

Million Trees LA Achievements Recognized by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



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LOS ANGELES (April 16, 2009)—Los Angeles Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa’s initiative to grow Los Angeles’ urban forest was awarded the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) 2009 Environmental Achievement Award for Region 9. Million Trees LA was commended for its outstanding efforts to protect the environment through tree plantings. A record-breaking more than 200 nominations were submitted for the Region 9 awards, including environmental programs in Arizona, Nevada, Hawaii and the Pacific Islands and tribal lands. EPA selected 40 groups and individuals from among the businesses, local, government officials, tribes, media, environmental organizations and community activists nominated.

“We are proud that our local efforts to help protect the environment have not gone unnoticed,” said Cynthia M. Ruiz, president, Los Angeles Board of Public Works. “As the second largest city in America, it is important that we set a good example to the rest of the country and also globally. Thank you to the EPA for recognizing our efforts, and thank you to each *Angeleno* who picked up a shovel and planted a tree in the ground.”

Lisa Sarno, executive director of Million Trees LA, adds, “Planting one million trees in an urban city like Los Angeles is truly a collaborative effort of the city, our tree planting partners and the community. The success of this program lies on the shared commitment to do good for our environment. We have truly achieved much having planted close to 200,000 trees since the program’s inception in 2006. Let us all be inspired to push forward to reach our million-tree goal.”

“It is a great pleasure and honor that we can recognize the innovative and important environmental work achieved by this year’s impressive group of organizations and individuals, and this the example they set for all of us to follow,” said Laura Yoshii, the EPA’s acting administrator for the Pacific Southwest region. “This year’s winners and nominees have made superb efforts to protect and preserve our air, water and land, and have increased awareness of the environmental challenges we all face.”

(MORE)

MTLA EPA AWARD (continued)

Million Trees LA is the City of Los Angeles' program that aims to grow the Los Angeles urban forest to help clean the air, capture urban runoff, reduce summer cooling costs, and beautify the city. Los Angeles residents participate in the effort by adopting trees and pledging to plant them on private properties. Million Trees LA also hosts numerous tree planting activities along major public transportation corridors and in parks. Because of the program, the city has rooted ten times as much more trees than it did prior to Million Trees LA's launch.

For more information about Million Trees LA, please visit www.milliontreesla.org or call (213) 473-9950.

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