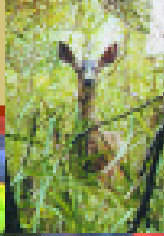
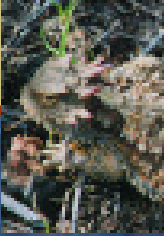
This guide is based upon the Topanga Watershed Committee's original Living Lightly in Topanga Guide, as well as the City of Santa Monica's Environmental Directory. We thank both Santa Monica and the Topanga Watershed Committee for generously allowing us to expand on their inspiring work.

Please be aware that all contacts are for your information only.  
The sponsors of this guide do not endorse the products or services listed in this guide.

Cover photos: Left, Dove Lupine; Center, Acorn Woodpecker; Right, Resident watering flowers;  
Background: Malibu Creek State Park as seen from the bridge

# Welcome

## to Our Guide



Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to introduce this second edition of the **Living Lightly in Our Watersheds Guide**.

The Santa Monica Mountains continue to be one of California's most precious natural resources. I am always struck by their majesty and pristine beauty. Here in Los Angeles County, we are fortunate to have been entrusted with the awesome responsibility to preserve them for future generations.

We are learning more each day about how we can protect and preserve our natural resources, and how to better co-exist with our environment. As an inhabitant of these mountains, you can be an enormous help from your own front yard.

Each watershed constitutes a unique environment ranging from the heavily urbanized to the rural and undeveloped. These coastal watersheds boast miles of creeks and streams, offering shady riparian habitats, nesting grounds and food sources for birds and animals, as well as a natural filtration system for the water that flows to our beaches and into Santa Monica Bay.

Watersheds may be nature's gift, but they are our responsibility and each of us has a role to play. Here is a guide for good stewardship of the mountains you live in, donated in large part by the professionals in your community.

Congratulations to all those who contributed their time and knowledge to assemble this guide. It is my hope that their work will inspire and motivate you to join this effort and live "lightly" in your watershed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zev Yaroslavsky'.

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

Los Angeles County Supervisor, Third District

# Table of Contents

Welcome	1
Area Map	3
About the Watershed	7
<b>Section 1 – The Great Outdoors</b>	<b>10</b>
Urban Runoff	11
Water Conservation	12
Beaches and Bays	13
Local Beach Jurisdiction	14
Beach Water Quality	14
Public Access and Coastal Development	15
Stranded/Beached Animals	15
Fishing from the Beach	15
Horses	16
Parks and Public Land	18
Trees	20
Tree Maintenance and Trees on Public Land	21
Living with Wildlife	22
Domestic and Wild Animals	22
Threatened and Endangered Species	23
To Attract Wildlife	23
<b>Section 2 – Around the House</b>	<b>26</b>
Indoor Air Quality	27
Outdoor Air Quality	27
Energy	28
Purchasing Green Energy	29
Energy Efficient Appliances	29
Energy Efficient Lighting	29
Construction	30
Green Construction and Remodeling	31
Remodeling: Encountering Hazardous Materials	31
Wastewater	32
Tips for Maintaining Your Septic System	33
Graywater Systems	33
Landscaping	34
Water-wise Landscaping	35
Non-Native Plants	35
Landscaping Naturally	36
Erosion Control and Slope Stabilization	37
Fuel Modification for Fire Safety	38
Buying “Green”	39
General Resources	41
Waste Disposal	42
Trash	43
Recyclables	43
Composting	43
<b>Section 3 – Get Involved</b>	<b>46</b>
Outdoor Education Programs	47
Top Ten Ways to Protect Your Watershed	48
<b>Section 4 – Community Resources</b>	<b>52</b>
Farmers’ Markets	53
Transportation	54
Public	55
Ridesharing	55
Alternative Fuel Vehicles	55
Organizations and Agencies Active Locally	56
State Agencies	58
Federal Agencies	58
City and County Contact Information	60
Special Thanks and Credits	62

# a map of our watersheds

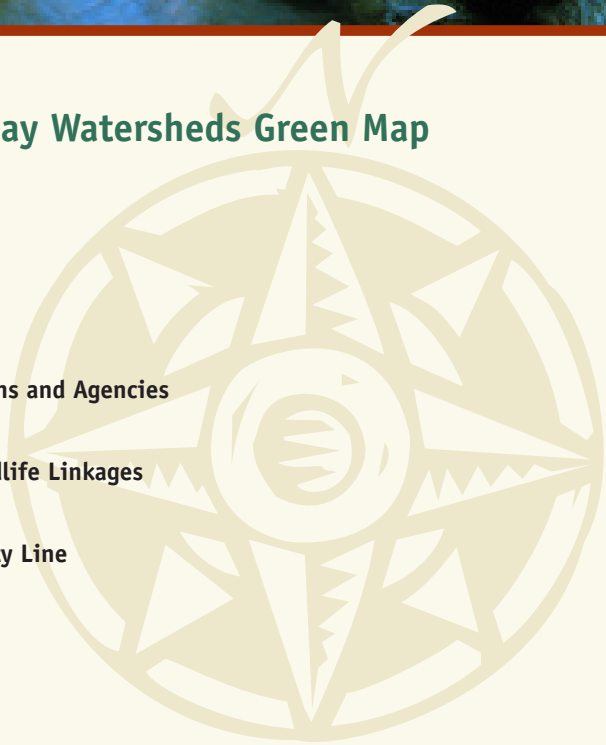






## ◀ North Santa Monica Bay Watersheds Green Map

-  Water District
-  Water Reclamation Facility
-  Composting Facility
-  Farmers' Market
-  Environmental Organizations and Agencies
-  Rindge Dam
-  Existing and Potential Wildlife Linkages
-  Feature Road
-  Los Angeles/Ventura County Line
-  Watershed Boundaries
-  Creeks
-  Parkland
-  Landfill
-  Incorporated Cities
-  Unincorporated Areas Within Los Angeles and Ventura Counties
-  Last Grizzly Bear Sighting 1853

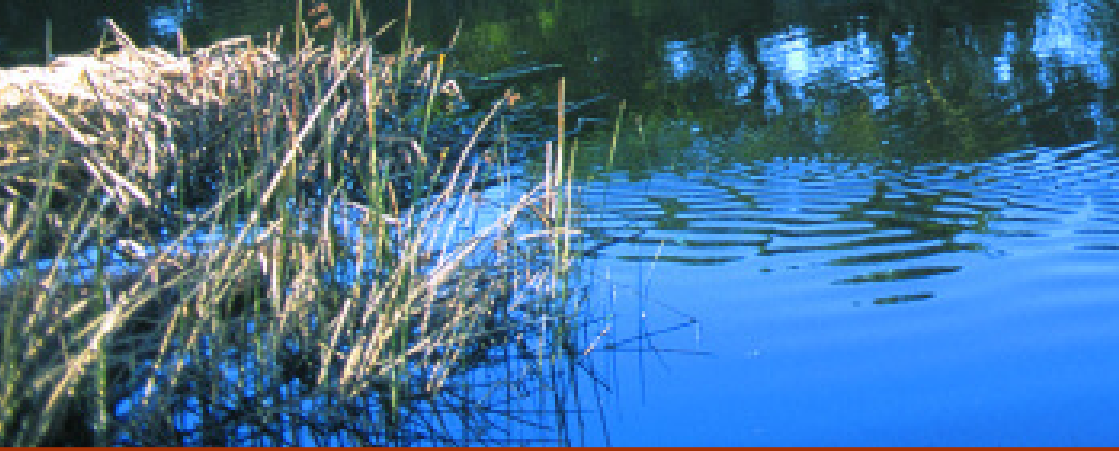


Above: Sycamores along Malibu Creek



Thanks to GreenMap Systems for providing us with their copyrighted icons.

Copyright for the Icons is Green Map Icons © Modern World Design 1996-99. All rights reserved.  
[info@greenmap.org](mailto:info@greenmap.org) [www.greenmap.org](http://www.greenmap.org) [www.lagreenmap.org](http://www.lagreenmap.org)

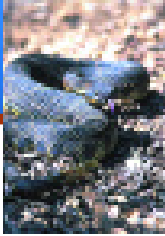


# Malibu Creek Watershed

part of the North Santa Monica Bay Watershed

A watershed is a geographic area in which all of the rainfall into that area eventually flows to a single discharge point.





At 109 square miles, **the Malibu Creek Watershed is one of the largest discrete watersheds draining into Santa Monica Bay**, second only to the Ballona Creek Watershed. Malibu Creek and its tributaries reach east into Ventura County, winding through the Santa Monica Mountains and neighborhoods like yours until eventually reaching Santa Monica Bay.

Almost 100,000 human residents in five cities and unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County call these watersheds home, as do countless plant and animal species. **Some animal species, such as the steelhead trout, tide-water goby and brown pelican are endangered.** Many others, such as the snowy plover and peregrine falcon, are threatened. These watersheds also host the popular Malibu Creek and Topanga State Parks, many hiking/biking trails, and spectacular scenery spanning from the ocean to the mountains.

Protecting these watersheds is important not only for residential quality of life, but also to ensure the long-term health of the ecosystem. However, increased urbanization has resulted in water quality and quantity issues, as well as loss of critical habitat. **Collectively, our actions can either harm or help this amazing place we call home.** By taking responsibility for ensuring the overall health of these watersheds and minimizing actions that adversely impact their natural resources, we can assure their viability for future generations.

This Guide provides local residents with pages of useful information to help make watershed protection and preservation easier than ever. Not only will you find information on the watershed's many natural resources, you will also find great tips and information on how to improve your immediate environment – and even save money in the process. **From public transportation to landscaping tips, you will find plenty of information on how to Live Lightly in your Watershed. Enjoy!**

Inset photos: Left, Southern Pacific Rattlesnake; Center, Humboldt Lily; Right, Water quality testing, Malibu Creek Watershed  
Top: Decker Lake

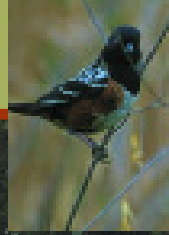
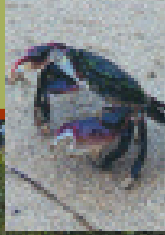


Matibu Creek State Park



# Section 1

## The Great Outdoors



### Keeping Our Creeks and Ocean Clean

The Santa Monica Bay has been identified as an “impaired water body” by numerous state and federal agencies. This impairment stems from a variety of sources, including “nonpoint sources” such as over-watered lawns and denuded hillsides and “point sources” such as water treatment plants and large industrial facilities. Due to the combination of long dry spells and heavy winter storms, local streams are particularly sensitive to these various forms of pollution. Luckily, we can help protect our waterways by making simple, informed choices.

