

Assemblywoman SHIRLEY HORTON'S Fox Canyon Community Beautification Project (Saturday, October 14, 2006)

Weeks before the scheduled date, the organizers to this event had a very, very busy time. While choosing the target areas and scheduling the jobs to be done, took some time, purchasing the needed materials and assigning tasks was a different story and a more difficult one. Finally, under heavy rain, from the first storm of the season, **29** *[heavily soaking wet and muddy]* volunteers, excluding children from the count *[some from as-far-as Temecula, El Cajon City, Chula Vista, Imperial Beach, Golden Hills, Hillcrest, Downtown and neighbors from Fox Canyon]* picked litter, removed mattresses, bike frames and shopping carts from the creek, painted over graffiti and completely removed an outdoorsmen *[homeless]* encampment from the canyon.

In addition, Nine **[9]** street litter receptacles *[along Euclid, University and Lantana]*, a lamppost *[at Bravo's]* and a retaining wall *[the pork-chop]* were painted "**yellow**" to clean them out of graffiti.

The Beautification Project sprouted the needed and wanted benefits to help improve a poor and blighted community. With this pictorial layout, the organizers hope to take you along throughout a journey of constant, committed and dedicated work done by relentless **volunteers** who with rain and/or shine poured their heart, energy and physical abilities to see this cleanup completely done, in one day, even under adverse conditions.



At seven in the morning, Golden Hills Volunteer **Jose Maximo Gomez** stopped by Jose's house to begin loading tools and materials to be transported to the cleanup location and Volunteer Central at Auburn/Ontario. The bright and sunny sky brought a really short lived hope that weather broadcasters were wrong when predicting rain. By 8:30 AM, Shirley Horton's Volunteers had begun to set-up and a half hour later all was in place, rain and all! Notice the puddle, this first shower was the first show of the weather to come and the lonely announcement that probably no one else, but us five, will be there and show up to cleanup. So at 9:00 AM, we just started cleaning up.



This was the **Auburn Creek** channel conditions before the Beautification Project begun, notice the rain water.



Rain or shine painting over graffiti had to be done, and to everyone's surprise, the paint held on to the wall and did its job well done.



Fox Canyon neighbors **Nalee** and **Santhing Khammao**



Ginger Hitzke picking litter, while the **Peoples'** family kids enjoyed jumping in the puddles, playing in the mud and helping pick up litter along the way, to make of this event a fun and successful happy one under the rain.



Notice, **TWO**-year old **Mark Peoples** helping with the heavy bag of trash, while other volunteers left the Ontario Avenue paper street completely trash **FREE**.

Eric Peoples,
deploy at the
Navy ship
MERCY,
freshly back
from Westpac
and on leave
made the
effort to drive
his family all
the way from
Temecula just
to volunteer
and help
Assembly-
woman
**Shirley
Horton** and
Fox Canyon
with this
cleanup.

In all,
volunteers
painted over
graffiti this
entire section
of Auburn
Creek from
Winona
Avenue all the
way to Auburn
Drive. Seen
here: Max and
neighbors
**Mauricio
Mendoza** and
**Jesus
Gutierrez'**
son painting
graffiti out the
creek's rocks.





Neighbor
**Susan
Gloudeman**
holding the
ONLY
hypodermic
syringe found
in this cleanup

Not having the luxury and help of an open gate, volunteer had to drag junk out off the canyon for the length of more than 600 feet. You can see the drag marks on this picture. Blessing, the mud helped to lubricate the drag to an easy pull.



Fox Canyon **Nalee** and **Santhing Khommao** hard at work transporting piece-by-piece all the junk.



Volunteer in the way back into the field for another of round. We salute **STEVEN SPAHN**, from Downtown San Diego, who managed to scaled the steep hill all the way up and paint the fence of this house *[top right]*.



This Community Beautification Project provided the magnificent opportunity to play, Bag Lady, Supermarket Car Gentlemen and hunt for treasure on wild-land for a day, and to get wet while doing it.





The only thing missing from this procession was the icon on top of the mattresses. Socking wet and dripping water Navy man Michael Olaes, a Horton volunteer, *Code Enforcer* George Andrade [El Cajon city] and Susan Gloudeman carried several loads like this one when dismantling a homeless encampment.





Neighbor
**Brian
Woodhouse**
was a real
push in this
cleanup. He
worked
without a
break until
the job was
done.

The
**PORK-
CHOP**

[Auburn/
Wightman]
got a just a
little touch
of Shirley
Horton's
yellow [the
entire wall]
Thomas Du
and Jose
got the
privilege to
spend some
sweet
equity
covering
the graffiti
from this
wall.



Just look at
this beauty,
the bus
stop at
Euclid and
Dwight,
**Thomas
Du,
George
Andrade
and Jose
Lopez** took
care of
painting all
nine street
litter
receptacles
on Euclid,
Lantana
and
University
Avenue.



In addition to neighbors and friends portrayed and mentioned before, **Cathy McLean, Marcos Padilla, Ramona Aldaña, Jose [Jesse] Chavez, John Molina, My Loung, Ryan Jones, Nancy Taffet, Ben Evey** and a group of **Horton 06 Volunteers** showed up to help and participated in this event. We want to specially mention neighbors **Ninfa Pew** and **Mauricio Mendoza** who brought bottled water, sodas and drinking cups for the volunteers to enjoy. Can you believe it? Under the rain, but still everyone was thirsty from the hard work done.

We are deeply grateful to Assemblywoman **SHIRLEY HORTON** for organizing and providing all needed resources, tools and equipment for this Beautification Project, for the succulent and plentiful **BBQ** provided to the member of our community and to all volunteers helping in this cleanup, and in addition, to the wonderful gift of her personal time and presence spent visiting with us. To see our communities improve, we really need more leaders like Assemblywoman Shirley Horton, who is so willing to provide all needed resources to help improve our depleted and blighted community.

The Beautification Project was made possible by the strong support, partnership and participation of:

- The Shirley Horton for State Assembly 2006 Volunteers
- Retired Democratic Congressman **JIM BATES**
- The Fox Canyon Neighborhood Association members, residents and volunteers
- Reverends **Blair** and **Gretchen** of **Christ Church Unity** for providing Wrigley Hall at 3770 Altadena Avenue to get our volunteer workers out of the rain while enjoying the BBQ in a quiet and peaceful, dry, clean and dust free setting.
- Councilmember **JIM MADAFFER**, CD7 for the additional resources provided
- The **NCCD** and Land Use Investigator **GEORGE ANDRADE**
- The **ESD** and **Amanda Mastin** for collecting and disposing all the junk collected from the creek and canyon and left at the entrance of Ontario Avenue.

Jose Lopez, President

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