

## CONSERVATION CORNER

### **Free Hazardous/Electronic Waste Disposal Events**

After cleaning up the house after the holidays, you may have some old paint, outdated computers, a bulky television, expired medications, old cell phone or used batteries laying around. Hopefully, you don't throw them in the trash, as these items contain toxic chemicals. Those chemicals then make their way into our landfills, water supply, soil and into our bodies. Additionally, they contain chemicals that can often be recycled, reducing the resources needed to produce new goods. The Environmental Protection Agency calculated that the recycling of one million laptop computers saves enough energy to provide electricity for 3,657 homes for an entire year!

Please collect your hazardous waste (pesticides, old batteries, used automotive fluids, used cleaning products, etc.) and electronic waste products (computers, old televisions, and broken cell phones) for a FREE collection event in Claremont on February 6, 2016 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Claremont Corporate Yard-1616 Monte Vista Ave. Or the next event, which is being held in Diamond Bar on February 13, 2016 at the Gateway Corporate Center-1300 block of Bridge Gate Drive. All L.A. County residents are welcome to participate. If you can't make it to these events, there is a roundup nearly every weekend in L.A. County. The entire schedule and more details are posted at [www.888cleanla.com](http://www.888cleanla.com).

### **California Friendly Landscape Training Class**

Please join us for a FREE waterwise gardening class to learn how to use a holistic approach to gardening, build a living soil sponge, rethink your site, putting the right plant in the right place, using rainwater as a resource and managing irrigation in your yard. We will be awarding raffle prizes and enjoying breakfast together at Three Valleys Municipal Water District on January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016 from 8:30am-11:30am. Please RSVP to [cdechaine@tvmwd.com](mailto:cdechaine@tvmwd.com) or by calling 909-621-5568. Hope to see you there!

### **El Niño Prep, Part 2**

Luckily, we don't often have natural disasters in Southern California that inflict long term damage to our infrastructure. However, in the case that we do, are you prepared? The City of La Verne and many other agencies are working hard to prepare for the likely upcoming El Niño season. Between ramping up tree trimming efforts, stocking up on extra sandbag supplies and expanded outreach, we are doing our best to prepare for the obstacles that may lie ahead.

With this said, we need the community's help in taking all steps to help La Verne weather the storms. Below are some tips on how to prepare for an abundance of rain in a short period of time.

- Prepare for the possibility of gas and electricity going out. Have an emergency supply of food, water, medications, blankets, flashlights, batteries, first aid kits and other emergency supplies that you would need if these resources were down for hours or days. Don't forget to bring enough for your pets.
- Make sure to help yourself stay informed from government agencies and utilities (Examples: Los Angeles County, Southern California Edison and Gas Company). Please visit their websites and sign up for emergency notifications for more information or contact their Customer Service Departments.
- If you see a downed tree, wire or pole, please contact the appropriate agency to report it. Organizations often count on you to be additional sets of eyes and ears.
- Many agencies offer additional help or prioritization to those with vulnerabilities (elderly and those with medical conditions).

### **Did you know?**

- Los Angeles County has an emergency notification system titled Alert LA County. Visit the El Nino section of [www.lacounty.gov](http://www.lacounty.gov) for more information.
- Los Angeles County also offers a registration list for specific needs residents. Residents with medical conditions (physical or mental) or who are reliant on electricity for medical needs, may register here for additional resources.
- Southern California Edison offers a medical baseline rate reduction program which also serves as a list of those in their service area who are dependent on electricity for medical conditions/equipment. Enrollment helps them prioritize customer needs. If you have a reliance on electricity for medical reasons, please look into their program.
- Southern California Edison has a website that lists outages, locations, expected completion time and much more. This site contains valuable information during storms and every day. To view this, please visit the Outage Center at [www.sce.com](http://www.sce.com)