Inset photos: Left, Pacific Treefrog; Center, Crab at Malibu Lagoon State Beach; Right, Plover, Malibu Creek  
Background: Lower Malibu Creek

## Urban Runoff

Non-point source pollution has been identified as a major contributor to poor water quality in the Santa Monica Bay. “Non-point source” simply means that the pollution is coming from diffuse and often unidentified sources. These sources can contribute trash, bacteria, viruses, nutrients and excess sediments to our streets, creeks and eventually our ocean. When we over-water our lawns, hose down our sidewalks or wash our cars in the street, water flows down the gutter and into drains in the curb (called storm drains). In addition, rain events wash debris and pollutants off our streets and into these drains. **This storm drain water (also called urban runoff) is not filtered before entering the ocean.** Therefore, everything in the gutter eventually makes it to the ocean, **AS IS**. Your local government is helping to combat this problem with regular street cleaning, water filtration devices and enforcement. Here’s what you can do:

- 🍁 Reduce the amount of water, fertilizers and pesticides you use. Excess water can carry contaminants directly to the ocean.
- 🍁 Wash your car at the car wash or on a permeable surface such as the lawn to keep detergents and street trash from entering the storm drain system.
- 🍁 Clean up after your dog, especially on sidewalks and other “hardscapes.”
- 🍁 Fit your roof with gutters and downspouts that discharge onto a permeable surface (such as grass or a sand-pit), or collect rainwater in a cistern or tank for fire protection and irrigation.
- 🍁 Use a broom instead of the hose for outdoor clean-up.
- 🍁 Dispose of all products properly. Street trash, used oil and hazardous materials often find their way into the storm drain system.
- 🍁 Cover outdoor trash receptacles.
- 🍁 Contact (888) CLEAN-LA to report sewage spills or illegal dumping.



Non-point sources can contribute trash, bacteria, viruses, nutrients and excess sediments to our streets and eventually our ocean.

### Water Conservation

What else can we do to help restore our creeks and ocean? One effective choice is to reduce the amount of water we use. This is particularly important since nearly all local potable water is imported from northern California. Here are a few options:

- ✿ Replace high volume flush toilets. Modern, low-flush models use less than 1/3 the water of old models, saving about 8,500 gallons per year for the average single-family household.
- ✿ Use a low-flow showerhead to save more than 14,600 gallons a year per household.
- ✿ Install drip irrigation in your garden. Water overflow carries street debris such as trash, motor oil, fertilizer and pesticides down the storm drain directly into the ocean.
- ✿ When it's time for a new washing machine, buy a water-saving model. Water-wise machines use 1/3 less water, half the energy, and require less detergent and washing additives.

Water utilities can provide assistance for making water conservation changes in your home. The Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD) provides rebates for installing ultra low-flow toilets, free low-flow showerheads, and free water use home surveys to customers in Calabasas, Agoura Hills, Westlake Village, Hidden Hills, and unincorporated areas of western Los Angeles County. To encourage wise-water use as a lifetime practice, LVMWD provides water conservation tours for 5th grade students during their annual Outdoor Education program, and water conservation curriculum materials for in-classroom lessons. For more information, call the LVMWD at (818) 251-2200.

West Basin Municipal Water District provides \$50 rebates for Ultra-Low-Flush Toilets (ULFTs) to Malibu residents. These ULFTs use only 1.6 gallons per flush compared to the 3-7 gallons of older toilets. West Basin also provides \$100 rebates for High Efficiency Clothes Washers, as well as various rebates for commercial devices. For more information on any of the District's programs, please visit its web site at [www.westbasin.org](http://www.westbasin.org).

The Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 29 also provides free water use surveys for its residential, commercial and landscape customers in Malibu and Topanga. For more information on these programs, call the District at (626) 300-3351.



The City of Malibu's Clean Water Program works with local businesses and residents to eliminate pollution in our coastal waters.

Malibu invites residents to become a member of the Clean Water Team and proudly display the mascot "Bu." For more information contact the Clean Water Program Coordinator at (310) 456-2489 x275. For information on water programs in your area, contact your local storm water manager (see pg. 60 for contact information).



# Beaches and Bays

The health of our beaches is directly linked to the health of our watersheds via both the natural creek and urbanized storm drain systems. Storm drains and open channels carry garbage and less visible pollution such as bacteria, viruses and toxins to the ocean – **unfiltered**. This pollution can be hazardous to humans and marine life. To protect our famous beaches, we all need to consider our everyday impacts on the watershed.

### Local Beach Jurisdiction

Local beaches are under the jurisdiction of LA County Beaches and Harbors at (310) 457-2525 or [www.beaches.co.la.ca.us](http://www.beaches.co.la.ca.us) or California State Parks at (800) 777-0369 or [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov). These agencies can provide information about beach hours, rules and temporary closures due to unsafe water quality.

### Beach Water Quality

Disease-causing bacteria and viruses, called pathogens, are often found in high concentrations at beaches after rainstorms. To be safe, never swim within 100 yards of a flowing storm drain within three days after a rainstorm. Check out the latest **Beach Report Card** on the Heal the Bay website at [www.healthebay.org](http://www.healthebay.org) for more information. Heal the Bay can also provide information on beach weather, volunteer beach cleanups, habitat restoration projects, and their Adopt-a-Beach program. You can contact them at (310) 453-0395.

For water quality information (including links to the Heal the Bay report card), visit the Surfrider Foundation website at [www.surfrider.org/malibu](http://www.surfrider.org/malibu). For information on water quality, surf reports and local events, contact the Malibu Chapter at (310) 451-1010. Contact Santa Monica BayKeeper at (310) 305-9645 or visit [www.smbaykeeper.org](http://www.smbaykeeper.org) for information on volunteering for the Kelp Restoration Project.

The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission provides a variety of information on local beaches, habitats and water quality. Their website at [www.santamonica.org](http://www.santamonica.org) contains links to coastal weather, beach amenities and recreational activities.



## Public Access and Coastal Development

For information on public access and coastal development, contact the California Coastal Commission in Ventura at (805) 585-1800 or [www.coastal.ca.gov](http://www.coastal.ca.gov).

## Stranded/Beached Animals

To report a beached animal that appears to be sick, injured, or orphaned between Topanga Beach and Ventura County, contact the California Wildlife Center (CWC) at (310) 458-WILD or page CWC's Marine Mammal Rescue Coordinator at (310) 685-2919. To report a beached animal south of Topanga, contact the Whale Rescue Team at 800-39-WHALES. **Do not attempt to handle the injured animal yourself.** The Marine Mammal Protection Act ensures the protection of all marine mammals. For the safety of marine mammals and people, the public should stay 100 feet from a beached animal.

## Fishing from the Beach

Fish that live in the waters along the coast, especially bottom-feeders such as white croakers, often contain high levels of toxins. These toxins can be harmful to people who eat the fish on a regular basis. Health officials recommend limiting the amount of fish that is consumed from local waters and removing all fatty parts (where the chemicals, such as DDT, are concentrated) before cooking. For more information contact the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services Toxics Epidemiology Program at (213) 738-3220.



# Horses

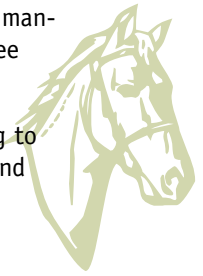


Horses provide a wonderful way to experience the great outdoors. Luckily, the Santa Monica Mountains offer a lifetime of trails to explore on horseback. The proper design and maintenance of these trails can help ensure enjoyment for years to come. Here are just a few tips:

- ✦ Stay on existing trails, even when muddy. Going around the mud only creates a larger area devoid of vegetation and further compacts the soil. Creating a new trail can destroy native vegetation and weaken slopes, leading to erosion and possible landslides.
- ✦ New trails should be built along the grade and disrupt the minimum amount of vegetation. If a trail must be built on a steep slope, the trail should “switch back” down the grade.
- ✦ Use designated entry points for entering private and public land. Hundreds of “private” entrances to public parklands create a significant impact on native vegetation and wildlife patterns.

Many horse owners board their horses at locations throughout the mountains; some choose to keep horses at home. Whether you board or keep horses yourself, it is important to be aware of potential impacts on the watershed. Cleared, compacted areas such as corrals and riding rings can contribute to erosion and sedimentation of streams, while horse wastes can contribute nutrients and bacteria to waterways. These impacts can result in water quality impairments throughout the entire watershed, including landslides, loss of marine habitat and beach closures. Horse keepers know how to take care of their horses – here are a few tips to take care of the watershed as well:

- 🍁 After it rains, evaluate the flow of water on your property. Does water drain from the manure pile? Is it pooling in certain areas? Is water running into the creek? Any of these can potentially create pollution in our waterways. Always control runoff from your facility.
- 🍁 If water, sand, dirt, bedding or manure is traveling off-site, look to the source. Can manure and used bedding be stored elsewhere? Are they properly covered and maintained? Can the water be diverted to a vegetated, sand or gravel “filter”?
- 🍁 For small facilities, try composting manure. Composting can help manage the waste load, save pick-up fees and create safe/bacteria-free fertilizer.
- 🍁 Follow all local, state and federal rules and regulations pertaining to building codes, stream setbacks, stream alteration, landscaping and manure management.



## Helpful Contacts

### Trails

**Santa Monica Mountains Trails Council:** (818) 222-4531 or [www.smmtc.org](http://www.smmtc.org)

**Equestrian Trails Incorporated:** (818) 362-6819 or [www.etinational.com](http://www.etinational.com)

**National Park Service/Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Visitor Information:** (805) 370-2301 or [www.nps.gov/samo](http://www.nps.gov/samo)

### Creating and Maintaining a Horse Facility

**Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains:**

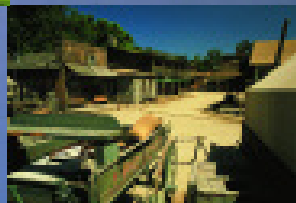
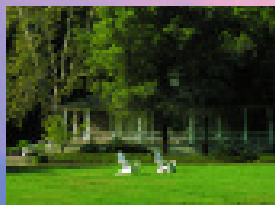
Call (310) 455-1030 for a copy of the Stable and Horse Management Manual.

**Los Angeles County Regional Planning:** (213) 974-6422

**California Coastal Commission Ventura Office:** (805) 585-1809

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:** (213) 452-3425

# Parks and Public Land



The Santa Monica Mountains provide a lifetime of outdoor exploration. The National Park Service distributes a wonderful hiking and outdoor educational guide every season called *OUTDOORS*. Contact the National Park Service or stop by the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains at 122 N. Topanga Canyon Drive, Topanga for a free copy.

Remember to follow all park rules and regulations. These restrictions ensure that public lands will always be available for our use. More importantly, they protect the streams, plants and wildlife we come to enjoy.

