

**Ballona Creek Renaissance...**

A 501c(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to renewing Ballona Creek and its watershed for a healthier, more sustainable environment and community.

(We're also known as BCR)  
[www.ballonacreek.org](http://www.ballonacreek.org)

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**BCR HONORS FOUR CULVER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

At its June 25<sup>th</sup> board meeting, Ballona Creek Renaissance (BCR) presented Awards of Excellence to three Culver City High School Students: Priya Patel, Emma Kurihara, and Yvonne Ball. A fourth, Zacky Ezedin, received his award on June 13. Honored for their longtime high quality volunteer contributions to BCR's work on behalf of community and environment, each received a personalized, illustrated and framed certificate and a \$250 check.



Zacky Ezedin, left, with BCR boardmember Irene Reingold and president Jim Lamm at the flourishing Native Plant Garden.

Because Zacky was leaving to begin a summer program at Cornell University in New York, BCR's Irene Reingold and Jim Lamm presented him with his award early at BCR's Creekside Native Plant Learning Garden. As a freshman, Zacky was the first CCHS student to connect with BCR's Creekside Native Plant Learning Garden project at Culver City Middle School, just on the other side of the fence from the Ballona Creek Bikepath. With a strong interest in gardening, Zacky brought skills and enthusiasm to the planning and preparation phase and was able to continue spot involvement with advice or hands-on help one-on-one or with a group during the planting and care phase. BCR also appreciated his initiative to test the soil. At Cornell, Zacky will study plant pathology.

As a junior, Emma asked BCR to advise her for her Girl Scout Gold Award project to design and implement a native plant garden at Culver City Middle School (see our Fall 2012 issue). In addition, Emma and her mother, Carol Inge, helped in BCR's Baldwin Hills Earth Day restoration. Later Emma provided

great education and outreach at BCR's Fiesta La Ballona booth and creek cleanups at Overland and Centi-

nela Avenues. This fall, she began studies at Brown University in Rhode Island.



(L. to R) Emma Kurihara, Priya Patel and Yvonne Ball display award plaques.

Whether working with her loving father Shas or alone, Priya was especially effective as a restoration and gardening volunteer at the Middle School Creekside Garden at Culver City Middle School and along the Culver Boulevard bike and pedestrian path in Del Rey. Priya began her studies at Santa Monica College this Fall, majoring in art.

Often with her mother Cheryl, Yvonne actively and enthusiastically participated as an effective planting and restoration volunteer for BCR's Creekside Garden project at Culver City Middle School and BCR's Ballona Creek cleanups at Centinela Avenue. Yvonne looks forward to entering West Los Angeles College in Fall 2014 to become an elementary school teacher.

## CENTINELA AVENUE CREEK CLEANUPS BECOME VERY POPULAR

Our creek cleanups at the Centinela Avenue entrance to Ballona Creek continue to become more and more popular with adults, students and even young children. At Centinela, the upstream concrete channel bottom becomes natural silt, many kinds of plants have sprouted along the sides of the creek, birds, fish and invertebrates are found there, and it looks much more like a natural living creek than the dreary concrete storm drain upstream.

### UCLA Freshman Volunteer Day

Tuesday, September 24, saw all incoming UCLA freshman students participating in about 30 different volunteer activities across the County. One of those activities was the BCR creek cleanup at Centinela Avenue, when about 50 incoming students (in blue T-shirts), led by a dozen experienced returning students (yellow shirts), fished trash and other objects out of the creek and its banks and plants. Objects collected, aside from paper and plastic trash, included assorted balls, a tire, sunglasses, cosmetics, clothing, a condom, broken glass, a bone, spray paint cans, scrap metal, and dead geese. Many students, especially those from inland areas, had never before seen close-up what travels down our storm drains



into coastal waters. One student's dismayed assessment of the situation: "It's disgusting!" They all found it satisfying to help improve conditions for animals and plants (and human swimmers) downstream and in coastal waters, and they expressed a desire to come back and help some more. And the BCR volunteers enjoyed working with the enthusiastic students!



