



2022 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
EARTHDAY

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Joel Sartore
National Geographic Explorer, Photographer,
and Founder of the Photo Ark

© Photo by Cole Sartore/National Geographic Photo Ark

Introducing a Modern-Day Noah

By Chris Lancaster
Publisher, Civic Publications

When Civic Publications interviewed Joel Sartore, National Geographic Explorer, photographer, and founder of the Photo Ark, for this year's Earth Day Publication, my impression was we were talking with a modern-day Noah.

Through the use of photography, Joel's intention is to save animals and in so doing, to save our planet.



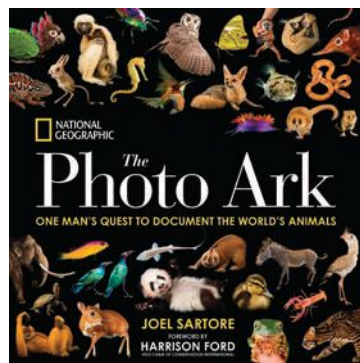
"Every creature deserves the right to exist," he told us, and explained that to support a creature's existence we must save the habitat in which they live. By photographing them up close, Joel brings awareness to endangered species and documents their very existence.

The Photo Ark project aims to teach people about our planet's enormous variety of life; his part is to create a photo archive of that global biodiversity. He's gone to more

than 60 countries so far in his attempt to capture those images, with no end in sight.

It's a big task. More than 26,000 species around the world are in danger of extinction; the prediction is that half of all species may go extinct by the end of the century.

The Photo Ark is a compilation of thousands of photos of animals, birds, fish, amphibians and insects, whose pictures give them a voice and a presence in our lives. The project is meant to reach students in the classroom, inspire the public through media and events, and even reach a digital audience by allowing people to engage online with it. Visit natgeo.org/photoark for more information about the Photo Ark.



Joel points his lens in the direction of the animal kingdom, giving them a voice when they have none. He wants us to focus on and care deeply about their extinction for the simple reason that our existence is tied to theirs.

Read California condor success story on page 19.

Let's listen to him, and take action on conservation. We owe that to the animals, and ultimately to ourselves. ○



National Geographic Explorer and photographer Joel Sartore gets up close and personal with monarch butterflies at the Sierra Chincua monarch sanctuary in Mexico.

© Photo by Joel Sartore/National Geographic Photo Ark

Saving Species One Image at a Time

National Geographic Explorer and Photographer
Joel Sartore, Founder of the Photo Ark

By Elizabeth Smilor
Special Sections Writer

See the affection in the eyes of the koala mother. Notice the impish glance of the Fiji Island banded iguana. Take in the intense stare of the Malayan tiger.

Then, care about them.

That is photographer Joel Sartore's challenge to all of us and his source of hope for the future of each and every species on Earth.

"Each animal is a new chance to get somebody to care about nature," says the award-winning photographer and National Geographic Explorer about the Photo Ark project he founded. "All these animal portraits are little nudges for people to start thinking about how to do the right thing. Maybe it all starts with a picture of a little monkey or a picture of a parrot or a picture of a monarch butterfly ... That's my hope, at least."

Taking a break from his home in Lincoln, Nebraska, before venturing out to nearby Waverly to photograph a collector's tarantulas and scorpions, Sartore talks about his

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EARTH MONTH IN THE
AMAZON



Photo by Andrew Whitworth



"Each animal is a new chance to get somebody to care about nature," says photographer Joel Sartore of the National Geographic Photo Ark. Pictured on this page, clockwise from above: A federally threatened koala, *Phascolarctos cinereus*, with her babies at the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital; an endangered Malayan tiger, *Panthera tigris jacksoni*, at Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo; and a Fiji Island banded iguana, *Brachylophus fasciatus*, at the Los Angeles Zoo. On facing page: Sartore photographs Johnny the serval, *Leptailurus serval*, at the Lincoln Children's Zoo in Nebraska, top, and a dwarf caiman at the Sunset Zoo in Kansas, below right. Sartore edits pictures with the help of Kambo, a red-crested turaco, at Tracy Aviary in Utah, bottom left.

© Photos by Joel Sartore/National Geographic Photo Ark



[SARTORE, from Page 2]



Denise M. Verret

passion for both photography and conservation. Sartore has spent more than 15 years on the Photo Ark, an ambitious project to save at-risk species and protect their critical habitats. He has traveled to more than 60 countries for the project, photographed 12,400 species, published six Photo Ark books, started a YouTube Video Ark and addressed many live audiences. And he's just a little over halfway to his goal of documenting the estimated 20-24,000 species in human care, which could take 25 years in all. He hopes it inspires hundreds of millions of the human species to protect Mother Earth.

"It's really vital to get people to think about species and habitat conservation," Sartore says. "We're on track to lose half of everything by the turn of the next century. You can't doom half of everything else and think people will be fine. It doesn't work that way. I think it's a race to see if we're going to be smart enough to save big blocks of habitat that we need to preserve ourselves."

"Joel's photography in his Photo Ark truly captures the beauty of the rare, endangered, and diverse species around our planet."

Denise M. Verret
CEO & Zoo Director
Los Angeles Zoo

endangered, and diverse species around our planet," said Denise M. Verret, CEO & Zoo Director, Los Angeles Zoo. "Just as zoos act as an ark to create an empathetic connection between wildlife and their guests, Joel's Photo Ark

is a journey that not only establishes this same palpable connection but also challenges us to consider how we can have an active role in preserving wildlife. Humanity is not immune to the sixth mass extinction happening around us, and there is still time for us to create positive change to not only save these species from extinction but also save ourselves from the same fate."

Sartore, looking out on the pollinator garden in his own yard, believes everyone can make a difference and that environmental action begins at home.

"Save your own corner of the world first," he says, adding that his Lincoln office land features an educational prairie garden. "I think it starts with people working in their own communities by being better stewards, by watching what they buy, by voting properly, and just doing their homework. Being green is very profitable. Being sustainable is a great way to live."

On Becoming a National Geographic Photographer

Sartore's fascination with the natural world and particularly American endangered species began as a child in Nebraska with parents who appreciated nature and gave him books about plants and animals. "The Birds" published by Time Life Books opened the young Sartore's eyes to species extinction when he read about "Martha" the last passenger pigeon. He became an Eagle Scout, earned a journalism degree at the University of Nebraska, and worked as a photographer for the Wichita Eagle before being encouraged by a National Geographic photographer to send his work to the





"I've always known photography can make a difference. Will it be enough of a difference to save the planet? I don't know, but we're trying."
Joel Sartore

© Photo by Cole Sartore/National Geographic Photo Ark

magazine. After two years of submitting his best photos, he landed his first assignment. A chance meeting and lunch with a tropical fish store owner he worked for as a teenager, reminded him of his youthful dreams.

"I asked her what she remembered me talking about when I was 16. She said, "You wanted to be a wildlife photographer for National Geographic. You talked about it all the time, your family got the magazine and you talked about wanting to stop extinction and all that'," he chuckles. "So, she asked, 'What did you end up doing?' I said, 'I'm a wildlife photographer for National Geographic' and she said, 'Yeah, right! Choose your dessert'."

