



SAN DIEGO  
COASTKEEPER®

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2023



SAN DIEGO  
COASTKEEPER

# OUR VISION & MISSION

## VISION

Swimmable, Drinkable and Fishable waters in San Diego County.

## MISSION

Protecting and restoring coastal and inland waters in San Diego County.

Using community science, grassroots engagement, education and direct legal action to reduce pollution and build climate resilient communities.

Leading innovative, community-centered solutions that protect our marine and freshwater resources for future generations.



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Performance Highlights	<u>4</u>
Message from the Executive Director	<u>5</u>
Staff & Board Members	<u>6-7</u>
Victories in Advocacy	<u>8</u>
Litigation & Enforcement	<u>9</u>
Marine Debris Program	<u>10</u>
Education Program	<u>11</u>
Community Science Program	<u>12</u>
Seaside Soirée	<u>13</u>
Financial Overview	<u>14</u>
Thank You to Our Supporters	<u>15-16</u>
Vision for 2024	<u>17</u>
How you Can Get Involved	<u>18</u>



# PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

*Click the icons to learn more*



GRADE  
K-12  
STUDENT  
ENGAGEMENTS  
**2,502**



LAWSUITS  
PURSUED TO  
UPHOLD THE  
CLEAN WATER ACT  
**11**



BEACH  
CLEANUP  
EVENTS HELD  
**49**



ADVOCACY  
COMMENT  
LETTERS WRITTEN  
**35**



COMMUNITY  
VOLUNTEERS  
TRAINED  
TO MONITOR  
WATER QUALITY  
**88**



NEW HIRES  
FOR  
OUR  
ORGANIZATION  
**4**



RELOCATED TO  
**1**  
NEW OFFICE  
LOCATION

**8305 VICKERS STREET, SUITE 209  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92111**



SAN DIEGO  
COASTKEEPER

# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Phillip Musegaas*



*Click the photo to learn  
more about our ED*

Hello Clean Water Champions!

It is hard to believe it has been a year and a half since I took the helm of San Diego Coastkeeper, and dove headfirst into the world of stormwater funding deficits, Point La Jolla sea lions and the Tijuana sewage crisis- each a singular clean water, political or coastal marine biodiversity challenge, yet knit together by the common threads of a radically changing climate, failing public infrastructure and the unique problems, and opportunities, that come with being a border city.

With Coastkeeper's incredible staff leading the way, we are taking on these challenges with grit, creativity, environmental street-smarts and the strength of our diverse partnerships. Our partners range from environmental nonprofits, social justice community advocates and ace environmental attorneys to the City of San Diego, all critical to our success in pursuing our mission of clean water. In turn, we bring our unique skillset to bear, using community science, grassroots action, education and direct legal action to hold polluters accountable and work collaboratively on the best solutions to help build a sustainable future for San Diego.

I hope this report back on our work in 2023 inspires, excites and reaffirms for each of you the value of our work and mission, and leads you to think about how we prepare for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. As I said when we first met, Coastkeeper's vision of the future is disarmingly simple – it starts and ends with clean water and healthy, safe communities that enable people to thrive and wild nature to keep being wild.

Thanks for joining us on this journey to make our vision a reality!