The entire group of UCLA students at the finish of the cleanup, plus BCR president Jim Lamm at the left.

## POSSIBLE cleans up, too.

By Sandrine Cassidy Schmitt

Welcome to our new Business Member, POSSIBLE! Located along Ballona Creek, POSSIBLE has recently joined the BCR family by becoming a new BCR Business Member.

POSSIBLE is a digital agency with capabilities that include research and analytics, strategy and planning, creative, user experience, technology and project management, with over 1200 employees worldwide. Their LA office, with a staff of 75, is in a business park adjacent to Ballona Creek at National and Jefferson Blvds.

POSSIBLE has made it possible (!) for us to conduct our monthly meetings in their beautiful conference room with a view of LA, the Santa Monica Mountains and the Metro Expo rail line running by the conference room window.

On May 31st, BCR had the pleasure of organizing a private creek clean-up just for POSSIBLE volunteers. Stepping away from their desks and busy lives, a group of employees discovered a beautiful location on the creek at the Centinela bridge and were also surprised by the amount of trash they found. This was an eye-opening experience for them as they filled up bags of litter and their efforts helped our mission of greening, teaching and cleaning Ballona Creek. Managing Director Andrew Solmssen said of the clean-up, "Working with BCR was



POSSIBLE volunteers, flanked by BCR president Jim Lamm and board-member Sandrine Cassidy Schmitt.

amazing. Not only did we get to discover and beautify an area close to our office that none of us had explored; we also had a morale-boosting experience for the team."

By becoming a BCR business member, POSSIBLE has:

- Enhanced its business's eco-friendly image by helping to improve the creek.
- Made employees aware of the creek bikepath as an alternate route to work, avoiding traffic and benefitting from exercise.
- Been highlighted in our newsletters and e-news to over two thousand subscribers and on our Facebook page.

- Created a close relationship with a dedicated local environmental organization.
- Benefitted from a Ballona Creek clean-up (and gardening project coming this fall 2013)
- Contributed to the welfare of a cleaner, safer and friendlier ecosystem.

Thank you, POSSIBLE, for your support! We appreciate your collaboration and look forward to continue building our relationship.

Check out [www.possible.com](http://www.possible.com) for information on the company. To learn more about BCR's business membership program, please contact [sandrine@ballonacreek.org](mailto:sandrine@ballonacreek.org)



Andrew Solmssen, Managing Director of Possible/Los Angeles office, snagging trash.

## Coastal Cleanup Day, September 21

The third Saturday in September (Sept. 21, this year) is always Coastal Cleanup Day for Californians. Thousands of people hit the beaches to clean up trash. Some inland sites also participate, such as creeks and storm drains that carry trash to the beach. The purpose is to remove as much debris as possible before winter rains carry it to the ocean, creating ugly and unhealthful conditions for swimmers and marine animals and birds. Many families volunteer, since it's a good opportunity for parents to teach children the value of public service and the importance of caring for our environment.

The City of Culver City organized four cleanup stations at four entrances to Ballona Creek: at Syd Kronenthal Park (the end of the bikepath), Duquesne Avenue, Overland Avenue and Sepulveda Blvd. Once again, BCR managed the Overland Avenue entrance cleanup. Here are some photos:



BCR Boardmember David Valdez explains safe procedures to cleanup volunteers and provides plastic bags, buckets, gloves, and tools to reach and pick up debris.



A family pitches in.

**BCR organizes several creek cleanups open to the public during the year. The bikepath entrance at Centinela Avenue is a popular location.**

More information including dates is available on our website at [www.ballonacreek.org](http://www.ballonacreek.org) in the right-hand column, or subscribe to our monthly e-News via the link on the website, top of the right-hand column.

## Schedule of plans

The schedule of events released last spring called for the State of California to release the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to the public on October 31, followed by 90 days of public comment and then public comment meetings in February. That schedule has slipped a lot, and it appears the EIR will not be released until spring 2014 or later, though we have no official revised dates. The EIR will present the restoration plans in great detail. When it is available, BCR will publish a link in its monthly E-news and on our website, [www.ballonacreek.org](http://www.ballonacreek.org).

