



Coastkeeper Currents

Friday, March 6, 2009

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In the News

Coastkeeper Needs Your Help to Move the Plastic Bag Ban Forward



In December, the City of San Diego Natural Resources and Culture Committee voted to move the [Plastic and Paper Bag Reduction Ordinance](#) forward to full City Council. [The Ordinance](#) is anticipated to come before City Council within the next month and Coastkeeper needs your help to gather support from the community.

Every year, an estimated [19 billion plastic carry-out bags](#) are used in California; that's approximately [600 disposable plastic bags per person](#)! These bags pose many problems to our community and marine environment. With less than 5% of these plastic bags being recycled, many end up littering our public spaces where they easily find their way to the ocean through the city storm drain system. Although recycling helps, recycling is not a viable solution to this particular pollution problem.

San Diego's Action List

Step #11

Plastic Ain't Our Bag!

Did you know that in San Diego County alone 12,291 plastic bags were removed at countywide cleanups in 2007 and 2008? [Click here](#) to find out more information.

Step #2

Become a Member of Coastkeeper Today!

[Join San Diego Coastkeeper](#) today and support Coastkeeper's efforts to protect San Diego's waters.

Step #3

Attend SD Science Festival Expo!

Attend the [San Diego Science Festival Science Expo](#) on April 4 from 10:30am – 6:00pm and stop by Coastkeeper's table to learn about the chemistry of water and the role we play in pollution prevention.

San Diego o Coastkeeper is a member of:





Coastkeeper is looking for community members who can help promote this ban by [collecting petition signatures](#), contacting your [Councilmember](#) and [spreading the facts](#) about this ban. [Click here](#) for more information and ways you could help, or contact [Monica Dillard](#).

Update: Creating Marine Protected Areas



2009 has been a productive year thus far for the [Marine Life Protection Act](#) (MLPA) Initiative process. The State recognizes the importance of our coastal waters and remains committed to protecting them. The MLPA budget will remain 95% intact thanks in part to a public private partnership designed to leverage scarce state funds. The [Regional Stakeholder Group](#) (RSG) has been organized into

three cross-interest work groups ([see FAQ](#)) to generate ideas and options for potential [Marine Protected Areas](#) (MPA) and allowed uses in the south coast study region, recently providing an opportunity for the public to learn about the initial suggestions and provide comment to the RSG on its efforts. All meetings of the MLPA are public with the availability to provide comment at [meetings](#). You can also submit [formal letters or written comment](#), or contact a member of the [regional stakeholder group](#) to discuss your ideas or concerns, including Coastkeeper's Marine Conservation Director Kate Hanley.

Help establish successful MPAs by completing this anonymous [survey](#).

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[Volunteer Opportunities](#)

Oceanside City Beach and Street Cleanup

When: Saturday, March 14 from 9:00am – 11:00am

Where: Oceanside City Beach. Meet on the south side of the pier down on the beach.



Join us for a beach and street cleanup in Oceanside.

[Click here](#) for map and directions.

March Water Monitoring

When: Saturday, March 21 at 8:45am

Where: Point Loma (San Diego Coastkeeper Offices)



San Diego Coastkeeper is looking for members of the community interested in helping us gather data to improve and protect San Diego's waters. If you are interested in [collecting water quality samples](#) and taking basic water chemistry measurements on a regular basis, please email [Preston Lam](#). Due to limited space and high volunteer interest, we are asking that volunteers register to participate by Wednesday, March 18.

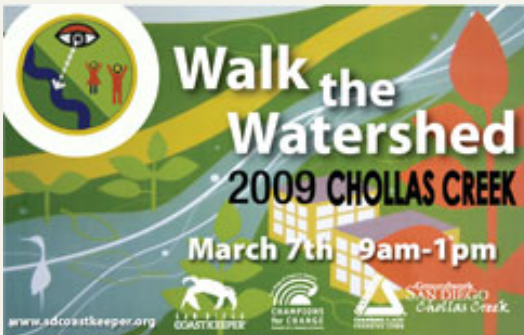
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Upcoming Events

"Walk the Watershed" Chollas Creek

When: Saturday, March 7, 2009 from 9:00am – 1:00pm

Where: Walk begins at the Millennial Tech Middle School Earthlab and ends at Market Creek Plaza.



[San Diego Coastkeeper](#) and [Groundwork San Diego-Chollas Creek](#), in conjunction with Network for a Healthy California, San Diego and Imperial Region, are proud to present the **2nd Annual Walk the Watershed** event. This event is an outdoor, fun, interactive, and free event that will introduce and connect local students and community members to one of San Diego's most unique watersheds.

Participants will take the scenic route following Chollas Creek upstream through rare Cactus Wren habitat and the restoration and community enhancement projects of local organizations. Walkers will encounter various activity stations that will highlight

different aspects of the watershed, including native seed ball planting and fitness and nutrition tips. At the end of the tour, attendees will join in a celebration with African and Native American Dance, Recycling, composting workshops and much more. For more information on Walk the Watershed contact [Sarah Blakeslee](#) (619) 758 – 7743, ext. 115.

Coastkeeper and Stay Classy Host March Greendrinks

When: Wednesday March 18, 2009 from 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Where: W Hotel San Diego
421 W. B Street
San Diego, CA

Join [San Diego Coastkeeper](#) and [Stay Classy](#) as they host this month's [Greendrinks](#). It is an opportunity to mix with other like-minded folks to network, share information and make new friends. Enjoy tunes from Dj's Eddie Turbo, Jon Wesley and Atom Matter. A portion of the proceeds from specialty drinks will go to support efforts for both organizations. We would like to thank the [W Hotel San Diego](#) for hosting.



Attend the Largest Environmental Film Festival in the Nation

When: Thursday, March 25 from 6:00pm – 10:00pm

Where: Gaslamp 15
701 5th Avenue
San Diego, CA

Pro Peninsula is hosting Patagonia's [Wild and Scenic Environmental Film Festival](#) in San Diego. Attend the festival to see educational and motivational environmental films from everyday citizens involved in outdoor adventures, wildlife explorations and community activism. Visit Coastkeeper's table at the festival's Environmental Fair and learn how to get involved in protecting San Diego's natural resources.



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