



THE CHANGING TIDE

December 2004

Santa Monica Bay
Restoration Commission

State of the Bay Conference

During the 15 years since Santa Monica Bay was admitted to the National Estuary Program, we have made significant strides in our efforts to protect and restore the bay, its watershed and habitats. Much of this progress, as well as future goals, will be highlighted in the SMBRCs upcoming **State of the Bay Conference** to be held on **January 13, 2005** at the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles.

In this one-day conference, speakers will address the issues affecting our oceans and watersheds both locally and nationally. The morning plenary session is dedicated to discussions about the national, state, and local need to protect our coastal and ocean resources. The afternoon is dedicated to the **State of Santa Monica Bay** -- its resources and values, threats from pollution, the challenges faced in its restoration, and what is being done to better assess and protect it for future generations. Conference breakout sessions will address Storm Water Management, Coastal and Ocean Habitats, Wetlands and Watersheds, and Public Education.

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PLASTICS ARE FOREVER



Plastics are one of the most noticeable and widespread pollution issues facing coastal waterbodies, including the Pacific Ocean.

Most plastics remain close to the sea surface where they are broken down by sunlight to resemble the size and shape of plankton. Ingested plastics can cause internal injury, intestinal blockage or starvation to marine life. In the Pacific Ocean, studies show that there are 6 times more plastic pieces than plankton in the marine environment. Along the coast of Southern California, there may be more than 3 times more plastic than plankton.

The Algalita Research Foundation (AFR), a non-profit group dedicated to the preservation of the marine environment, is further researching the effects that plastics have on ocean resources. AFR hopes to increase the knowledge of the sources of these plastics in the ocean by studying samples collected from the path of plastics throughout the Pacific Ocean.

There are several different ways to learn more about AFR's plastics debris study:

1. The Algalita Research Foundation website:
www.algalita.org
2. The project website:
www.plasticdebris.org



Although most plastics come from land-based inputs, here's a list of what boaters can do to help keep our waterways clean and clear of plastic debris!

- Make it boat policy that NO trash is discarded overboard. Federal and international laws prohibit the discharge of plastic trash in the ocean.
- Encourage your dock or marina to provide adequate garbage cans and recycling bins.
- Install trash compactors on large vessels.
- Retrieve loose trash encountered in the water or on shore.
- Share your concern with others and encourage them to help.
- Participate in local beach and harbor cleanups, and leave the waters clean after your visit.



A California Clean Boating Network Publication
Presented by the
Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation,
California Coastal Commission, Save Our Shores
and the Community Environmental Council
in cooperation with the
California Department of Boating and Waterways
and the California Integrated Waste Management Board

Destination Series

Check Out the Alameda/Oakland Estuary



Map Source: <http://www.westcoastroads.com/california/sanfrancisco.html>

The Alameda/Oakland Estuary is a narrow area of San Francisco Bay located between Oakland and the Island of Alameda.

The Estuary started its development during the gold rush as steam-boats traveled through the delta to the gold country. Following the gold rush, the Estuary became vastly developed as a result of the construction of bridges, ferries, piers, wharves, and railroads. In the 1880's, the whaling industry moved in and the Estuary became home to the world largest salmon packing company. The Estuary became a center of trade and fishing. To meet shipping and trade demands, the Port of Oakland was established in 1927. Currently, the Port is one of the largest and most important in the nation.

The Port created one of the most active and economically significant shipyards in the country.

The estuary offers a host of land-and water-based outdoor adventures for visitors, including boating, kayaking, fishing, hiking, and biking as well as a variety of museums and restaurants. When visiting the Estuary, plan on going to some of the following open space recreation areas: Middle Harbor Shoreline Park, the Estuary Park, Jack London Aquatic Center, Jack London Square, and Embarcadero Cove and be prepared to see seals and many species of shorebirds.

