



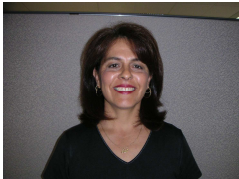
Connections

California Regional Environmental Education Community (CREEC) Network

Volume 2, Issue 1

Fall 2005

Plugged In



Celeste Royer
Statewide Manager
CREEC Network

Tsunami, Fire, Earthquake, Hurricane --- The news has been filled with headlines about these natural events here in the U.S. and from regions around the world. We tuned in to listen, watch, or read about the impacts these events had on the people who live there. In some areas, the human loss has

been very high. In times of need, when people are suffering, we come together to extend our hands and provide aid to them.

With each natural event that occurs come stories about people interacting with their environment. Their stories often describe how they faced the forces of nature to protect their families. As a result of these experiences, either first hand or through family and friends, people are realizing and more fully understanding how interconnected we are with the environment.

You may have learned this year that tsunamis are a series of ocean waves created by the sudden displacement of water by seismic movement on the ocean floor. Do you pay more attention to the tsunami warnings along our shores? Perhaps you've read that a hurricane is a type of tropical cyclone, which is a generic term for a low pressure system that generally forms in the tropics. The cyclone is accompanied by thunderstorms and, in the Northern Hemisphere, a counterclockwise circulation of winds near the earth's surface. Do you listen carefully to the hurricane watch to learn where it might touch land and how forceful the winds are?

Perhaps you learned that earthquake is a term used to describe a sudden slip on a fault, and the resulting ground shaking and radiated seismic energy caused by the slip, or volcanic or magmatic activity, or other sudden stress changes in the earth. Is your household prepared for a possible earthquake? Did you realize that fires remove low growing underbrush, cleanse the forest floor of debris, open it up to sunlight, and nourish the soil? Have you cleared the brush around your home in preparation for the next fire season?

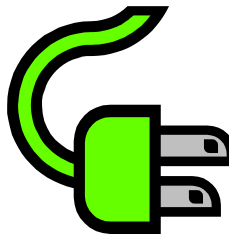
I hope these natural events shed light on the fact that people are interconnected with the environment, whether that environment is near a large city or a small town, in the

mountains or by the sea? It is everyone's responsibility to the planet, and to humankind, to connect with their environment and to teach children about it. Children should learn about the earth's processes. As stated in the *Science Framework for California Public Schools*, specific programs of environmental education enhance the learning of science at all grade levels. These programs enhance scientific and critical thinking skills, enabling students to perceive patterns and processes of nature, research environmental issues, and propose reasoned solutions. We want all children plugged into the world around them.

Most of us plug in to our computers and televisions on a regular basis. It is, after all, the information age. But do we plug into the environment too? Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods*, describes some children as having nature-deficit disorder, those kids plugged into electronic devices indoors at the expense of not plugging into the world outdoors. Louv states that direct exposure to nature is essential for healthy childhood development – physical, emotional, and spiritual. As educators, we must provide children with knowledge and experiences in the environment so that they can connect with it.

Working together as partners is the most effective way to accomplish this challenge. The CREEC Network's goal is to provide classroom teachers and environmental educators with the resources they need to teach students about the environment. To accomplish this goal, we are working collaboratively with several agencies and companies in California.

On the inside of this issue of CREEC Connections, you will read about the various partnerships that CREEC is forming throughout the state. This includes a partnership with the California Integrated Waste Management Board as we work to inform school districts about the Education and Environment Initiative. The Initiative is a result of landmark environmental education legislation. The CREEC Network is working with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (LADPW) to promote the use of our online Resource Directory for teachers so that they can access the programs and services of environmental education providers for their students, all while helping LADPW meet its public education

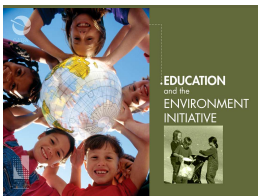


Continued on Page 3

Partner Profiles

California Integrated Waste Management Board

In October 2003, Governor Gray Davis signed AB 1548 which established the Education and Environment Initiative (EEI) [Pavley, Chapter 665, Statutes of 2003]. Cal EPA and the **California Integrated Waste Management Board** oversee EEI in cooperation with the Resources Agency, the California Department of Education, and the State Board of Education. The legislation directed these agencies to develop education principles and concepts for the environment for elementary and secondary schools; ensure that the education principles and concepts for the environment are aligned to the academic content standards adopted by the State Board of Education and do not duplicate or conflict with any academic content standards; and incorporate education principles for the environment in criteria developed for textbook adoption in Science, History/Social Sciences, Mathematics, and English/Language Arts.



Dr. Gerald Lieberman from the State Education and Environment Roundtable (SEER) and Jennifer Rigby from The Acorn Group served as lead consultants in the development of Environmental Principles and

Concepts with the involvement of over 100 scientists and technical experts. Additionally, EEI provides specific directives regarding the development and dissemination of a "Model Curriculum" for the Environmental Principles and Concepts. A Model Curriculum Plan has been completed and approved. To view it, visit www.calepa.ca.gov/education/EEI. Just recently, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed AB 1721 which allocated \$7 million over two years to continue the work of EEI.

