



Protect Our Coast and Oceans Fund

Fiscal Year 2020/2021

\$72,000 FOR COMMUNITY CLEANUP GRANTS

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, large volunteer cleanup events did not take place, local maintenance staff were stressed, and public lands saw increased visitation and trash issues, including discarded personal protective equipment. Grants of \$12,000 each to the following organizations allowed them to increase their efforts at addressing local litter and dumping issues in urban areas of California and instituted or increased data collection to build knowledge of the problem, all while maintaining practices that were safe for their communities during COVID-19. Read each of their project summaries below.

Urban Tilth

Urban Tilth will design and coordinate a project to decrease illegal dumping and littering along the Richmond Greenway and along Wildcat Creek in North Richmond. This will include monthly cleanup days, several community days of service, four free dumpster days, and a multilingual, multi-faceted anti-dumping and anti-littering campaign.

Lake Merritt Institute

Lake Merritt Institute continues a successful, long running volunteer program that annually removes more than 20,000 pounds of trash from Lake Merritt, a large tidal lagoon and popular recreation spot near downtown Oakland. This grant will support Lake cleanups four days per week (two days with a small group of trained, dedicated volunteers, and two days with staff only) and incorporate data collection as part the cleanups.

Pacific Beach Coalition

Pacific Beach Coalition is building a Street to Beach program in Pacifica and greater San Mateo County, supporting and supplying families and quarantine pods to clean their local neighborhoods. They will train volunteers to collect data, and they will implement a public education campaign about alternatives to frequently littered products.

Save Our Shores

Save Our Shores will conduct 35 small, safe cleanups across Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties focusing primarily on State Park beaches that do not have maintenance staff available to deal with the increased visitation and trash impacts to their parks. They will train and coordinate volunteers to track, record, and report data on what they collect.

Pacoima Beautiful

Pacoima Beautiful will conduct four community cleanups including targeting local hotspots as well as recreation destinations for the community. Their youth team will organize and conduct a beach cleanup and a waterway/picnic area cleanup in the Angeles Forest, with watershed education as part of the experience.

Orange County Coastkeeper

OC Coastkeeper will coordinate and activate small emergency cleanup teams made up of experienced volunteers to safely clean and collect data on polluted creeks, channels and beaches. This grant will also support once per month cleanup supply distribution outside grocery stores to encourage individual and family cleanups and data collection. In addition, OC Coastkeeper will offer once per month webinars on plastic pollution and related issues and 24 online presentations for K-12 teachers and their students in Orange County.