National Geographic assignments have taken Sartore around the globe. He's contracted deadly diseases such as mucocutaneous leishmaniasis, a flesh-eating parasite he got from the bite of a sand fly in the Bolivian Amazon, and was exposed to the Marburg virus in a bat cave in Uganda, but did not get the Ebola-like disease. He was once charged by a grizzly (and admits he was too close to the wild animal) and spent 10 days on the edge of a nesting cliff in Madidi National Park in Bolivia to get a shot of macaws that would appear on the magazine cover and help stop the building of a dam that would have flooded the rainforest.

"It was always a really interesting experience, and nerve-wracking because I'm always nervous I won't get the pictures that I need to and get fired. All National Geographic photographers have that worry," he laughs.

While on assignment in Alaska, a call from his wife brought him home. A month later, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. Sartore spent a year caring for her and their three children until her recovery. It was during that time he came up with the Photo Ark idea. For the Photo Ark, Sartore finds species in zoos and collections and photographs them portrait-style in a studio, rather than in their habitats.

"We're really trying to get across that these animals are intelligent and beautiful and they have a basic right to exist."

Joel Sartore

"The studio portrait is a very good way of giving all species an equal voice, because there's no size comparison on black and white backgrounds. There are also no distractions. There's just eye contact, which is what we as primates respond to."

"We're really trying to get across that these animals are intelligent and beautiful and they have a basic right to exist," Sartore says.

[See **SARTORE**, Page 22)



Photo courtesy of Joel Sartore/National Geographic Photo Ark



© Photo by Cole Sartore/National Geographic Photo Ark



Drought Takes Center Stage at Three Valleys Leadership Breakfast

Metropolitan's Brad Coffey Addresses Regional Water and Civic Representatives

By Elizabeth Smilor
Special Sections Writer



"It was great to have everyone back in person. We were very pleased with the turnout of representatives from water agencies and cities. It's important that we come together to hear from Metropolitan and continue to collaborate going forward."

Jody Roberto
Board President
Three Valleys Municipal
Water District

At one of the first in-person events since the start of the pandemic, water industry and city leaders focused on another ongoing challenge: the drought.

"I realized that we're living in 'the dash.' It's the 2020 'dash' until whenever drought," said guest speaker Brad Coffey, who leads Water Resource Management at the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Coffey spoke at the Three Valleys Municipal Water District Leadership Breakfast on Feb. 24 at the Sheraton Fairplex Hotel & Conference Center in Pomona.

Representatives from more than 20 regional water agencies and seven San Gabriel Valley cities were in attendance, along with representatives for state Senators Anthony Portantino and Susan Rubio, state Assembly Members Chris Holden, Freddie Rodriguez, and Blanca Rubio. Former state Senator Bob Huff, City of Diamond Bar Mayor Ruth Low and City of La Verne Mayor Tim Hepburn also attended.

"It was great to have everyone back in person," said TVMWD Board President Jody Roberto. "We were very pleased with the turnout of representatives from water agencies and cities. It's important that we come together to hear from Metropolitan and continue to collaborate going forward."

Coffey's 20-minute presentation touched on the current drought as compared to past droughts, regional planning as well as current Metropolitan actions and conservation programs to alleviate strain on the system.

"We were founded on the principle that water for one would be water for all. We're going to adapt and invest using a one water approach – local, storage, imported water supplies are all



Far left, representatives of 20 water agencies, seven cities and several elected officials attended the Three Valleys Municipal Water District Leadership Breakfast at the Sheraton Fairplex Hotel in February. At left, Metropolitan’s Brad Coffey, who leads Water Resource Management, addressed the ongoing drought and other pertinent water issues. Above from left to right, Coffey, TVMWD General Manager and Chief Engineer Matt Litchfield and Inland Empire Utilities Agency Board Member Michael Camacho. Below TVMWD representatives gather with Coffey, from left to right, Board Director Bob Kuhn, Chief Water Resources Officer Sylvie Lee, Board Secretary Carlos Goytia, Litchfield, Metropolitan’s Coffey, Board President Jody Roberto, Director David DeJesus, and Director Mike Ti.

important – and we commit to an equivalent level of water supply for everyone,” Coffey said.

We are entering a third year of drought conditions in what is already considered by recent studies to be the driest two decades in the American West in 1,200 years. Southern California depends on imported water for about 55 percent of the supply – 30 percent from

“We were founded on the principle that water for one would be water for all. We’re going to adapt and invest using a one water approach – local, storage, imported water supplies are all important – and we commit to an equivalent level of water supply for everyone.”

Brad Coffey
Water Resource Management
Metropolitan Water District
of Southern California

the State Water Project and 25 percent from the Colorado River. Metropolitan, a cooperative of 26 member agencies, is the largest wholesale importer of water in Southern California, providing more than half the water used by 19 million people in six Southern California counties.

Three Valleys, a Metropolitan member agency, is a wholesale water agency with 13 member agencies serving 133 square miles in Pomona, Walnut and eastern San Gabriel valleys.

“The Three Valley’s breakfast provided an excellent program, and Brad Coffey delivered such drought-relevant content,” said Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster Administration Manager Arrica Jimenez.

In addressing the current drought, Coffey explained how Metropolitan is working to improve its ability to shift water supplies, especially to areas dependent upon the State Water Project (SWP). He admitted the system is not perfect.

“When it’s a wet year we push abundant water from State Water Project into the system and even back into Lake Mead to store it for dry years,” he said. “There are chinks in the armor of this system. When it was designed, no one thought that an (SWP) allocation could be lower than 20 percent. We’ve gone down to a zero percent allocation.”

Three Valleys General Manager and Chief Engineer Matt Litchfield said Coffey explained well how Metropolitan shifts water sources and blends supplies efficiently.

“He showed the creativity and intelligent water supply planning of the Metropolitan staff by effectively working with Northern California interests for water transfer purchases and Central California water banks to call on those supplies to supplement the low SWP supplies,” Litchfield said. “Metropolitan is planning to address this deficiency as part of its One Water approach so these particular agencies will have access to both SWP and Colorado River supplies in the future and will require significant infrastructure expenditures.”

Coffey explained how water storage reservoirs, such as Diamond Valley Lake, pumping stations, recycled water, water exchanges with agricultural districts and conservation all help to shore up reliability closer to home.

[See **DROUGHT**, Page 8)





Above, Melissa Cansino, a City of Pomona Water Resources Program Assistant, listens to the presentation at the TVMWD Leadership Breakfast. At right, from left to right, from Rowland Water District Assistant General Manager Dusty Moisio, General Manager Tom Coleman, Director Tony Lima, Executive Assistant Gabby Sanchez, Water Systems Supervisor Robert Leamy, Director of Finance Myra Malner, along with Suburban Water Systems Vice President Greg Galindo and La Puente County Water District General Manager Roy Frausto.



[DROUGHT, Page 7]

“He was able to put 20 months of behind-the-scenes hard work that the staff of Metropolitan has done to address the climate challenges into a 20-minute talk,” said Three Valleys Director David DeJesus, who also represents Three Valleys on the Metropolitan board. “Metropolitan has always been very innovative in their approach to dealing with water supply problems or the lack thereof and that continues today.”

