



# San Diego Coastkeeper Email Alert

Friday, September 11, 2009

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## In the News

### Coastkeeper Remembers Two Friends

#### Volunteer Sue Varty Helped Monitor Local Waters



The environmental community lost a friend, a watershed captain, and important advocate for clean water and watersheds. Sue Varty died on August 20th after a long battle with cancer. She was best known for her service on the board of the Olivenhain Municipal Water District in Encinitas, and for her leadership in the development of the water treatment system that provided water for the Olivenhain Municipal water district customers. Coastkeeper will miss working with Sue in engaging the local community, collecting water quality data, and monitoring ecosystem health in Escondido Creek. [Click here](#) to read Sue's Obituary in the San Diego Union Tribune.

A memorial fund has been established, and all funds received will be directed towards the Elfin Forest Interpretive Center's new science lab. Gifts can be sent to:

Elfin Forest Interpretive Center Honoring Susan J. Varty  
C/o The Escondido Creek Conservancy  
PO Box 460791  
Escondido, CA 92046  
[www.escondidocreek.org](http://www.escondidocreek.org)

#### Coastkeeper Celebrates the Life of Robert Paton



Coastkeeper also mourns the loss of a former member of the

## San Diego's Action List

### Step #1

#### Celebrate Clean Water With Dave Matthews!

Stop by Coastkeeper's booth this Saturday as we celebrate environmental consciousness at [The Dave Matthews Band](#) concert at Cricket Wireless Amphitheatre.

### Step #2

#### Become a Member of Coastkeeper Today!

Join [San Diego Coastkeeper](#) today and support Coastkeeper's efforts to protect San Diego's bays, beaches, watersheds and ocean.

### Step #3

#### Watch A Sheltered Sea: The Southern Passage!

View the [Baum Foundation's film](#) about the Marine Life Protection Act and the collective benefits of creating Marine Protected Areas in California. .

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





San Diego BayKeeper family. Robert Paton joined BayKeeper as our Operations Coordinator in 2002 in order to protect the bays and beaches of San Diego where he grew up as a child. He left BayKeeper to move to Raleigh, North Carolina, where he married Amanda Feeny. Robert succumbed to a long bout with melanoma on July 1 of this year. The family is asking that friends make a donation in Robert's name to The [Lance Armstrong Foundation](#) or the [Caring Bridge](#). The BayKeeper/Coastkeeper family will remember Robert as an avid cyclist, passionate outdoorsman and primarily as someone who would make us laugh. A celebration of his life will take place:

Saturday, September 19, 2009  
 Foothills United Methodist Church  
 4031 Avocado Blvd.  
 La Mesa, CA 91941

### **Coastkeeper Members Making a Difference**

Thanks to Coastkeeper's supporters and the environmental community's tremendous and immediate response to [oppose AB 1570](#) to protect our coast and preserve open government, the bill was defeated. The victory would not have been possible without all of your calls, emails, faxes, and letters of opposition. Thank you for ensuring the California Coastal Commission's continued protection of our precious coastal resources!

### **Coastkeeper Applauds Coastal Commission Picks**

[Assembly Speaker Karen Bass](#) appointed two new candidates to the [California Coastal Commission](#), Santa Cruz Supervisor [Mark Stone](#) and Oceanside City Councilmember [Esther Sanchez](#). Both appointments were supported by environmental groups throughout California, and will help ensure the Commission continues to safeguard our beaches and ocean. Locally, many environmental groups have strong ties with Councilmember Sanchez, who has served since 2000 and was endorsed by the League of Conservation Voters San Diego and Sierra Club in her previous elections. She replaces San Diego Councilmember Ben Hueso, whose term had expired, as the San Diego representative to the Commission. Sanchez will have an opportunity to host the next Commission meeting, scheduled to take place October 7-9 in Oceanside.

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## **Volunteer Opportunities**

### **California Coastal Cleanup Day is Next Week!**

When: Saturday. September 19 from 9:00am – 12noon

Where: More than 80 inland and coastal sites in San Diego County.



Join San Diego Coastkeeper and I Love A Clean San Diego next week at the nearest [cleanup site](#) for the 25th annual [California Coastal Cleanup Day](#) . We need your help to remove debris from our creeks, bay, and beaches before the coming raining season. Corporate volunteer teams, school groups, families, and scout troops are all encouraged to register together and show their pride in volunteerism and environmental stewardship.

### September Water Monitoring

When: Saturday, September 12 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 for our monthly water monitoring events, email [Preston Lam](#).

### Meet Coastkeeper's Volunteer Core: Working for Clean Water



San Diego Coastkeeper is delighted to have its first ever dedicated [Volunteer core](#) that is taking action on issues all over San Diego. The team includes: Megan Stone, Spencer Sussman, Adrian Macias, Lauren Washington, Amanda Sousa, Ashley Brock, Dante Anthony, Carter Casner, Alexandra Caya, Bryce Inman, Allie Crowson, Cat Walker, Heather Beichesky, Bethany Fee, Micheal McDonnell, Sierra Basegio, Micheal Hardin, Mary Sears, and Heather McNeil.

Thanks to all of you who are devoting your time to fight for Clean Water in San Diego!

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### Upcoming Events

#### 18th Annual Paddle for Clean Water

When: Sunday, September 13 from 9:00am-5:00pm

Where: Ocean Beach Pier



Paddle around the OB Pier with hundreds of other environmental enthusiasts to show your support of clean water at the Surfrider Foundation's [Paddle for Clean Water](#) festival. Bring your old flip-flops and surfboards that you no longer use for

recycling.

## Coastkeeper's 14th Annual Ocean Gala

When: Saturday, October 24 starting at 6:30pm

Where: The US Grant  
326 Broadway  
San Diego, CA 92101



Join us for the 14th annual [Ocean Gala](#) as we celebrate the heritage of our region's waterways. Enjoy live music by [Chris Clarke](#) and [Zapf Dingbats](#), participate in exciting silent and live auctions, and celebrate with the Coastal Champion Honorees. Visit [www.oceangala.org](http://www.oceangala.org) to purchase tickets and learn more about the event.

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