

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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***For Immediate Release****Contact:*

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**COASTAL COMMISSION ANNOUNCES LATEST CYCLE OF
 GRANT AWARDS TOTALING \$754,000
 FOR CALIFORNIA COASTAL AND MARINE EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

⇒ Sea level rise education projects in Marin and Alameda counties ⇒ Marine life monitoring in Avila Beach ⇒ Educational boat trips in Santa Cruz, Ventura, and Los Angeles counties ⇒ An ocean exhibit at the State Fair ⇒ Training future ocean policy leaders in Monterey ⇒ These programs and more benefit from the latest round of funding from California's WHALE TAIL® License Plate.

(SAN FRANCISCO, June 17, 2015)—The California Coastal Commission has finished awarding three-quarters of a million dollars to 36 ocean education projects throughout the state. The grants are funded by sales of the popular WHALE TAIL® License Plate. (See below for license plate purchasing information.)

Grants were awarded to the following organizations (individual project descriptions, organized by county, are provided in the attachment):

SAN DIEGO COUNTY:

Groundwork San Diego – Chollas Creek
 I Love A Clean San Diego (2)
 San Onofre Parks Foundation

ORANGE COUNTY:

Crystal Cove Alliance
 ExplorOcean
 Orange County Coastkeeper

LOS ANGELES COUNTY:

El Monte Union High School District
 Heal the Bay
 Lawndale High School
 Malibu Foundation for Environmental Education
 STAR, Inc.

VENTURA COUNTY:

Parkview Elementary School

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY:

Cabrillo High School Aquarium

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY:

Central Coast Aquarium

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KERN COUNTY:

Community Action Partnership of Kern

FRESNO COUNTY:

Fresno's Chaffee Zoo

MONTEREY COUNTY:

Center for Ocean Solutions, Stanford University

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY:

Live Oak School District

O'Neill Sea Odyssey

SAN MATEO COUNTY:

Marine Science Institute

SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY:

Bay Institute

ALAMEDA COUNTY:

California Environmental Technology Education Network

KIDS for the BAY/Earth Island Institute

MARIN COUNTY:

Marin County Community Development Agency

The Marine Mammal Center

SACRAMENTO COUNTY:

California Exposition & State Fair

SONOMA AND MENDOCINO COUNTIES:

Coastwalk California

Fort Ross Conservancy

HUMBOLDT COUNTY:

City of Arcata

Friends of the Dunes

DEL NORTE COUNTY:

Tolowa Dunes Stewards/Friends of the Dunes

STATEWIDE:

Lawrence Hall of Science, UC Berkeley

National Fisheries Conservation Center

Tides Center (2)

The grants program supports marine education and coastal habitat improvement programs in California. Funding priorities include:

- high-quality coastal and marine education;
- providing access to the coast for underserved students and populations;
- general public education on issues about the health of watersheds and the ocean;
- enhancement of beaches or other coastal habitats;
- reaching low-income, multicultural, or inland populations;
- creative, innovative ideas.

The WHALE TAIL® Grants Program runs on an annual cycle and grant applications for the next cycle will be available in the fall of 2015. Please call (800) COAST-4U or e-mail coast4u@coastal.ca.gov to be put on a mailing list or for other information.

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The WHALE TAIL[®] License Plate is a way for individuals to use their purchasing power to support marine education, and to make a statement of their support for our coast and ocean. Revenue from sales of the plate benefit a variety of coastal and marine education and conservation programs, including the WHALE TAIL[®] License Plate grants program. To date, over 228,000 Californians have purchased the WHALE TAIL[®] Plate. It is one of the most popular specialty plates in California. The plate features an image of a whale diving into the sea. It costs \$50, or \$98 to have it personalized. The annual renewal fee is \$40 for a regular plate and \$78 for a personalized plate. The WHALE TAIL[®] plate can be ordered over the Internet at WWW.ECOPLATES.COM, by calling (800) COAST-4U, or through the DMV.