DeJesus is pleased Metropolitan continues to support the Delta Conveyance project to improve the State Water Project and that Coffey said they “do not accept serial low allocations.” Metropolitan sees that all water sources – from recycled to imported – have to be optimized.

“I’m most concerned with everyone having equal access to water. We have to think about all of us,” said Three Valleys Director Bob Kuhn. “They are doing the best job they possibly can with probably 10 fronts to handle at one time.”

Of the Three Valleys role, Kuhn said: “Fortunately, we have a combination of people like me who have been here for many years and we have new people with new thoughts. It’s going to take all of us working together.”

Three Valleys Board Secretary Carlos Goytia appreciates Metropolitan’s One Water approach. “With One Water, everybody

“Metropolitan has always been very innovative in their approach to dealing with water supply problems or the lack thereof and that continues today.”

David DeJesus
Board Director
Three Valleys Municipal
Water District

is welcome into the tent. Everyone needs water. The One Water message begins there,” he said. “We need to be innovative, out-of-the-box thinkers, just like our predecessors. We’re in a period of time that we need to come together, have these hard discussions but then do something about it.”

In the end, water managers and honored guests alike appreciated the opportunity to gather and discuss issues at the breakfast.

“TVMWD Leadership Breakfast allows water professionals of the region the opportunity to converse and connect – allowing face-to-face dialogue on relevant issues impacting our region,” said Rowland Water District Executive Assistant Gabby Sanchez.

“When I turn my water faucet on, I want to know that water will come out,” said former state Senator Bob Huff. “It is comforting that there are people who are paid to think about it and to ensure that water is there.” ○

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www.threevalleys.com

EARTH DAY, *every day*

F.O.G.

Fats, Oils, and Grease, also known as "FOG," are found in meat, salad dressing, deep fried foods, cookies, butter, and more! When food waste containing FOGs are disposed down our sinks, the grease coats the pipes and accumulates into a hardened lining over time that clogs our sewer pipes. This causes sewer backups in the street and onto your property, which is gross and damaging!

DO NOT pour FOGs down the drain. Instead, throw greasy food waste and used cooking oil into your organics cart once they have cooled down.

USED OIL AND FILTERS

Improperly dumped motor oil pollutes waterways and drinking water. Nothing should go into storm drains except rainwater. Instead, recycle your used motor oil and oil filters by bringing them to a Certified Collection Center below for proper disposal:

- Firestone: 1500 S. Baldwin Ave. (626) 538-8985
- Jiffy Lube: 5 W. Huntington Dr. (626) 446-7980

The City of Arcadia also offers free used oil containers, funnels, and oil change mats to Arcadia residents at the Arcadia Public Works Services Department. Call (626) 254-2720 to reserve one today!

WATER CONSERVATION

The City of Arcadia continues to observe the seasonal outdoor water schedules below, applicable to all water customers.

- Winter (November 1 - April 30): Tues. & Sat.
- Summer (May 1 - October 31): Tues., Thurs., & Sat.

Outdoor irrigation is only allowed before 9:00 AM and after 6:00 PM. Trees and plants may be hand watered by hose with shut-off nozzle attachment daily within the allowed timeframe.

ORGANICS RECYCLING

Effective January 2022, Senate Bill (SB) 1383 is a statewide law that aims to reduce methane, a potent greenhouse gas by requiring all California residents, businesses, and multi-family complexes to sort food waste into the green cart.

Remember these rules when separating your organic waste:

1. Only food scraps, food-soiled paper, and yard waste are allowed in the green carts.
2. No compostable or plastic bags!

The City of Arcadia has already begun rolling out this new program. Your participation will not only help the environment but also help the City comply with the new law!



Public Works Services Department |
(626) 254-2720 |
PublicWorks@ArcadiaCA.gov



What is Senate Bill 1383?

Senate Bill 1383 requires every jurisdiction in the State of California to provide mandatory organic waste collection services to all residents and business/property owners by January 1, 2022 to divert organic waste from landfills.

Why is it important to keep organic waste out of landfills?

When organic waste is buried in a landfill and decomposes, it releases methane, a greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change.

When organic waste is collected separately from trash, it can be kept out of landfills and processed to create useful products such as compost, renewable electricity, and transportation fuel while reducing emissions of methane into the atmosphere.

What do I have to do?

Your waste hauler will provide specific information on how they will collect organic waste from you. They may require you to separate it from your regular trash and place it into a container specifically for organic waste.

You can also take steps to limit the amount of food waste you generate by buying only what you need, storing food adequately, or donating edible food to your neighbors, family and friends.

Food Waste Prevention

Los Angeles County is experiencing the effects of a climate crisis: hotter summers with record-breaking temperatures, even more devastating fire seasons, more extreme droughts and rising sea levels that erode our County coastlines. Scientists tell us that greenhouse gasses released by human activities – like sending food and yard waste to landfills – cause climate change.

To respond to this climate crisis, Los Angeles County has adopted a vision of vibrant, waste-conscious communities with 21st Century infrastructure and a goal of diverting 95 percent of waste from landfill disposal by 2045.

Organic Waste and Climate Change

When organic waste begins to decompose within a landfill, it releases methane and other volatile gases. Methane is a greenhouse gas that pollutes the air and contributes to climate change – the result of which is more frequent and intense heat waves, large storms, drought, more frequent or larger wildfires, and outbreaks of insects and viruses. Diverting organic waste from landfills allows it to be processed without releasing methane into the air, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It also allows for the creation of more useful products, such as compost, renewable electricity and transportation fuels.

Tips to Reduce Food Waste

- Prepare meals by serving size
- Place new produce behind older produce in the refrigerator to avoid spoilage
- Plan meals with food already found in the kitchen before purchasing more
- Make a grocery list before shopping
- Get familiar with “best by” and “sell by” date labels on food products. Understanding how they are different can reduce the premature disposal of edible food



Visit **FoodDropLA.com** to learn more information about food waste prevention, recycling and other resources available to businesses and residents.

What is organic waste?

Organic waste is material that comes from living organisms such as: food scraps, food-soiled paper, paper products, yard or green waste, wood and organic textiles like cotton.



Questions?

For specific information about how organic waste is being managed in your community, contact your waste hauler. For resources on how you can reduce food waste and live more sustainably, visit **CleanLA.com/OrganicWaste**.

We All Benefit from a Clean LA



Keep Los Angeles County clean by properly disposing of unwanted items. LA County hosts numerous collection events to help residents dispose of unwanted items, such as mattresses, tires or household hazardous and electronic waste. Residents can also consider donation of items in good condition or contact their waste hauler to schedule a bulky item pickup. For a calendar of events or to learn more, visit [CleanLA.com](https://www.cleanla.com) or call **(888) CleanLA**.

Illegal dumping is an unlawful disposal of waste on road right-of-way or private property and is a serious problem for the community. It also poses a threat to public health, safety

and the environment. To report illegal dumping and request removal call (888) 8-DUMPING or email at DUMPING@pw.lacounty.gov or download Los Angeles County's **"The Works"** app.

Everywhere You Go
BYO
 Bring Your Own
 at Home, Work & Play

You can help reduce landfill waste by choosing reusable containers and utensils at home, work, and at play!

