



Creek Fire spares key storehouse at LACCD Ecological Reserve at Gold Creek

Sustainability Institute

Los Angeles Community College District

Winter, 2017 Newsletter

December 11, 2017

Volume 3, Number 3

Our Facebook page, our website.

See our new [Facebook page here](#) (Make Friends and stay on top of environmental activism as well as lectures and events.) We can post things for you. And [our new website here](#). The website features new articles now and then as well as updates on our projects. The site can be used to post things that you would like to share with the SI faculty and friends. [Send me a link](#) to the article and we will format and post. We have redesigned the [Links page](#) and [Articles page](#) for more content.

In this issue the SI reports:

- EPA reaches out to SI for a project on food waste reduction in the LACCD
- SI at Green Schools conference in Pasadena in late November.
- SI December 1st event a success at the Van de Kamp Campus with the DHLI and the PDC
- Cindy Montañez, CEO of TreePeople, addresses the Sustainability Workshop at the Van de Kamp Innovation Center.
- UCLA announces a PhD program in sustainability.
- **Gold Creek Fire spares the blockhouse with all the collections and science equipment.**



EPA reaches out to LACCD on food waste:

The issue of food waste is gaining attention due to the incredible statistics. ([This infographic provides a picture here.](#)) The SI will participate in a meeting arranged by the local office of the EPA at LATTC where the [culinary arts program](#) will show how they recycle and compost and reduce waste as part of the curriculum. The [EPA program](#) is focused on educational facilities where successes can be learning opportunities. [Colleges are leading in this effort](#) to come to terms with the fact that up to 50% of our food is wasted. We hope to take our concerns to the Board of Trustees and make progress throughout the District.

Green California Schools and Community Colleges Summit and Expo, Pasadena, 2017

After an absence of a few years, the SI has again participated in the annual [Green Schools Summit](#) held in Pasadena November 27-29. Thanks to Robert Mejia of [EtherWorks](#) and the [San Bernardino Community College District](#), we will be there to report on our green jobs in LA project. We were able to showcase some of our video interviews and research findings in a morning workshop where attendees heard from architects and facilities experts as well as [Dave Moon from CSU Northridge](#) whose interesting talk was on repackaging packaging. .

SI December 1st event a success at the Van de Kamp Innovation Campus with the DHLI and the PDC

Welcome to those who signed our mailing list at the Dec 1 event at the VDK campus. Thanks to work by Lourdes Brent from the Professional Development College, attendees were able to get flextime for attending the 3-hour event. We heard from [Mindy Chen from the Dolores Huerta Labor Institute](#), and were able to show our work so far with the DHLI.

In attendance were (now in quasi-retirement) [Don Gauthier](#), DAS president [Angela Echeverri](#), [PDC Coordinator Lourdes Brent](#), and SI core advisor Steve Tarnoff. This was a DAS and PDC event.



TREEPEOPLE

Cindy Montañez, CEO of TreePeople, addresses the Sustainability Workshop at the Van de Kamp Innovation Center.

The SI was very happy to have [Cindy Montañez](#) as guest speaker. [TreePeople](#) has promoted a positive environmental agenda for Los Angeles based on trees and water and urban conservation. Cindy spoke to the issues of environmental justice in LA as this pertains to green space and quality of life. [TreePeople has focused on the problems of respiratory illness in the region.](#) Faculty had a good Q&A with Ms. Mon-

Our logo: The District learning tree is embedded in the "triple bottom line" of sustainable development: social justice, political equality and environmental sustainability. The SI endorses this approach to environmental education.



District Academic Senate Sustainability Institute

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tañez. Cindy also talked about the importance of community colleges to train the workforce that new regional objectives require. The SI has focused on energy efficiency and water conservation. TreePeople is eager to partner with us on water conservation and the greening of LA.



Cindy Montañez talked about innovations in water harvesting that can increase our local supplies of water through better design and management.



UCLA

Institute of the Environment and Sustainability

UCLA announces a PhD program in sustainability. The Institute of the Environment and Sustainability at UCLA (IoES) [has announced a UCLA doctoral degree program in sustainability and the environment.](#) This culminates a UCLA objective to bring sustainability into the heart of higher education. While sustainability is already integral to engineering and environmental design, a PhD will bring a level of relevance to the major problems facing us today.

Students in the region can begin their sustainability studies in the LACCD and can transfer to CSU-Northridge with a [minor focus in sustainability.](#) Pierce College students can already articulate directly into the CSUN program. CSU Long Beach has an [integrated approach](#) to sustainability in the curriculum and on campus.

The Creek Fire at Gold Creek:

[SI is monitoring the Creek Fire and its proximity to the Gold Creek Reserve](#) in the Little Tujunga. As of this writing at 5pm Dec 10, the fire is contained. By Wednesday night the fire had spread throughout the vegetated areas at the facility. Rob West drove us up Sunday AM to take a look at damages. Also from ELAC were student assistant Eric Nuñez and pro-

fessor Kirk Olsen. Mike Farrell (LACC) was there to assess the damage to the weather station. He was happy to find that, surprisingly, much is salvageable.

Most important to many are the collections and decades of contributions stored in the block house. It all survived intact. The lecture area and covered porch all survived. Even equipment in the garage seems to have survived the roof burn. [For images of Gold Creek taken the am Dec 10 see here.](#)

The Creek fire has brought much property loss and animal losses in this horse country. Our warm felt thanks to the [firefighters from all over California](#) who contained this fire.



Google Earth location of the LACCD Reserve



Creek Fire perimeter at Gold Creek, Dec 8, 4pm

*Best Wishes to all our friends and
new email recipients.*

