

HOWARD L. BERMAN
28TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

**COMMITTEE ON
THE JUDICIARY**
RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
COURTS, THE INTERNET
AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
IMMIGRATION AND CLAIMS

**COMMITTEE ON
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
THE MIDDLE EAST AND CENTRAL ASIA



**Congress of the United States
House of Representatives**

June 27, 2003

WASHINGTON OFFICE
Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0528
202-225-4695

DISTRICT OFFICE
14546 Hamlin Street, Suite 202
Van Nuys, CA 91411-4128
818-994-7200

www.house.gov/berman

Mary Nichols
Secretary of Resources
1416 9th Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary Nichols:

I understand that state funding to enhance recreation, watersheds and water quality will soon be made available to the City of Los Angeles. I want you to know of a project that is run by an organization that serves the people of my district.

This project is the Center for Community Forestry. It is being constructed and will be operated by TreePeople. TreePeople has a 30-year track record of serving urban youth and communities with high quality education and action programs for greening schools and neighborhood streets, and restoring surrounding mountain watersheds. Their facilities provide urban youth with the unique opportunity to foster ecological awareness from a young age and to interact with nature without leaving the city. TreePeople also has a positive history of working with city, county, state and federal agencies to provide education, community outreach, research, demonstration projects and facilitation to support and enhance their water quality and water conservation efforts. They have spearheaded reforestation efforts all over the greater Los Angeles area and their urban watershed management program is designed to conserve water, reduce pollution and create open space for recreational opportunities.

The Center for Community Forestry will be Southern California's first ever watershed education, action and restoration center. It is being built in a 45-acre public park that attracts more than 70,000 recreational visitors each year. It is important to note that the park in which the Center is being built is in the exact geographic center of Los Angeles, enabling its programs to be equally available to all residents of the city.

The people and neighborhoods of my district will directly benefit from the new Center when it is built. I am writing to enthusiastically endorse this project and request that every consideration be given to allocating funds for its construction.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Howard L. Berman in cursive script.
HOWARD L. BERMAN
Member of Congress

CAPITOL OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL ROOM 4032
SACRAMENTO CA 95814
TEL (916) 445-1355
FAX (916) 324-4823

DISTRICT OFFICE
10951 WEST PICO BLVD SUITE 202
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California State Senate

SENATOR
SHEILA JAMES KUEHL
TWENTY-THIRD SENATORIAL DISTRICT

CHAIR
NATURAL RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE COMMITTEE



COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE AND WATER
RESOURCES
BUDGET AND FISCAL REVIEW
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
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POLICY AND STATE LEGISLATION
CHAIR, SCHOOL SAFETY
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
AND MENTAL HEALTH
HEALTH
FORESTRY
GENETICS, GENETIC
TECHNOLOGY AND PUBLIC
POLICY
INVESTIGATE PRICE
MANIPULATION OF THE
WHOLESALE ENERGY MARKET
JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE ARTS

September 25, 2001

Senator Diane Feinstein
Attn: Rich Pouyat, Natural Resources
331 Hart Senate Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
VIA FACSIMILE: (202) 228-4741

Dear Senator Feinstein:

I am writing to strongly endorse the Center for Community Forestry and urge you to help bring funding to this very important project.

The Center is a new, state-of-the-art campus being developed by TreePeople to help our city, state and nation solve pressing natural resource, environmental and infrastructure problems. The Center will be a specially-equipped facility designed to educate and involve citizens in analyzing, planning, implementing and maintaining community forestry and watershed restoration projects.

Recognizing the importance of this Center, our office initiated an effort to provide \$975,000 in State funds for the project. The City of Los Angeles has already provided over \$1.1 million in funding (Proposition K) to begin construction. TreePeople is also assembling a broad mix of private, foundation and corporate funders and the participation of the Federal government is crucial.

For nearly three decades, TreePeople has served our city and the country, training and supporting hundreds of Citizen Foresters in Los Angeles alone, helping to green their neighborhoods. Their programs have attracted millions of dollars in private and government funding to improve the local environment. Nationally, TreePeople has helped dozens of community tree groups get up and running and become sustainable organizations. TreePeople has also created one of the largest environmental education programs in the United States and runs it from the site of the proposed Center.

The new Center will include a Community Forest Resource Center with a tool lending library (including trucks, tools, staff) to support communities and schools in planting and caring for their part of the urban forest. It will also include an Environmental Learning Center (with the ability

to web and cable-cast events to other organizations, agencies, schools around the country, and facilities for hosting and facilitating multi-stakeholder planning processes), a Watershed Education Garden, and other demonstration areas.

