

## Two river clean-up projects to make for a lovely weekend

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Cleaning up the Los Angeles River will be the mission Saturday of two volunteer efforts -- one to prevent trash from going into the waterway and another to remove litter already clogging it.

Volunteers will meet in Studio City to begin installing new markers on storm drains, warning that trash dumped in the basin will end up in the river.

With the drive modeled on existing markers that say "No dumping, drains to the ocean," volunteers will install 100 new placards on storm drains between Fulton and Tujunga avenues, at a cost of \$1,000.

"Now we want to get people more aware that it drains to the river before it drains to the ocean," said Melanie Winter, head of The River Project, based in Studio City. "If you're looking at these nice greenways we're building along the river, you don't want to be looking at trash in the river."

The project comes as Studio City opens two new stretches of public parkways along the river and the city of Los Angeles tries to meet deadlines to cut trash in the river by 20 percent in September 2006 and removal litter completely by 2015.

To volunteer Saturday, call The River Project at (818) 980-9660 or send an e-mail to [info@TheRiverProject.org](mailto:info@TheRiverProject.org). Volunteers will meet at 8:30 a.m. just off the Laurelgrove footbridge, behind Jamba Juice.

Also on Saturday morning, volunteers will remove trash from 10 sites along the river, including Sepulveda Basin, Tujunga Wash and Griffith Park in the valley. Bring gloves, a hat and sunscreen.

The Gran Limpieza, organized by Friends of the Los Angeles River, will include entertainment, refreshments, educational programs and competitions and run from 9 a.m. to noon. Call (562) 591-5980 or visit [www.FoLAR.org](http://www.FoLAR.org) for more information.

The day will conclude with a free concert by the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra at 1 p.m. at Sepulveda Basin; attendees should bring a blanket or chairs.