## BWLT lawsuit

On September 11, the non-profit organization Ballona Wetlands Land Trust filed suit against the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), which owns the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve including Area C, over lack of access to public records regarding the Annenberg Proposal for Area C. See our 4-page article about the Annenberg project in the BCR Spring 2013 newsletter, <http://www.ballonacreek.org/images/stories/newsletr/bcrnews34.pdf>.

On January 27 of this year, the L.A. Times startled many with an article announcing that “The Annenberg Foundation plans to build a \$50-million interpretive center in the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve under an agreement to be signed Monday with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.” The Times followed with an editorial praising the environmental benefits of the project.

However, both DFW and the Annenberg Foundation have been generally evasive about the specific details, including a rumored (but never clearly announced) dog-and-cat adoption center, veterinary services, and allowing dogs on the trails through the reserve. Even certain government employees have expressed concern over the lack of transparency about those portions of the Annenberg plan which are not being clearly detailed publicly but which everyone knows about anyway. Many are concerned that the secrecy is deliberately misleading. However, at least the dog and cat adoption center and veterinary services were part of the state’s “Revised Notice of Preparation,” one of the steps in the formal process.

Here’s a link to a mid-February video of DFW Director Chuck Bonham announcing the general but vague concept of an Annenberg-financed interpretive center in Area C: <https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B-y1V3mUqBDXbHpPUWtGSzRRZ0U/edit?usp=sharing>. He uses various favorable words such as “sustainable”

and “LEED certified” but never mentions that the Annenberg Foundation envisions anything other than promoting wetlands environment and education. Many suspect that DFW evaded mentioning the domestic animal aspects of the proposal because some might find it very objectionable.

DFW claims that it does not have the public documents BWLT requested, that any such documents are the property of the Annenberg Foundation, and that anything relevant to the interpretive center will be included in the state’s EIR. The BWLT suit dismisses these reasons as invalid and demands immediate release of all related documents.

On September 20, the L.A. Times ran another editorial, this time opposing those domestic animal portions of the Annenberg proposal.



Despite the degraded conditions of Area C, many native birds such as egrets and herons and this black phoebe forage there. Photo by Walter Lamb.

## Surprise! A new wetlands controversy!

They’ve been there for over a decade, possibly since the late 1990s. Some have known about them for years, others have learned about them recently.

They are a pair of drains installed in the eastern portion of Area B of the wetlands, on opposite sides of Culver Blvd, north of the Freshwater Marsh. The tops are about 4 feet wide and 12-18” above the ground.

Marc Huffman, Vice President of Planning and Entitlements for Brookfield Residential (formerly Playa Capital, builder of Playa Vista as well as the Freshwater Marsh), reports that “the drains were installed at the same time the outlet from the FWM to Ballona Creek

