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Guiding Tours of the LA River and Promoting Sustainability

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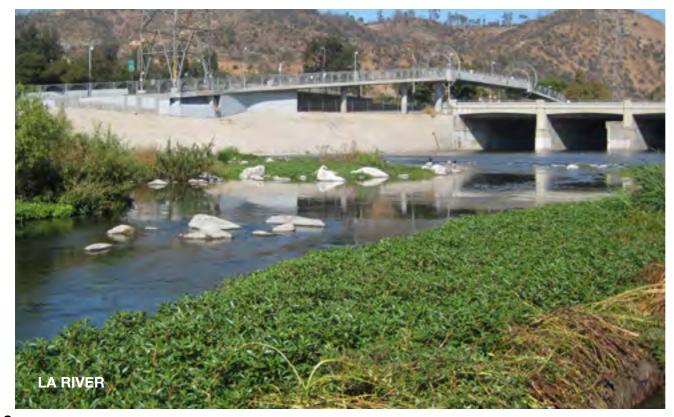
Price, Jenny

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Guiding Tours of the LA River and Promoting Sustainability



This spring, I'm pleased to report that I and my two alter egos (Ranger Jenny and advice columnist JJ) have so far enjoyed our work in 2011. Ranger Jenny and her colleagues in the Los Angeles Urban Rangers collective launched their Downtown L.A. Trail System, with a California Biennial program for the Orange County Museum of Art. The Rangers led an intrepid group of 55 urban mountaineers on an interpretive Vista Trail hike, from the Pershing Square trailhead to the top of the Bonaventure peaks with stops at the Banker Canyons, a series of corporate meadows, and the Lodge of Memory and Stories, aka the L.A. Public Library. The Rangers will use

Los Angeles Urban Rangers

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a summer residency at MOCA to expand the trail system and to offer more public interpretive programs on the whats, whys, and wherefores of Downtown L.A.

JJ posted a new entry in her not-quite green advice column "Green Me Up, JJ" (see page 46) on how to weigh the costs and benefits for the planet when you're deciding whether or not to have children, and on whether it's greener to have boys or girls. Teenage boys, as she noted, can often eat nine meals and take seven showers a day.

As for me, I've been writing for *Sunset*, leading frequent tours of the concrete L.A. River (a river that I love), teaching a bit for Antioch Los Angeles's new M.A. in Urban Sustainability program, and excitedly preparing for a fall fellowship in American Studies at Princeton University, where I'll teach a seminar, "The Art of



Sustainability," on the central role that artists play in envisioning and enacting sustainable places and practices.

Jenny Price has been a CSW Research Scholar since 1998. Price received her Ph.D. in History from Yale University in 1998 with a focus on the environment, the American West, and writing history. She is a freelance writer and she gives tours of the Los Angeles River on her own and assorted urban hikes as part of the Los Angeles **Urban Rangers, an art-performance educational** group. She has published a book called *Flight* Maps: Adventures with Nature in Modern America (1999). She is also a contributing writer to LA Observed, Sunset, the Los Angeles Times, GOOD, the Huffington Post, and the New York Times. She recently began writing a satirical environmental advice column called "Green Me Up, J.J." for LA Observed.

Credits: Photos of LA River are from a tour Jenny Price conducted in 2008 and were taken by CSW Research Scholar Becky Nicolaides.