The Commission is committed to protecting and enhancing California's coast and ocean for present and future generations. It does so through careful planning and regulation of environmentally-sustainable development, rigorous use of science, strong public participation, education, and effective intergovernmental coordination. The WHALE TAIL[®] Grants Program is part of its effort to raise public awareness of marine and coastal resources and promote coastal stewardship.

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2014/15 WHALE TAIL® GRANTS BY COUNTY

SAN DIEGO COUNTY (\$60,187):

- **Groundwork San Diego – Chollas Creek** for the Chollas Creek Climate Change Challenge (\$10,000). Students from Encanto will learn about climate change and the relationship between carbon dioxide emissions and the health of marine resources such as the endangered Eastern Pacific green sea turtles in San Diego Bay.
- **I Love A Clean San Diego** for the Adopt-A-Beach Program in San Diego County (\$29,550). The program will recognize beach cleanup volunteers through signs at their adopted beaches, give interpretive presentations to groups conducting their cleanups, recruit “adopters” for inland creeks, maintain “do it yourself” beach cleanup stations, and launch zero-waste Adopt-A-Beach cleanups.
- **I Love A Clean San Diego** for the Kids’ Adopt-A-Beach Assembly Program and Beach Cleanup in San Diego County (\$18,000). The program will educate students at 7 underserved elementary schools about the harmful effects of ocean pollution, and will host a beach cleanup event for 700 students.
- **San Onofre Parks Foundation** for a new beach wheelchair (\$2,637). A special wheelchair that can be pushed across the sand will be purchased for visitors to San Onofre State Beach.

ORANGE COUNTY (\$57,000):

- **Crystal Cove Alliance** for “SNAP!— Science and Nature at the Park” (\$20,000). A variety of citizen science education programs will be offered at Crystal Cove State Park, including Marine Protected Area citizen science boat cruises, science-focused school programs, and related public exhibits.
- **ExplorOcean** for the "H₂O SOS" program (\$20,000). Underserved middle and high school students will learn about different threats to the ocean, pick one to research, and then present a public awareness campaigns to address the threat.
- **Orange County Coastkeeper** for the Kids’ Adopt-A-Beach Assembly Program and Beach Cleanup in Orange County (\$17,000). The program will educate students at ten inland elementary schools about the harmful effects of ocean pollution, and will host a beach cleanup event for 1,000 students.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY (\$73,640):

- **El Monte Union High School District** for "LA Watershed Explorers: From River to Sea" (\$5,640). Arroyo High School students will spend 6 weeks learning about pollution and their local watershed along the length of the Los Angeles River. This project will serve as a model for seven other high schools in the district.
- **Heal the Bay** for continuing the Adopt-A-Beach Program in Los Angeles County (\$30,000). Activities will include arranging cleanups for volunteers who adopt beaches, holding large monthly public cleanup events, and transporting students from underserved inland schools for a beach cleanup and educational presentation.

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- **Lawndale High School** for the Marine Biology Exposure Project (\$10,000). Teens in the school's Marine Science Academy will conduct different ocean science studies during on-the-water boat trips. Afterward, they will prepare and deliver lessons to youth at nearby middle schools.
- **Malibu Foundation for Environmental Education** for the Kids' Adopt-A-Beach Assembly Program and Beach Cleanup in Los Angeles County (\$18,000). The program will educate students at 12 underserved elementary schools about the harmful effects of ocean pollution, and will host a beach cleanup event for 1,200 students.
- **STAR, Inc.** for "Get Your Green On - Animal Style" (\$10,000). 664 students from underserved, urban schools in Los Angeles will participate in eight hands-on environmental education lessons, which will also feature live rescued animals and information to share with their parents.