Where to Find Services for Environmentally Sound Boating in the Alameda/Oakland Estuary



Photo by: Port of Oakland

Marina	Sewage Pumpout	Bilge Pumpout	Used Oil Collection	Absorbent Pads
Alameda Marina			X (T)	
Fortman Marina	X		X (T)	X
Grand Marina	X		X (T)	X (C) (T)
Mariner Square	X			
Marina Village Yacht Harbor	X		X	X (C)
Embarcadero Cove Marina: Union Basin	X		X	
North Basin I & II	X		X	
Central Basin			X	
Jack London Square	X		X	
Portobello Marina/D' Anna Yacht Center	X			

Some marinas charge for these services. Call ahead for fees and hours of operation
 X = Service is available; X(T) = Service is available to tenants only
 Absorbent pads = (X) = Distributes new pads ; (C) = Collects used pads for proper disposal

For a complete statewide list and more clean boating information visit our website at www.coastal.ca.gov/ccbn/cbndx.html or www.earth911.org

NEW

Sacramento - San Joaquin Delta Chapter



Discovery Bay Yacht Harbor

Photo By Jennie Walceck and Dan Jordan

The California Clean Boating Network has added a **NEW Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Chapter** that spans

Contra Costa, El

Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, San

Joaquin, Solano, Stanislaus and Yolo Counties. The Delta chapter is a result of a partnership between the California Coastal Commission (the Commission), Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW), and Contra Costa County Watershed Program (CWP) and will bring together individuals to discuss larger Delta issues, share information, and create regional partnerships.

The new Chapter will also act as a taskforce providing valuable feedback to the CWP's Proposition 13 grant-funded, Marina and Recreational Boating Program (Program). The Program, with the support and assistance provided by the Commission and DBW, will implement a comprehensive clean boating program, establish new pollution prevention infrastructure at marinas and educate boaters about clean and safe boating.

Following is a brief outline of the main components of the program. Contact Tonya Redfield at 925/313-2313 or tredfiel@pw.co.contra-costa.ca.us

Establish Pollution Prevention Infrastructure

The CWP is currently working with 5 pilot marinas to establish pollution prevention policies and infrastructure such as sewage pump-outs, hazardous waste drop-off collection centers, pet-waste collection points, and refuse/recycling containers. The drop-off centers will accept used motor oil and filters, oil/fuel absorbent bilge pillows and pads, marine batteries, and empty oil bottles from boaters and the general public.

Water Quality Monitoring

The CWP is conducting water quality monitoring to gather baseline data about water quality conditions related to hydrocarbons and pathogens. The sampling is performed prior to, during, and then following major boating holidays.

Recreational Boating and Environmental Services Map

The CWP conducted a Marina Operator Survey of 75 Delta marinas to gather information on marina operation, general characteristics, and publicly accessible environmental services. The survey data will be used to make a comprehensive Delta Recreational Boating and Environmental Services Map.

Public Outreach

CWP will work with volunteer Dockwalkers to distribute 10,000 free boater kits at various marinas, recreational club meetings and special events throughout the Delta during the 2005-06 boating seasons. Boater kit recipients will be asked to fill out a Recreational Boater Survey to obtain information on boaters' knowledge of existing environmental services and how they currently dispose of trash and hazardous materials while boating and maintaining their boats. The survey information will help to identify gaps in pollution prevention infrastructure and target priority educational messages to boaters.



Meet Stanley, the Striped Bass

SAN MATEO, SANTA CRUZ, MONTEREY,
SAN LUIS OBISPO & SANTA BARBARA COUNTIES

Re-Refined Oil: Good for Your Vessel and Good for our Oceans
Informational Workshops for Boaters and the Public

Save Our Shores (SOS), in partnership with the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) and Monterey and Santa Cruz harbors, is co-sponsoring two workshops in the Northern Central Coast to share expert information on re-refined motor oil. Oil industry spokespersons will offer presentations on the benefits of using re-refined oil as part of an effort to promote waste reduction and the "reduce, reuse, and recycle" ethic.