Learn more at:
[CleanLA.com](https://www.CleanLA.com)



San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority Hosts Online Update for City Officials

By Amy Bentley
Special Sections Writer

"We've brought in hundreds of millions of dollars for the different treatment plants ... long-term cleanup projects need to go on beyond 2030 and will need more resources."

Randy Schoellerman
Executive Director,
San Gabriel Basin
Water Quality Authority

The successful, long-term cleanup of contamination in the Main San Gabriel Basin continues, and the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority (WQA) looks to extend the agency to provide continued management, facilitation, and funding of the ongoing cleanup efforts, says the agency's Executive Director, Randy Schoellerman.

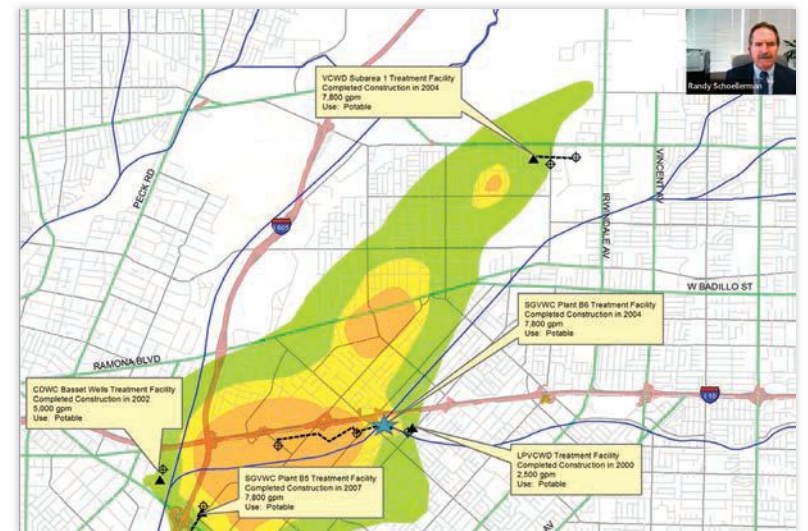
Schoellerman hosted an online presentation about the WQA on Feb. 2 where attendees consisted of elected city officials, Public Works Department representatives and city administration staff from across the San Gabriel Valley. The event is one of several the WQA has hosted in recent years to keep Valley leaders informed of the WQA's progress.

Using maps and aerial photos of the treatment plants throughout the Basin, Schoellerman delivered an overview of the processes used to clean the contaminated groundwater in the basin, in a requested segment he called "Groundwater treatment 101." He also talked about funding issues for the cleanup and an effort to extend the agency for another 20 years.

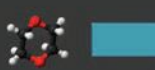
The WQA is a special district the state of California created in 1992 to plan, facilitate and provide funding to clean up the groundwater basin. The basin provides most of the Valley's drinking water. The WQA was created with a sunset date that has been extended several times because of its effective management of the basin cleanup. The WQA is currently scheduled to sunset on July 1, 2030. The WQA is proposing an extension to July 1, 2050.

"We've brought in hundreds of millions of dollars for the different treatment plants," Schoellerman said, adding that long-term cleanup projects need to go on beyond 2030 and will need more resources.

Speaking about funding, Schoellerman shared that several cities will benefit from the Proposition 68 grant which WQA successfully secured, including: Alhambra (\$5.1 million), Arcadia (\$2.3 million), El Monte (\$3.7 million), Monterey Park (\$7.8 million), Monrovia (\$6.7 million), and South Pasadena (\$2.3 million). These funds will cover the costs for the treatment plants each of these cities operate for three to four more years, he said. California voters passed Proposition 68 in 2018, which provides \$74 million to projects that reduce or prevent contamination in groundwater and provide a source of drinking water. The WQA was awarded \$35.3 million for 21 treatment facilities throughout the Basin, offsetting the cost for several cities and water companies.



Identifying the contaminants in water



Each contaminant has its own set of characteristics



Therefore, we are able to combine them into similar groups for removal!



We know that contaminants with similar properties can be removed using the same treatment methods.

Groundwater Treatment 101

Cities Receiving Prop 68 Grants*

Alhambra	\$5.1M
Arcadia	\$2.3M
El Monte	\$3.7M
Monterey Park	\$7.8M
Monrovia	\$6.7M
South Pasadena	\$2.3M

*Preliminary amounts subject to final grant agreement negotiation

WQA Act Extension:

- The sunset date has been extended several times as the public and stakeholders have continued to support WQA's mission.
- WQA is proposing to extend the current sunset date of July 1, 2030 to July 1, 2050.



San Gabriel Valley Water Company's Plant B6 Treatment Facility Air Strippers

The WQA also works to increase funding for the San Gabriel Basin Restoration Fund, which was established in 2000. Only \$55 million remains of the initial \$125 million authorization, Schoellerman said. For fiscal year 2022, \$10 million has been requested, he said. This fund helps to incentivize responsible parties to come on board and help pay for the cleanup. It's also tapped for matching funds to leverage more state funding opportunities where matching funds are needed, he said.

Finally, Schoellerman explained how contaminants are physically removed from the water. Volatile organic compounds are removed with an air stripping system. Water is pumped into the top of a tall, cylindrical tower containing plastic material similar to wiffle balls that spread out the water as air is blown in through the bottom, and when the two mix, the contaminants are removed. "The contaminants are simply switched from water to the air stream," said Schoellerman. The air flows into containers filled with carbon that filters and

cleans it so it can then be released outside. Nitrates, perchlorate and Chromium VI are removed with an ion exchange system using ion exchange resin (beads) that swap a non-hazardous similarly charged ion with the contaminant. The contaminants stick to the beads and are removed from the water. Finally, 1,4 dioxane and NDMA are physically destroyed by flowing the water through pipes filled with ultraviolet lights in a process known as advanced oxidation. ○



Learn more about your water and the WQA's efforts to keep it safe and clean.
Visit www.wqa.com.



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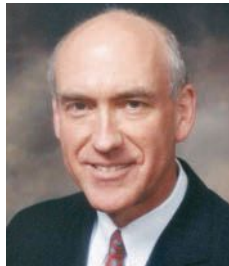
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Area Mountain Lions and Eagles in the News

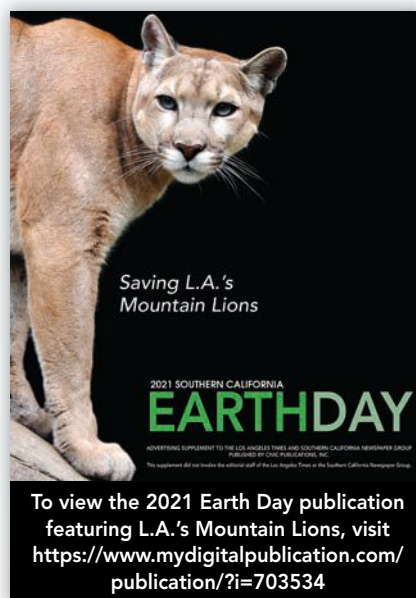
P-22, L.A.'s most famous mountain lion who was recently spotted roaming the streets of Silver Lake before returning to his Griffith Park home, along with the region's other mountain lions, bobcats and smaller wildlife are one step closer to a safer expanded habitat.