VENTURA COUNTY (\$9,992)

- **Parkview Elementary School** for the "Ocean Ambassadors" project (\$9,992). Fourth-grade students will take a series of marine education field trips including tidepool studies on Anacapa Island, water quality testing on the Ventura River, and learning about wetlands and watershed protection at Ormond Beach. Some of the students will also attend a conference in Palm Springs to present what they learned.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY (\$25,000)

- **Cabrillo High School** in the Lompoc Unified School District for an expansion of the school's aquarium (\$25,000). The Cabrillo High School Aquarium, a student-run facility, will add wet labs for student projects for hands-on exploration of different ocean science topics.

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY (\$14,912)

- **Central Coast Aquarium** in Avila Beach for the Marine Life Monitoring Program (\$14,912). At least 400 students in grades 4-12 at underserved schools in nearby counties will observe and identify marine life on the open bay, rocky shore, and sandy beach. They will also share their data and learn about water quality and ocean stewardship.

KERN COUNTY (\$8,932):

- **Community Action Partnership of Kern** for an after-school marine studies program (\$8,932). For after-school science lessons for children at Friendship House Community Center and Shafter Youth Center, featuring ocean science topics, prehistoric marine life fossils from "Shark Tooth Hill" near Bakersfield (brought by Buena Vista Museum of Natural History & Science), and a field trip to the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach.

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FRESNO COUNTY (\$7,500):

- **Fresno's Chaffee Zoo** for a Kids' Adopt-A-Beach Cleanup (\$7,500). The program will educate 200 students from Fresno about the harmful effects of ocean pollution and will bring the children to Monterey for a beach cleanup event.

MONTEREY COUNTY (\$25,000):

- **Center for Ocean Solutions** at Stanford University for an ocean policy course in Monterey (\$25,000). An intensive two-week course in Monterey will be offered to graduate students covering challenges to ocean and coastal health, how to address the challenges in policy-making contexts, and key professional skills for emerging conservation leaders.

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY (\$19,800):

- **Live Oak School District** for "STEAM to the Rescue" (\$10,000). Fifth-grade classes at three elementary schools will identify, investigate, and solve a real-life problem relating to Monterey Bay. They will also participate in litter cleanups, water quality analysis, an educational boat trip, and an art project from recycled materials illustrating the different principles of ocean literacy. The project's different components combine Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math ("STEAM").
- **O'Neill Sea Odyssey** for transportation for Sea Odyssey students (\$9,800). Underserved students will receive bus transportation to attend the O'Neill Sea Odyssey program, an environmental stewardship program taking place aboard a 65-foot catamaran and at an educational center on land. Lessons focus on marine biology, navigation, and pollution prevention. Participating classes will "earn" their trip by first completing an approved community service project.

SAN MATEO COUNTY (\$10,000):

- **Marine Science Institute** of Redwood City for the Kids' Adopt-A-Beach Assembly Program and Beach Cleanup in the San Francisco Bay Area (\$10,000). The program will educate students at underserved elementary schools in Marin and San Francisco about the harmful effects of ocean pollution, and will host a beach cleanup event for at least 500 students.

SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY (\$30,000):

- **Bay Institute** for shoreline cleanups on the east side of San Francisco (\$30,000). Aquarium of the Bay staff will lead year-round volunteer shoreline cleanups on San Francisco's east side and share a marine debris public education program with participants, including volunteers recruited from Bayview Hunters Point.

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ALAMEDA COUNTY (\$39,561):

- **California Environmental Technology Education Network** for a digital sea level rise mapping project (\$7,561). Environmental science students at Oakland Technical High School will learn GIS technology and create products linking existing maps with photos and information about local structures in Oakland and Alameda expected to be flooded with rising sea levels. They will also study the science behind climate change, sea level rise, and urban structures dissolving in sea water.
- **KIDS for the BAY/Earth Island Institute** for the Watershed Action – Coastal Connections Program (\$32,000). Elementary students at urban schools in Oakland and Richmond will be able to take educational coastal field trips as part of their environmental education lessons focusing on local creeks, the San Francisco Bay, and pollution prevention.

