



## San Diego Coastkeeper

Thursday, October 29, 2009

### Coastkeeper's 14th Annual Ocean Gala Raises Record-Setting Funds

*Brings Awareness to San Diego's Watersheds*



Samantha Hackett, Susan Wickstrand, Kate Hanley, and Renee and Keith Kelman  
Photo: Michelle Bowman



Janie DeCelles, Jerry Hoffmeister and Tracy Phillip  
Photo: Michelle Bowman

A sold-out crowd of nearly 500 guests gathered downtown at The US Grant on Saturday to help Coastkeeper celebrate its most successful fundraising benefit to date. Honorary Event Chair County of San Diego Vice Chairwoman [Pam Slater-Price](#), Master of Ceremonies [Bill Menish](#) and gala attendees celebrated San Diego's inland waterways and helped raise more than \$100,000 for Coastkeeper's programs that are helping protect San Diego's precious watersheds and marine resources.

Coastkeeper recognized [Hubbell and Hubbell Architects](#) with the Coastal Champion Business Award for its commitment to innovative design that protects valuable natural resources. Coastkeeper also presented the Coastal Champion Youth Award to Mara Bickett and Becky Deller for [Fish for Thought](#), an environmental art project that raises awareness about the negative impact of trash on oceans and marine life. And the Coastal Champion Community Honorees included Margarita Díaz with Proyecto [Fronterizo de Educación Ambiental](#) for her work to improve and protect beach and coastal health in Mexico and the United States, and Dr. Tony Haymet, Director at [Scripps Institution of Oceanography](#), for his leadership and impact in the scientific and education communities regarding climate change and water management issues.



Mayor Sanders with guest Alison Price  
Photo: Michele Bowman

Many local community activists, concerned citizens and elected officials were on hand to pay tribute to honorees, including San Diego's Mayor **Jerry Sanders**, Congresswoman **Susan Davis**, State Senator **Christine Kehoe**, State Assembly Speaker Pro Tempore **Lori Saldaña** and City Councilmembers **Sherri Lightner** and **Marti Emerald**, among many others from around the county. Guests enjoyed a gourmet dinner of organic food from sustainable vendors, including event wine sponsor [ONEHOPE Wine](#), as Coastkeeper made an

effort to [green the event](#) as much as possible this year. Attendees danced to the music of [Zapf Dingbats](#), and joined in exciting live and silent auctions and the [Ocean Gallery](#),

## San Diego's Action List

### Step #1

#### Continue to support

If you couldn't attend the Ocean Gala, you can still [support Coastkeeper](#). Donate online today.

### Step #2

#### Follow us on Twitter

Find us on Twitter at [@sd\\_coastkeeper](#). We want to tweet about how you are protecting and playing on the beautiful beaches of San Diego.

### Step #3

#### Join San Diego Coastkeeper!

[Become a member](#) today and help support Coastkeeper's efforts to protect San Diego's coast and inland waterways.

#### San Diego Coastkeeper is a member of:



which featured work from local artists.

A big **THANK YOU** goes out to all of the [sponsors](#), volunteers, staff and event committee members for making this year's Ocean Gala such a success!

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