The groundbreaking ceremony for the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing took place on Earth Day, April 22. At 165 feet wide and spanning over 10 lanes of the 101 freeway at Liberty Canyon in Agoura Hills, when complete the crossing will be the largest in the world and the first of its kind in California.

"The groundbreaking marks a significant milestone towards this important wildlife crossing that sets a path towards saving our threatened local mountain lions and supporting the diversity of wildlife in the region," said Jeff Sikich, Biologist for the National Park Service, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

Earth Day 2021 featured the story of L.A.'s mountain lions and the massive public-private partnership to raise money and build the crossing. Project partners include: Caltrans, the National Park Service, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservatory/Mountain Recreation and Conservation Authority, the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains, and the National Wildlife Federation – along with local and state elected officials.

"This project is truly incredible. As the largest wildlife crossing of its kind in the world, it will provide lifesaving habitat connectivity to a broad array



of animals for decades to come," said Wade Crowfoot, California Secretary for Natural Resources. "It also shows us what is possible when unique partners come together to think creatively, and then act boldly and decisively. I think we will look back decades from now and realize that this project galvanized a new era of conserving and reconnecting nature."

Previously dubbed the Liberty Canyon crossing, the name changed with a \$25 million donation from the Annenberg Foundation.

"Wildlife crossings restore ecosystems that had been fractured and disrupted. They reconnect lands and species that are aching to be whole," said Wallis Annenberg, Chairman, President, and CEO of Annenberg Foundation. "I believe these crossings go beyond mere conservation, toward a kind of environmental rejuvenation that is long overdue."

As recently as last month, a collared mountain lion was hit by a car and killed, becoming the 25th killed on roads since the National Park Service began studying the Santa Monica Mountain cougar population two decades ago. Inbreeding is also a major concern and reason a larger habitat is necessary.

For more information about the events or about the #SaveLACougars campaign to build the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing, visit <https://savelacougars.org/>

Like the California condor, the bald eagle is conservation success story with roots in Southern California. Our 2018 Earth Day cover story featured bald eagles in the region and some are in the news again.



A Big Bear bald eagle pair, Jackie and Shadow, who are watched by many via a nest webcam operated by the Friends of Big Bear Valley nonprofit organization, as of press time were caring for a chick that hatched at the beginning of March. It is the first to survive in two years. Previously, Jackie had one surviving chick with another male eagle in 2018 and one with Shadow that survived in 2019.

One of the major bald eagle restoration projects continues today on the Channel Islands, where none were left by the 1960s. In 1980, scientists began reintroducing eight-week-old eaglets to the islands. However, when they began to breed the shells of their eggs were too thin as a result of DDT contamination.

Biologists began removing the eggs from the nest, replacing them with artificial ones, so they could incubate them at the San Francisco Zoo. The surviving eaglets were again released on the islands. By 2009, they no longer had to remove the eggs.

As of the end of March, according to the Institute for Wildlife Studies, there were at least eight chicks in four nests on the Channel Islands with more expected to hatch soon.

Nationwide, the American bald eagle population has quadrupled since 2009, according to a 2021 report by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and its partners. According to scientists from the Service's Migratory Bird Program, the bald eagle population climbed to an estimated 316,700 individual bald eagles in the lower 48 states.

Keep up with the Southern California eagles via these websites: www.friendsofbigbearvalley.org and explore.org



Presented by FriendsOfBigBearValley.org 2022-03-31 09:37:25

Every day is Earth Day for our water

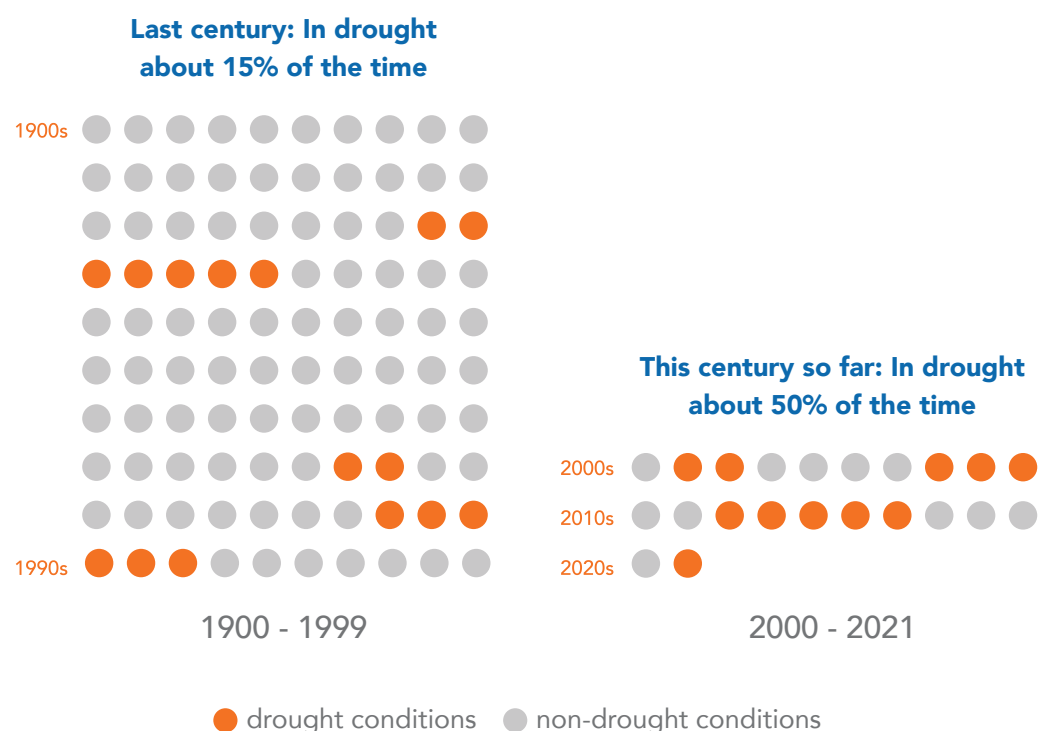
Droughts more of the time means taking action together all of the time.

For our water, every day is Earth Day because in the San Gabriel Valley most of the water we use is held deep down underground in the earth’s natural basin. It holds the waters that connect us.

Here’s our challenge: droughts are now more frequent, as shown below in the infographic. The rain and snow we receive needs time to seep into our groundwater supply. These resources – rain, snowmelt, and time – are less available with more frequent droughts, limiting this basin’s recovery from one drought before the next one begins.

That’s why— for our water, we are taking action together— water users, water producers, and us, the manager of this groundwater basin. Together, we can address this challenge.

Comparison: drought frequency



To learn more about our groundwater, visit: thewatersthatconnectus.com



City of Industry Paving a Green Path

Achieving Sustainability with Everything from Recycled Asphalt to Renewable Energy

By Grace Washburn
Special Sections Writer



"The City of Industry is finding and implementing some very innovative methods that are environmentally friendly and beneficial to our businesses and residents. Using recycled asphalt is just one way we can make a difference."

Cory Moss
Mayor, City of Industry

The City of Industry has taken recycling to the streets, literally.

"The City of Industry is finding and implementing some very innovative methods that are environmentally friendly and beneficial to our businesses and residents," said Mayor Cory Moss. "Using recycled asphalt is just one way we can make a difference."