Inset photos: Left, Peter Strauss Ranch; Center, Old West movie set at Paramount Ranch; Background: Will Rogers State Park as seen from Sullivan Ridge

## Local Parks and Public Land

### **National Park Service: (805) 370-2301 or [www.nps.gov/samo](http://www.nps.gov/samo)**

Circle X Ranch – camping, hiking, picnicking, guided walks

Paramount Ranch – western town movie set, picnicking, equestrian and hiking trails

Rancho Sierra Vista/Satwiwa Native American Indian Natural Area – hiking, equestrian and mountain bike trails, cultural center, guided hikes

Rocky Oaks – hiking and equestrian trails, picnicking

Solstice Canyon – hiking, picnicking

Cheeseboro/Palo Camado Canyons – hiking, equestrian and mountain bike trails



### **California State Parks, Angeles District Office: (818) 880-0350 or [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)**

Leo Carrillo State Park – camping, campfire programs and hikes

Malibu Creek State Park – camping, picnicking, fishing, hiking, bicycling, equestrian trails, naturalist walks and group programs

Malibu Lagoon State Beach/Historic Adamson House – tours, museum, bird walks

Point Mugu State Park – camping, picnicking, hiking, bicycling, equestrian trails

Topanga State Park – hiking, equestrian and mountain bike trails, docent-led walks

Will Rogers State Historic Park – theater, guided tour of ranch house



### **Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy: (310) 589-3200 or [www.smmc.ca.gov](http://www.smmc.ca.gov)**

Franklin Canyon Ranch/Sooky Goldman Nature Center – hiking, naturalist programs

Temescal Gateway Park – hiking, picnicking, overnight group camping



### **Mountains Restoration Trust: (818) 591-1701 or [www.mountainstrust.org](http://www.mountainstrust.org)**

Cold Creek Canyon/Valley Preserve – interpretive plant and bird walks, private tours



### **UCLA Stunt Ranch Santa Monica Mountains Reserve: (310) 206-3887 or <http://nrs.ucop.edu/reserves/stunt.html>**

Environmental research and education



### **TreePeople: (818) 753-4600 or [www.treepeople.org](http://www.treepeople.org)**

Coldwater Canyon Park – plant nursery, hiking



### **City of Agoura Hills, Department of Community Services (818) 597-7361 or [www.ci.agoura-hills.ca.us](http://www.ci.agoura-hills.ca.us)**

Information on calendar events, sports, camps, classes, fitness, trips, and programs for all ages (tots to seniors)



### **City of Calabasas, Community Services: (818) 880-6461 or [www.cityofcalabasas.com](http://www.cityofcalabasas.com)**

Information on park locations, calendar events, sports, classes, and skate park



### **City of Malibu, Department of Parks and Recreation: (310) 317-1364 or [www.ci.malibu.ca.us](http://www.ci.malibu.ca.us)**

Information on State Park, Malibu Equestrian Center, and Summer Tennis Camp  
Charmlee Wilderness Park – Full Moon Hikes and Docent Naturalist Training



# Trees

Trees contribute to watershed health in a variety of ways. They attract wildlife, provide habitat, decrease our dependence on fossil fuels by cooling the air, provide shade, and reduce air pollution by absorbing pollutants. Trees can also help improve water quality and reduce flooding by intercepting rainfall and polluted storm water runoff. If that weren't enough, trees add a "natural" feel to our urban areas, and can even increase our property values.

## Tree Maintenance

Tree maintenance can have a long-term impact on your property as well as the rest of the watershed (think of the root system, pollen, leaves, etc.). Before trimming, remember that leaves provide the food for the tree; removing them causes stress. Here are a few tips:

- ✿ As a general rule, pruning of major limbs (never more than 15% per year) should be done in the rainy season to ensure proper hydration of the tree and to avoid disturbing nesting birds and squirrels. Remind your tree trimmer to work around nests. Because trees can react differently to pruning, it's best to consult a certified arborist before a major pruning to keep your tree healthy.
- ✿ Topping off or removing certain native trees such as oaks, California walnuts, and western sycamores is illegal under city and county ordinances. For questions, contact your local arborist or forester (see pg. 60 for city/county specific contact info).
- ✿ Allow some leaf litter to accumulate rather than sending it to the landfill. Fallen leaves and branches provide nutrients to the soil and surrounding ecosystem.
- ✿ Ask your professional landscaper for a "tree protection plan" or alternatives to tree removal when landscaping private property.

## Trees on Public Land

Trees on the public right-of-way are under the jurisdiction of your local city or county's department of public works, road maintenance division. You may request removal or trimming of public trees (when the tree covers a street sign or impedes street access), report public trees that appear to be diseased or dying, or request that new trees be planted in your neighborhood. This is also the agency to contact when tree roots have displaced a sidewalk. See pg. 60 for city/county specific contact information. Contact your local Police or Sheriff's Department to report illegal or un-permitted tree trimming activities on public or protected trees.



### Helpful Contacts

TreePeople  
[www.treepeople.com](http://www.treepeople.com)  
(818) 753-4600

Resource Conservation  
District of the Santa  
Monica Mountains  
[www.rcdsmm.org](http://www.rcdsmm.org)  
(310) 455-1030

American Society of  
Consulting Arborists  
[www.asca-consultants.org](http://www.asca-consultants.org)  
(301) 947-0483

USDA Urban Forestry  
Research  
<http://cufr.ucdavis.edu>  
(530) 752-7636



## Living with Wildlife

Living close to wildlands, you've probably already noticed that your backyard can be home to many different kinds of wildlife. More familiar native species include the ground squirrel, coyote, mule deer, raccoon, red-tailed and red-shouldered hawk, and bobcat. Threatened and endangered species include the California red-legged frog, tidewater goby and steelhead trout. It is important to respect and appreciate these creatures, and to seek ways to live in harmony with them and their natural environment. Remember that you live in a wild area; if you create the right habitat (scrubby bushes to hide under, smelly trash), expect "guests" to show up!



### For the health of domestic and wild animals...

- ✿ Do not allow pets to roam in wildlands, where they may pick up diseased ticks and fleas, encounter rattlesnakes, and disturb or harm native wildlife.
- ✿ If you want to discourage wildlife from living near your house, eliminate nesting sites by filling holes, mending screens, and removing piles of wood, brush, and rocks after any wild animals have finished nesting. To check if a site is currently in use by wildlife, sprinkle flour near the entrance and for several days check for animal tracks.
- ✿ Don't leave pet food outside. This can create a dependency on humans and cause conflicts between wildlife and people.
- ✿ Make sure garbage cans and compost bins are covered and secure. Attempt to remove the source of temptation, rather than the animal itself.
- ✿ Be aware that dumping unwanted animals like goldfish, crayfish and minnows (from a recent fishing trip) into streams has serious consequences. These creatures compete with our native amphibians for food and space, and can have drastic impacts on their longevity and well-being.
- ✿ Avoid using pesticides, which are non-discriminate and may end up harming pets and animals/plants down the creek. Call the RCDSMM at (310) 455-1030 for suggestions on non-chemical means of deterring wildlife.
- ✿ If you find a baby bird that has fallen from its nest, carefully put it back. A mother bird will not reject a chick just because it has come in contact with humans. If you find an uninjured baby squirrel, place it in a shallow, towel-lined box at the base of the tree and leave it undisturbed for 4-6 hours so the mother may take it back to the nest. Do not give injured animals any food or water.
- ✿ To report sick, injured, or orphaned wild animals, contact the California Wildlife Center at (310) 458-WILD. **Do not attempt to feed, trap, harm, or handle any wild animal!**
- ✿ For domestic animal problems, or to report dead animals, contact the LA County Department of Animal Care & Control at (818) 991-0071.



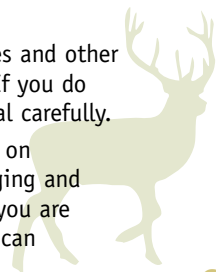


## Threatened and Endangered Species

It is illegal to harm any animal listed as threatened or endangered by the California Department of Fish and Game or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "Harm" includes disturbing habitat in any way (i.e. cutting down a tree with nests) as well as more direct harm (i.e. hunting or fishing). To report the sighting of an endangered plant or animal species, including a mountain lion, contact the California Department of Fish and Game South Coast Region Headquarters at (858) 467-4201.

## To attract wildlife to your yard...

- 🍁 Invite a diverse group of lizards, birds, and butterflies to your garden by selecting native plants that flower and bear fruit at different times of the year. Refer to the landscaping section on pg. 35 for helpful contacts.
- 🍁 If you choose to have a bird-seed feeder, remember to clean up loose seed to avoid attracting everything from rats to coyotes. Hummingbird feeders should be cleaned and changed regularly (at least once a week) to avoid fermentation and mold growth.
- 🍁 Birds – from hawks to hummingbirds – can be seriously injured by windows. To make your windows more visible, avoid placing indoor plants near windows, hang a stained glass ornament, use window coverings, place a decal on the window, or hang wind chimes.
- 🍁 Be aware that dead, dying and hollow trees can serve as valuable habitat for wildlife. Consider leaving standing dead and dying trees in your yard unless they pose a human safety or property hazard. Also, allow some leaf litter to accumulate on the ground.
- 🍁 Bats eat mosquitoes, moths and beetles. A single brown bat can catch more than 600 mosquitoes in an hour! To attract bats to your yard, install a bat house on a pole or building 15 feet or higher in an area that receives 6 or more hours of sunlight daily.
- 🍁 Butterflies, birds and other wildlife are vulnerable to many pesticides and other chemicals. Minimize chemical use by practicing organic gardening. If you do use chemicals, always follow label instructions on usage and disposal carefully.
- 🍁 When lighting your home, be sensitive to possible negative impacts on adjacent lands. Outdoor night lighting greatly disturbs wildlife foraging and movement patterns. Remember that the animals and plants around you are dependent on natural light – electric lights disrupt their cycles and can shorten their lives.



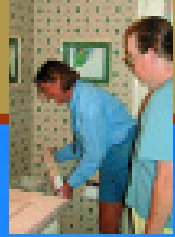


Acorn Woodpecker, Solstice Canyon



# Section 2

## Around the House



### Air Quality and Energy

How are watershed health, air quality, and energy related? Electricity generation is the single greatest source of air pollution in the United States, contributing to smog, acid rain and global warming. Luckily, we have some personal control over the production of energy and our own air quality. By using public transportation, planting a tree, buying alternatively fueled vehicles or switching to “green” energy, we can all contribute to significant, positive changes in air quality.

Background: Sandstone formations near Sandstone Peak from the Circle X Trail

## Indoor Air Quality

Many of us spend most of our time indoors. The quality of our indoor air, therefore, can have a significant effect on our overall health and well-being. Mold, off-gassing of paint, furniture and carpeting, and pet allergens can all affect the quality of your indoor air. For more information, contact the following resources.

- 📞 Call the **US Environmental Protection Agency**, Region 9 office at (415) 744-1219 for information on potential sources of indoor air pollution and ways to prevent poor indoor air quality.
- 📞 Contact the **American Lung Association** at (323) 935-5864 or visit [www.lungusa.org](http://www.lungusa.org) for information on indoor air quality in the home and workplace.
- 📞 Consult **Alpure Environmental Services**, Inc. for information on non-chemical treatment of indoor mold at [www.alpure.com](http://www.alpure.com) or (866) 425-7823.

## Outdoor Air Quality

- 📞 For information on air quality, permitting/compliance or to lodge a complaint, contact the **South Coast Air Quality Management District** at (800) CUT-SMOG or [www.aqmd.gov](http://www.aqmd.gov).
- 📞 Contact the **Coalition for Clean Air** at (213) 630-1192 or [www.coalitionforcleanair.org](http://www.coalitionforcleanair.org) to find out what is happening in Sacramento concerning our air quality.
- 📞 Check out the **Environmental Defense Scorecard** at [www.scorecard.org](http://www.scorecard.org) for information on air quality and polluters in your community.
- 📞 Go to the **Natural Resources Defense Council** website at [www.nrdc.org](http://www.nrdc.org) to learn about their Air/Energy Program, what is happening in Washington and to receive air-related publications.