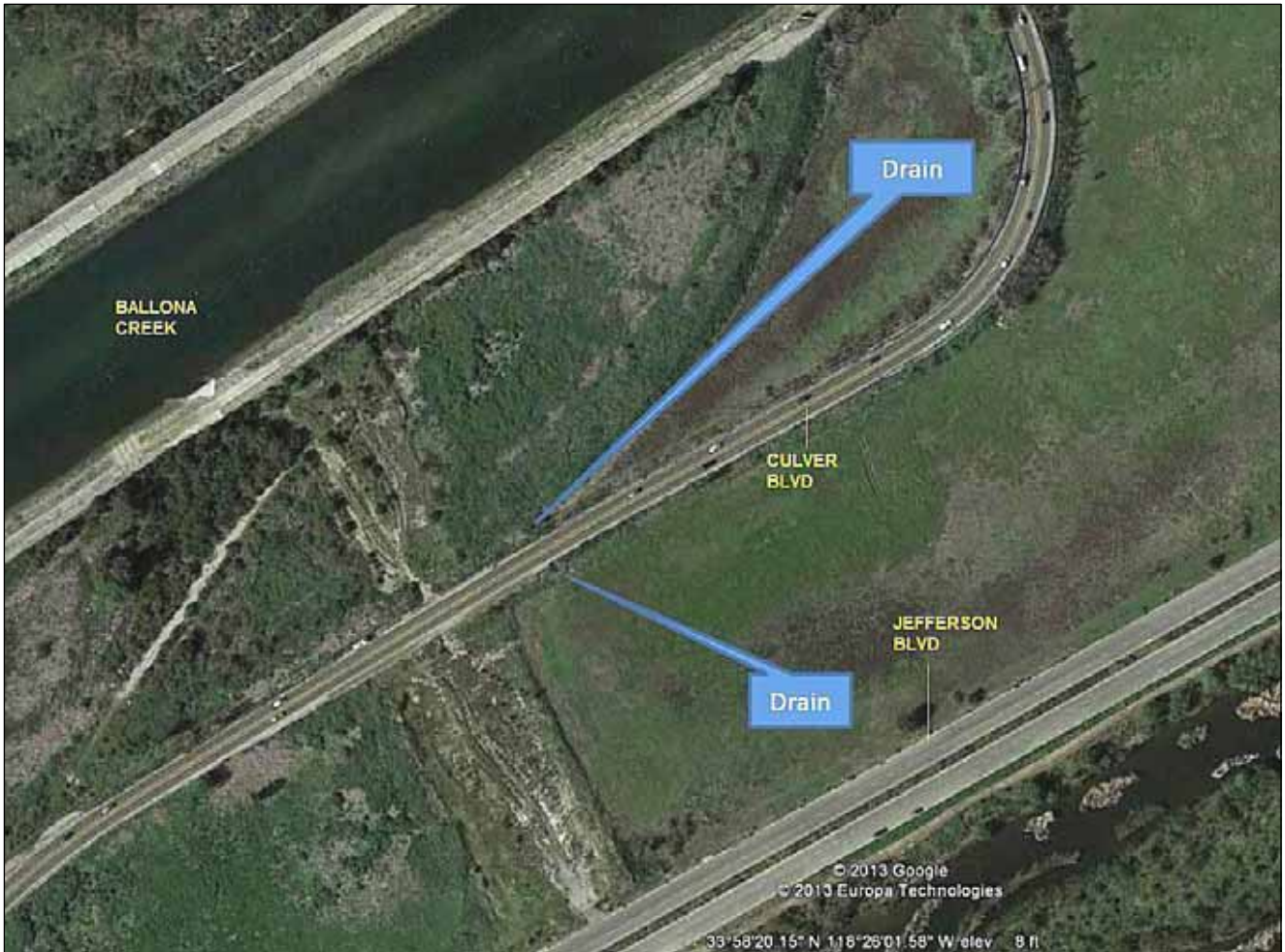


was constructed, probably in the late 90's/early 2000's. They were on the final engineering drawings that were sent to all the permitting agencies (including the Coastal Commission) for their review and approval in 1995. They do not have anything to do with the functioning of the marsh – they appear to have been included in the plans at the request of the City in order to prevent flooding of adjacent streets in the event of a very large storm.”

Nevertheless, a controversy suddenly arose among some

wetlands advocates about the purpose and environmental consequences of these drains, and whether all the permits required were actually taken out. The two drains are in a low-lying portion of the wetlands, through which both Culver Blvd and the end of Jefferson Blvd were built. Despite the roads, the unpaved portion is still classified as wetlands and is off-limits to visitors. Even knowledgeable persons with extensive experience in restoring wetlands may disagree on the effect of these drains and of a very large storm with fresh water “ponding” on the salt marsh plants.

Karina Johnston, restoration ecologist for the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, a state agency, is among those who have known about these drains for several years while studying the existing ecology of the wetlands in preparation for developing a restoration plan. She says, “The PVC ‘drain’ has been out there as long as we’ve been monitoring. We have photos of it from back in 2008. To my understanding (from comments by the consultants who assisted in the building of the Freshwater Marsh), these are permitted overflow pipes that don’t “drain” the wetlands in the way that the media is projecting. They are only in the area between Culver and Jefferson and are there to prevent the flooding of Jefferson and the surrounding areas in extreme storm events.”