To reconstruct a 2.5-mile stretch of Arenth Avenue, construction crews used recycled asphalt for all but the top 1.5 inches of roadway, said City Engineering Manager Mathew Hudson. He explained how the existing road materials were milled on site, amended with asphalt binder and reused.

"Traditionally, we would have to remove and dispose of the existing asphalt and base material and construct a new roadway with 4 inches of new asphalt over 9 inches of new base material. Instead, we created new material on site from the old and only used 1.5 inches of new hot-mix asphalt for the top layer to make it ride smoothly," he explained.

The method saved money, created a roadway that meets or exceeds the necessary structural integrity, and had enormous environmental benefits.

"In the end, it saved about 19,800 truck miles, saving fuel and reducing the carbon footprint. That one project also diverted about 19,000 tons of waste from the landfill," Hudson said.

The City employed the same method to redo several parking lots at the Industry Hills Expo Center and is already planning to complete more roadwork using recycled asphalt.



At left and above, the City of Industry used recycled asphalt milled on site to pave a 2.5-mile stretch of Arenth Avenue. The method saved money, reduced truck miles and diverted waste from the landfill. At right, cyclists share the road with motorists in a designated bike lane on the north side of Colima Road in the City of Industry. The city hopes to create a plan that provides a variety of safe cycling opportunities for people who live, work and travel through the City of Industry.

"The City is always looking for sustainable designs and ways to go green anywhere we can," said Hudson. "The Mayor and City Council are very supportive of these efforts."

The City is also exploring routes for a master bikeway that would run through the City and connect to neighboring cities and county bike paths.

"We really want to encourage people to ride from city to city, rather than drive all the time," Hudson said.

Other green initiatives include converting the City's electric utility, Industry Public Utilities (IPU), to a significant percentage of renewable energy by 2023. The IPU electricity would come from wind and solar power.

The City also aids businesses in going green and meeting state mandates for recycling and organics recycling. The state of California requires all business that generate at least 4 cubic yards of commercial solid waste per week to arrange for commercial recycling services. The City's contracted franchise hauler, Valley Vista Services, will work with the City of Industry to assist businesses in meeting the State's recycling requirements.

In 2016, the California Legislature passed Senate Bill 1383, which requires Californians to reduce organic waste disposal by



75 percent by 2025. As part of the bill, beginning this year, all cities are now required to implement organics recycling programs. Starting this month, the City and the Valley Vista Services will expand Organic Waste Collection Services for residents and businesses. Valley Vista Services will be automatically delivering containers for organic recycling to all businesses generating 2 cubic yards or more of waste to be used for all "organics," including landscaping, food scraps and food-soiled paper. Residents are being asked to put food waste into the green waste bins.

"We are constantly looking for ways to help the businesses and manufacturers in our City," Moss said. "Green practices and technology are increasingly important elements for success." ○

City Council



Cory Moss
Mayor



Catherine Marcucci
Mayor Pro Tem



Mark Radecki
Council Member



Newell W. Ruggles
Council Member



Michael Greubel
Council Member



www.cityofindustry.org

"They [condors] are big, glorious birds that have been around for tens of thousands of years. There's not a talk I give where I don't mention the condor. It's an epic story befitting an epic bird."

Joel Sartore
National Geographic Explorer,
Photographer and Founder
of the Photo Ark





Photo Courtesy of Los Angeles Zoo

The endangered California condor, *Gymnogyps californianus*, has a 9 1/2-foot wingspan, weighs 15-30 pounds and travels up to 150 miles in a day at heights of up to 15,000 feet. After the last 22 wild condors were captured in 1987, conservation efforts have grown the population to 334 in the wild and 203 in captivity. All the birds are tagged, as shown above, and tracked by researchers after they are released. Condors are kept in human care for breeding or if they are injured, such as the one at left photographed by National Geographic photographer Joel Sartore at the Phoenix Zoo.

California’s Iconic Raptor: The Condor

Decades-Long Recovery Effort Has North America’s Largest Bird Soaring Again

By Elizabeth Smilor
Special Sections Writer

“The condor rescue effort was different from every other conservation program because it had never been done before, so we were writing the book as we were doing it.”

Mike Clark
*Los Angeles Zoo
Condor Keeper*

In 1987, the last California condor was plucked from the wild by scientists in a desperate and controversial attempt to save the species, when the population dwindled to 22 birds.

“The condor rescue effort was different from every other conservation program because it had never been done before, so we were writing the book as we were doing it,” said Los Angeles Zoo Condor Keeper Mike Clark, who has been working in condor recovery since 1989. “Not many people knew much about them, but it was thought that they were super timid and delicate and very easily disturbed. Turns out it’s the exact opposite. They’re really gregarious, curious and nothing really bothers them. They get into trouble all the time. They are very inquisitive, smart and playful.”



Joel Sartore

Thirty-five years later, there are 334 California condors in the wild and 203 in captivity, according to the 2021 annual population report by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. North America’s largest bird with a wingspan of up to 9 1/2 feet now exists in the wild in California, Arizona and Baja California. It once glided throughout North America about 40,000 years ago during the late Pleistocene era.

“They are big, glorious birds that have been around for tens of thousands of years,” said National Geographic Explorer and photographer Joel Sartore. “There’s not a talk I give where I don’t mention the condor.

When people rallied around that bird, they didn’t know they were going to save it, they just saw a need and they rushed to fill it. It’s an epic story befitting an epic bird.”

Clark characterized the recovery effort as a great collaboration amongst many individuals who are all fascinated by the species. The California Condor Recovery Program is led by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife



Photo Courtesy of Los Angeles Zoo



Above, Los Angeles Zoo Animal Keeper Chandra David and Veterinarian Dr. Jordan Davis-Powell examine a condor chick at the zoo. The L.A. Zoo currently has 11 breeding pairs. At right, L.A. Zoo Condor Keeper Mike Clark checks up on a condor released to the wild. Condors inhabit hard-to-reach cliff sides, so researchers often have to use rock climbing skills and gear to reach them.

Photos Courtesy of Los Angeles Zoo



[CONDOR, from Page 19]

Service. Partners in condor recovery include the Peregrine Fund, Ventana Wildlife Society, National Park Service, San Diego Zoo, Los Angeles Zoo, Oregon Zoo, Santa Barbara Zoo, Chapultepec Zoo, Arizona Game and Fish Department, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, the federal government of Mexico, the Yurok Tribe, and a host of other governmental and non-governmental organizations.

"Anyone who gets the condor bug never leaves," mused Clark. "Condors are misunderstood because of how they look. I thought they were ugly at first too, until I realized how thoughtful and charming they can be. With their giant wingspan, they're just beautiful to watch."

The L.A. Zoo's oldest condor, Topatopa, was born in 1966. The zoo, which does not have a condor exhibit, has 35 birds now, including Dolly, their ambassador bird, and Hope, who is in the bird show. Both those condors were injured and are flightless.

The Biggest Threat to Condors Remains

Despite the success of the recovery program, the California condor remains critically endangered. Lead ammunition is still the bird's biggest threat and the leading cause of its death in the wild. The 2021 USFWS population report states that lead poisoning accounted for 51 percent of 234 deaths with a known cause from 1992-2021. Clark surmised that number is even higher because every bird they monitor and test has some level of lead poisoning.