In just one year, the electricity produced to power the average home in California creates the same amount of smog as an average car being driven from New York to Los Angeles. This energy production also creates the same amount of carbon dioxide (which causes global warming) as driving a car one-third of the way around the world.

# Energy



The majority of electricity in the United States comes from coal, nuclear, large hydroelectric and natural gas plants. The burning of non-renewable fossil fuels is particularly harmful to air quality and public health. Researchers estimate that as many as 500,000 deaths in the United States alone can be linked to that cause each year. Thus, choosing green energy is an important way to protect your health while reducing your contribution to global warming. Green energy is electricity from renewable sources – sun, wind, biomass and geothermal. These renewable sources emit little pollution and, unlike nuclear production, leave no radioactive waste.

## Purchasing Green Energy

To purchase renewable energy directly from your energy provider, contact the number on your energy bill. To learn more about creating renewable energy sources at home, contact the Consumer Energy Center of the California Energy Commission at 800-555-7794 or [www.consumerenergycenter.org](http://www.consumerenergycenter.org). The Energy Center can also provide information on renewable energy rebates and tax credits. If you feel that the creation of renewable energy sources should be a priority, contact your local state representatives and the governor.

### Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger

State Capitol, First Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814

### Senator Sheila Kuehl

23rd District, 10951 W. Pico Blvd., #230, Los Angeles, CA 90064

### Assemblymember Fran Pavley

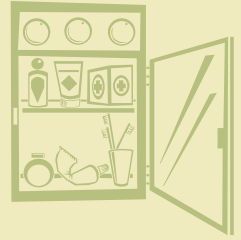
41st District, 6355 Topanga Canyon Blvd., #205  
Woodland Hills, CA 91367-2108

## Energy Efficient Appliances

Appliances, especially refrigerators, use a tremendous amount of energy. Buying products certified by the Energy Star Program guarantees that the product uses less energy by “powering down” when not in use. Energy Star certified products are available at all major retail outlets. For more information about the US Environmental Protection Agency’s Energy Star program and products, go to [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) or call (888) STAR-YES.

## Energy Efficient Lighting

Lights use about 12% of a home’s electricity, so using efficient lighting inside and outside of the home can save you money and reduce air pollution. Energy efficient compact fluorescent lights work well inside, while low-pressure sodium (LPS) lamps work well outside. Motion sensors and shielded, downward reflectors work best in the mountains. By limiting outside “glare”, you’ll save energy costs, maintain a better relationship with neighbors, minimize disruption to wildlife, and preserve our view of the stars.



For additional information on renewable energy programs or products, contact:

Global Green USA  
(310) 581-2700  
[www.globalgreen.org](http://www.globalgreen.org)

GreenE  
(888) 63-GREEN  
[www.green-e.org](http://www.green-e.org)

Shell Solar Industries  
(877) 777-8466  
[www.siemenssolar.com](http://www.siemenssolar.com)

A photograph of three people on a construction site. On the left, a man in a colorful striped polo shirt and khaki pants. In the center, a woman in a light blue sleeveless top. On the right, a man in a brown suit and tie. They are all looking at and holding large sheets of paper, likely blueprints. The background shows the blurred outlines of houses under construction.

# Construction

By taking advantage of natural sunlight and wind conditions, as well as using less toxic materials, green buildings work in harmony with their local environment. Water and energy saving alternatives such as low-flow toilets, energy efficient lights and appliances, and smart heating/cooling systems help keep power and water bills down. And, choosing green building materials such as steel framing can eliminate the need for toxic termite treatments.



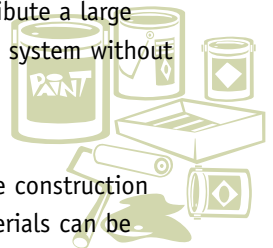
## Green Construction and Remodeling

- ✦ The **Green Building Resource Center**, a partnership of the City of Santa Monica and Global Green, has samples of popular green building materials and provides free design advice. Contact them at (310) 452-7677 or <http://www.globalgreen.org/gbrc>.
- ✦ The City of Santa Monica's **Residential Green Building Guide** is downloadable at <http://greenbuildings.santa-monica.org/whatsnew/moreinfo.html>.
- ✦ The **City of Austin, Texas** has developed a green building sourcebook that provides installation guidelines, estimated costs, potential uses and schematic diagrams. The sourcebook is available on-line at [www.greenbuilder.com/sourcebook](http://www.greenbuilder.com/sourcebook).
- ✦ **Building Green** publishes the Green Spec™ Directory which provides up-to-date information on green building materials and products. Contact them at (802) 257-7300 or visit their website at [www.buildinggreen.com](http://www.buildinggreen.com) to purchase the Directory or receive their newsletter.
- ✦ **Energy saving building materials and appliances** can be found on the web at [www.energy-efficient-products.ebuild.com](http://www.energy-efficient-products.ebuild.com).

“Green” building also strives to minimize the amount of pollution and waste created during construction. This means using the least amount of raw materials, purchasing the least-toxic materials, and keeping all waste on-site until properly disposed of at a landfill or recycling center. Keeping construction waste on-site is also required by law. See your city's stormwater ordinance or contact your local stormwater manager to find out more about regulations that may pertain to your project (see pg. 60 for city/county specific contact information). In addition, ask around before hiring a contractor to find one that knows and follows all regulations concerning construction runoff. Even a “small” remodel can contribute a large amount of gravel, dirt and hazardous materials to the storm drain system without proper management.

### Remodeling: Encountering Hazardous Materials

Keep in mind that asbestos and lead compounds are found in the construction materials of many homes built before the late 1970's. These materials can be hazardous to your health if not managed properly. **It is very important that only licensed and certified contractors manage asbestos and lead services.** Contact the California State Contractor's License Board at (800) 321-2752 to find a licensed contractor. For a list of contractors certified to manage lead, contact the California Department of Health Services at <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/childlead/html/B40-la.html> or look under Lead Abatement and Removal Service in your local yellow pages. For general information about lead, contact the National Lead Information Center at (800) 424-5323.



A photograph showing a woman in a yellow shirt on the left, looking towards a young boy on the right. The boy is shirtless and wearing dark shorts, holding a red cloth. They are in a kitchen setting with a sink and a yellow spray bottle visible in the background.

# Wastewater

Some residents are connected to the sewer system, and thus rarely consider their wastewater disposal. Those on septic however, know that an improperly designed, installed and/or maintained tank can lead to a costly failure. A properly maintained tank, however, can work safely and efficiently for years, helping to maintain a healthy watershed.

## Tips for Maintaining Your Septic System

- 🌿 Conserve water to reduce the amount of wastewater to be treated. Low-flow toilets can substantially reduce your water consumption.
- 🌿 Have your system inspected regularly. Pumping may be required in as little as three years and as many as twelve.
- 🌿 Add a low maintenance filter to the outlet of the tank. For several hundred dollars you can extend the life of your drainfield for years.
- 🌿 Put food waste into the compost pile or trash. Food waste, including kitchen grease, can easily overwhelm your tank.
- 🌿 Maintain a healthy bacterial count by keeping bleach, anti-bacterial soap, paints, solvents and pesticides out of the system. Toxic chemicals destroy the bacteria that keep the system working and can leach into the environment.
- 🌿 Contact your local Building and Safety Division (see pg. 60 for contact information) to find out about permits and regulations.

## Graywater Systems

Graywater systems can filter and recycle the water from bathroom sinks, showers, and washing machines for irrigation of non-edible landscape plants. Along with its application to outside irrigation, graywater can also be used in some situations for toilet flushing. If you are building a new house or renovating an existing one and would like to improve your water efficiency, you may want to consider installing a graywater system. Please note that graywater systems are not authorized, available nor appropriate in all areas, and always require a high degree of expertise. As a first step, contact your local Building and Safety Division (see pg. 60 for contact information) to find out about permits and regulations.



### Septic Contacts

Biosolutions – consultant  
(818) 991-9997

Topanga Underground – contractor  
[www.topangaunderground.com](http://www.topangaunderground.com)  
(818) 597-2804

### Local Pumps

A&B Plumbing  
(310) 456-8550

Andy Gump  
(818) 362-5996

Atlas Pumping  
(310) 605-1700

McDermott  
(310) 456-1173

Wastec  
(800) 799-2783

### Graywater Contacts

Rocky Mountain Institute  
[www.rmi.org/sitepages/pid287.php](http://www.rmi.org/sitepages/pid287.php)  
(970) 927-3851

Ecowaters Project  
[www.cepp.cc](http://www.cepp.cc)  
(978) 318-7033

Oasis Design  
[www.oasisdesign.net](http://www.oasisdesign.net)  
(805) 967-9956



## Landscaping

Landscaping can turn a ho-hum house into a beautiful showpiece. Unfortunately, many landscaping techniques require large amounts of water, pesticides and fertilizers, increase the spread of invasive plants, and create an unnecessary fire hazard. When planning your garden, make it easy on yourself AND the watershed.

## Water-wise Landscaping

- ✦ To reduce the use of water, fertilizer and pesticide around your home, landscape with attractive and low-maintenance native plants (see pg. 36 for a list of recommended native plant species). Native plants are more tolerant of drought conditions and are better suited to the local soils and pests.
- ✦ Minimize irrigation by grouping plants according to watering needs and consider installing timer and/or weather controlled drip irrigation to help prevent over-watering. Avoid watering and planting within oak tree driplines.
- ✦ Contact your local nursery to help identify the type of soil in your yard. Adjust your irrigation and/or plant selection to match or amend the soil for optimal water efficiency.
- ✦ Mulch your plants to keep the roots cool and prevent water evaporation. Among the many excellent mulch materials is "Community Compost", produced at the Rancho Las Virgenes Composting Facility. Mulch for households is FREE to anyone on Saturdays from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. For bulk supplies, call Las Virgenes Municipal Water District at (818) 251-2200.
- ✦ Need help creating your water-wise garden? "How-to" landscape classes are offered by organizations throughout the area, including the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District. Call (818) 251-2164 for information and reservations. Las Virgenes Municipal Water District's website ([www.LVMWD.com](http://www.LVMWD.com)) also includes ideas for integrating native species into your landscape, complete with photos. Smart gardening information and free workshop schedules can also be found at [www.smartgardening.com](http://www.smartgardening.com).

## Non-Native Plants

- ✦ Non-native plant species displace native plants, reduce biodiversity and eliminate wildlife habitat. The Weed Management Area (WMA) of Los Angeles County was created to address these concerns and to encourage the responsible management of natural resources. For more information on the WMA, call (626) 575-5462 or visit <http://acwm.co.la.ca.us>.
- ✦ Consider replacing non-native plants with native alternatives. For example, invasive pampas grass and fountain grass can be replaced with native deer grass (*Muhlenbergia rigens*), spiny rush (*Juncus acutus*), or giant wild rye (*Leymus condensatus*). Weedy myoporum can be replaced with native coffeeberry (*Rhamnus californica*), hollyleaf cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), or California wax-myrtle (*Myrica californica*). Non-native periwinkle and cape ivy are easily exchanged for native wild grape (*Vitis girdiana*), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos mollis*), or California blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*). Trade invasive iceplant for native yarrow (*Achillea* sp.).