Marc Huffman further stated that “permits were pulled in accordance with all requirements of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Coastal Commission, the California Department of Fish and Game (now DFW), and the Regional Water Quality Control Board, in addition to the City (these are all the permitting agencies for the Freshwater Marsh), and we are working with the Coastal Commission and DFW staff to resolve the issue. I promise that as more information becomes available I’ll let you know.”

For the Freshwater Marsh itself, an overflow drain was constructed to carry overflow water from the Marsh to Ballona Creek in case of an immense storm. The two drains next to Culver Blvd. simply tie into that existing drain. Since they are raised above, not flush with, the ground, they would remove only standing water that is more than a foot deep, not ordinary rainfall. The coming wetlands restoration should consider this situation, especially in the light of expected sea-level rise due to global warming. *Images provided by David Kay.*

## WORKING COLLABORATIVELY

### By Jim Lamm, BCR President

Over the years, both with Ballona Creek Renaissance (BCR) and in other areas of my life, I have found that working collaboratively with others is key to a successful outcome. In fact, in the case of an all-volunteer organization such as ours, this approach is essential. We can’t do it all alone!

Both BCR and I have learned a lot from dialog and cooperative efforts, whether in co-founding and helping lead the Ballona Creek Watershed Task Force for over a decade or working with a variety of artists, agencies, students, and volunteers on mural projects, habitat restoration, and creek cleanups. In fact various government departments have been moving more in this direction, too, as multi-dimensional and cross-disciplinary aspects of their work have become more apparent and resources more scarce.

With a growing cache of valuable knowledge and institutional memory about the people, places, plans, projects, and problems of Ballona Creek and its watershed, BCR continues to initiate dialog with others about project ideas and to see how we might work together. Sometimes that takes the form of a bike ride along the creek to look at areas needing improvements, such as the eastern stretch of the bike path. At other times it might be an informal chat over coffee or during a creek cleanup, restoration event, a school visit, service club talk, or field trip. Connecting creek and community is key to what we do!

Recently at the LA River Watershed Conference in Downtown LA, I was reminded by speakers and colleagues of the importance of building these collaborative relationships as well as connecting people with the physical reality of the river or its community. As I knew, many of the folks working to transform the LA River and its watershed also have been doing the same types of things in Ballona. These friendships and shared visions and experiences are all part of what keeps me going and gives me hope---even if on some

issues or details we might have different ideas and approaches. And although the proposed and quite dramatic LA River plans could divert valuable people and funding resources away from Ballona, I prefer to think that it will be just the opposite— that we’ll gain great nearby examples and new momentum for the ongoing renaissance of Ballona Creek.



BCR would like to collaborate more with you, too! As an all-volunteer organization with hopes to add staff, BCR would welcome your active participation, even on a spot basis, in ways that suit your skills, experience, and interests. These might include co-leading events and activities or helping as a docent, educator, mural restorer, outreach person, or especially an overall BCR Volunteer Coordinator. All this could really help us work collaboratively within BCR and with others. To dust off an early BCR tag line, please join us in “Working Together to Change the Channel!”

*The best way to reach Jim is by email:*  
[jim.lamm@ballonacreek.org](mailto:jim.lamm@ballonacreek.org).

## KAYAKING THE L.A. RIVER

### L.A. River Pilot Recreation Zone

Almost all parts of the 50-mile-plus Los Angeles River are a concrete-bottom channel, like most of Ballona Creek (the portion east of Centinela Avenue). But there are a few more natural short sections.

This past summer, from Memorial Day to Labor Day, a short but attractive section of the L A River was open to public recreation such as kayaking. The 2½ -mile section of the river between Fletcher Drive and Oros Street in the Glendale Narrows part of the river has a natural bottom. In this natural section are small islands, trees and other vegetation, and birds such as egrets and herons, black-necked stilts and cormorants. And fish, the most plentiful species being catfish, mosquito fish, and carp. There are also plenty of rocks, submerged cement and other hazards to navigate around, with the possibility of getting wet and dirty if your kayaking skills are inadequate. And there's a bike/walking path on the west bank of the river for those who prefer to enjoy the scenery dry.

