



Protect Our Coast and Oceans Fund

Fiscal Year 2025/2026
Total Awarded: \$158,301

\$70,280 for Kids Ocean Day School Program & Beach Field Trip

This program engages low-income schools from coastal and inland communities and involves upwards of 8,000 children a year. The program was started in Los Angeles County in 1993 by the Malibu Foundation for Environmental Education with the support of the Coastal Commission, and has expanded to multiple locations in California. This year the Protect Our Coast and Oceans Fund supported the program in San Diego (I Love a Clean San Diego), Kern County (Community Action Partnership of Kern), San Francisco Bay Area (Marine Science Institute), and Humboldt Bay (Friends of the Dunes). The program includes a school assembly or classroom presentation and discussion of watersheds and the storm drain system, waste and litter reduction strategies, and the impact on the ocean and marine species. Teachers are provided with additional related activities to conduct with their classes. At the end of the school year, students enjoy a field trip coinciding with World Oceans Day to play at the beach, participate in a beach cleanup, and create an aerial art display by standing in formation to spell out an ocean conservation message which is photographed from above. The theme for the 2026 aerial art was "Coast For All."

\$8,021 to Sonoma County Parks Foundation for Beach Wheelchairs

With large balloon tires able to move across soft sand, beach wheelchairs expand coastal access for people with mobility challenges. Sonoma County Parks Foundation will purchase two beach wheelchairs for use at Doran Beach in Doran Regional Park, a popular location with 120 public campsites. Doran Beach currently has three well-used, aging wheelchairs available for public use, but none can accommodate a demonstrated need for a higher user weight limit. The Foundation will purchase one reclining chair and one higher-weight-limit chair, which will be made available to the public to borrow for free.

\$30,000 to Heal the Bay Adopt-A-Beach Program

Heal the Bay serves as the coordinator for both the Adopt-A-Beach Program and Coastal Cleanup Day for Los Angeles County. As the coordinator of the Adopt-A-Beach Program, the organization arranges cleanups and provides supplies for hundreds of groups of volunteers committed to cleaning a beach three times during a year. They organize Adopt-A-Beach field trips and provide bus funding to participating low-income schools. Heal the Bay also hosts monthly zero-waste "Nothin' But Sand" public cleanup events and maintains an interactive database of cleanup data.

\$30,000 to I Love A Clean San Diego Adopt-A-Beach Program

I Love A Clean San Diego serves as the coordinator for both the Adopt-A-Beach Program and Coastal Cleanup Day for San Diego County. As the Adopt-A-Beach Program coordinator, they offer a number of enhanced features such as acknowledging adopting volunteers by placing placards with their group names at adopted locations, delivering interpretive presentations to cleanup volunteers, coordinating cleanups at inland canyons with waterways that drain to the coast, and hosting interactive litter-tracking and volunteer databases. They encourage zero-waste cleanups by offering kits with reusable supplies.

\$20,000 to Save Our Shores Adopt-A-Beach Program

Save Our Shores serves as the coordinator for both the Adopt-A-Beach Program and Coastal Cleanup Day for Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties. As the coordinator of the Adopt-A-Beach Program, the organization arranges cleanups and provides supplies for dozens of groups of volunteers committed to cleaning a beach three times per year. They also maintain a database of cleanup data.



Heal the Bay cleanup results



Beach field trip with Community Action Partnership of Kern