



Projects and acquisition on solid ground

This issue brings good news. Some of our grants have been approved, others have advanced to 2nd round—including funding for Una Lake. Best of all, while not certain until escrow closes, Antelope Valley Conservancy is on solid ground, acquiring 150 acres in the Joshua Tree Woodland Significant Ecological Area—with burrowing owl habitat.

Trails Not Trash™ campaign kicks off with Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

Thirty-six bags of trash lined two miles of Sierra Bike Trail, after two dozen volunteers cleaned the trail for Antelope Valley Conservancy's Sierra Bike Trail Cleanup. The event kicked off AV Conservancy's *Trails Not Trash™* campaign. Litter degrades our community and watershed, blowing and washing across natural habitats.



The Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service asked for a day on, rather than

a day off. The City of Lancaster coordinated 18 organizations' events. All over town, people painted, planted, fixed, built, cleaned, and donated.

The next *Trails Not Trash™* event will be our annual *Earth Day Cleanup* April 19 at Saddleback Butte State Park, featuring nature presentations this year. See you there!



No butts – don't litter!

Megan Avila, a Sierra Bike Trail Cleanup volunteer, shows a sample of the hundreds of cigarette butts removed from the trail.



Southern California Edison funds AFWAP

Antelope Valley Conservancy's watershed-wide planning project will be funded by a grant from Southern California Edison. The Antelope-Fremont Watershed Assessment and Plan (AFWAP) will apply an ecoregional planning approach for critical preservation areas and site integration.

AFWAP will make a critical contribution to habitat, watershed and regional planning, and was designated a high priority project by the dozens of agencies engaged in the AV Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (see avwaterplan.org).

Land conservation, economy, and social equity form a three-legged stool of regional sustainability and societal health. Antelope Valley has an exciting opportunity for smart growth, with dozens of regional agencies collaborating and committing to conservation and regional planning. AFWAP will help ensure an ecosystem approach to such planning, for critical habitat, wildlife corridors, watershed resources, trails, and new community open space assets.

A huge thank you to Southern California Edison for approving this generous grant to benefit our regional community.

Sign up now for Trails Policy Project

Do you care about trails? Then why not volunteer for the Trails Policy Project? Each volunteer reads an existing trail policy document. The volunteers then collaborate to recommend trails policies and procedures for the Conservancy. Although the policy is for AV Conservancy lands, other groups responsible for trail maintenance are interested in adopting the Policy as well. Seven volunteers have already signed up. See [avconservancy.org/AVC Trails Policy Project Public Posting.pdf](http://avconservancy.org/AVC_Trails_Policy_Project_Public_Posting.pdf).

Third annual Endangered Species Day Conference expanding

Our 3rd Annual Endangered Species Day Conference is expanding its audience to include students interested in ecology, who can ask questions of the panel. The Conference panel features leaders from agencies and organizations involved in species and habitat preservation, such as the US Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Game, US Forest Service, California State Parks, Edwards Air Force Base, Desert Tortoise Preservation Committee, Mountain Lion Foundation, Exotic Feline Breeding Compound, wild animal sanctuaries, conservancies, elected officials, and more.

Endangered Species Day was first established by US Congress in 2006. AV Conservancy's event will be on May 15, as always, the day prior to the holiday. Additional seating will be offered, starting in March. For more information, call the office at (661) 943-9000.

Leona Valley Bicycle Fun Ride

Our 12th Annual Leona Valley Bicycle Fun Ride is quickly approaching.

Whether you ride a couple of miles, or complete one of the 20, 50 or century routes, this ride in the beautiful Leona Valley countryside is not to be missed. Registration includes food and beverages, and volunteers

are on hand to drive you and your bicycle back to the Community Center if desired. See avconservancy.org/events.htm or call the office at (661) 943-9000 for details and registration.



Donate for free!

How can you donate for free? Just use GoodSearch.com as your Internet search engine, and pennies add up to dollars for Antelope Valley preservation **at no cost to you!**

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CALENDAR

February 23 (Saturday)
Barrel Springs Arena Play Day
Hosted by ETI and Palmdale

March 15 (Saturday) 11 a.m.
Volunteer Meeting, Fresno II

April 19 (Saturday) 10 to 2
Earth Day Cleanup
Saddleback Butte State Park

May 15 (Thursday)
Endangered Species Day Conference
Limited tickets will be available

May 17 (Saturday)
Leona Valley Bicycle Fun Ride
20--50--Century

May 24 (Saturday) 11 a.m.
Volunteer Meeting, Fresno II

For more info, visit
avconservancy.org/Events.htm



Photo: Ryan Young

Early Morning Desert

By Sambat Ung

The jack rabbit hops about,
The quails with their babies following,
The desert owl sleeping in the Joshua tree,
The coyote back on the prowl,
The mouse already looking for food.
Ah, the gentle breeze blowing to cool the animals.
An early morning in the desert.

Reprinted from *Antelope Valley Reflections*

Did You Know...

That Nevel Burke, the wonderful photographer who donates the use of his work to Antelope Valley Conservancy, has also donated his work for the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP), now posted for public review at www.avwaterplan.org. Antelope Valley Conservancy is one of fifty regional stakeholder organizations participating in developing and implementing the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan. It is an historic opportunity for collaborative planning in our region. Check it out at www.avwaterplan.org.

That nuisance water running in the street can be reported toll-free to Waterworks at (800) 675-HELP.

That plastic bags are such a problem in Los Angeles County, the Board of Supervisors considered banning retailers from using them. They blow in the wind, and litter our communities, habitats, waterways, and oceans. Floating in the Pacific Gyre is an island of plastic twice the size of Texas. Sure, plastic bags can be recycled, but there is little market for the recycled output. And, the bags consume resources for manufacture, rely on delivery boats and trucks that use oil, and the trucks clog our highways and tear up our roads. These are the "external costs" of every "free bag". Learn more about the external costs of our choices at <http://www.storyofstuff.com/index.html>.

Reduce, reuse, and just say ... no thanks

WE NEED YOU!

Please volunteer to help at spring events

943-9000

Yes, 1 or 2 hours is helpful

The Conservancy News is published by Antelope Valley Conservancy, P.O. Box 3133, Quartz Hill, California 93586, (661) 943-9000, and is available via email subscription. To subscribe, or for Conservancy information, please visit <http://avconservancy.org/>.

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Your support makes a world of difference
THANK YOU!