

Hillary Clinton in Laguna Beach to raise money

Presidential candidate made local stop between Los Angeles, Alabama appearances.

WIRE AND STAFF REPORTS

Presidential candidate Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., made a fundraising appearance Saturday in Laguna Beach between stops in Los Angeles and Alabama.

The \$2,300-a-person fundraiser by the Democratic Party of Orange County was at the home of Rosa Gromet, Irvine Democrat Steve Young said.

Arriving and leaving, Clinton waved at 11 anti-war protesters who yelled for her to end the Iraq war now.

She had been at a Los Angeles fundraiser Friday night and an anti-litter rally at Los Angeles City Hall Saturday morning, her aide Mo Elleithes said.

In Los Angeles, Clinton helped launch a national volunteer drive to clean up litter and graffiti.

"She's been fighting for a brighter and cleaner future for all our children," Los Angeles Mayor Anthony Villaraigosa, a Democrat, said to cheers from a throng gathered around City

Hall. "She knows that our environment is not just the key to our health and happiness; she knows it's the defining issue for our children's future."

Villaraigosa later indicated he didn't have a favorite in the 2008 presidential race, but the event gave the senator a chance to stand beside the mayor in a city with a large Democratic constituency as a dozen TV cameras rolled. The rally for the 2007 Great American Cleanup included dance troupes, an appearance by actress Daryl Hannah and a marching band.

In Laguna Beach, protesters said they were disappointed that Clinton did not stop to speak to them.

"Hillary and (Barack) Obama are the most pro-war of the candidates," said Santa Ana resident Ruth Hull-Richter. "I was invited inside but chose to be out here with these people protesting the war."

Obama is a U.S. senator from Illinois who is also running for the Democrat presidential nomination.



MINDY SCHAUER, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

PROTEST: Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton acknowledges anti-war demonstrators Saturday in Laguna Beach.