



The NASSCO Tidepool

A Collection of Environmental News from the Shipyard and Our Community

1ST QUARTER, 2006

3/31/06

Environmental Engineering Mission Statement

General Dynamics NASSCO Environmental Engineering is dedicated to maintaining an Environmental Management System that continually strives to go beyond regulatory compliance.

General Dynamics NASSCO Environmental Engineering is committed to conducting all operations in a manner that safeguards the health and safety of all employees and the public, preserves natural resources, and protects the environment. This commitment to protecting the air, water, and land is carried out through energy conservation initiatives, recycling programs, and on-going process improvements.

General Dynamics NASSCO's Continual Commitment to Chollas Creek

By Hugo Bermudez, Environmental Engineering Specialist, x7780



The Chollas Creek channel has been altered substantially as a result of decades of development, human activity and is severely impacted by toxicity and other pollutants from urban storm water runoff that discharges into the creek throughout its

30 linear-mile drainage system from its headwaters in the La Mesa and Lemon Grove to San Diego Bay.



As a result the creek has been listed as an impaired body of water by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the Clean Water Act. The waters on the list do not meet water quality standards. The law requires that action plans be developed to improve water quality. In addition, trash, debris and overgrowth of vegetation such as chrysanthemums and other invasive plants disrupt the natural growth of native plants.

In 2004, General Dynamics NASSCO was invited to join the Groundwork Chollas Steering Committee in recognition of our on-

going commitment to cleanup the trash & debris that pollutes the mouth of Chollas Creek. Mike Chee, Manager of Environmental Engineering serves on this community committee that is dedicated to restoring the entire length of the creek bed.

On Saturday, December 3, 2005 members of the *General Dynamics NASSCO Chollas Creek Cleanup Committee (GDNC4)* joined other *Groundwork Chollas* members and students from *Horton Elementary School* in a restoration & cleanup of Chollas Creek near Market Street and Euclid Avenue.

The event started with a cleanup of the creek bed by the group. Trash and debris were



Eric Bowlby of the Sierra Club educates Horton Elementary students on Chollas Creek plants.

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General Dynamics NASSCO's Continual Commitment to Chollas Creek Cont. from Page 1

removed; next the site was combed for dangerous materials such as syringes to ensure the safety of the elementary students who were to plant native plants later in the day.

After the cleanup, Eric Bowlby of the *Sierra Club, San Diego Chapter* educated the group on the type of non-native and native plants in the area. The creek bed had very little native vegetation so the goal was to remove as much as possible of non-natives to make room for the new plants.

The group spread out throughout the area and dug sixty-five 1-gallon size holes as directed by Bruce Hanson of *Recon Environmental*. The type of plants included: Laurel Sumac, Mexican Elderberry, Alkali Sacaton Grass, San Diego Sunflower and Locoweed. These types of plants were chosen to serve numerous creek functions including beautification, revegetation, erosion control and wildlife habitat enhancement.

Eric Bowlby and Bruce Hanson instructed participants on proper planting methods and plant placement. Small boulders were placed around the new plants to protect them from the creek's quick water until they are settled.

What a difference!! It's hard to believe it's even the same creek. The group has done their magic again.

Join the *General Dynamics NASSCO Chollas Creek Cleanup Committee* for another exciting Chollas Creek Cleanup Event - **Creek to Bay on Saturday, April 29th from 9:00 to 12 noon** as conducted by *I Love A Clean San Diego* and sponsored by General Dynamics NASSCO. If you wish to volunteer for this or any future cleanup or restoration events, please call me at 619-544-7780.

Make a Difference - Participate in a Chollas Creek community event!



GD NASSCO Celebrates 5 Years of ISO 14001 Certification

By Kacey Christie, Environmental Engineering Specialist x7963

On December 12, 2005 General Dynamics NASSCO celebrated its fifth year of having an ISO 14001 Certified Environmental Management System. Five years ago, our shipyard was the first commercial shipyard in the United States to receive ISO 14001 certification.

To celebrate this special milestone, the Environmental Engineering Department recognized two very special individuals that are responsible for making this happen, Janice Grace, Senior Vice President Operations and Lane McVey, Vice President Business Affairs and Law.

Mike Chee presented Special Environmental Star Awards to Janice and Lane stating, "Janice back in 1998 you were the driving force behind creating and



getting management buy-in to an Environmental Vision for this company. Since that time you and Lane have been the forces behind the efforts of making the Vision reality. You have sponsored the efforts, provided the guidance and the support that has enabled us to create a very successful program and to really change the perception of General Dynamics NASSCO in the community. It has taken a lot of hard work on our part but, without your support and sponsorship, I don't believe we would have come as far as fast. Many times sponsors lend their name to an effort and little more. That is clearly not the case with you and this effort. I am very pleased to present both of you with a very special 5-year Environmental Star Award for 2000 to 2005."

