



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STUDENTS AROUND THE GLOBE CAME TO CHULA VISTA FOR WORLD WATER MONITORING DAY

San Diego Coastkeeper's New Patrol Boat Unveiled as Part of Day's Events

San Diego Coastkeeper and the San Diego Citizen Watershed Monitoring Consortium coordinated the **6th Annual World Water Monitoring Day** on Thursday, **October 18, 2007** at the Chula Vista Nature Center in Chula Vista, California. This event is part of a worldwide effort to assess and improve water quality and raise awareness of water quality issues in San Diego and around the globe.

Held annually between September 18 and October 18, World Water Monitoring Month is an international outreach program that builds public awareness and involvement in protecting water resources around the world. This event marked the 35th anniversary of the Clean Water Act. Since its inception in 2002 more than 80,000 people have participated in 50 countries. Students, teachers and citizens throughout San Diego County conducted water quality analyses to assess and positively impact the health of local rivers, lakes, estuaries and other water bodies.

"World Water Monitoring Day allows students to join together and take a hands-on approach to understanding the value of clean water for people, plants and wildlife", said Karen Franz, Watershed Monitoring Program Director, "the data collected today are shared with other students around the world – illustrating that this is an issue of international significance for which we are all responsible."

World Water Monitoring Day featured water quality monitoring activities for approximately 200 school children from San Diego, Baja California, Mexico and Poland. Students from High Tech High Chula Vista, Perkins Elementary, Instituto Juan Diego and Instituto Defensores de Baja California in Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico and Polish high schools Zygmunt Sajny High School and Jasinski High School participated in today's World Water Monitoring Day activities.

Students participated in a number of hands-on water education activities including rotating between various water monitoring stations with San Diego Coastkeeper, Bioassessment, Edible Aquifer, Green Machine, San Diego County of Education Splash Lab,

Best Management Practices and the Chula Vista Nature Center. In addition, students from San Diego, Tijuana, Mexico, Baja California, Mexico and Poland conducted water monitoring from San Diego Coastkeeper's new boat – *Clean Sweep*. Their water monitoring results will be combined with other students monitoring in San Diego, China, Japan, Mexico, Poland, Russia, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

"The international students have had the opportunity to explore the Chula Vista Bayfront and to test the Bay's water. By doing this, they embody the right and responsibility that each one of us has to be stewards of our environment." said San Diego Coastkeeper Executive Director Bruce Reznik.

This year we celebrated public stewardship of water quality and conservation, the importance of clean water in the San Diego Region and educating our youth on watershed protection and the value of World Water Monitoring Day.

World Water Monitoring Day was held at the Chula Vista Nature Center located at 1000 Gunpowder Point Drive, Chula Vista, California. Events took place from 10:00am-12:00pm on Thursday, October 18 and included a news conference; speakers included Mayor of Chula Vista **Cheryl Cox**, San Diego Coastkeeper Executive Director **Bruce Reznik**, San Diego Citizen Watershed Monitoring Consortium and San Diego Coastkeeper Watershed Monitoring Program Director **Karen Franz** and Chula Vista Nature Center Curator of Birds **Charles Gailband**. We would also like to thank our corporate sponsors Henry's Marketplace, Trader Joes, Starbucks, Vons and Ralphs, for their contributions to this event.

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San Diego Coastkeeper protects the region's bays, beaches, watersheds and ocean for the people and wildlife that depend on them. We balance community outreach, education and advocacy to promote stewardship of clean water and a healthy coastal ecosystem.

The San Diego Regional Watershed Monitoring Consortium facilitates and coordinates water monitoring activities throughout the region, including providing testing kits for K-12 students to participate in the World Water Monitoring Month.

The Chula Vista Nature Center is dedicated to serving the public by providing a quality nature center/living museum experience while promoting coastal resource conservation and environmental stewardship through education.