



**Chabot Space & Science Center Receives Environmental Grant
From Altamont Education Advisory Board
—Grant Supports Waste Management Internship Program—**

15 August 2006 -- (Oakland, CA) In an era when solid waste disposal is becoming a greater problem on Earth, there is an urgent need to divert an ever-larger percentage of waste from landfills. Chabot Space & Science Center has received a \$49,550 grant from the City of Livermore's Altamont Education Advisory Board that will support the Center's environmental internship program. The goal of the innovative program is to help build a knowledgeable and trained work force in waste management and raise public awareness of the need to recycle and reduce waste in all aspects of daily life. The 12-month grant will provide stipends to college interns who have been recruited from East Bay colleges, as well as pay for educational materials and supplies. Interns will participate in enrichment sessions, visits to waste management sites, maintenance of Chabot's recycling program, and the creation of outreach activities for Chabot visitors.

"Interns are required to complete 200 hours of service," commented Eric Havel, Program Coordinator. "We give them the opportunity to serve as mentors in our education programs, participate in Chabot's recycling efforts, and learn about landfill practices, solid waste recycling, the issue of "space junk" and hazardous waste disposal. It's one of the few intern programs in the Bay Area that offers hands-on experience in the field of waste management."

Over the summer, current interns will be devising a program to involve the public in the recycling of ink-jet cartridges and the use of worm compost. Chabot employs a worm composting system that uses red wiggler worms and later in the summer, an interactive worm table will be available to visitors where they can handle the worms, learn about their biology, and find out how to set up a composting system at home. Interns are currently leading solar car activities on Saturdays.

Interns will also visit such sites as the Altamont Landfill, the Davis Street Transfer Station, Bay Area recycling centers, reuse facilities such as Urban Ore and the East Bay Depot, and commercial organizations with comprehensive recycling programs. Interns will complete the program with a presentation of a research project on an outside agency or organization that has an extensive waste management and recycling program.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Altamont Education Advisory Board

The goal of the Education Advisory Board is to promote recycling and diversion education programs and recycling through environmental education programs that serve schools; non-formal environmental education programs, serving students, K-12; and community-based environmental education programs.

Chabot Space and Science Center, a Smithsonian affiliate, is a 501c3 nonprofit teaching and learning center focusing on astronomy and the inter-relationships of all the sciences. Its observatory, planetarium, exhibits, and natural park setting are a place where a diverse population of students, teachers, and the public can imagine, understand, and learn to shape their future through science.

For more information, call (510) 336-7300, or visit www.chabotspace.org

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