### Helpful Landscaping Contacts

California Native  
Plant Society  
(818) 881-3706  
[www.cnps.org](http://www.cnps.org)

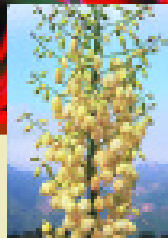
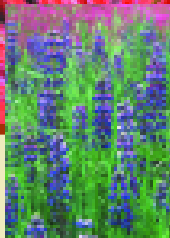
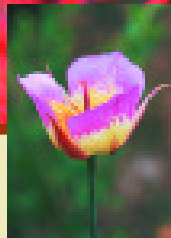
Matilija Nursery  
(805) 523-8604  
[www.matilijanursery.com](http://www.matilijanursery.com)

Theodore Payne Native  
Plant Nursery  
(818) 768-1802  
[www.theodorepayne.org](http://www.theodorepayne.org)

SmartGardening  
Workshops  
(888) CLEAN-LA,  
press #5  
[www.smartgardening.com](http://www.smartgardening.com)

# Section 2

## Around the House



# Landscape Naturally

### Plants to Avoid when Landscaping: Highly Invasive Ornamentals

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
Acacia sp.	Acacia, Sidney golden wattle
Ageratina adenophora	Eupatory
Ailanthus altissima	Tree of heaven
Aptenia cordifolia	Red apple, heartleaf iceplant
Arundo donax	Giant reed
Asphodelus fistulosus	Onion weed
Carpobrotus edulis	Hottentot fig, Highway iceplant
Cortaderia jubata/atacamensis	Pampas grass
Cynodon dactylon	Bermuda grass
Cyperus involucratus	Umbrella sedge
Delairea odorata	Cape ivy, German ivy
Eucalyptus globulus	Blue gum eucalyptus tree
Lobularia maritima	Sweet alyssum
Mesembryanthemum crystallinum	Common iceplant
Myoporum laetum	Myoporum
Parthenocissus quinquefolia	Virginia creeper
Pennisetum clandestinum/ Kikuyu grass,	Fountain grass
Phalaris aquatica	Harding grass
Ricinus communis	Castor bean
Schinus molle/terebinthifolius	Pepper tree
Spartium junceum	Spanish broom
Tropaeolum majus	Nasturtium
Vinca major	Periwinkle
Washingtonia sp.	Palm tree

### Recommended Plants: Native Plants for Landscaping (fire resistant plants to control erosion and attract native wildlife):

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
<b>Tree</b>	
Juglans californica	California walnut
Myrica californica	California wax-myrtle
Platanus racemosa	Western sycamore
Quercus agrifolia	Coast live oak
Quercus lobata	Valley oak
Sambucus mexicana	Elderberry
Umbellularia californica	California laurel, bay
<b>Large Shrub</b>	
Baccharis pilularis	Coyote brush
Ceanothus sp.	California lilac
Heteromeles arbutifolia	Toyon
Malosma laurina	Laurel sumac
Prunus ilicifolia	Hollyleaf cherry
Rhamnus californica	Coffeeberry
Rhamnus ilicifolia	Hollyleaf redberry
Rhus integrifolia	Lemonadeberry
Ribes speciosum	Fuschia-flowered gooseberry
Quercus dumosa	Scrub oak
<b>Small/Medium Shrub</b>	
Isomeris arborea	Bladderpod
Lonicera subspicata	Chaparral honeysuckle
Mimulus sp.	Monkeyflower
Ribes aureum	Golden currant
Rosa californica	Wild rose
Trichostema lanatum	Woolly blue-curts
<b>Small Plant/Ground Cover</b>	
Achillea sp.	Yarrow
Aquilegia formosa	Columbine
Coreopsis maritima	Sea dahlia
Delphinium cardinale	Scarlet larkspur
Dudleya sp.	Live-forever
Eriogonum sp.	Buckwheat
Eriophyllum sp.	Golden yarrow
Linum lewisii	Blue flax
Mahonia repens	Creeping barberry
Penstemon sp.	Penstemon
Ribes viburnifolium	Evergreen currant
Salvia spathacea	Hummingbird sage
Sedum sp.	Stoncrop
Sisyrinchium bellum	Blue-eyed grass
Stipa sp.	Bunchgrass
Zauschneria sp.	California fuschia

Inset photos:  
Left, Plummer's, Mariposa Lily;  
Center, Foothill Lupine;  
Right, Chaparral Yucca  
Background: Indian Paintbrush



## Erosion Control and Slope Stabilization

Many hillside lots have been cleared of the natural vegetation that once stabilized the slope. To control erosion (detachment and movement of soil by wind, water or gravity), use native plants and grasses with elaborate root systems of varying depths (see pg. 36 for a list of recommended native plants). Deep root systems allow native plants to survive in severe drought conditions as well as hold the soil in place.

Slopes and stream banks need special attention. Slopes that are too steep (greater than a 3:1 ratio) inhibit plant growth, creating a bare bank. Landowners should consider re-grading in order to promote bank stability. Biodegradable netting and erosion control blankets can help to stabilize slopes and prevent sediment pollution in our mountain streams.

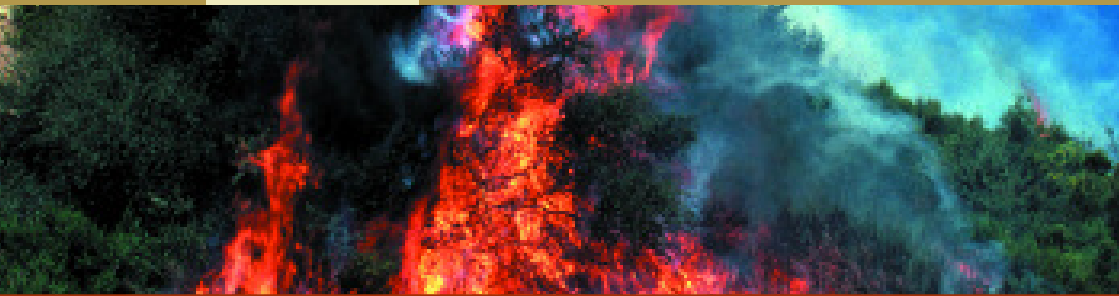
Before undertaking any grading or re-grading, check with your local building department (see pg. 60 for contact information). Each municipality has regulations that limit the amount and time of year of grading to decrease the loss of soil and potential runoff to critical water bodies.



### Helpful Erosion Control Contacts

Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains  
(310) 455-1030  
[www.rcdsmm.org](http://www.rcdsmm.org)

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
(805) 386-4489  
[www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)



### **Fuel Modification for Fire Safety**

When landscaping, be aware that many native shrubs also provide large fuel supplies for fire. It is therefore very important to properly plan and maintain your garden to protect your home. Here are a few tips:

- ✦ Create a “fire-free” zone around your house by using less flammable vegetation within 30 ft. of buildings.
- ✦ Mow non-native annual grasses regularly in the spring and summer before weeds go to seed.
- ✦ Remove interior and bottom branches of shrubs to “thin out” fuel sources yet maintain shape.
- ✦ Cut back sage and other appropriate species before the fire season.
- ✦ Use fire retardant, low growing plants between the larger shrubs, including native bunchgrasses.
- ✦ See the “tree maintenance” section on pg. 21 for tips on trimming your trees.
- ✦ Contact the Los Angeles County Fire Department’s Fuel Modification Unit in Azusa at (626) 969-5205 for help planning an appropriate fuel modification zone around your house.





# *Buying "green"*

How do everyday purchases impact our watershed? From our choice in garden plants (water demand, spread of non-native seeds) to large appliances (energy production can lead to air pollution and global warming), making simple changes in our purchasing habits can have a substantial impact on our environment.

### Buying Green

Here are a few things to consider on your next trip to the store:

- ♣ Does the product produce pollution?
- ♣ Does the product require special disposal due to hazardous or other properties?
- ♣ Is the product reusable? Recyclable?
- ♣ Does the product contain recycled material?
- ♣ Are the raw materials derived from a renewable resource?  
Does its production benefit the local economy?
- ♣ Is the manufacturer in compliance with all environmental regulations?

Always properly dispose of hazardous products and electronic waste at a Household Hazardous Waste Roundup near you. Roundup schedules can be found at <http://ladpw.org/epd/hhw/schedule.cfm> or by calling (888) CLEAN-LA.

If you are concerned about the use of toxics, look for the many alternative products on the market today. If an alternative product is unavailable and you need to buy a conventional product, look for specific statements such as non-toxic, free of ammonia and phosphates, readily biodegradable, recyclable container and cruelty free. Be sure to follow any label instructions such as “be sure room is properly ventilated” and “wear eye protection and/or gloves.” These warnings, along with statements such as danger, poison, warning, harmful if swallowed, flammable, corrosive, irritant or caution indicate that a product is hazardous.

## General Resources for Buying Green

Look for resource efficient products with low volatile organic compounds (VOCs), high recycled content and durability.

- 🌱 **Living Green** sells everything for the home, including green building materials. Visit them in Culver City at (310) 838-8442 or [www.livinggreen.com](http://www.livinggreen.com).
- 🌱 **Gaiam** sells a variety of products for a healthy lifestyle, from yoga gear to low-flow showerheads. Contact them at (877) 989-6321 or visit [www.gaiam.com](http://www.gaiam.com).
- 🌱 **Lifekind Products** sells organic and naturally safe mattresses, bedding, and other household products. Contact them at (800) 284-4983 or visit [www.lifekind.com](http://www.lifekind.com).
- 🌱 **Peach Hill Soils** sells environmentally friendly gardening and home landscaping supplies. Visit them in Moorpark or call (805) 529-6164.

### Grocers

Look for organic, seasonal, locally grown foods at:

- 🌱 **Certified Farmers' Markets** (see pg. 53 for locations and times)
- 🌱 **PC Greens** at 22601 Pacific Coast Highway, Malibu. Contact them at (310) 456-0353.
- 🌱 **Lassen's Natural Foods** at 2869 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd, Thousand Oaks. Contact them at (805) 495-2609.
- 🌱 **Whole Foods Market** at [www.wholefoodsmarket.com](http://www.wholefoodsmarket.com)
- 🌱 **Trader Joe's** at [www.traderjoes.com](http://www.traderjoes.com)
- 🌱 **Pet Max Naturals** makes and sells natural supplements and organic food for dogs. Contact them at (888) PET-MAX1 or [www.petmax.com](http://www.petmax.com).

### Paper Products and Office Supplies


Look for products with post-consumer recycled content, non-chlorine bleaching and tree-free fibers such as kenaf, denim or hemp.