On July 9, the Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority (MRCA) invited members of several partner organizations to spend an afternoon kayaking on this section of the river. MRCA provided kayaks and equipment including helmets and flotation vests. BCR President Jim Lamm participated. Afterwards, he said "Although I've walked and ridden my bike along this more natural Glendale Narrows stretch, I was surprised at how special a water experience it provided--from a gentle flow to rushing rapids and chutes, with depths of one to several feet, among rocks, greenery, and water birds."

The recreation period is restricted to summer because that's when rain is very unlikely. A sudden storm could increase water levels and flow speeds significantly and suddenly, posing a severe hazard for people in the river.

The Recreation Zone is managed by MRCA in cooperation with US Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles County Flood Control District, and the City of Los Angeles. For more information, visit [http://www.lariverrecreation.org/LA\\_River\\_Recreation/home.html](http://www.lariverrecreation.org/LA_River_Recreation/home.html). Photos by Ana Petlic, MRCA.

**This newsletter is available as a print edition and an online document in PDF format (both in color).**

If you're getting one version and prefer the other, let us know at [editor@ballonacreek.org](mailto:editor@ballonacreek.org) and we'll switch you. Note that in the online version, the blue text represents clickable links.



(Above and below:) Jim Lamm (yellow helmet) and kayak partner Fernando navigate the rapids and hazards.



Black-necked stilts are among water birds found here.



## BCR Recognized at SEED award ceremony

At a special October 26th gathering at Terranea Resort in Rancho Palos Verdes, Ballona Creek Renaissance was recognized for its “Education and Outreach” by the South Bay Business Environmental Coalition (SBBEC) as part of the 6th Annual SoCal Environmental Excellence Development (SEED) Awards. President Jim Lamm, Outreach Coordinator Sandrine Cassidy Schmitt, and Newsletter Editor Bobbi Gold represented BCR at the gala event, where they were welcomed by Culver City Environmental Coordinator Cathi Vargas, an SBBEC member.

With awards in six categories, “Trash for Teaching” won the Education and Outreach Award. In addition to BCR, the other E&O nominees were City 2 Sea and Cornerstone School at Pedregal. The other award categories were Resource Preservation, Innovation, Pollution Prevention, Environmental Leadership, and Bridge-Builder. More information: [www.sbbec.org](http://www.sbbec.org).



(L. to R:) Culver City Environmental Coordinator Cathi Vargas, a frequent partner with BCR, and BCR board members Bobbi Gold, Sandrine Cassidy Schmitt and Jim Lamm.

## LA Waterkeeper’s DrainWatch

The mission of Los Angeles Waterkeeper is to protect the waters of coastal Los Angeles County through testing and enforcement actions.

LA Waterkeeper (formerly named Santa Monica Bay-keeper) held one of its frequent DrainWatch volunteer



Lara Meeker extracts a sample of creek water for lab testing, taking measures to prevent contamination from anything on her hands, feet or clothing .

events on July 14 to train volunteers how to take sample of fluids emerging from some of the many drains that empty into Ballona Creek. Lara Meeker, Waterkeeper’s Watershed Program Manager, demonstrated proper methods of collecting water from drains entering the creek at Overland Ave., Centinela Ave., and Lincoln Blvd.

Samples are then tested for various contaminants. Some tests can be performed immediately on site, but others must be done in a lab within 6 hours of collection. Trained volunteers can then participate in an ongoing sampling and testing program.

On this particular day, all four drains that were flowing into the creek between Centinela and Overland Ave. (on the bike path side only) failed water quality standards (limits) for E. Coli or other bacteria. This water flows into the Santa Monica Bay, affecting not only marine animals but also human swimmers. The likelihood of getting sick is especially high in the days immediately after rain flushes a lot of pollutants that have been lurking in underground drains into the ocean.

Water quality in our nation’s rivers, streams, and other channels emptying into the ocean is governed by the federal Clean Water Act, which mandates a gradual improvement process. Adjacent cities and counties must put in place measures to decrease the pollutants that get into the water stream.