California became the first state to require hunters to use non-lead ammunition with AB 711, which was passed in 2013 and fully phased in by 2019. Clark said it's been difficult to enforce compliance on private land, but he hopes hunters will make the change and that other states will pass regulations.

"Look at lead paint and lead gasoline, we removed it all from our environment, now it's time to remove it from other animal environments," Clark said, adding that lead is ingested by other birds and animals as well. "We're getting such a good indication from wildlife that (removing lead) really does make a difference."

Clark said several studies point to frequent lead exposure by condors, who scavenge on large carcasses. Clark is intrigued by their adaptation to this exposure.

"We catch condors with astronomical levels of lead in their blood and they are showing no signs," said Clark, saying these levels could kill a horse. "It might be just a tolerance built up by chronic exposure, but their immune system and tissues are still being damaged. We still don't know enough."

How Condors Are Bred and Released

What Clark and others in the program have down to a science is the breeding, incubation, chick-rearing and releasing of condors. In the wild, condors will lay only one egg every other year, but will lay a second egg within a month if the first is taken by prey. So, in captivity, when a female lays an egg, keepers take it away so she will lay a second egg. Now is the time of year they lay eggs, and at the L.A. Zoo there were 16 laid as of late March. The eggs are then incubated and returned to the parents before they hatch.

"They breed very readily in captivity," said Clark. "Condors make lemonade out of lemons. That's their attitude. Whatever is happening to them, they try to make it look like it's their idea. That was the most surprising thing to me about the birds."

A recent study by researchers from the San Diego Zoo published in the *Journal of Heredity* proved that two of the zoo's condors, since deceased, were born through parthenogenesis. Parthenogenesis is when a female reproduces without fertilization by a male mate.

Clark and other keepers have learned a lot about how to best raise and release the condors. At the L.A. Zoo, chicks are reared by their parents for a few months before they're moved as a group to interact with older "mentor" birds.

"A mentor bird is not necessarily invested in these birds surviving so it becomes a competitor, whereas their parents accommodate them," Clark explained. "A mentor is a more antagonistic character."

Finally, the young condors are moved to field pens on wildlife refuges where wild condors are baited to fly around and interact with the young ones before they are gradually released.

What became of that last wild condor to be captured? Clark, who spent time with "AC-9" at the L.A. Zoo, said he was released after almost 20 years in captivity and bred in the wild before dying, likely from lead poisoning.

"The condor is this amazing prehistoric being that is perfectly capable of living in society now," Clark said. "There's plenty of habitat and food, we just can't continue to poison them." ○

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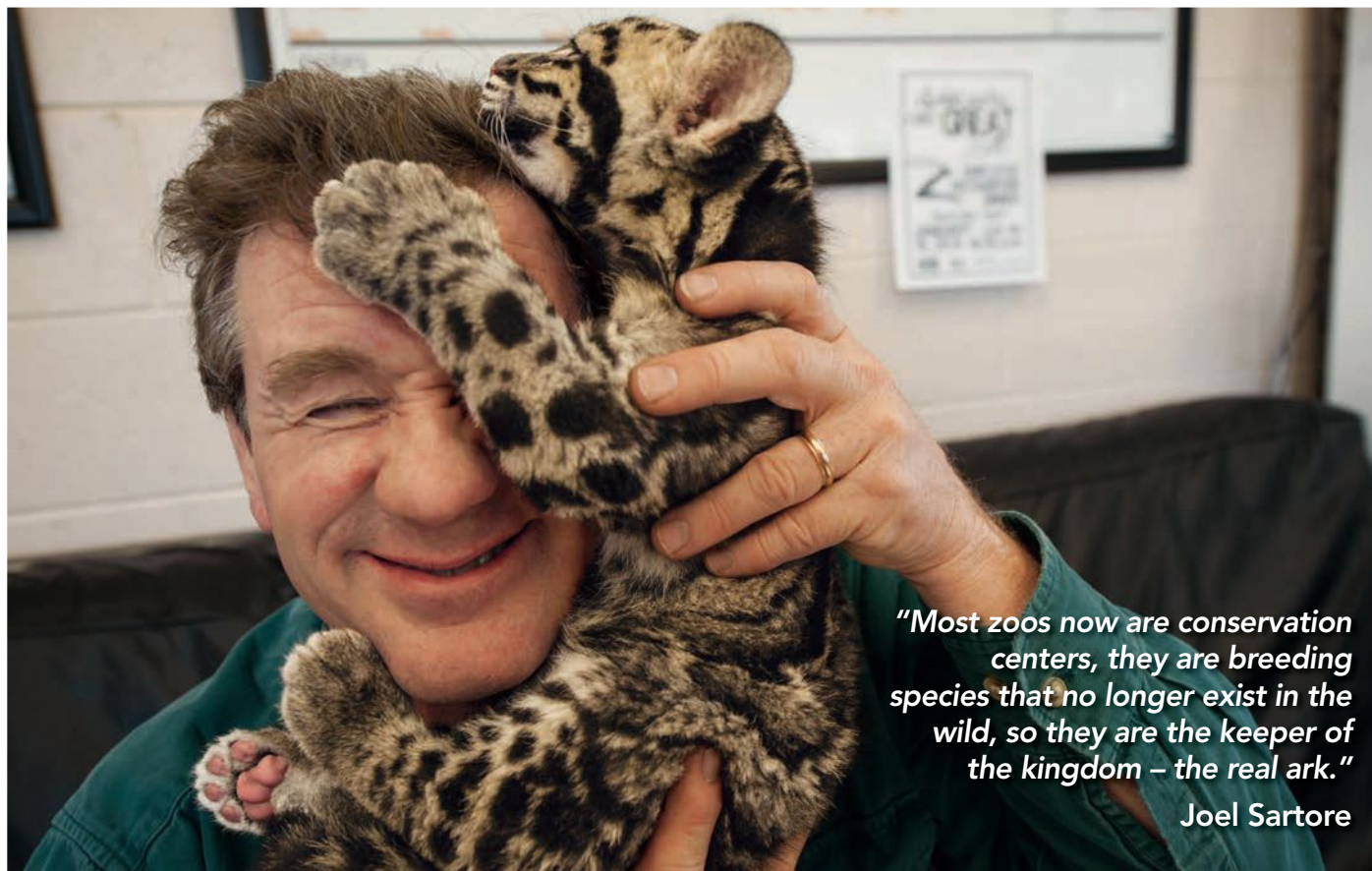


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"Most zoos now are conservation centers, they are breeding species that no longer exist in the wild, so they are the keeper of the kingdom – the real ark."

Joel Sartore

After a photo shoot at the Columbus Zoo in Ohio, a clouded leopard cub climbs on Sartore's head. The leopards, which live in Asian tropical forests, are illegally hunted for their spotted pelts. Sartore works with zoo curators and collectors around the world to photograph species large, small, common and rare.

Photo by Graham S. Jones, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium

[SARTORE, from Page 5]

The Photo Ark: A Unique Project

Sartore says he appreciates the "8-to-5" hours of a zoo, but adds that he works every day to research, prepare and produce the photos. While he's not working all hours nor hunkering down in the wild under a camouflage enclosure, studio photography does pose



Ian Recchio, Curator of Reptiles/Amphibians
Los Angeles Zoo

Photo courtesy of L.A. Zoo

its own unique challenges. Go to his website to see the antics of a chimp who is clearly not a cooperative subject.