The workshops are targeted primarily to the boating and marina community, but are open to everyone interested in protecting our natural resources. The workshops will answer the questions:

- What is re-refined oil?
- Why is it a good idea?
- Is it safe to use in my vessel?
- Where can I buy it?

Re-refined oil is a growing industry in California. Small businesses are now collecting used oil containers and waste oil, filtering or cleaning the oil of metals and other impurities, and then re-bottling

the oil for consumer sales. Re-refined oil is supported by the CIWMB as a way to reduce illegal oil disposal at landfills and remove oil from the overall waste stream.

"It's a good idea all around," said Modesto businessman Ken Hatch, who owns a re-refined oil business. "Re-refined oil is indistinguishable from motor oils made from so-called 'virgin oil'. It's a way to extend the use of oil, and as oil prices increase, re-refined oil will become more attractive to the consumer," said Hatch.

Save Our Shores is a local non-profit organization founded in 1978 to prevent oil drilling off the Central

California coast. Now in its 26th year, SOS works to prevent pollution and other threats to coastal and marine resources and serves as a local voice for marine policy issues.

For more information on Save Our Shores or the re-refined oil workshops, contact Steve Laughlin at (831) 462-5660 extension 17.

Re-refined Oil Workshops

Friday, December 3
3 pm to 4 pm
Santa Cruz Harbor Public Meeting Room

February 2005
Pillar Point Harbor
San Mateo County

Swimmers cross Santa Barbara Channel!

On September 17 and 18, 2004 the Santa Barbara-based Community Environmental Council (CEC) and the Ocean Ducks joined forces to complete the first Channel Relay Swim benefiting CEC's water quality protection programs. 58 swimmers and 14 kayakers participated in the event, braving the Pacific waters and a choppy ride out to Santa Cruz Island aboard *The Conception*.

The event celebrated the joy and wonder of ocean swimming while drawing attention to the need to care for our creeks and waterways that lead into the ocean. A media campaign served to remind the community that caring for the ocean begins on land. Used oil recycling, proper hazardous waste disposal, and the use of least-toxic cleaners were among the messages conveyed.

Just like the ocean swimmers, boaters have a vested interest in keeping the coast clean. Please continue to help in the effort to prevent pollution in our waterways – make sure to practice clean boating! Recycle your used oil and filters, soak up leaks and spills with absorbent pads, and manage sewage waste at onshore pump-out stations.

See photos and find out more about the Santa Barbara Channel Relay swim at: www.CommunityEnvironmentalCouncil.org

Funded by a grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board

Call 1-800-CLEANUP for more information.

SAN MATEO, SANTA CRUZ, MONTEREY, SAN LUIS OBISPO & SANTA BARBARA COUNTIES

Spotlight: Watershed Resource Center in Santa Barbara

Conveniently located at Arroyo Burro or “Hendry’s” Beach in Santa Barbara, The Community Environmental Council’s Watershed Resource Center (WRC) is a great place to learn about the coastal environment. Offering information and resources on a variety of topics related to protecting water quality, the center is a must stop for locals and visitors alike. And it’s free!

The County of Santa Barbara requested that the center be built in response to growing concern about the South Coast’s water quality. In 2001 the building was completed, and CEC staff welcomed its first visitors. Since then, the Watershed Resource Center has hosted thousands of individuals and groups, helping to make the connection between healthy watersheds and each of our own personal habits such as cleaning up after pets, landscaping with native plants, and properly disposing of everyday chemicals like paint and used motor oil.

It’s important for the community to know that Santa Barbara’s South Coast has approximately 50 short, steep watersheds that start in the Santa Ynez Mountains and flow through the foothills

and coastal plain, ultimately emptying into the Pacific Ocean. When it rains, large volumes of water quickly move through these watersheds — picking up potential pollutants and flushing them into creeks and the ocean.