Waterkeeper's paid staff of five (including an attorney) tracks pollutants to their source and attempts to rectify the cause. Often, a business must alter its practices that allow pollutants to enter the drains.

LA Waterkeeper's investigative team is looking into more than two dozen industrial facilities throughout LA County suspected of violating federal and state clean water laws. With the season's first rain on October 9, staff and volunteers were out in the rain collecting water runoff samples from the facilities and taking them to a state certified lab for testing. In an effort to stop waste transfer stations, scrap yards and waste recyclers from discharging harmful pollutants that end up in our water (heavy metals, trash and fecal bacteria), data

collected from the samples will be submitted to the Regional Water Quality Control Board and other agencies to take action. If necessary, Los Angeles Waterkeeper will proceed with its own litigation to force the facilities to eliminate their water pollution discharges and comply with water quality standards.

Waterkeeper and its DrainWatch program are an invaluable resource to those of us who care about Ballona Creek and the coast. To learn more about their programs including advocacy, water quality monitoring, litigation and restoration, or to volunteer, visit their website at <https://lawaterkeeper.org> or email Lara Meeker at [lara@lawaterkeeper.org](mailto:lara@lawaterkeeper.org).

## Fracking in L.A.: Hear Their Stories

As part of a "Global Frackdown" to raise awareness about the hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") locally and globally, BCR's Jim Lamm, Amy Rosenstein and Sandrine Cassidy Schmitt participated in "Fracking in L.A.: Hear Their Stories" on Saturday, October 19, at Veterans Park, Culver City. Organized by Food & Water Watch/Los Angeles and co-sponsored by Ballona Creek Renaissance, the event featured speakers from local groups, highlighting the harmful effects of fracking on our health, local watersheds, and property values.

"Fracking," short for "hydraulic fracturing", is the highly controversial process of injecting millions of gallons of water, sand and toxic chemicals thousands of feet into the ground to break up oil and gas formations for extraction. Even when the most up-to-date techniques are used, toxic leakage can and does occur.



Jim Lamm addresses attendees.

At the rally, we heard from neighbors in communities already affected by fracking, from Culver City Vice Mayor Meghan Sahli Wells and LA City councilman Mike Bonin about efforts to stop fracking in their cities, from health and other sectors, and even from New York City! Jim Lamm spoke from his directly related watershed experience as an architect, a university urban ecology instructor, and BCR president.

After the rally in Veterans Park, bicyclists and walkers took different routes through the city to call attention to the issue and to see first-hand the hills-creek-community connection---with all fracking waste water and its contaminants ending up in Ballona Creek while some slant drilling extends under Ballona Creek to neighborhoods in east Culver City.

The bike ride was escorted for safety by trained volunteers along a pre-approved route; Culver City Police were also present. Most of the riders were dismayed to see the oil wells and fracking sites so close to West Los Angeles College and the city.

BCR supports strong legislation to address this matter. We have been heartened by strong support from our local representatives in Culver City, Los Angeles, Sacramento and Washington. A primary goal of the Ballona Creek Watershed Management Plan is to conserve and improve our water supply and to restore ecological health to Ballona Creek and its watershed or drainage area; with its prodigious use and pollution of scarce water, many see fracking as a major threat.