Ironically, he called the day after Recchio and his wife had watched a National Geographic special about Sartore and the Photo Ark. Sartore has since done several photo shoots with

Recchio and others at the L.A. Zoo. Recchio recalls a session with a lot of venomous snakes for which he stood behind Sartore with a straight hook and an attentive eye on the snakes.

"We shot some young Cape cobras and the money shot is when they hood up but they don't always do that. We gained trust in each other doing that," Recchio said.

"It's not easy to take a picture of a Cape cobra and make it impactful and Joel does that."

As someone who studies and documents many lesser-known creatures, Recchio appreciates the power of Sartore's images.

"Some of the most endangered animals in the world are under my curatorial umbrella, turtles and tortoises and some invertebrates," said Recchio. "Probably a third of crocodilian species are endangered at some level, so to bring attention to that in any positive way is really impactful."

For his part, Sartore encourages people to visit zoos.

"The L.A. Zoo is a world-class zoo," Sartore says. "As people have become more and more urban dwelling, they are losing their connection to the wild. Most zoos now are conservation centers, they are breeding species that no longer exist in the wild, so they are the keeper of the kingdom – the real ark."

Like zoos, the Photo Ark exposes people to animals they might not otherwise see.

"People first have to know that the animal exists and what the problems are," Sartore concludes. "They will never know it exists if someone doesn't show them a picture or if they don't meet it in person. I've always known photography can make a difference. Will it be enough of a difference to save the planet? I don't know, but we're trying." ○

NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC

PHOTOARK
JOEL SARTORE



Two golden snub-nosed monkeys, *Rhinopithecus roxellana*, at Ocean Park Hong Kong.



Sinaloa shovel-headed treefrog, *Tripion spatulatus spatulatus*, at the L.A. Zoo.



A critically endangered African white-backed vulture, *Gyps africanus*, at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo.

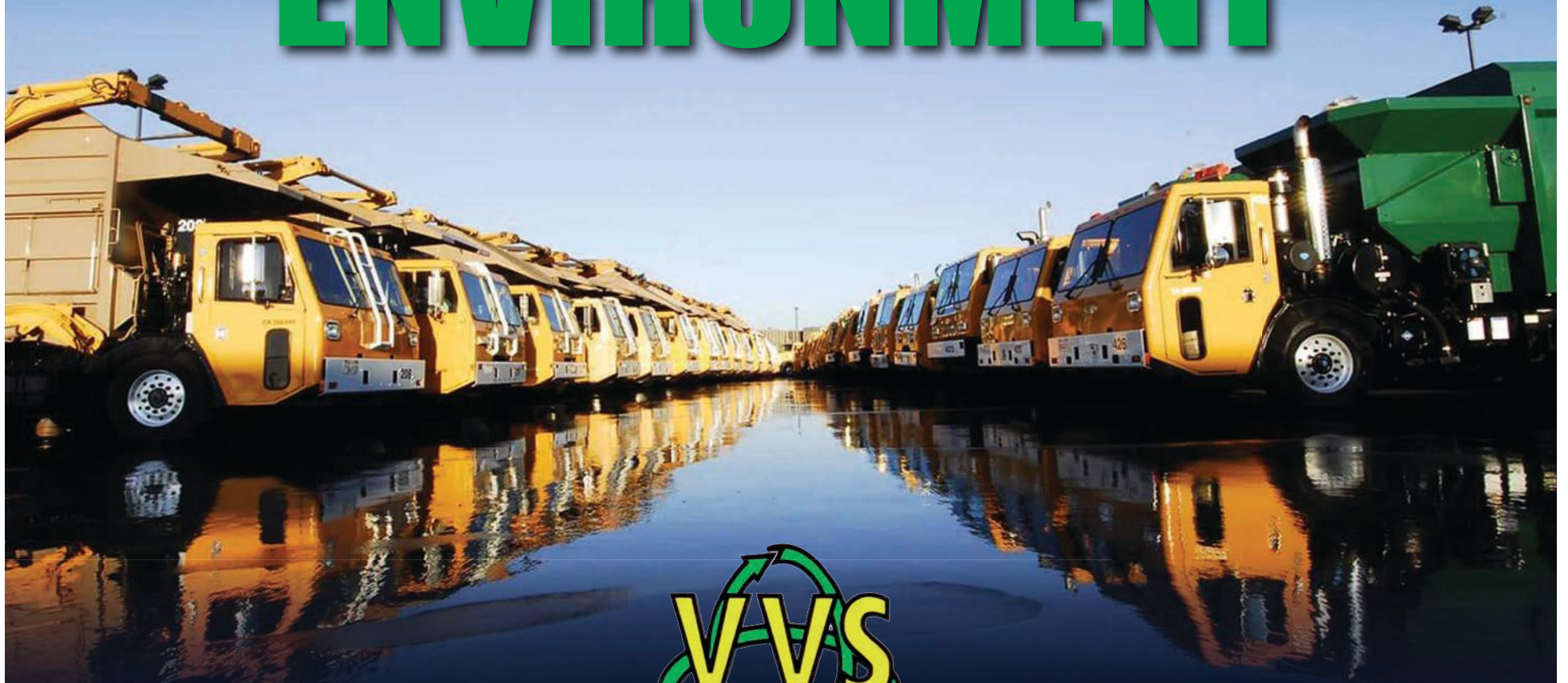


Vulnerable Horsfield's tarsier, *Cephalopachus bancanus borneanus*, at Taman Safari.

For more information about
the Photo Ark, visit natgeo.org/photoark

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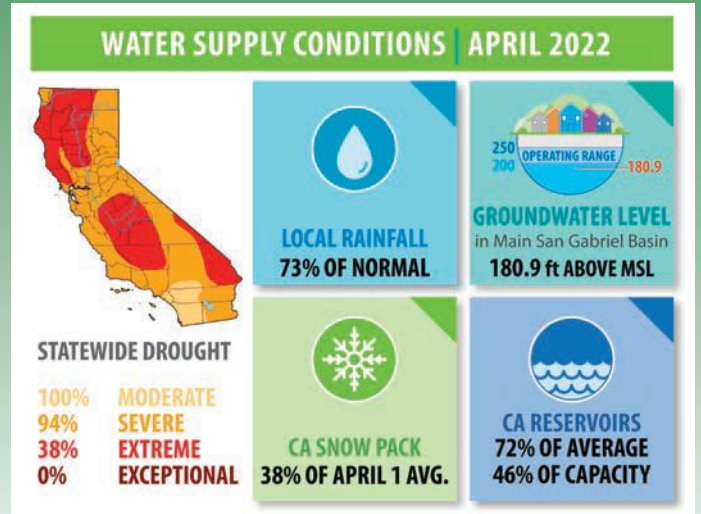
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FACT:
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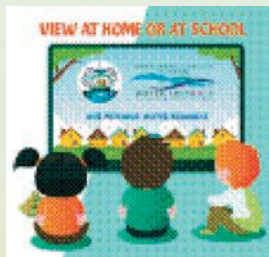
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