The Watershed Resource Center
Winter hours: Tues - Fri: 12 pm to 5 pm;
Sat & Sun: 10 am to 2 pm

The WRC is not your typical educational center. Among its attractions are a native plant area, an ocean view deck, a wetlab for testing water samples, and a special area for the building of a to-mol — the traditional redwood plank canoe used by early Chumash people. There is also a research area open to the public, which contains two on-line computers and a small library. Students have made particularly good use of the center for research projects and science experiments.

Everyone living in a coastal environment, including boaters, will greatly benefit from a trip to the WRC. See for yourself! Come visit the Watershed Resource Center at 2981 Cliff Drive in Santa Barbara. For further information about the center, including hours of operation, visit www.CommunityEnvironmentalCouncil.org/wrc or call (805) 682-6113.

Save Our Shores Conducts Monterey Harbor Assessments

As part of a grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board, Save Our Shores convened a task force of experts in the fields of oil recycling, stormwater management, and solid waste disposal to assess the needs of harbors in the Monterey Bay Sanctuary. In November, the task force visited three harbors, evaluating the number and condition of oil recycling stations and the operation and design of bilge water pump-outs and oil-water separator facilities.

Surveys conducted of the harbormasters found that the harbors are aggressively pursuing pollution-control activities, particularly in regards to the collection and recycling of used oil. Of noteworthy praise are the covered oil recycling stations, boat ramp run-off treatment systems, and weekly sweeping and vacuuming of parking areas, which helps prevent run-off contaminants and debris from entering the ocean.

In its assessment of bilge pump-out stations, SOS learned that some of the equipment is outdated. Though the harbors that currently operate oil-water separators are capturing more than 1,000 gallons of oil from bilge water annually, increasing demand has outgrown the seven-year old technology. Because of this, the harbors are seeking ways to replace these outdated systems.

The SOS task force will continue to visit harbors and offer assistance with pollution prevention goals. For more information about the task force or the work that it is doing, contact Stephen Laughlin at (831) 462-5660.

If you have ideas for article topics or would like to list an event in this newsletter, please contact Leslie Robinson at leslie@cecmail.org or call (805) 963-0583 ext. 105.

Southern California Chapter *Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, Ventura & San Bernardino Counties*

- Every drop counts!

Used Oil Container Recycling Program

When it comes to oil, it's true that every last drop counts. "Empty one-quart oil bottles contain an ounce of oil per container. Larger containers can have two ounces or more of residual oil" reports Ken Hatch, president of Green Flame Services. Angelenos discard 125 million oil bottles each year. Recycling these bottles could reclaim almost 1 million gallons of oil and about 15 million pounds of High Density Poly-Ethylene (HDPE) plastic.

How is that last drop collected?

Boaters are encouraged to bring their used oil containers to their local Used Oil Container Recycling Program (UOCR) site for recycling. After the

containers are granulated into tiny pellets on site, they will be picked up and recycled by a certified service. Back at the recycling plant, the plastic pellets are processed in a closed system using solvent to remove any residual oil from the plastic. The solvent is collected, cleaned, and circulated back into the system for reuse. The plastic is recycled and used to manufacture plastic lumber, drainage pipe, and landscaping products. Most of the re-refined oil is processed into Marine Diesel Oil. This recycling process does not create a secondary waste stream, such as hazardous solvents, contaminated water, or polluted air.



With funding from the California Integrated Waste Management Board, the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation Boater Education Program is successfully running the UOCR in three Southern California locations. Conveniently located at local fuel docks and marinas, boaters can recycle their used oil containers at: **1) Marina Fuels**, Marina del Rey; **2) Jankovich Fuel Dock**, San Pedro; and **3) Newmark's Yacht Center**, Wilmington.

For information about the Used Oil Container Recycling Program, contact Grace Lee at:
(213) 576-6648 or
glee@waterboards.ca.gov.

Business or Pleasure?

