

# San Diego Coastkeeper's Campaigns



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IMPACT

## **Education & Outreach:**

San Diego's bays, coastal waters and inland waterways mask a host of toxins that threaten human health and damage sensitive ecosystems. Coastkeeper seeks to empower San Diegans to reverse these trends by informing children and the community about improving water quality in San Diego and also by training them to play a vital hands-on role in taking back our environment by educating students, providing internships and volunteer opportunities, and embarking on community outreach campaigns.

## **Marine Debris:**

Marine debris, which is litter that accumulates in our waters, has become a major problem along shorelines and in coastal waters, estuaries and the ocean. While removing trash through beach cleanups is a key component to reduction in marine debris, Coastkeeper has also developed legislative policies to reduce marine debris and continues to educate the community on pollution prevention.

## **Marine Conservation:**

Marine life and vital coastal habitats are strained under the increasing pressure of our use. Coastkeeper works with stakeholders and an array of other non-profit groups to increase the number, size and protections of marine protected areas. We also partner with the Scripps Institution of Oceanography and City of San Diego to help protect and manage San Diego's two areas of special biological significance (ASBS), coordinating watershed monitoring and community education programs for these ASBS.

## **Sewage:**

Sewage spills pose a serious public health threat, severely impact local waterways and serve to undermine San Diego's tourist dependent economy. Coastkeeper has played a major role in reducing sewage spills countywide through our advocacy efforts, and we are now leading a broad-based coalition pushing to reduce the flow of sewage to the ocean by recycling this highly-treated wastewater to use as drinking water.

## **Toxic Waterways:**

San Diego is home to dozens of toxic waterways that pose a serious threat to public health and aquatic ecosystems. Coastkeeper helps identify contaminated waterways through our water monitoring program and advocates for the adoption of restoration plans to restore our most threatened areas.

## **Urban Runoff:**

Urban and stormwater runoff is the single greatest source of pollution to San Diego's coastal waters. Coastkeeper's campaign to combat this threat includes advocating for protective regulations, auditing municipalities to ensure full compliance with these regulations and assisting them with implementing innovative projects (such as low impact development) or pursuing enforcement when needed.

## **Water Supply:**

San Diego is facing a severe water crisis, necessitating creative solutions to conserve and augment our local water supply. Coastkeeper advocates for the development of an integrated water management plan, prioritizing conservation, water recycling and water reuse, with desalination only as a last resort.