Your help in building this Center is very important and I urgently request your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sheila Kuehl".

SHEILA JAMES KUEHL
Senator, 23rd District

CHAIR, BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE
ON RESOURCES (NO. 3)

COMMITTEE MEMBER:
BUDGET
EDUCATION
TRANSPORTATION
WATER, PARKS AND WILDLIFE

Assembly
California Legislature

FRAN PAVLEY
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FORTY-FIRST DISTRICT

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SUITE 205
WOODLAND HILLS, CA 91367-2108
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FAX (818) 596-4150

April 13, 2006

Douglas Bosco, Chair, and Commissioners
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Re: **April 27, 2006 meeting**
Agenda Item #7 – SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Bosco and Commissioners:

This is to express my strong support for the Coastal Conservancy's authorization of funding for development of TreePeople's environmental education exhibit at the Center for Community Forestry.

TreePeople is a truly visionary organization, and I encourage the Conservancy's financial assistance to help them further their efforts to educate people on greener and more sustainable practices.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



FRAN PAVLEY,
Assemblymember, 41st District

FP:lr

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 P.O. BOX 94 849
 SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0042
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 WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90069
 (310) 355-5430 and
 (818) 302-0521
 FAX: (310) 215-5499

Assembly California Legislature

PAUL KORETZ
 ASSEMBLY MEMBER, FORTY-SECOND DISTRICT

CHAIR, ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON
 LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

COMMITTEES:
 CHAIR
 LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
 MEMBER OF
 ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, SPORTS,
 TOURISM AND INTERNET MEDIA
 BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS
 NATURAL RESOURCES
 JOINT COMMITTEE
 BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND
 CONSUMER PROTECTION



April 24, 2006

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
 State Coastal Conservancy
 Attn: Chris Kroll
 330 Broadway, Ste. 1100
 Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I am writing in support of TreePeople Center for Community Forestry.

TreePeople has been at the forefront of urban forestry since its inception more than 30 years ago. They have paved the way for dozens of similar organizations across the country. Most important they have been of tremendous service to Southern California and the people of our state.

TreePeople's extensive education programs have been lauded with numerous awards, including the 2003 Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award – the highest honor possible in our state for environmental education. TreePeople has forged an important merger in the way they teach the public about watershed management and urban forestry. The new Center will serve as an invaluable tool in helping TreePeople expand and deepen its educational reach, serving hundreds of thousands of local students and residents.

I have been committed to saving and bettering our environment throughout my time in the State Legislature. Currently I am working on AB 1940, which will remove marine debris from our water supplies and I recently wrote a letter to Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton, opposing the Bush Administration's plan to sell more than \$1 billion in public lands over the next decade. As I continue my work in Sacramento, it is imperative that TreePeople continue to educate and enlighten Los Angeles residents on the importance of urban forestry and watershed management.

The new Center will include equipment for community members to use in greening their local neighborhoods and schools. A groundbreaking Urban Watershed Garden will teach local residents the role they have in conserving and cleaning our precious water supply and protecting our coastline. Meeting space at the Conference Center can support youth summits and local and regional planning efforts. A Seedling Nursery will generate small trees to restore fragile eco-systems in parks and wilderness areas near Los Angeles. Even the Parking Grove will offer important education about reducing and cleaning stormwater runoff.

Your help in building this Center and helping TreePeople deepen their reach into the community is very important, and I urgently request your support.

Sincerely,


 PAUL KORETZ
 Assemblymember, 42nd District.

Serving the Communities of: West Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, Century City, Westwood, Bel Air, Brentwood, West Los Angeles, Hollywood, Hancock Park, Los Feliz, North Hollywood, Valley Village, Toluca Lake, Universal City, Studio City, and Sherman Oaks



WENDY GREUEL
 COUNCILMEMBER, SECOND DISTRICT
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 7747 FOOTHILL BOULEVARD
 TUJUNGA, CA 91042
 (818) 352-3287
 FAX (818) 352-8563

April 17, 2006

Mr. Andy Lipkis, President
 TreePeople
 12601 Mulholland Drive
 Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Dear Andy;

I am writing to share my enthusiasm for the work of the TreePeople Center for Community Forestry and to support its fund-raising efforts to advance its worthwhile programs in 2006.

For over 30 years, TreePeople has been a national leader in the citizen forester movement, developing programs to move residents, businesses and local government to action in support of the environment. TreePeople has sought to transform the way Los Angeles residents think about stormwater by building demonstration projects that encourage local schools and neighborhoods to reduce water pollution caused by stormwater runoff.

This organization has been on the cutting edge of service learning as it relates to environmental education in Los Angeles schools, and its program continues to be an invaluable tool in this area.