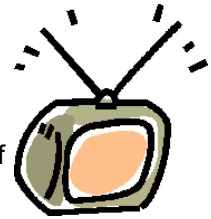
What's in Your Trashcan?

By Sara Giobbi, Environmental Engineering Specialist, x8764



All General Dynamics NASSCO employees know the importance of keeping hazardous wastes, including Universal Waste, out of the trash while at work. But did you know that new laws have been passed that also prohibit you from putting Universal Waste in your trash at home?

Universal Waste is a label given to certain hazardous wastes that are generated by virtually all segments of Society, including both businesses and households. Universal Wastes include discarded fluorescent light bulbs, televisions, alkaline batteries, electronic devices, and mercury switches. Although larger businesses have been required to keep Universal Waste out of the trash for some time, as of February 9, 2006, the prohibition was extended to all households and small businesses in California as well.



Unfortunately, many waste agencies do not have comprehensive programs for collecting these wastes. Most have concluded that, since households generate only small amounts of these wastes, establishing a separate curbside pickup program would not be cost effective. As a result, most residents will probably be expected to bring Universal Waste to a collection point established by their city or waste agency.

If you need help figuring out what to do with your household Universal Waste, visit www.earth911.org. This informative website site helps you determine your Universal Waste disposal options based on your zip code. It also offers helpful hints recycling, reducing waste, saving electricity, and more.

In addition, GD NASSCO will be hosting an **ELECTRONIC WASTE RECYCLING EVENT on Saturday April 29, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** This event will be open to all employees as well as the Public. This event will be specifically for Electronic Waste, including the following items:



Televisions
Computers, Monitors, Printers
Telephones, Cell phones, Answering machines
CD Players, Radios, Scanners, Stereos
VCRs, DVD Players, Camcorders
Copiers, Fax machines



Please remember, this event will be for **electronic waste only**. If you have questions about this event, give me call at x8764.



All back issues of *The NASSCO Tidepool* are available on our website at www.nassco.com under the "Environmental & Safety Leadership" menu.

Save the Date!

Saturday, April 29th

Saturday, April 29th

Chollas Creek Cleanup Electronic Recycling

Negocio Verde Task Force Receives Environmental Responsibility Award

By Kacey Christie, Environmental Engineering Specialist, x7963



On December 13, 2005 the Negocio Verde (Green Business) Task Force was awarded an Environmental Responsibility Award from the California Manufacturers & Technology Association and the Industrial Environmental Association. This task force has been chaired by General Dynamics NASSCO since its inception in November 2001 as a subcommittee of the *US EPA's Barrio Logan Environmental Justice Demonstration Project*.



County Supervisor Greg Cox (center) congratulates the Negocio Verde Task on their award.

Task Force members are (L-R): Alicia Ortiz, BAE Systems, San Diego Ship Repair; James Justus, Inner City Business Association; Kevin Heiss, San Diego County Air Pollution Control District; Ellen Schulte, County of San Diego, Department of Environmental Health, Hazardous Materials Division; Kacey Christie, General Dynamics NASSCO; Vivian Bogue, Cuyamaca College; Angela Baranco, US EPA, Region 9 (not shown); Veronica Serrano, City of National City (not shown) and Marie Vicario, Southwestern Community College (not shown).

The *Negocio Verde Justice Task Force* provides free compliance assistance and pollution prevention training in San Diego County. In order to bridge-the-gap between small business and regulatory agencies, task force members make contact with small businesses in non-threatening ways. The task force focuses on the needs of the small minority-owned business and provides training materials in Spanish and English.

Through an extensive review, the task force determined that the automotive business sector (automotive repair, auto body, automotive dismantling) would benefit from assistance, in particular, those shops where English is spoken as a second language. To meet this need, the task force conducts free bilingual multi-media automotive P2 & compliance assistance workshops.

Workshop materials are provided in English & Spanish via dual PowerPoint presentations projected onto side-by-side screens. On-site simultaneous translation is also made available to all in attendance.

The task force utilizes a multi-faceted, multi-organization and multi-media approach, quite simply the A, B, and C's of P2 to promote Pollution Prevention (P2) in San Diego County:

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Negocio Verde Task Force Receives Environmental Responsibility Award *Cont. from Page 4*



Southwestern Community College Students and Negocio Verde Force Members celebrate the *Environmental Responsibility Award* at the SWC automotive shop



- **“A” is for Academia** where students from Environmental Technology programs at local junior colleges, participate in a “Green Business” outreach to local automotive businesses in concert with non-enforcement personnel and large business representatives.
- **“B” is for Businesses** located in EJ communities and provides for P2 education by promoting cost savings, economic vitality, and their environmental stewardship role in the community.
- **“C” is for the EJ Community;** strapped with disproportionate environmental and public health impacts. This outreach empowers community members to participate in improving conditions within their community.