Here's a list of clean boating facilities and fun destination spots:



Marina Del Rey *Enjoy Nearby Venice Beach*

- Sewage Pumpouts: **Burton Chase Park Guest Dock; Public Launch Ramp; Marina Fuels**
- Used Oil Recycling: **Marina Fuels**

Los Angeles Harbor *Enjoy San Pedro's Wharf*

- Sewage Pumpout: **Cabrillo Fuel Dock**
- Used Oil Recycling: **Jankovich Fuel Dock; Cabrillo Fuel Dock**

Redondo Beach *Enjoy the Pier or the SEA Lab*

- Sewage Pumpouts: **In front of the Harbormaster's Office**
- Used Oil Recycling: **Rocky Point Marine Shop**

SEA Life at Your Fingertips



The SEA Lab, a program of the Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LACC), is an interactive coastal science center in Redondo Beach that offers programs for children of all ages, coordinates community service activities, and participates in coastal conservation. Open to the public, visitors can enjoy tons of free and low-cost activities from touch tanks with exotic creatures to movie nights about mysterious marine life.

The roots of the SEA Lab were established in 1974, when Southern California Edison developed a “fish return system” that returns fish accidentally swept into the plant’s intake system safely back to the ocean. The research was housed in the facility now known as the SEA Lab. To this day, most of the horn sharks, bat rays, halibut, sheephead, and jellyfish at the SEA Lab are rescued from the local industrial intake systems.

The mission of the SEA Lab is “to conserve the coastal environment through education and participation” Stephanie Miller, Public Programs Coordinator, explained. It’s obvious their mission is a roaring success. As year eight of their 10-year grant from Edison closes out, the Los Angeles Conservation Corps is already seeking new sources of funding to support the SEA Lab well into the future. “When you get to touch something you’re going to experience it much more than just looking at it or reading about it. A hands-on, interactive experience is something we believe in.” Miller says of the SEA Lab. “This place is something worth protecting.”



Projects:

The SEA Lab keeps busy with a monsoon of activities and projects, including:

- **Tours** available every weekend.
every hour on the hour
- **Family “Fishtivities;”** loads of games, art projects, story telling, and much more for FREE.
First Saturday of the month
- **Beach Exploration** - FREE guided ventures for visitors.
Last Saturday of the month
- **Tidepool animal feeding** with an informative talk about their behavior.
Every Saturday at noon
- Development of educational programs and curriculum for interns, students, and the general public.
- The Traveling Tidepool mobile exhibit which helps teach coastal science at inner city schools.
- Partnerships with other environmental groups such as Heal the Bay, the Algalita Research Facility, and the Fish Contamination Education Collaborative.

- Participation in the Redondo Beach Bluffs Restoration Project (coastal habitat restoration).
- Housing university research projects such as the White Sea Bass program and the California Abalone breeding program.

Future events:



February 4-5, 2005
Weekend film feature: “California Sea Lions: an unforgettable encounter.”

March 26, 2005
Spring Children's Concert: Participate in the Shark Egg Hunt. Enjoy music made just for SEA Lab, composed and performed by Nick Young.

April 30, 2005
Earth Day Fair

For more information about hours, tour information, or special events contact Stephanie Miller at **(310) 318-7458** or visit www.lacorps.org and click on “SEA Lab.”

The Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission Presents:

Who Should Attend

Everyone interested in the state and health of coastal watersheds and waterbodies should make plans to attend this conference.

This includes:

- Scientists and educators
- Legislators and public officials
- Local agencies and organizations
- Land use planners
- Decision makers at all levels of government
- Environmental leaders and non-profit groups
- Businesses and industries affected by regulations

State of the Bay Progress & Challenges

A one-day conference to examine progress made and challenges still ahead in the restoration of Santa Monica Bay and its resources. Session topics will include storm water management, habitat restoration, education and outreach, public health protection, and science and technology.

January 13, 2005
Skirball Cultural Center
Los Angeles, California

Conference Location

Skirball Cultural Center
2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90049
(Adjacent to the I-405 at Mulholland)
Parking is free.

Contact Information

Call or email Stephanie Katsouleas if you have any questions at **213/576-6641** or skatsouleas@waterboards.ca.gov



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