I am very proud that TreePeople has its home in my Council District, and I heartily urge support for its plan to raise both public and private funds to further develop its excellent programs in 2006.

Sincerely,

Wendy Greuel
 President Pro Tem, Los Angeles City Council
 Councilmember, 2nd District



LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL

Eric Garcetti

Councilmember, District 13

May 22, 2003

Mary Nichols
Secretary of Resources
1416 9th Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mary,

The residents of Los Angeles are eager for enhanced recreation space, watersheds and water quality. I want you to know of a project that, while not in my council district, is one run by an organization that serves the people of my district as it has for many years.

This project is the Center for Community Forestry, which is being constructed and will be operated by TreePeople. TreePeople has a 30-year track record of serving urban youth and communities with high quality education and action programs for greening schools and neighborhood streets, and restoring surrounding mountain watersheds. TreePeople also has a positive history of working with city, county, state and federal agencies providing education, community outreach, research, demonstration projects and facilitation to support and enhance their water quality and water conservation efforts.

The Center for Community Forestry will be Southern California's first ever watershed education, action and restoration center. It is being built in a 45-acre public park, which attracts more than 70,000 recreational visitors each year. It is important to note that the park in which the Center is being built is in the exact geographic center of Los Angeles, which is why its programs are equally available to all residents of the city. What's more, from this Center, TreePeople is able to serve all council districts with programs in the field. In fact, my staff and I have personally participated in TreePeople's Citizen Forester training and community planting program.

The people and neighborhoods of my district will derive a direct benefit the new Center when its built, and that is why I am writing to enthusiastically endorse this project and request that every consideration be given to allocating funds for its construction.

Sincerely,

Eric Garcetti
Councilmember District 13

Thanks, Mary!





WENDY GREUEL
COUNCILMEMBER, SECOND DISTRICT
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

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FAX (818) 352-8563

February 19, 2003

Mr. Andy Lipkis
TreePeople
12601 Mulholland Drive
Beverly Hills, California 90210

Dear Andy:

Congratulations on the wonderful Los Angeles Times editorial relating the history and new direction of TreePeople. I am so glad that I was able to participate in the ground-breaking ceremony celebrating the new Center for Community Forestry!

As you know, I have always been a great fan of TreePeople. It's goals of creative conservation, energy savings and environmental beautification have always been of major importance to our City. Doubly important is the education component of the organization that teaches both adults and youth how to make the environmental beautification self-sustainable.

Keep up the good work! If I can be of any help to you in the future, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

Wendy Greuel
Councilmember, 2nd District

*You are doing
a great job!*

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

CHAIR: HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
VICE CHAIR: AUDITS AND GOVERNMENTAL EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE
MEMBER: PLANNING AND LAND USE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE





JAN PERRY
COUNCILWOMAN
NINTH DISTRICT

City Council
of the
City of Los Angeles
City Hall

PUBLIC WORKS
CHAIR

PUBLIC SAFETY
VICE-CHAIR

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND EMPLOYMENT
MEMBER

June 19, 2003

Mary Nichols
Secretary of Resources
1416 9th Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mary,

I understand that state funding to enhance recreation, watersheds and water quality will soon be made available to the City of Los Angeles. I want you to know of a project that, while not in my council district, is one run by an organization that serves the people of my district as it has for many years.

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The Center for Community Forestry will be Southern California's first ever watershed education, action and restoration center. It is being built in a 45-acre public park, which attracts more than 70,000 recreational visitors each year. It is important to note that the park in which the Center is being built is in the exact geographic center of Los Angeles, which is why its programs are equally available to all residents of the city. What's more, from this Center, TreePeople is able to serve all council districts with programs in the field. In fact, my staff and I have personally participated in TreePeople's Citizen Forester training and community planting program.

The people and neighborhoods of my district will derive a direct benefit the new Center when its built, and that is why I am writing to enthusiastically endorse this project and request that every consideration be given to allocating funds for its construction.

Sincerely,

Jan Perry
Councilwoman, Ninth District

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Los Angeles, CA 90012
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Fax: (213) 687-7406



JACK WEISS
Councilmember
Fifth District

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WEST LOS ANGELES OFFICE
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Los Angeles, CA 90035
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Fax: (213) 289-0356

September 24, 2001

Senator Dianne Feinstein
Attn: Rich Pouyat, Natural Resources
331 Hart Senate Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
VIA FACSIMILE: (202) 228-4741

Dear Senator Feinstein:

I am writing this letter of support to endorse the Center for Community Forestry and urge you to help bring Federal funding to this project.