In 2005 alone, the task force provided free pollution prevention & compliance assistance to 229 individuals in the automotive small business sector.

On April 28, 2005 the Negocio Verde Task Force conducted the 1st Regional Environmental Symposium at Southwestern Community College. This was the first event of its kind in San Diego County and was attended by more than 400 individuals.

This year, Cecilia Lyon and Michelle White of San Diego Bay Watershed, a collaborative effort of the cities of Chula Vista, Coronado, Imperial Beach, La Mesa, Lemon Grove, National City, San Diego, the County of San Diego, the Port of San Diego and the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority have joined the task force and will conduct storm water pollution prevention training at the task force’s upcoming free automotive workshops:

- **Saturday, May 20, 2006** 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm, Martin Luther King Community Center
140 E. 12th Street National City, CA
- **Saturday, June 17, 2006** 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm, Lemon Grove Community Center
3146 School Lane, Lemon Grove, CA

This year the task force will expand its multi-media pollution prevention & compliance assistance to include training on Underground Storage Tanks this fall.

For more information on the task force or to sign-up for a workshop, please call me at 619-544-7963

Our motto: **Negocio Verde Es Negocio De Todos = Green Business is Everyone’s Business.**



Earth Day EarthFair 2006

This year marks the 36th year that United States of America has celebrated Earth Day. San Diego has celebrated Earth Day every year for the last 17 years with EarthFair. This year is no exception, EarthFair 2006 is being held on Sunday, April 23rd in Balboa Park from 10am - 5pm.

It is the largest free annual environmental fair in the world and draws approximately 60,000 visitors. It features more than 200 exhibitors, special health and technology theme areas, a food pavilion, a special kids' area, five entertainment venues, and the Children's Earth Parade.

EarthFair is conducted annually by San Diego Earth Works and produced entirely by volunteers. For additional information visit their website at www.earthdayweb.org.

April 21st is John Muir Day



John Muir, born April 21, 1838 was a very important naturalist and conservationist. He has been referred to as the "The Father of our National Parks." It was his words and actions that inspired Teddy Roosevelt to establish our National Monuments by President Proclamation and Yosemite National Park by congressional action. He was a founding member of the Sierra Club in 1892 and was the club's president until his death in 1914.

"When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe." - John Muir

Third Annual California-Friendly Landscape Contest

By Ruby Alejandria, City of San Diego, Collaborative Services

The City of San Diego Water Department is partnering with Helix Water District, Otay Water District, Padre Dam Municipal Water District, Olivenhain Municipal Water District and Sweetwater Authority to host the *Third Annual California-Friendly Landscape Contest*. The contest, which is offering more than \$2,000 in prizes, is open to residential customers of these partnering water agencies.

"We are thrilled to be part of this contest," said Dan Carney, Landscape Architect for the City's Water Conservation Program. "Studies have shown that more than half of the water people use goes towards irrigating landscapes, which is why our program continues to encourage San Diegans to use California-Friendly plants as a way of conserving water."

Each entry application must include five to ten different color photos of the landscaped area, a plant list, and a brief explanation of how the landscape is water efficient. The deadline to enter is April 14, 2006. For ideas, expert advice, exhibits and classes, visit the Water Conservation Garden located at 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive in El Cajon, or go to www.thegarden.org. For official contest rules and an application form, please contact Pam Rega at (619) 670-2291.

The Water Conservation Program reduces water demand through promoting or providing incentives for the installation of hardware that provides permanent water savings, and by providing services and information to help San Diegans make better decisions about water use. For more information about Water Conservation, visit www.sandiego.gov/water or call (619) 570-1999.



Air Quality Corner – Air Quality BMP's, Part 1

By Kacey Christie, Environmental Engineering Specialist, x7963



In this series of articles, I'll discuss many of the Best Management Practices (BMP's) that we employ as "Operational Controls" to control our operations and prevent air pollution. Since this newsletter is distributed to our customers, subcontractors and posted on our website at www.nassco.com we'd like to share these techniques with all interested parties.

Air Quality BMP's = Pollution Prevention (P2)

Shipyards processes and equipment produce air emissions that can potentially affect the environment. General Dynamics NASSCO is committed to continuously evaluating our operations to identify P2 (Pollution Prevention) opportunities.