MARIN COUNTY (\$60,900):

- **Marin County Community Development Agency** for “Youth Exploring Sea Level Rise Science” (\$28,900). In collaboration with the King Tides Project and Shore Up Marin, a curriculum on climate science, sea level rise, mapping, and data collection will be created and taught to students in low-lying, economically diverse high schools. The high school students will also document local areas vulnerable to flooding and share their data and observations with the public and county planners.
- **The Marine Mammal Center** for the Climate Change Education Initiative (\$32,000). The Marine Mammal Center will train volunteers and staff on climate change science and how to interpret the information to the visiting public, enabling them to teach thousands of visitors a year about the effects of climate change and how they can reduce their carbon footprints. TMMC will also produce an animated video about reducing one’s carbon footprint and the effects of climate change on marine animals.

SACRAMENTO COUNTY (\$40,000):

- **California Exposition & State Fair** for the “Beach Buddy Adventure” (\$40,000). A large exhibition at the 2015 State Fair about the coast and ocean will feature aquatic flora and fauna, different stations with conservation information and activities, and information on ways people can get involved with helping California’s coastal environment.

SONOMA AND MENDOCINO COUNTIES (\$32,890):

- **Coastwalk California** to support the Adopt-A-Beach program in Sonoma County (\$23,150). Coastwalk will set up a centralized, countywide Adopt-A-Beach website as a “one-stop shop” for cleanup volunteers. The site will include mapping all the sites in Sonoma County available for volunteer waterway cleanups, driving and parking directions, a place for posting data about the litter items removed, and a list of cleanup supplies volunteers can pick up from Coastwalk’s “Lending Library.”

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- **Fort Ross Conservancy** for a marine ecology program (\$9,740). Underserved students from Sonoma and Mendocino counties (including youth from the Kashia Band of Pomo Indians), as well as elsewhere in the San Francisco Bay Area, will come to Fort Ross to learn about different topics including local plants and animals and natural resource exploitation, and to take a census of sea lions and other marine mammals they see. Some participants will be able to spend the night at the coast.

HUMBOLDT COUNTY (\$23,709):

- **City of Arcata** for a storm drain mural project (\$9,709). Students and selected local artists will create educational pollution prevention murals on four storm drains in town that lead to local creeks. There will also be a gallery exhibit showcasing the mural designs, as well as a brochure for a self-guided walking tour of the murals including which creek each drain flows into, the species that depend on a clean creek, where that creek enters Humboldt Bay, and how to reduce stormwater pollution.
- **Friends of the Dunes** for the Kids' Adopt-A-Beach Assembly Program and Beach Cleanup in Humboldt County (\$14,000). The assembly program will educate students at underserved and inland elementary schools about dune ecosystems and the harmful effects of ocean pollution, and will host a beach cleanup and invasive plant removal event for 800 students.

DEL NORTE COUNTY (\$20,000):

- **Tolowa Dunes Stewards/Friends of the Dunes** for habitat restoration and education (\$20,000). Tolowa Dunes Stewards (a project of Friends of the Dunes) will work with Del Norte County youth, with an emphasis on tribal youth, to help them appreciate and care for the Tolowa Coast through habitat restoration as well as learn about conservation career options. TDS will also educate the youth and their families about stewardship opportunities.

STATEWIDE (\$194,977):

- **Lawrence Hall of Science, UC Berkeley** for creating marine science lessons aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards (\$36,277). To align the widely used "MARE" marine education curriculum with the Next Generation Science Standards by rewriting units, adding new activities, and training and sharing the information with educators.
- **National Fisheries Conservation Center** for the Kids' Adopt-A-Beach Assembly Program and Beach Cleanup (\$10,500). This grant will support statewide coordination of an aerial art component at five Kids' Adopt-A-Beach Cleanup events.
- **Tides Center** for school-based marine education activities (\$100,700), including developing educational materials and providing teacher training workshops; and for the Community-Based Restoration and Education Program (CBREP) (\$47,500). The CBREP will provide training and assistance to community-based wetland habitat restoration groups. In Orange County, the program will mobilize community volunteers to restore habitat at Upper Newport Bay.