



## **Press Release**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **STUDENTS FROM SAN DIEGO & TIJUANA CELEBRATE WORLD WATER MONITORING DAY**

*Students Learn About Water Quality and Ocean Health at the La Jolla Shores*

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La Jolla, CA – San Diego Coastkeeper and the San Diego Citizen Watershed Monitoring Consortium coordinated the 7<sup>th</sup> **Annual World Water Monitoring Day** on Thursday, **October 10, 2008** at the La Jolla Shores, California. This event is part of a worldwide effort to assess and improve water quality and raise awareness of water quality issues in San Diego and around the globe.

Held annually between September 18 and October 18, World Water Monitoring Month is an international outreach program that builds public awareness and involvement in protecting water resources around the world. This event marked the 36th anniversary of the Clean Water Act. Since its inception in 2002 more than 80,000 people have participated in 50 countries. Students, teachers and citizens throughout San Diego County conducted water quality analyses to assess and positively impact the health of local rivers, lakes, estuaries and other water bodies.

“World Water Monitoring Day allows students to join together and take a hands-on approach to understanding the value of clean water for people, plants and wildlife”, said Karen Franz, Watershed Program Director, “the data collected today are shared with other students around the world – illustrating that this is an issue of international significance for which we are all responsible.”

**World Water Monitoring Day** featured water quality monitoring activities for approximately 200 students from San Diego (Del Sur Elementary, Muirlands Middle School, and High Tech High International) and four schools from Baja California. Their water monitoring results will be shared with other students monitoring in San Diego, China, Japan, Mexico, Poland, Russia, Turkmenistan, Uganda and others.



Students participated in a number of hands-on water education activities including rotating between various water monitoring stations with San Diego Coastkeeper, Bio-assessment, Edible Aquifer, Green Machine, San Diego County of Education Splash Lab, and ASBS Map.

“These two Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) represent some of the most pristine and biologically diverse sections of California’s coast. Designating these areas as ASBS has offered a tremendous opportunity to preserve the fantastic array of marine life and safeguard one of the world’s most beautiful coastal areas!” said San Diego Coastkeeper Executive Director Bruce Reznik.

This year we celebrated public stewardship of water quality and conservation, the importance of clean water in the San Diego Region and educating our youth on watershed protection and the value of World Water Monitoring Day. World Water Monitoring Day was held at La Jolla Shores located at 8200 Camino del Oro, La Jolla, California. Events took place from 10:00am-1:00pm on Friday, October 10 and included a press conference; speakers included San Diego Coastkeeper Executive Director Bruce Reznik, San Diego Coastkeeper Watershed Program Director Karen Franz, Birch Aquarium Executive Director Nigella Hilgarth, Sister Schools of San Diego Executive Director Liz Hinkle and San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board and member of BIGHT 08 study Lilian Busse.

We would also like to thank those who made this event possible: the State Water Resources Control Board, Reef Redemption, and The Sempra Energy Foundation.

San Diego Coastkeeper protects the region’s bays, beaches, watersheds and ocean for the people and wildlife that depend on them. We balance community outreach, education and advocacy to promote stewardship of clean water and a healthy coastal ecosystem.

The San Diego Regional Watershed Monitoring Consortium, which is headed by San Diego Coastkeeper and the Sister Schools of San Diego nonprofit organizations, facilitates and coordinates water monitoring activities throughout the region, including providing testing kits for K-12 students to participate in the World Water Monitoring Month.

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The San Diego Citizen Watershed Monitoring Consortium (SDCWMC) is led by San Diego Coastkeeper and the Sister Schools of San Diego. The SDCWMC facilitates and coordinates water monitoring activities throughout the region, including providing testing kits for K-12 students to participate in the World Water Monitoring Month.

The marine environment off of the La Jolla Shores has been designated as an Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) and a Marine Protected Area. The Shores are home to a fantastic array of marine life and some of the world's most beautiful coastal areas. There are 34 ASBS throughout California; La Jolla is home to two.