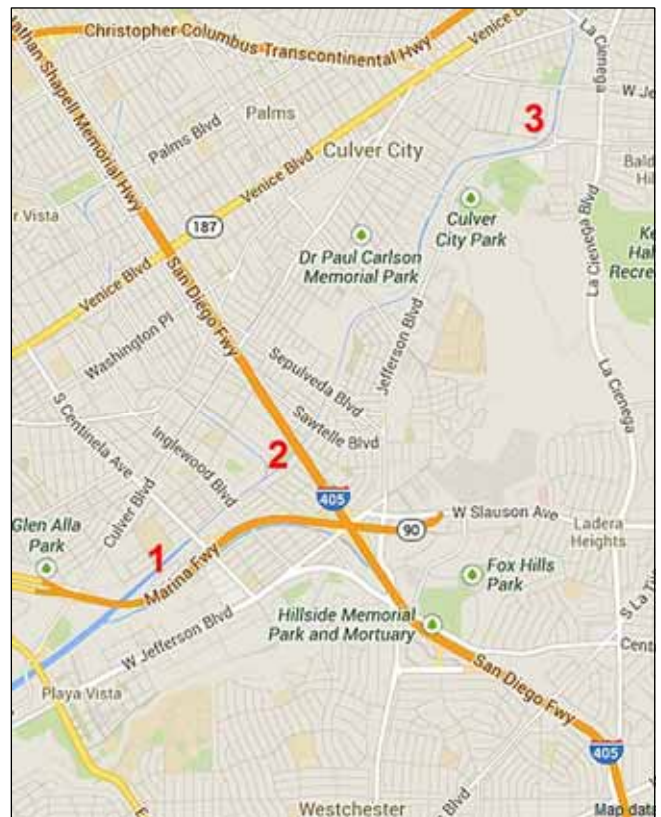
Riders leaving West Los Angeles College with its adjacent oil wells and fracking sites.

## Creek Bikepath Projects in the Works

**Milton Street Park (#1 on the map)** will encompass the bikepath and the adjacent unbuilt plot of land opposite Marina del Rey Middle School, just downstream from the Centinela Entrance Mini-Park. This project is managed by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), the same agency that installed the artistic gates and entrance parks at McConnell, Centinela, Inglewood and Duquesne Avenues and Sepulveda Blvd. We wrote about this future park in our January 2009 newsletter; designs at that time included an overlook at the creek edge of the bikepath to observe birds and other creek life and a meandering bikepath. Designs have changed according to public input and requirements from other public agencies. The project is awaiting permits, and MRCA hopes construction can start early in 2014.

**Ballona Greenway Section (#2)** A little further east, another MRCA project is in progress between Inglewood Ave. and the 405 Freeway. Says Ana Petric, Deputy Chief of Urban Projects and Watershed Planning Division: "We just completed the installation of a separate pedestrian path along that section of the bike path [see photo at left]. This project is funded by a grant from LA County Regional Park and Open Space District - Prop A. This is another step in making the bike path safer for the users and in helping to resolve the conflict between pedestrians and bicyclists. The planting will hopefully be installed this winter." The LA Conservation Corps and local youth will provide the planting labor and irrigation. Interpretive signs have also been installed.

**Higuera Street Access Ramp (#3).** A new access ramp will be constructed near the eastern end of the bikepath, where it passes under Higuera Street at Jefferson Blvd. This Culver City project addresses both convenience and safety concerns, because it's a long distance between the last bikepath exit at National Blvd and the next-to-last at Duquesne Ave. Between those two exits, the bikepath is below street level, so any cyclist or pedestrian who has a problem in that section would not be seen by passersby and has a long way to go just to get off the bikepath onto the street. Construction will begin in 2015/2016 when funding becomes available. The editor, who lives nearby, is waiting impatiently.



New pedestrian walkway, with interpretive signs.

Editor: Bobbi Gold

This newsletter reflects and celebrates the diversity of the people and activities of the watershed and beyond. La Ballona Creek Renaissance Program is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our Tax ID # is 95-4764614. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Please mail contributions to Ballona Creek Renaissance, P.O. Box 843, Culver City, CA 90232. For address corrections, additions or deletions, please call (310) 837-3661 or email [editor@ballonacreek.org](mailto:editor@ballonacreek.org). Unattributed photos are the property of BCR.



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Address correction requested

## FALL 2013 NEWSLETTER

**BALLONA CREEK RENAISSANCE** needs your help to renew the Westside's forgotten river and its watershed!

\$1,000     \$500     \$250     \$100     \$50     \$25    \$ \_\_\_\_\_ other

I would like to volunteer my time       I would like to join the board of directors/advisory council

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please use my entire contribution to benefit BCR's programs, **OR**

I'd like a tote bag for my donation of \$50 or more, **OR**

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Or donate online using our website, [www.ballonacreek.org](http://www.ballonacreek.org).