The Center is a new, state-of-the-art campus being developed by TreePeople to help our city, state, and nation solve pressing natural resource, environmental and infrastructure problems. The Center will be a specially-equipped facility to educate, activate and involve citizens in analyzing, planning, implementing and maintaining community forestry and watershed restoration projects.

This Center is so important that the City of Los Angeles has already provided over \$1.1 million in funding (Proposition K) to begin construction. TreePeople is assembling a broad mix of private, foundation and corporate funders, but it is crucial that the Federal government support this effort with us.

For nearly three decades, TreePeople has served the City and the country. Locally they have trained and supported hundreds of Citizen Foresters in greening their neighborhoods. Their programs have brought millions of dollars in private and government funding to improve the local environment. Nationally, TreePeople has helped dozens of community tree groups get started and become sustainable organizations. TreePeople has also created one of the largest environmental education programs in the United States and runs it from the site of the proposed Center.



RESIDENTS OF BEVERLY GLEN, INC.

10409 Scenario Lane
Los Angeles, CA 90077

July 14, 2003

Mr. Andy Lipkis
President
TREEPEOPLE
12601 Mulholland Dr.
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Dear Mr. Lipkis:

The Residents of Beverly Glen, Inc. enthusiastically salute and support the creation and completion of TREEPEOPLE's Center for Community Forestry at Coldwater Canyon Park.

TREEPEOPLE, to be very conservative, has set the high watermark for all environmental organizations...and, with this new Center, they can extend and enrich their already myriad program schedule geared towards building a healthier, greener, safer community. They have both educated and worked right here in "The Glen", providing us with staff and tools, with tree plantings, and with the care of greenery...and even with the digging out during and after very dangerous mudslides and flooding.

We've been the beneficiary of TREEPEOPLE's eco tours, classes in citizen forestry, guided nature and full moon hikes for adults and for children...programs such as the recommended tearing up of and re-greening of blacktopped school playgrounds, thus participation in our celebrated annual Fair is always a highlight. Along with this, we enjoy the S. Mark Taper Amphitheater presenting a summer/fall schedule of superb musical and theatrical events.

The Residents of Beverly Glen, Inc. has long been a highly respected organization, very vocal and "hands on" in support of our friends at the Fire, Police, and Service Agencies. TREEPEOPLE and its new Center for Community Forestry at Coldwater Canyon Park fit right in with this thinking (Certainly, the old collapsing temporary structure needed to be pulled down and replaced, no question here.)

Public funds for parks, open space, and watershed improvement, i.e. Propositions 12, 13, 40, and 50, were promised to us. Funding TREEPEOPLE's extraordinary endeavor meets that goal (Over half has already been raised.). We urge those in charge to provide the funds needed to complete the Center and carry on TREEPEOPLE's programs and global mission.

Andy, we thank you and your team for your continued vision and leadership.

With our very best wishes,

Robert A. Ringler, President
Residents of Beverly Glen, Inc.

cc: Councilman Jack Weiss
Councilwomen Wendy Gruel
Councilman Tom LeBonge
Mayor James Hahn

Est. 1952 for the Benefit of Residents of Beverly Glen Canyon



Post Office Box 11337 • 4707 S. Central Avenue • Los Angeles, Ca. 90011

Telephone: 323-846-2500 • Fax: 323-846-2508

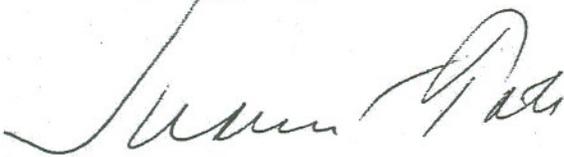
Monday, August 27, 2001

Andy Lipkis
President, TreePeople
12601 Mulholland Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Dear Andy Lipkis:

Your efforts to build a modern facility worthy of Tree People's tradition and ambition deserve our unqualified support. You have it. You and your Tree People colleagues have contributed more than you may ever know over several decades to improving lives in Southeast Los Angeles and communities like ours all over Southern California. We breathe more easily because you have shared trees that shade us and feed us. Better than that, you have shared your vision and your passion that give us hope and courage. We know a better way now. You have asked so little in return. Tell us what more we can do.

Very truly yours,



Juanita Tate
Executive Director
Concerned Citizens of South Central Los Angeles



P A C O I M A B E A U T I F U L

June 22, 2001

Mr. Joel Kimmel
TreePeople
12601 Mulholland Drive
Beverly Hills, Ca.

Dear Mr. Kimmel,

Pacoima Beautiful is pleased to offer our support to TreePeople for its proposed Environmental Center. The Center will be of great benefit to the Los Angeles community as well as to TreePeople itself. We hope that the Center will soon become a reality.

