

In this monthly feature, Club CEO John Hawkins and Director of Member Services Angel Gomez introduce you to people you see every day, but you might not know who they are. The Club reminds you that we all have names and stories to tell.

# People We See

in downtown Los Angeles.

No. 6 in a series.  
JUNE 2008



## Meet Luis W. Samayoa

**HIS NEIGHBORHOOD:**  
Olvera Street.

**AGE:**  
82, single.

**BIRTHPLACE:**  
Corpus Christi, Texas.

**FAVORITE CHILDHOOD MEMORY:**  
Walking in the valley where I grew up and playing in the river.

**MOVED TO THE CITY:**  
1970.

**EDUCATION:**  
High school graduate;  
one year of college.

**FAMILY:**  
One sister.

**MILITARY:**  
Yes.

**IF YOU COULD WISH FOR ONE THING, WHAT WOULD IT BE?**  
To go to Guatemala.

**LAST JOB:**  
Painter.

**FAVORITE SPORT:**  
Soccer.

**RELIGION:**  
Catholic.

**FAVORITE FOOD:**  
Caldo de rez.

**FAVORITE MOVIE:**  
*Gone With the Wind*.

**FAVORITE ACTOR:**  
Gary Cooper.

**FAVORITE ACTRESS:**  
Joan Crawford.

**LAST BOOK HE READ:**  
*War and Peace*.

**FAVORITE TV SHOW:**  
News Channel 4.

**FAVORITE MUSIC?**  
Classical.

**FAVORITE CANDY:**  
Nestlé chocolate.

**FAVORITE PLACE IN THE CITY:**  
Pico and Los Angeles.

**ADVICE:**  
Don't get into drinking and drugs.

*The Club gave Luis a \$25 McDonald's card and a blanket.*



*Who are the people you see every day?*

## Newsbrief

### CLEAN WATER BOND:

Public Works/Engineering and Sanitation are designing a \$32.7 million water quality improvement project that aims to help meet Environmental Protection Agency and federal Clean Water Act requirements in the Westchester/Playa del Rey area. The Westchester-LAX Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMP) Project will install an infiltration system designed to remove harmful pollutants such as litter and bacteria from stormwater runoff. Stormwater runoff has closed beaches and posed public health risks. The project will improve the water quality of low-flow and wet-weather runoff from an existing storm drain system located on Los Angeles World Airport (LAWA) property and reduces the amount of pollution that reaches Dockweiler Beach in Santa Monica Bay.

"The construction of water quality improvement projects funded by Prop O will allow the city to reduce the level of pollutants entering the ocean to assist in meeting the Total Maximum Daily Load or TMDL requirements that comply with the federal Clean Water Act," said Cynthia M. Ruiz, president of the Board of Public Works. "Critical to our success is the public's acceptance for the installation of Prop O projects that protect the public's health and marine life, improve coastal water quality, and the recreational use of our shorelines used by millions of beach goers annually."

The planned construction, scheduled to begin in early 2009 on Airports property north of Westchester Parkway and east of Pershing Drive in Playa del Rey, will intercept stormwater runoff from a 2,400-acre drainage area that now empties directly into the ocean at Dockweiler Beach. The intercepted runoff will be diverted through a conveyance system that includes debris removal, detention to settle pollutants, and infiltration of runoff water. The completed project will be installed entirely underground with some surface features. The surface area above the BMP project will be restored similar to its current condition.

In late May or early June 2008, project engineers will assess the soil conditions at the proposed Airports property construction site for the environmental clearance associated with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The city will also coordinate with Airports on a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requirements to incorporate safety restrictions.

Prop O projects, funded by \$500 million in general obligation bonds approved by city voters in 2004, are being implemented to assist in meeting federal and state water quality regulations and address the regional challenge of litter and pollution reduction from urban and stormwater runoff. Regulators have recently moved to enforce the federally mandated limits on the daily discharge of bacteria and pollutants that enter the oceans and regional watersheds. Fines of up to \$25,000 per day for each violation have been threatened if cities continue to exceed the TMDL bacterial limits established by the Clean Water Act. The construction and implementation of Prop O projects, such as the Westchester-LAX Stormwater BMP Project, will help to significantly reduce the number of days water quality standards are exceeded at Dockweiler Beach and Santa Monica Bay.

For more information about the Proposition "O" Clean Water Bond program, please visit [www.lapropo.org](http://www.lapropo.org).

### ECHO PARK DEEP POOL:

Rec and Parks was scheduled to dedicate nearly \$6 million in renovations at Echo Park Deep Pool May 22.

The project included renovating the building in which the pool is housed and upgrading the existing adjacent bathhouse (with a new roof over the entire aquatic complex), enhancing the restrooms, locker room, and shower area to make them compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, modernizing the facility's mechanical and electrical systems, and more.

Frank R. Webb Architects of Los Angeles designed the building improvements, which were built by Tobo Construction, Inc. of North Hollywood. Rec and Parks repaired the pool shell and installed new equipment. Public Works/Engineering managed the project through its Recreational and Cultural Facilities Program, with support from the Recreation and Parks Citywide Aquatics Section. Project funding came from Proposition 12 (\$2.8 million), the city's Sites and Facilities fund (\$2.1 million), and Proposition K (\$1 million).