- 🌱 **The Real Earth** at (310) 457-6331 or [www.treeco.com](http://www.treeco.com)
- 🌱 **Staples** at [www.staples.com](http://www.staples.com) and **Office Depot** at [www.officedepot.com](http://www.officedepot.com); be sure to specify your buying criteria.

### Clothes Cleaners

Look for a "dry" cleaner that does not use the chemical perchloroethylene, sometimes referred to as "natural cleaning."

- 🌱 **Parkway Cleaners** at 23643 Calabasas Rd, Calabasas, phone (818) 222-1370
- 🌱 **Tic Toc Cleaners** at 5735 Kanan Road, Agoura Hills, phone (818) 889-8904
- 🌱 **Trancas Cleaners** at 30765 PCH, Malibu, phone (310) 457-6805
- 🌱 **Cleaner by Nature** at 2407 Wilshire Blvd, Santa Monica, phone (310) 315-1520
- 🌱 Contact the **South Coast Air Quality Management District's Dry Cleaning Program** at [www.aqmd.gov](http://www.aqmd.gov) or (909) 396-3125 or (909) 396-3301 for new "natural" cleaners in your area.



This is only a partial list of retail outlets, products and services available in your area. An unlisted store may carry similar products; please check with them directly. Neither the Malibu Creek Watershed Advisory Council nor the sponsors of this Guide endorse the products or services listed in this guide. Be sure to verify availability before making the trip.



# Waste Disposal

Want to make a really big impact on not only your watershed, but also your entire global community? Reduce the amount of trash you produce. With all the attention on recycling, it's often hard to remember that the slogan is Reduce, Re-Use, Recycle. Reducing the amount of trash you produce and reusing items whenever possible are the most effective ways to save landfill space and conserve natural resources.

## Trash

- ♻️ Tell the cashier you don't need a bag for small items. If you do take a bag, re-use it as a trashbag or recycling receptacle.
- ♻️ Leave out the disposable napkins and utensils if you're on the way home.
- ♻️ Keep a coffee mug or sports bottle in the car. Some retailers offer a discount if you bring your own cup.
- ♻️ Make sure your trash makes it into the trash truck. Trash blown out of the car or curbside bin ends up in the storm drain system, **which flows directly to the ocean unfiltered.**
- ♻️ For regular trash pickup schedules, to order new bins, or to arrange for a bulky item pickup, contact your trash hauler at the number on your monthly bill.
- ♻️ Some solid waste can't go in the trash. Items such as anti-freeze, paint, pesticides, batteries and electronic waste can be disposed of at a free Household Hazardous Waste Roundup sponsored by LA County. Call (888) CLEAN-LA or visit [www.888CleanLA.com](http://www.888CleanLA.com) for information about the next Roundup in your area.

## Recyclables

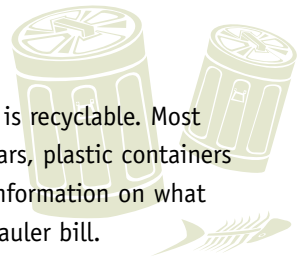
Accumulating some trash is inevitable. Luckily, much of our trash is recyclable. Most trash haulers accept aluminum/tin/steel cans, glass bottles and jars, plastic containers with necks, newspaper, mixed paper and cardboard. For specific information on what can be recycled in your area, contact the number on your trash hauler bill.

- ♻️ For general information on recycling in your neighborhood, visit the County's Environmental Resources website at [www.888CleanLA.com](http://www.888CleanLA.com) or call (888) CLEAN-LA.
- ♻️ There are over 650 used oil recycling centers in Los Angeles County. To find the one nearest you, visit [www.888CleanLA.com](http://www.888CleanLA.com) or call (888) CLEAN-LA and enter your zip code.

## Composting

Composting helps convert "browns" (leaves, wood chips, branches, straw) and "greens" (food scraps, grass and garden waste) into useable fertilizer. It's easy, reduces landfill waste and provides a wonderful source of nutrients for your garden.

- ♻️ Re-use your old outdoor trashcan as a compost bin.
- ♻️ Add garden trimmings, vegetable scraps, egg shells, coffee grinds and grass. Leave out the meats, fats and cheeses.
- ♻️ Provide aeration and sunlight by mixing up the soil every 2 weeks.
- ♻️ Visit [www.smartgardening.com](http://www.smartgardening.com) or call (888) CLEAN-LA for information on free workshops across the County. Discounted composting materials are available during workshops.
- ♻️ Home composting materials are also available at many stores. Try Gaiam at [www.gaiam.com](http://www.gaiam.com) or 877-989-6321 and Green Culture at [www.composters.com](http://www.composters.com) or 877-204-7336.

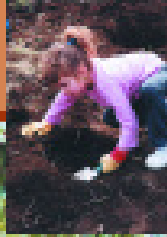






# Section 3

## Get Involved



### Outdoor Education and Volunteer Opportunities

There are many ways to get involved in the environmental health of your local and global community. In addition to volunteering for a local, state, or national non-profit (see pg. 56 for a partial listing), you can become a naturalist or docent at one of the local parks. Another way to become involved is to make your voice heard at the Malibu Creek Watershed Advisory Council or Topanga Watershed Committee, two stakeholder groups that work on the natural resource issues important to your watershed. Contact the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains at 310-455-1030 to join either mailing list.

Inset photos: Left, Outward Bound Adventures participant planting natives; Center, Young volunteer planting an oak tree; Right, Measuring depth, Malibu Creek watershed Background: cold Creek Trail lined with coast live oaks



## Outdoor Education Programs

The programs below provide both adults and children with the opportunity to experience our watershed with the help of an educator. If you would like to become a volunteer docent yourself, or simply learn from the best, please contact the organizations below.

- ★ **The Cold Creek Docents of the Mountains Restoration Trust** lead ecology and archaeology walks through the Cold Creek area and the UCLA Stunt Ranch Santa Monica Mountains Preserve for both adults and children. To train as a docent or sign up for a docent-led walk, contact them at (818) 591-1701 or <http://www.lafn.org/community/mrt/docents.html>.
- ★ **The Malibu Creek Docents** lead interpretive nature hikes at Malibu Creek State Park. Contact them at (818) 889-6238.
- ★ **The Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains** offers school programs at Malibu Lagoon State Beach, Topanga State Park, and Sepulveda Basin. Contact them at (310) 455-1030 ext.103.
- ★ **Charmlee Wilderness Park** offers a volunteer docent program, school and group nature programs and a variety of public hikes and interpretive programs. Contact them at (310) 457-7247.
- ★ **Santa Monica Bay Audubon Society** provides docent-led birding sessions at Malibu Lagoon and Solstice Canyon for both adults and children. Visit them at <http://home.att.net/~cgbraggjr/index.htm> for more information.
- ★ **The Children's Nature Institute** provides docent-lead family nature walks throughout the watershed. To become a docent or take a walk, contact them at (310) 998-1151 or [www.childrensnatureinstitute.org](http://www.childrensnatureinstitute.org).
- ★ **The Topanga Canyon Docents** provide interpretive guidance and environmental education in Topanga State Park. Contact them at [www.tc-docents.org](http://www.tc-docents.org) to become a docent.
- ★ **The Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area** (part of the National Park Service) provides numerous outdoor educational school programs. For more information, contact them at (805) 370-2301 or [www.nps.gov/samo/educate](http://www.nps.gov/samo/educate).
- ★ **The Malibu Lagoon Museum Association's volunteer docents** provide guided tours of the Adamson House and Malibu Lagoon Museum. To become a docent or schedule a tour, contact them at (310) 456-8432 or [www.adamsonhouse.org](http://www.adamsonhouse.org).
- ★ Can't make it to one of the parks? Learn about the watershed and the Santa Monica Bay at the **Santa Monica Pier Aquarium** (formerly the Ocean Discovery Center) at 1600 Ocean Front Walk, under the Santa Monica Pier. For information visit [www.healthebay.org/smpa](http://www.healthebay.org/smpa).

## Top Ten Ways to Protect Your Watershed

There are simple things that you can do **everyday** to live a little more lightly in your watershed. Here are just a few.

### **Buy Thoughtfully.**

Your dollar holds a lot of power. Buying local, organic, recycled goods helps close the loop and conserve natural resources.

### **Keep Your Trash in the Trash Can.**

Use receptacles with locking lids, or store garbage bins in the garage. Try keeping a trash bag in your car – contained trash won't accidentally blow out the window or fall onto the street (and end up in Santa Monica Bay).

### **Wash Your Car at the Car Wash.**

Washing on the street sends soap and greasy water to the storm drain system, which empties directly to the ocean unfiltered. If washing at home, be sure to park your car on a permeable surface such as grass.

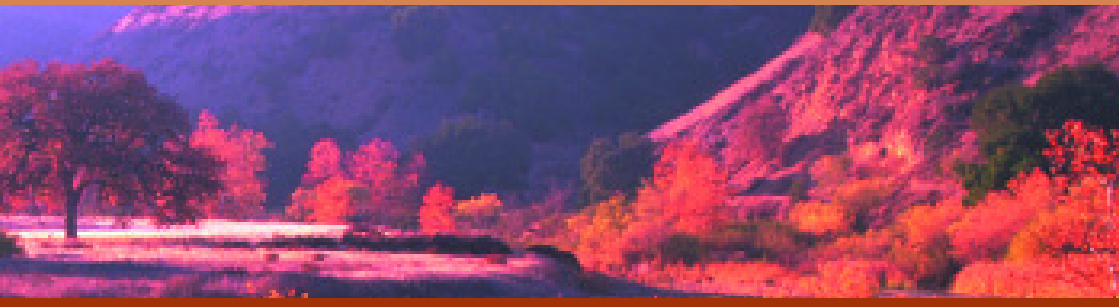
### **Replace Your Regular Water Devices with More Efficient Ones.**

Using low-flow showerheads, ultra-low-flush toilets and high efficiency clothes washers saves you money and reduces the load on water treatment systems.

### **Dispose of Pesticides, Paints, Batteries, Antifreeze and Oil**

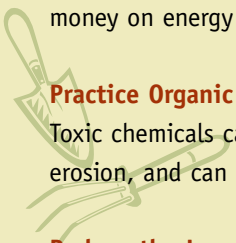
at County Hazardous Waste Roundups (888-CLEANLA). If placed in the trash, these common household goods can leak and contaminate regular trash destined for the landfill.





### **Use Natural Means of Lighting, Heating and Cooling.**

Open the windows, pull down the shades, put on a sweater. Reducing the amount of oil and gas we use can help us save money on energy bills and reduce atmospheric pollutants.



### **Practice Organic Gardening.**

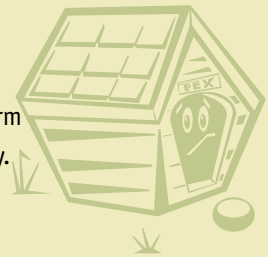
Toxic chemicals can find their way into a creek via runoff and erosion, and can unintentionally harm pets and native wildlife.

### **Reduce the Lawn; Plant with Native Species Instead.**

Lawn requires a high amount of water, fertilizer and pesticide (which can be very expensive!). Native plants require little input and can provide habitat for wildlife.