Pacoima Beautiful has a long history of working with TreePeople. When Pacoima Beautiful began in 1996, one of our first projects was a fruit tree distribution project sponsored by TreePeople. From that point on there have been many projects undertaken in partnership with TreePeople. The latest was the planting of 230 trees along Van Nuys Blvd., the main street in Pacoima. Pacoima Beautiful recruited, hired and supervised 15 youth, all residents of Pacoima. TreePeople developed curriculum and guided the youth through the process of enlisting the support of merchants and making sure that the trees were planted properly. The trees have been in the ground for a number of months and they are all doing very well. The trees are a real boost to the morale of the community.

The most significant partnership has resulted in the creation of a water retention system to prevent flooding on the Broadous Elementary School project. For many years the children at the school could not cross the campus on a rainy day without wading through polluted storm water that pooled on the asphalt surfaces on the campus. TreePeople and its partner Los Angeles Conservation Corps, working with community residents and Broadous students recruited by Pacoima Beautiful, designed and then built the water retention system and removed a great deal of the asphalt in the process. The school is well on its way to becoming a green oasis. It is another very important step to improving Pacoima and the spirit of the people.

Pacoima Beautiful is a non-profit organization that provides environmental education, leadership development and advocacy to create a clean, healthy, and safe environment to improve the quality of life for the residents of Pacoima. Pacoima is a low income community in the northeast San Fernando Valley. For many years Pacoima has received less than its share of services. That is beginning to turn around. TreePeople's consistent involvement in projects to improve Pacoima has been a valuable and integral part of the turnaround.

It is Pacoima Beautiful's pleasure to offer its continuing and heartfelt support to TreePeople and its work not only in Pacoima but also in all other communities of need.

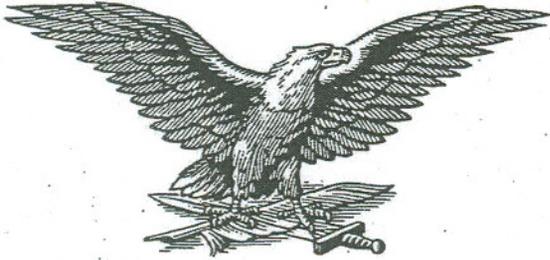
Please contact me if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Marlene Grossman
Executive Director

11243 Glenoaks Boulevard, Suite 3 • Pacoima, CA 91331 • Phone: 818-899-2454 • Fax: 818-834-5186

www.pacoimabeautiful.org



Los Angeles Times

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Chief Executive Officer*

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For the Trees, for the People

Andy Lipkis has been planting trees for 30 years, and like the thousands of saplings he's set into dirt all over town (and around the world), he's been branching out.

Lipkis is the founder of TreePeople, the group that has cooled blistering asphalt schoolyards with Valley oaks and landscaped dreary commercial strips with sycamores. TreePeople staffers have taught generations of children and grown-ups to tend the trees they helped plant. Now, with his Center for Community Forestry, Lipkis hopes to train the leaders of his new crusade.

Over the years, TreePeople has shifted focus to renewing the watershed that nurtures the trees and people who have sunk roots in this arid megalopolis. In demonstration projects at a home in South-Central Los Angeles and on schoolyards in Pacoima and Westchester, Lipkis has proved it's possible to use landscaping and underground cisterns to hold rainwater on site and prevent the pollution and erosion that storm runoff causes.

He's learned that bureaucrats sometimes can be as dense as oak and slow-moving as a taproot. School officials and city park managers still build playgrounds and athletic fields on the cheap, pouring acres of asphalt and sowing grass seed and sprinklers without spending a bit more on cooling trees and

underground systems that would yield big water and energy savings.

When money for demonstration projects is available, Lipkis has a tough time getting folks at the school district or the Department of Water and Power to coordinate with those in the planning, flood control and recreation departments. Some want to build more creatively, but the "this-is-the-way-we've-always-done-it" rules kill innovation.

Now, with Southern California facing possible cutbacks in Colorado River water, local government agencies have no choice but to treat water as precious. That's where the Center for Community Forestry comes in. TreePeople broke ground for the center last month at the group's Coldwater Canyon headquarters with representatives of two dozen public agencies looking on. Lipkis envisions the center as an intellectual meeting ground for public planners and local residents who want to build schools, parks and shopping centers that are more self-sustaining and environmentally responsible.

TreePeople's new center will lead by example: A giant cistern will store rainwater for reuse. The gardens will teach sustainable landscaping. The building will capture the sun's winter warmth and deflect its summer heat. Lipkis hopes his center will encourage the "environmental healing of a great city." Good goal.