

## **The Trailer**

*Is The Trailer Used Only By Marathon Construction Employees?*

No, two full time Park Rangers and a half time "Outreach Specialist" work at, or out of, the trailers also.

*Do They Work For Southern California Edison?*

No. They are employed by the San Dieguito River Park which manages the fifty-five mile long River Park reaching from the Ocean at Del Mar to the mountains near Julian, including now the Lagoon Restoration area. The River Park staff reports to a Joint Powers Agency that includes five cities (Del Mar, Solana Beach, Poway, San Diego and Escondido) and the County of San Diego.

*What Is The Outreach Specialist Doing There?*

The Outreach Specialist is Barbara Baker. She coordinates educational events that originate at the site, for instance the Water Quality Monitoring Volunteer Training and Public Bird Watching Events.

*Is That All?*

No. She is designing curriculum as part of California's Education And Environmental Initiative (EEI). EEI is an initiative that prepares elementary students to become future scientists, economists and green technology leaders with the goal of involving six million primary and secondary pupils.

*Where Will The Classes Be Held? The Lagoon Center Is Not Built Yet.*

Initial classes will be held at participating schools with follow up outdoor instruction and activities at the Lagoon. The classroom sessions will cover the role of lagoons in our ecosystem, the benefits of wetlands, what has caused the degradation of many California lagoons, and how lagoons and wetlands can be restored. Follow up sessions at the Lagoon will involve field trips to experience an actual restoration project and learn how a sustainable environment works. Activities might include water quality testing at the Lagoon Treatment Ponds, bird watching, plant ecology and making seed balls for native plant vegetation. There will be no desks at this outdoor classroom, but probably lots of binoculars and sketch pads.

*When Will That Start?*

Barbara has already organized a Pilot Class at La Jolla Elementary School,

grades three through five, that she hopes will get started at the beginning of next year. "It is a wonderful opportunity for connecting kids to nature," she commented, "the beginning of a junior naturalist program!"