

## **Press Release**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**October 14, 2008**

**Contact:** Karen Franz (619) 758-7743 ext. 113  
(619) 358-5126 (cell)

### **STUDENTS AROUND THE GLOBE CAME TO CHULA VISTA FOR 7<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL WORLD WATER MONITORING DAY**

*Students Participated in Hands-on Water Quality Monitoring Activities*

---

San Diego Coastkeeper and the San Diego Citizen Watershed Monitoring Consortium coordinated the **7<sup>th</sup> Annual World Water Monitoring Day** on Tuesday, October 14, 2008 at the **Chula Vista Nature Center in Chula Vista, 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 engages students worldwide to join together and take a hands-on approach to understanding the value of clean water for people, plants and wildlife”, said Karen Franz, Coastkeeper Watershed Monitoring Program Director. “The data collected today will be shared with other students around the world, illustrating that this is a global issue and we are all responsible for protecting our water resources.”

World Water Monitoring Day, featured water quality monitoring activities for approximately 200 school children from San Diego (High Tech High and Perkins Elementary), as well as four schools from Mexico, (Cetys Preparatoria, Colegio Eiffel, Instituto Defensores de Baja California and Instituto Juan Diego). Countywide over 2,000 students participated through their schools in monitoring their local water ways.

Students participated in a number of hands-on water education activities including rotating between various water monitoring stations with San Diego Coastkeeper, Water Quality Monitoring, Bioassessment, Edible Aquifer, Green Machine, San Diego County of Education Splash Lab, Chula Vista Nature Center Museum, and Bird Species. Their water monitoring results will be combined with other students monitoring in San Diego, China, Japan, Mexico, Poland, Russia, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. 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 the Chula Vista Nature Center located at 1000 Gunpowder Point Drive, Chula Vista, California. Events took place from 10:00am-1:00pm and included a press conference. Speakers included Mayor of Chula Vista **Cheryl Cox**, San Diego Coastkeeper Watershed Monitoring Program Director **Karen Franz**, President of the Board of Directors for Sister Schools of San Diego **Dr. Ron Plotkin**, Sister Schools of San Diego Executive Director **Liz Hinkle** and Chula Vista Nature Center Executive Director **Buck Martin** and Curator of Birds **Charles Gailband**. We would also like to thank our corporate sponsors Reef Redemption and Sempra Energy Foundation for their generous contributions to make this event possible.

# # #

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 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 Chula Vista Nature Center is dedicated to serving the public by providing a quality nature center/living museum experience while promoting coastal resource conservation and environmental stewardship through education.