What are BMP's? In many cases, Best Management Practices (BMP's) are cost effective means to improve air quality. BMP's are typically defined as low cost, low technology, common sense measures that are intended to result in improved housekeeping, increased self-inspections, and ultimately to prevent air pollution.

The benefits of utilizing BMP's may include improved employee health, safety, increased environmental awareness, reduced environmental impact, and in some cases in cost savings via waste minimization, etc.

Air Quality BMP's – Solvent Wipe Cleaning

Solvent wiping is an integral part of surface preparation prior to various shipyard operations such as painting, adhesive bonding, welding, etc. In addition, many maintenance operations require cleaning with solvent.

Solvent wiping is a shipyard cleaning process that uses solvents to dissolve & remove contaminants from part surfaces. An operator accomplishes cleaning by wiping the contaminated surface with a solvent dampened rag.

Solvent wiping is a labor intensive task that has a potential for emissions of VOCs (Volatile Organic Compounds) and HAPs (Hazardous Air Pollutants).

Some Ways to Preventing Pollution from Solvent Wipe Operations:

Evaluate Processes for Possible Modifications

What are the requirements? Is solvent cleaning a necessary step? How clean is clean? Can different methods of cleaning such as dip cleaning replace wipe cleaning?

For example in Maintenance and in the Machine Shop we utilize reservoir solvent cleaners that contain, capture and re-use the solvent. These departments utilize specialty solvents in these cleaning units.

Use Proper Wipe Cleaning Techniques

- Dampen, do not saturate, the rag with solvent & clean a small area at a time.
- Use plungers & squeeze bottles to transfer solvent to a rag.
- Don't use spray bottles for high VOC or Flammable Solvents – Fire Hazard!!!
- Never conduct solvent wiping in areas of Hot Work, as most solvents are flammable.
- Don't transfer solvent from drums or large containers directly onto to rags.
- Don't pour solvent directly onto the part.
- Provide covered containers at or near the work area.
- Dispose of dirty rags in a closed container immediately upon completion of wiping.
- Wear proper PPE, if you have questions on this contact the Safety Department at x8444.



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Conserve-A-Tree Nominations Open

By Ruby Alejandria, City of San Diego, Collaborative Services

The City of San Diego has launched a new program that gives local citizens the opportunity to nominate trees for preservation and historic designation. There may be a tree in your neighborhood that's been there since your grandmother lived in her house, or one that is an important landmark. Through efforts of the City's Community Forest Advisory Board (CFAB), citizens can now do something to help keep those trees from being cut.

"It is extremely important for us to promote protection and preservation of our trees," said Nancy Huges, Chairperson for the CFAB. "We encourage community members to join us in this effort to make a difference in our environment."

Criteria taken into consideration for tree protection will vary from: aesthetic or historical value, size, shape, health, age, species and form.

To nominate a tree to be considered for protection by this designation, citizens must fill out and submit a "Conserve-A-Tree Nomination Form" to the City of San Diego's Street Division. Once the form is received, the tree will be inspected by the Street Division Urban Forester to ensure all designation criteria are met. An Arborist will then evaluate the nominated tree for confirmation.

The nomination must also be approved by the CFAB. Upon approval, the tree will be added to the City of San Diego's Tree Protection Status, as described in the Tree Protection Policy adopted by City Council in May 2005. The policy states that construction or renovation permits must now recognize the need to keep these trees alive.

To obtain a "Conserve-A-Tree Nomination Form" contact Drew Potocki at (619) 527-3145. Completed forms can be faxed to (619) 527-7534.



Air Quality Corner – Air Quality BMP's, Part 1 *Cont. from Page 7*

Reduce the Types & Quantities of Solvents

At our facility we use a single solvent for all solvent wipe & paint-equipment cleaning operations in the shipyard. This allows us to recycle our solvent in a solvent recycling still. This reduces pollution and saves us money two ways by:

1. Reducing the amount of solvent we purchase.
2. Reducing the solvent we must pay to dispose of as a hazardous waste.

Keep Accurate Records of Solvent Wiping Operations:

Mike Ayres in the Blast, Paint & General Services Department keeps daily records of all solvent used by GD NASSCO employees.

Subcontractors and customers in the shipyard report their daily solvent usage directly to Environmental Engineering on a monthly basis.

This newsletter is generated by the General Dynamics NASSCO Environmental Engineering Staff and is intended for the enjoyment of its readers by providing information on a variety of environmental topics. Information and/or opinions expressed herein reflect the knowledge and opinions of the author and not necessarily the entire Environmental Engineering Department, or General Dynamics NASSCO.



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If you are interested in submitting an article of environmental interest, or would like us to address one of your questions/concerns, please contact us at Environmental Engineering via phone, email, or interplant mail to M/S 22A.

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