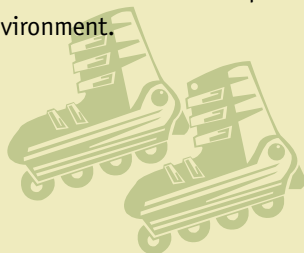
### **Attach “Doggie Bags” to Your Dog’s Leash.**

After watering or rain, dog waste runs directly into the storm drain system. Having baggies available makes clean-up easy.



### **Walk, Bike or Skate to One Errand a Week.**

Foregoing the car saves gas, reduces stress and helps us connect with our natural environment.



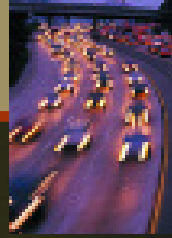
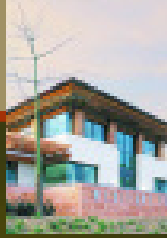
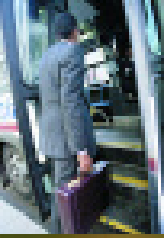


Looking southeast toward Point Dume



# Section 4

## Community Resources



Hand-made  
soaps  
\$4.50/slice



## Farmers' Markets

Shopping at farmers' markets is a wonderful way to buy fresh, organic California produce directly from the farm. Organic vegetable farmers use no synthetic pesticides or fertilizers, while organic meat and dairy farmers use no antibiotics or growth hormones. Some farmers use the label "chemical-free" to indicate that they farm organically, but have not yet completed the three-year certification process.

### Local Market Locations and Hours

#### City of Calabasas

23504 Calabasas Road at El Canon Avenue

Open every Saturday, rain or shine, all year, 8 AM to 1 PM

(818) 591-8286

#### City of Thousand Oaks

Oaks Shopping Center on the corner of Wilbur Road and Thousand Oaks Boulevard

Open 3 PM to 6:30 PM every Thursday, rain or shine

(805) 529-6266

#### Pacific Palisades

Pacific Palisades Village at Swarthmore Avenue and Sunset

Every Sunday, 8 AM to 1 PM

(818) 591-8286



Contact the CA Certified Farmers Markets at [www.ccfm.com](http://www.ccfm.com) or (818) 591-8286 for specific information about your local market or to find out about new markets in your neighborhood.



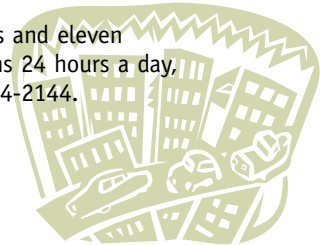
# Transportation

Believe it or not, public transportation and carpooling offer a lot of advantages. There is less wear and tear on your car, your insurance rates may drop, and on average, carpool lanes save commuters one minute per mile! There are also environmental benefits. Autos and light trucks emit 20% of this country's carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), the key ingredient in the "greenhouse effect." By trying a new means of transportation, you can help reduce traffic headaches and improve air quality. Taking the bus or train, walking or riding a bike, carpooling, or using an alternative fuel vehicle are all good choices. Here's more information on how to make it happen.



## Public Transportation

- For travel almost anywhere in southern California, use the **Transtar trip planner** on-line at <http://latranstar.tann.com>. Enter your origin and destination and Transtar will provide the fastest and easiest means of getting there, including bus, rail, Amtrak or walking.
- **The Metro Bus and Rail systems** not only provide transportation between the cities of Westlake Village, Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Woodland Hills and Canoga Park – they can take you anywhere in Los Angeles County. Schedules for the Metro Bus and Metro Rail are available on-line at [www.mta.net](http://www.mta.net) or by calling (800)COMMUTE.
- **Metrolink trains** provide transit service to cities between Oxnard and Downtown Los Angeles. For more information, call (800) 371-LINK or check their website at [www.metrolinktrains.com](http://www.metrolinktrains.com).
- **LADOT Commuter Express** (Bus # 423) offers express transit service between Downtown Los Angeles/USC and the Cities of Thousand Oaks, Calabasas, and Agoura Hills. For more information, call (818 or 310) 808-2273 or visit [www.ladottransit.com](http://www.ladottransit.com). There are several Park & Ride locations along this route.
- **The City of Calabasas** offers residents additional transit services, including:
  - Calabasas Fixed Route Shuttle Bus** – available for shuttle service in the Lupine Hills and Chaparral area. For information call (818) 878-4242 x289.
  - The Old Town Trolley**, which runs on compressed natural gas (CNG), is available between Las Virgenes at Thousand Oaks, City Hall and Hidden Hills at Valley Circle Friday evenings to Sunday night free of charge.
  - Dial A Ride service** – offers limited cab service within Calabasas and eleven locations outside the city to eligible seniors and disabled persons 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. More information is available by calling (800) 414-2144.
- Additional information** can be found on their website at [www.cityofcalabasas.com/services.html](http://www.cityofcalabasas.com/services.html) under “transportation”.



## Ridesharing

Contact your employer about ridesharing incentives. Many employers will compensate employees for carpooling and using public transportation. For more information contact Metro Commuter Services at (800) COMMUTE or [www.metro.net/riding\\_metro/commute\\_services](http://www.metro.net/riding_metro/commute_services). This website also provides information on finding a carpool partner.

## Alternative Fuel Vehicles

Electric, hybrid (gas and electric), and other alternative fuel vehicles can reduce pollution and save you money over time. Electric vehicles are chargeable at home and many other locations, create very little pollution, and allow a single person to ride in the carpool lane. Hybrid vehicles emit fewer emissions than regular cars and can get more than 45 miles to the gallon. To find out more about environmentally friendly vehicles, including what models are available in your area, visit the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy's [www.GreenerCars.com](http://www.GreenerCars.com).

# Organizations and Agencies Active Locally

Many of these organizations depend on volunteers to help protect and preserve our natural resources. Please contact them directly to contribute your time or other resources to their worthy missions.



**The California Native Plant Society** is a non-profit organization of amateurs and professionals with a common interest in California's native plants. Contact the Los Angeles-Santa Monica Mountains Chapter at [www.cnps.org](http://www.cnps.org) or (818) 881-3706.

**California Wildlife Center** rescues, rehabilitates and releases imperiled native wildlife. Contact them at (310) 458-WILD or [www.californiawildlifecenter.org](http://www.californiawildlifecenter.org).

**CalTrout's** mission is to protect and restore wild trout and native steelhead and the waters they inhabit, and to create high quality angling opportunities for the public. For information on activities in the Santa Monica Mountains, contact the South Coast Manager at (818) 865-2888 or visit their website at [www.caltrout.org](http://www.caltrout.org).

**Environmental Defense's** Los Angeles office focuses on issues of environmental justice. For more information contact them at (213) 386-5501 or visit their website at [www.environmentaldefense.org](http://www.environmentaldefense.org).

**Global Green USA**, the United States affiliate of Green Cross International, encourages collaborative approaches to environmental challenges. Contact their local office at (310) 581-2700 or visit their website at [www.globalgreen.org](http://www.globalgreen.org).

**Heal the Bay** is dedicated to making Santa Monica Bay and Southern California coastal waters safe and healthy for people and marine life. Contact them at (310) 453-0395 or visit [www.healthebay.org](http://www.healthebay.org).

**The Mountains Restoration Trust** is committed to protecting and enhancing the natural resources of the Santa Monica Mountains. Learn more at [www.mountainstrust.org](http://www.mountainstrust.org) or contact them at (818) 591-1701.

**Natural Resources Defense Council** focuses on clean air, global warming, wild-lands and many other natural resource issues. To learn more, contact them at (310) 434-2300 or visit their website at [www.nrdc.org](http://www.nrdc.org).

**Physicians for Social Responsibility** is dedicated to creating a world free of nuclear weapons, global environmental pollution, and gun violence. Contact the Los Angeles affiliate at (213) 689-9170 or [www.psrla.org](http://www.psrla.org).

**The Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains** is dedicated to conserving and enhancing the natural resources of the District. Contact them in Topanga at (310) 455-1030 or visit their website at [www.rcdsmm.org](http://www.rcdsmm.org).

**Santa Monica Bay Audubon Society** helps fulfill the National Audubon Society's mission to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds and wildlife. Visit them at <http://home.att.net/~cgbraggjr/index.htm> for more information.

**Santa Monica Bay Keeper's** mission is to alert the public to potential environmental hazards in local coastal waters and to expose those who contribute in any way to the degradation of the system. Contact them at [www.smbaykeeper.org](http://www.smbaykeeper.org) or (310) 305-9645.

**The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission**, formerly known as the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project, is dedicated to restoring and protecting the Santa Monica Bay and its resources. Contact them at (213) 576-6615 or visit their website at [www.santamonicabay.org](http://www.santamonicabay.org).

**Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy** works to buy, protect, and restore treasured pieces of Southern California to form an interlinking system of parks and open space accessible to the public. Contact them at (310) 589-3200 or visit their website at [www.smmc.ca.gov](http://www.smmc.ca.gov).

**Santa Monica Mountains Trails Council** is devoted to representing all trail user groups in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. Contact them at (818) 222-4531 or visit their website at [www.smmtc.org](http://www.smmtc.org).

**The Sierra Club** works to influence policies that affect our environment. To learn more about the Angeles Chapter, contact them at (213) 387-4287 or visit their website at [www.angeles.sierraclub.org](http://www.angeles.sierraclub.org).

**The Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project** is dedicated to acquiring, restoring, and expanding coastal wetlands and watersheds throughout Southern California. Contact the Los Angeles County Watershed Coordinator at (213) 380-4233 ext. 20 or visit their website at [www.scwrp.org](http://www.scwrp.org).

**Surfrider Foundation's Malibu Chapter** strives to eliminate ocean pollution and barriers to public beach access. Contact them at (310) 451-1010 or [www.surfrider.org/malibu](http://www.surfrider.org/malibu).

**TreePeople** uses watershed management to restore watersheds and address serious urban issues, such as water and energy conservation, flood prevention and stormwater pollution. Contact them at (818) 753-4600 or visit their website at [www.treepeople.org](http://www.treepeople.org).