While the Model Curriculum is being developed, public outreach efforts will begin to inform education administrators of the Education and Environment Initiative. The **California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB)** has selected the CREEC Network as a partner in its Public Outreach campaign to school districts and county offices of education throughout the state.

CREEC Coordinators in all regions of California will work with staff from the Office of Education and the Environment at **CIWMB** to make presentations to school district administrators beginning in the spring 2006. The CREEC Network is excited about its role in EEI, working in partnership with the staff from **CIWMB** to inform school districts in California about this landmark Environmental Education Law.

Los Angeles Department of Public Works

The **Los Angeles Department of Public Works (LADPW)**, like all other agencies who discharge water, continuously focuses on meeting the requirements set forth by the Regional Water Quality Control Board to follow the Clean Water Act and to maintain its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. One component of the permit requirement is to conduct Public Education and Outreach efforts to its constituents each year.

LADPW offers many youth education programs such as Plan-it Earth and Environmental Defenders. Visit www.ladpw.org for additional information about their programs.

LADPW has also chosen to support the CREEC Network to maximize the education dollars it spends annually to educate the public about storm water pollution prevention. With this support, the CREEC Network will significantly upgrade and update its online searchable Resource Directory found at www.creec.org. The Resource Directory has cataloged thousands of high quality environmental education (EE) providers, programs, and resources in California for educators to access and use in the formal and non-formal classroom. The CREEC Network will promote the use of the online Resource Directory and website to teachers. A new feature will be installed to help track teacher use. School participation at the many Los Angeles County EE providers listed in the Resource Directory will also be tracked to ensure that EE resources are reaching teachers and students throughout the county.



Forming the partnership between **LADPW** and the **CREEC Network** is a cost-effective way to meet the educational needs of teachers and students while helping meet the permit requirements for storm water pollution prevention required by state agencies. The CREEC Network can help your agency meet its permit requirements too.

Partner Profiles

The Walt Disney Company

The CREEC Network has been a long time partner with the Walt Disney Company and regularly promotes their Jiminy Cricket Environmental Challenge (JCEC) Program. The JCEC program, targeted at getting 5th grade students involved in caring for the environment, is now in its 13th year in California. The Environmental Challenge consists of two parts - the Pledge and the Class Project competition. The Pledge entails a small commitment, while the Class Project competition requires a more comprehensive project.

For the Pledge, teachers conduct a class discussion about any kind of environmental issue. Students are encouraged to share ideas about what the environment means to them and ways they can help both at school and at home. Each student is asked to pledge three things he or she can do to help the environment and complete the pledge forms.

For the Class Project competition, the topic is completely up to the teacher and the class. Teachers use the project as a caveat to teach content standards and guidelines for all areas of curriculum. The class must develop and submit its project for evaluation on a region-wide basis. Projects are evaluated on environmental relevance, student learning, changes in practices and attitudes, community involvement, lasting benefits to students, school and /or community, and originality. The deadline for registration for both the Pledge and Class Project is November 15, 2005. Go to www.jceckids.org for more information.

This year, the Walt Disney Company will embark on an evaluation of the Jiminy Cricket Environmental Challenge Program. The Education and Training Institute will gather data from 20 teachers across the state to chronicle the effects of the JCEC program on students' attitudes and behaviors toward the environment, content knowledge in science, math, and English/language arts, and knowledge of the environment as a whole.

The CREEC Network's role in the project will be to guide teachers in the completion of the evaluation and to encourage them to utilize the environmental education resources available that will help their students complete their class projects. The CREEC Network is thrilled to be a partner in this project with The Walt Disney Company. It is another excellent example of how business and education can work together.



CREEC Regional Partners

Region 1—North Coast

Lake COE
Chris Thomas
Assistant Superintendent

Region 2—North East

Shasta COE
Heide Hatcher, Principal

Region 3—Capitol

Yolo COE
Ronda Adams
Assistant Superintendent

Region 4—Bay Area

The Tides Center
Christiane Cloutier
Grants Administrator

Region 5—South Bay

Santa Cruz COE
Alice Talnack
Assistant Superintendent

Region 6A—Delta Sierra

San Joaquin COE
Judi Wilson, Director of
Special Projects

Region 6B—STEEP CREEC

Stanislaus COE
Zona Baker
Assistant Superintendent

Region 7—Central Valley

Fresno Unified School District
Jerry Valadez, K-12 Science
Coordinator

Region 8—Central Coast

San Luis Obispo COE
Rebecca McFarland
Coordinator, Outdoor and
Environmental Education

Region 9A—SanDCREEC

San Diego COE
Nancy Taylor, K-12 Science
Coordinator

Region 9B—Orange County

Orange County DOE
Pam Johnson, Administrator

Region 10—RIMS

San Bernardino CSS
Rick Hall, Science and
Environmental Education
Coordinator

Region 11—Los Angeles

TreePeople
Chris Imhoff, Director
Elementary Education

State—San Luis Obispo COE

John Barnhart
Assistant Superintendent

Continued from page 1

requirements for stormwater pollution prevention. Other partnerships include CREEC Coordinators providing technical support to teachers selected to help evaluate the Jiminy Cricket Environmental Challenge Program sponsored by the Walt Disney Company. We will spread the word about the Water Quality Service Learning Program sponsored by the State Water Resources Control Board. Plus, the CREEC Network continues to disseminate important environmental education information to educators in all 58 counties of California in collaboration with our Regional Partners and with the support of the California Department of Education Environmental Education Program.

