



San Diego Coastkeeper Email Alert

Wednesday, December 23, 2009

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In the News

California Fish & Game Now Reviewing MPA Proposals



Photo Credit Carl Gwinn

The [California Fish and Game Commission](#) (FGC) and South Coast Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) met last week in Los Angeles regarding the South Coast Marine Protected Area proposals for the FGC to consider. The BRTF's [Integrated Preferred Alternative](#) (IPA) map was identified as the "Proposed Project" for purposes of initiating preliminary stages of the state's environmental review process. Vice President Richard Rogers chaired the meeting and took public comment from the approximately 200 audience members. We send thanks to all who made it to the meeting and recruited others. Rogers predicted adoption of the South Coast MPAs to extend well into the end of 2010 with the next meeting of the FGC scheduled for February 3-4 in Sacramento.

Coastkeeper Sees Two Important Victories



Coastkeeper partnered with a coalition of environmental groups on December 16 for two impressive victories. First, the Regional Water Quality Control Board ratified a shutdown of two of the four units at the [South Bay Power Plant](#) in the next two weeks and will hold a hearing on rescinding the permit for the other two units in March. The plant, with its antiquated once-through-cooled technology, has been a blight on the sensitive South Bay ecosystem for decades. The Board's decision moves us one step closer to stopping the damage and restoring

this critical area. In another success, the Regional Board adopted the Orange County

San Diego's Action List

Step #1

Give a Green Gift

Green is groovy. Give your friends and loved ones the gift of protecting our oceans for an entire year. [Buy them online now.](#)

Step #2

Make Green Resolutions

Make 2010 the year you commit to supporting protection of San Diego's coastline. Become a member, donate and [volunteer](#) often in the New Year.

Step #3

Report a Polluter

Do you know of someone polluting our environment or wasting water? Report what you see to us [using this online form](#) so we can help stop the problem.

San Diego Coastkeeper is a member of:



Stormwater permit after multiple hearings and a two-year delay. The permit features numeric action levels that provide an assessment of the effectiveness of the prohibition on non-stormwater discharges. The OC permit will be a model for San Diego's renewed permit in 2012, which makes its adoption helpful for our advocacy in the next few years.

Coastkeeper Leads Fight for Strong Science in San Diego



Photo: Amy Millard, Graphic Design & Photography

Since 2000, [San Diego Unified School District](#) (SDUSD) science education and student performance have improved dramatically, but a change in focus, two District reorganizations and severe budget cuts have changed the way science is taught. Board members Richard Barrera and John Lee Evans asked San Diego Coastkeeper Executive Director Bruce Reznik to convene and chair a [Science Advisory Blue Ribbon Task Force](#) (BRTF) to evaluate SDUSD's

science curricula and its delivery to the classroom. The [final report](#) was developed to help SDUSD best prepare students for the educational and job opportunities in the 21st Century economy. Reznik presented the group's findings and recommendations at the December 15 Board of Education Meeting, and the BRTF will meet with SDUSD staff in 2010 to go over the recommendations.

High Tech High Students Engineer Water Monitoring Kits



[High Tech High School](#) students received funding from Perdue University to engineer a product to enhance Coastkeeper's [Citizen Watershed Monitoring Program](#). Water monitoring volunteers have to carry cumbersome kits of instruments, buckets, and sample bags and pull a cooler to protect the samples. The sample sites are often along treacherous trails and long distances that make the current kit difficult to use. The students constructed a backpack with a built in cooler system, a collapsible bucket and compartments that hold all the instruments needed! The new lightweight kit was tested in the last storm event in San Luis Rey Watershed and received excellent feedback and gratitude from the volunteers. Thanks High Tech High Students!

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Volunteer Opportunities

Encinitas Beach Cleanup

When: Saturday, January 9, from 9 - 11 a.m.

Where: Swami's



Bring in the New Year by volunteering with Coastkeeper at Swami's beach in Encinitas for a beach cleanup of epic proportions. Coastkeeper will set up at the top of the stairs on Saturday morning by 9 a.m., rain or shine. Bring a bucket or reuse an old plastic or trash bag. We can all make a difference! [Download complete 2010 beach cleanup schedule.](#)

January Water Monitoring

When: Saturday, January 16, at 8:45 a.m.

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 [Sarah Blakeslee](#). Due to limited space and high volunteer interest, we are asking that volunteers register by Wednesday, January 13 to participate.

Tijuana Estuary Cleanup

When: Saturday, January 23, from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Where: Borderfield State Park



Join Coastkeeper for our first cleanup at the Tijuana River National Estuary Research Reserve (TRNERR). Headquarters will be at Monument Mesa at Borderfield State Park, and volunteers will have some special access to ecologically sensitive habitat to remove trash from dunes and tidal flats. See you there! [Download complete 2010 beach cleanup schedule.](#)

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Upcoming Events

Dick Dale Concert at Belly Up

When: Wednesday, January 20, 8 p.m.

Where: Belly Up Tavern at 143 S. Cedros Ave. in Solana Beach



We're all about celebrating the New Year in style, which is why we'll be heading to the Dick Dale concert at [Belly Up](#). Referred to as the "King of Surf Guitar," Dick Dale is known for inventing surf music in the 1950s. That's right, the 50s.

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