



June 2015

Celebrate the Solstice!

Summer arrives in Southern California on June 21st at 12:38pm. We celebrate the [summer solstice](#) as the day of the year when the sunlight lasts the longest.

But as the fourth summer of drought begins we also prepare for lots of heat and not much rain.

It's becoming a way of life to figure out how to manage household water use and keep bills within a reasonable range.

A recent [Los Angeles Times](#) article notes that "water planners are looking to consumers to conserve and to themselves to rethink how water is managed."

The present drought is—we hope—just one occurrence. A report from the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#) calls it "a noteworthy example of the fact that extreme climate events happen, and that these events can cause major societal impacts."

That means we have to take the long view on how to teach ourselves and our young people about water—where it comes from and how to conserve it.

Successful water-use education will teach us how to conserve not just during droughts but to prepare for future drought events.

The San Gabriel River Discovery Center is moving forward to create a community space at Whittier Narrows with state-of-the-art facilities for local residents to learn about water issues and rapidly changing eco-systems.

The planned interpretive center will allow for the expansion of the acclaimed EcoVoices education program to invite young people to learn about the Whittier Narrows watershed environment, introduce them to scientific methods and inspire them toward further education for careers in science and technology. Some will be the water planners of the future.

In the coming months we expect to see continued development of the design plans that will create and realize the vision of the San Gabriel River Discovery Center,

Happy summer!