Through partnerships such as these, we can ensure that all of California's students connect with their environment. Are you plugged in?

Partner Profiles

State Water Resources Control Board



The CREEC Network has entered into a partnership with the **State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)** to promote their new Water Quality Service Learning Program, a curriculum designed for the 4th to 6th grade levels. The instructional tools in the program use "Service Learning", integrating inquiry-based learning with real-world, hands-on experiences. The curriculum meets specific grade-level standards while at the same time increasing the students' awareness of polluted runoff and how it impacts local waterways and the environment. A Web-based learning tool featuring an online mentor has also been developed. Educators can visit www.waterlessons.org to obtain resources and support for the program.

SWRCB has planned a huge kickoff for the Water Quality Service Learning Program on November 15, 2005, from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. when the Sacramento County Office of Education will host a Live Webcast. The key presenters for the webcast from TreePeople in Los Angeles include Chris Imhoff, principal writer of the curriculum, Jeff Hohensee, and Staci Sinclair, online mentor.

The CREEC Network Coordinators will be hosting the Live Webcast in county offices of education, school districts, water board offices, and other locations throughout the state. This will give teachers an opportunity to gather to watch the Live Webcast.

In addition to the hosted webcast locations, teachers can also register to watch the webcast from their own computer. To register, visit <http://www4.scoe.net/ims/webcasts/cf/index.cfm>. Educators will also have an opportunity to view the Archived Webcast at a later date. The CREEC Network Coordinators will host Archived Webcasts which will be announced locally in the future.

The CREEC Network is pleased to join hands with the **SWRCB** and promote a program that will help students learn how they can reduce water pollutants and improve their local waterways.

CREEC Leadership

Region 1—North Coast

Coordinator: Olga Clymire
Phone: 707-263-7249
Email: olganc@pacific.net

Region 2—North East

Coordinator: Kate Mahon
Phone: 530-225-0111
Email: kmahon@coe.shasta.k12.ca.us
Coordinator: Craig Claver
Phone: 530-225-0111
Email: cclaver.coe.shasta.k12.ca.us

Region 3—Capitol

Coordinator: Deborah Bruns
Phone: 530-668-3781
E-mail: bruns@ycoe.org
Coordinator: Leslie Smith
Phone: 530-478-6400, ext. 211
Email: lsmith@nuhsd.k12.ca.us

Region 4—Bay Area

Coordinator: Laura Powell
Phone: 707-775-2420
Email: bacreec@comcast.net

Region 5—South Bay

Coordinator: Pat Kent
Phone: 831-479-5327
Email: pkent@santacruz.k12.ca.us
Coordinator: Angela Rocchio
Phone: 831-479-5328
Email: arocchio@santacruz.k12.ca.us
Coordinator: John Oliver
Phone: 408-867-5950
Email: jcoliver1024@comcast.net

Region 6A—Delta Sierra

Coordinator: Heather Fogg
Phone: 209-468-9096
E-mail: hfogg@sjcoe.net
Coordinator: Wendy Harrison
Phone: 209-736-6009
Email: wandw1@sbcglobal.net

Region 6B—STEEP CREEC

Coordinator: Tricia Dunlap
Phone: 209-525-6604
Email: tdunlap@bigvalley.net

Region 7—Central Valley

Coordinator: Michael Coburn
Phone: 559-351-6776
Email: creec7@yahoo.com

Region 8—Central Coast

Coordinator: Teresa Lees
Phone: 805-782-7228
Email: tlees@slocoe.org

Region 9A—SanDCREEC

Coordinator: Adrienne Marriott
Phone: 858-292-3733
Email: creec9a@hotmail.com

Region 9B—Orange County

Coordinator: Helen de la Maza
Phone: 714-708-3889
Email: HdelaMaza@ocde.us

Region 10—RIMS

Coordinator: Jennifer Futterman
Phone: 909-799-7106
Email: jennifereve111@hotmail.com
Coordinator: Margina Rhyne
Phone: 760-934-0031
Email: mrhyne@monocoe.org
Coordinator: Susie Myrick
Phone: (760) 245-1661
E-mail: smyrick@mdaqmd.ca.gov

Region 11—Los Angeles

Coordinator: Cheryl Leong
Phone: 818-623-4876
Email: cleong@treepeople.org

State Administration

Manager: Celeste Royer
Phone: 805-782-7224
Email: croyer@slocoe.org

CREEC Connections is a quarterly publication of the California Regional Environmental Education Community (CREEC) Network. The CREEC Network is administered by the California Department of Education, Environmental Education Program, in partnership with numerous agencies and organizations.