## State Agencies

### CA Department of Parks and Recreation, Angeles District

[www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)

(818) 880-0350

1925 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas, CA 91302

### Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

[www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles)

(213) 576-6600

320 W. 4th Street, Suite 200, Los Angeles, CA 90013

### CA Coastal Conservancy

[www.scc.ca.gov](http://www.scc.ca.gov)

(510) 286-1015

1330 Broadway, 11th floor, Oakland, CA 94612

### CA Coastal Commission

[www.coastal.ca.gov](http://www.coastal.ca.gov)

(805) 585-1800

89 South California Street, Suite 200, Ventura, CA 93001

## Federal Agencies

### US Army Corps of Engineers (Los Angeles District)

[www.spl.usace.army.mil](http://www.spl.usace.army.mil)

(213) 452-3908

915 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90017

### US Fish and Wildlife Service

[www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov)

Ventura office: (805) 644-1766

2493 Portola Road, Suite B, Ventura, CA 93003

Torrance office: (310) 328-1516

370 Amapola Avenue, Suite 114, Torrance, CA 90501

### National Park Service Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area:

[www.nps.gov/samo](http://www.nps.gov/samo)

(805) 370-2301

401 W. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

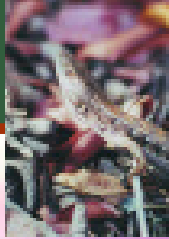
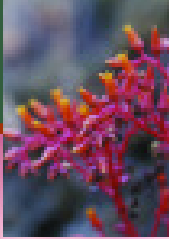
### US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9

[www.epa.gov/region9](http://www.epa.gov/region9)

(866) 372-9378

75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105

Inset photos: Left, Lance-leaved Live-forever; Center, Alligator Lizard; Right, Sugar Bush  
Background: Purple Vetch in the Serrano valley, Point Mugu State Park



## City and County Contact Information

**In case of emergency, always call 911.**

### **Los Angeles County: [www.ladpw.org](http://www.ladpw.org)**

Malibu/Lost Hills Sheriff Station: (818) 878-1808 (non-emergency)

Department of Parks and Recreation (for locations, hours, activities):  
(213) 738-2961

Department of Public Works:

Septic Tank Regulations/Grey Water – Building and Safety  
Regional Office: (818) 880-4150

Trash/Recycling/Compost – Environmental Programs Division:  
(888) CLEAN-LA

Storm Water Issues/Regulations – Watershed Management Division:  
(626) 458-4301

Street Trees/Sidewalks – Road Maintenance Division:  
(323) 776-7552

Water Service In Malibu and Topanga – Waterworks District 29:  
(310) 456-6621

### **City of Calabasas: [www.cityofcalabasas.com](http://www.cityofcalabasas.com)**

Malibu/Lost Hills Sheriff Station: (818) 878-1808 (non-emergency)

General Information/City Hall: (818) 878-4225

Arborist/Forester: (818) 878-4225

Building and Safety Office: (818) 878-4242 x236

Department of Public Works, Street Maintenance Division:  
(818) 878-4242 x249

Parks and Recreation (for locations, hours, activities):  
(818) 878-4225

Trash/Recycling/Compost: (818) 878-4225

Storm Water Manager: (818) 878-4242 x293

### **City of Malibu: [www.ci.malibu.ca.us](http://www.ci.malibu.ca.us)**

Malibu/Lost Hills Sheriff Station: (310) 456-6652 (non-emergency)

General Information/City Hall: (310) 456-2489

Building and Safety Office: (310) 456-2489 x256

Department of Public Works, Street Maintenance Division:  
(310) 456-2489 x264

Parks and Recreation: (310) 317-1364

Septic Tank Regulations/Gray Water: (310) 456-2489 x229

Trash/Recycling/Compost: (805) 495-7521

Storm Water Manager: (310) 456-2489 x247



**City of Westlake Village: [www.wlv.org](http://www.wlv.org)**

Malibu/Lost Hills Sheriff Station: (818) 878-1808 (non-emergency)

General Information/City Hall: (818) 706-1613

Arborist/Forester: (818) 706-1613

Los Angeles County Building and Safety Regional Office: (818) 880-4150

Department of Public Works, Street Maintenance Division: (818) 706-1613

Parks and Recreation (for locations, hours, activities): (818) 706-1613

Trash/Recycling/Compost hotline: (800) 579-4979

Storm Water Consultant: (800) 491-1720

**City of Agoura Hills: [www.ci.agoura-hills.ca.us](http://www.ci.agoura-hills.ca.us)**

Malibu/Lost Hills Sheriff Station: (818) 878-1808 (non-emergency)

General Information/City Hall: (818) 597-7300

Arborist/Forester: (818) 597-7333

Building and Safety Office: (818) 597-7334

Department of Public Works, Street Maintenance Division: (818) 597-7327

Parks and Recreation (for locations, hours, activities): (818) 597-7361

Septic Tank Regulations, Los Angeles County Department of Environmental Health Services (818) 880-4121 (east of Kanan); (310) 317-1317 (west of Kanan).

Trash/Recycling/Compost: (818) 597-7300

Storm Water Manager: (818) 597-7338

**Las Virgenes Municipal Water District: (818) 251-2200 or [www.lvmwd.com](http://www.lvmwd.com)**

**West Basin Municipal Water District: (310) 217-2411 or [www.westbasin.com](http://www.westbasin.com)**

# Special Thanks

design and photography

Special thanks to these professionals for donating their time and services to this project.

## our designers



**Persechini and Company**

310-455-9755 [www.persechini.com](http://www.persechini.com)

## our photographers

**Anthony Arendt Photography**

[www.anthonyarendtphotography.com](http://www.anthonyarendtphotography.com) 800-901-1509

cover-background; cover-center; 1-left/background; 6-7-left/background;  
10-right; 18-background; 20; 24-25; 26-background; 48-49; 59-background;  
inside back cover-background

© **Tom Gamache for Wandering Around Outdoors**

818-880-4853

1-left/background; 5; 6-7-left/background; 8-9; 18-19-insets; 50-51

**Richard Jackson**

[www.rjacksonphoto.com](http://www.rjacksonphoto.com)

21

**Deidra Walpole Photography**

[www.deidrawalpole.com](http://www.deidrawalpole.com)

7-center; 38-39; 40; 62

**Andrea Warniment**

[andreawarniment@hotmail.com](mailto:andreawarniment@hotmail.com)

cover-left; 1-left/center; 10-left/center/background; 13;  
46-left/center/background; 59-insets; 61

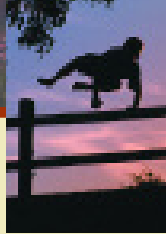
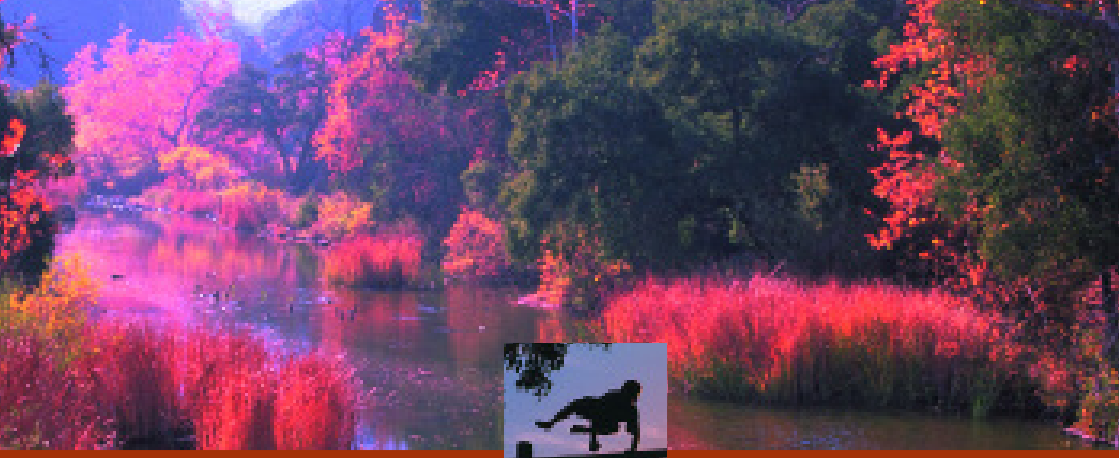
## our mapmakers

**Duvivier Architects**

Isabelle Duvivier/Bryan MacArthur

[www.lagreenmap.org](http://www.lagreenmap.org) [www.idarchitect.com](http://www.idarchitect.com)





### Malibu Creek Watershed Advisory Council

The Malibu Creek Watershed Advisory Council is made up of a long list of representatives working to protect and preserve the health of the Malibu Creek Watershed and its nearby watersheds in the North Santa Monica Bay. These representatives helped create the 1995 Natural Resources Plan, which serves as a planning guide for overall watershed health. Led by the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains, the Council meets every other month to discuss watershed-related issues pursuant to this plan. The meeting is public; we welcome your attendance. To receive Advisory Council meeting notices, please contact Melina Watts, Malibu Creek Watershed Coordinator, at the Resource Conservation District at (310) 455-1030, ext. 104 or [mwatts@rcdsgmm.org](mailto:mwatts@rcdsgmm.org).

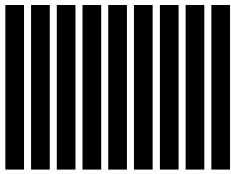
#### Production methods:

This document was printed with vegetable-based inks on Finch Casablanca Opaque recycled (20% post consumer waste) paper.

This guide will be updated in the future as new and helpful information becomes available. If you find mistakes or have something to add, please contact the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains at (310) 455-1030. Information will also be available on the Malibu Creek Watershed Advisory Council website at [www.malibuwatershed.org](http://www.malibuwatershed.org).



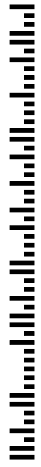
NO POSTAGE  
NECESSARY  
IF MAILED  
IN THE  
UNITED STATES



**BUSINESS REPLY MAIL**  
FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 105 TOPANGA, CA

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

**Malibu Creek Watershed Coordinator  
Resource Conservation District  
of the Santa Monica Mountains  
122 N Topanga Canyon Blvd  
Topanga CA 90290-9807**



card is 4" wide -  
trim this part of the page off



## Please tell us what you think!

We would like this guide to be as useful as possible for you. After looking through it, and perhaps using it a few times, please answer the questions below and send back to us, **free of charge**. Your answers will help us make the next revision even more helpful for *Living Lightly in Your Watershed*.

card is 4" wide -  
trim this part of the page off

▲ Detach here and mail

How knowledgeable did you consider yourself to be about your watershed before receiving the Living Lightly Guide (LLG)?  
\_\_\_\_\_ (1 being not very knowledgeable, 10 being very knowledgeable)

How knowledgeable do you consider yourself to be now, after receiving the LLG?  
\_\_\_\_\_ (1 being not very knowledgeable, 10 being very knowledgeable)

How often have you used the LLG since receiving it?  
Less than 5 times    Between 5 and 10 times    More than 10 times

How easily has the Guide helped you to do things differently?  
\_\_\_\_\_ (1 being not very easily, 10 being very easily)

Please name two things that you have done differently as a result of using the LLG:

---

---

As a thank you for filling out this card, we would like to send you a **FREE Native and Drought Tolerant Plant Guide**. To receive the Plant Guide, please fill in your name and address below:

---

Name

---

Address

---

City/State/Zip

**If you would like to contribute** to future educational projects supporting the health of our watersheds, please make a check payable to: RCDSMM, indicating MCWAC Outreach Fund in the memo line, and send it to: **RCDSMM, 122 N. Topanga Canyon Blvd., Topanga, California 90290**. You can also go online to **www.malibuwatershed.org** to make a donation.

*Thank you for your support.*

122 n topanga canyon blvd topanga ca 90290  
malibu creek watershed coordinator 310-455-1030 310-455-1172 fax  
info@malibuwatershed.org malibuwatershed.org



malibu creek watershed  
advisory council

a unique partnership of government agencies, local  
organizations, industry and the public, working together  
to restore and protect the malibu creek watershed