Phillip Musegaas  
Executive Director & Waterkeeper



# STAFF MEMBERS

*Click their photo to learn more*



**PATRICK MCDONOUGH**  
*SENIOR  
ATTORNEY*  
JAN 2019 - PRESENT



**MELANIE CROCE**  
*DEVELOPMENT  
DIRECTOR*  
FEB 2023 - PRESENT



**MARIE DIAZ**  
*MARINE PROGRAM  
MANAGER*  
FEB 2019 - PRESENT



**ERICK VALDEZ**  
*EDUCATION  
MANAGER*  
JUL 2023 - PRESENT



**LESLY  
GALLEGOS-STEARNES**  
*VOLUNTEER &  
OUTREACH COORDINATOR*  
JUL 2023 - PRESENT



**RIO CARMELLO-UYEJI**  
*OPERATIONS  
COORDINATOR*  
SEP 2023 - PRESENT

**DELANIE MEDINA** - *EDUCATION MANAGER*; 2020 - APR 2023

**ALYSSA SENTURK** - *COMMS & OUTREACH DIRECTOR*; 2021 - MAR 2024

**RACHELE LOPEZ** - *SCIENCE DIRECTOR*; 2020 - JAN 2024

**LUCERO WEBER** - *CAMPAIGNS MANAGER*; 2020 - MAY 2023

## 2023 COLLEGE CORPS FELLOWS & INTERNS

**MINNA LARA** - *LEGAL & POLICY FELLOW*

**WYATT SLOAN** - *BEACH CLEANUP INTERN*

**ROWAN MATHEWS** - *BEACH CLEANUP INTERN*

**LOLA SCHETTINI RAMIREZ** - *SCIENCE FELLOW*

**ALEXIS PADILLA** - *EDUCATION FELLOW*



# BOARD MEMBERS

**CHANTÉ COLEMAN**  
*PRESIDENT*  
2022 - PRESENT

**SRI CRESSY**  
*VICE PRESIDENT*  
2022 - PRESENT

**LEE DURAN**  
*TREASURER*  
2021 - PRESENT

**DIANE CASTANEDA**  
*SECRETARY*  
2020 - PRESENT

**LAURA MARION**  
*BOARD MEMBER*  
2023 - PRESENT

**LORENA ROEL**  
*BOARD MEMBER*  
2023 - PRESENT

**KATIE PETTIT**  
*BOARD MEMBER*  
2023 - PRESENT

**JOE CALLAHAN**  
*BOARD MEMBER*  
2020 - PRESENT

**BRUCE REZNIK\***  
*BOARD MEMBER*  
2017 - 2023

**TYLER HEE\***  
*BOARD MEMBER*  
2020 - 2023

**MICHAEL TORTI\***  
*BOARD MEMBER*  
2020 - 2023

*\*indicates their term ended in 2023*



# VICTORIES IN ADVOCACY

## 8 NOTEWORTHY IMPACTS ON POLICY CHANGE



We prevented the San Diego Regional Water Board from weakening bacteria standards that are set to **protect public health** for people recreating in coastal waters.



Our new grassroots coalition persuaded President Biden and Congress to approve **\$156 million** in new funding to **address the Tijuana sewage** pollution crisis.



We teamed up with San Diego Audubon on the **ReWild Mission Bay** Campaign, which is on track to see the City of San Diego approve over 200 acres of tidal wetland expansion to improve water quality & climate resilience.



We led support for City Council & Coastal Commission's enactment of year round closure of Point La Jolla to put an end to recurring animal harassment and **protect native sea lions** and their pups.



We weighed in on California's 10-year review of its **Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)**, which instills that MPAs are critical to the health of coastal fisheries & marine habitat; including the 6 in that Coastkeeper helped establish in San Diego.



We continued citizen oversight of the **"Pure Water San Diego"**, which is on track to provide 30 million gallons of clean drinking water by 2026, and 50% of the City's drinking water needs by 2035.



We teamed up with California Coastkeeper Alliance to help pass new state laws **banning destructive, invasive aquatic plants** and improvements to tracking water usage across the state which will reduce inequities in water access & rates.



We **testified at over 45 public meetings**, vocalizing our clean water priorities to everyone from the City Council to the California Governor's office.





# LITIGATION & ENFORCEMENT

San Diego Coastkeeper uses litigation as a powerful tool to hold polluters accountable for Clean Water Act violations and protect our local rivers, streams, estuaries, and coast.

## KEY CASES PURSUED:

### INDUSTRIAL STORMWATER PERMIT VIOLATIONS:

- Vulcan Materials Company
- BAPKO Metal, Inc.
- Minshew Brothers Steel Construction, Inc.
- Nucor Harris Rebar
- San Diego Asphalt Recycling Center, Inc.
- NEOTech/Oncore Manufacturing, LLC
- Watkins Manufacturing Corporation



### SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT PERMIT VIOLATIONS:

- U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission
- Veolia Water West Operating Services, Inc.



## THANK YOU TO OUR LEGAL PARTNERS

Coastal Environmental Rights Foundation,  
Coast Law Group, California Coastkeeper Alliance, Environmental  
Advocates, Ecological Rights Foundation, Center for Food Safety  
& Our Children's Earth Foundation



# MARINE DEBRIS PROGRAM



Coastkeeper hosts inland and coastal cleanups throughout the year to remove harmful waste from waterways. We also hold periodic restoration events in partnership with **Otay Valley Regional Park** to enhance riparian habitat.



Cleanup volunteers collect, identify & quantify trash to help us understand its origins and composition.



This data, collected and analyzed in partnership with **Surfrider San Diego**, and informs our advocacy work to support a cleaner environment. Read the full [2023 Marine Debris Report](#).

## 2023 IMPACT

Volunteers	11,264
Pounds Removed	19,216
Items Removed	300,002
Events	268



## 2023 BEACH CLEANUP SPONSORS

- Chinook Therapeutics
- STACK Infrastructure
- MIT Alumni Association
- Cue Health
- Motorola Solutions
- American Spice Trade Association
- Toro Company
- Atlas General Insurance Company
- Troutman Pepper
- RMR Group

- Plan Source
- Sun Life
- Kauffman School
- LightStream
- Travel for Teens
- Solar Turbines Inc.
- SC Johnson Lifestyle Brands
- Coronado Brewing Company
- National Energy and Utility Affordability Coalition

- Calpine Energy Solutions
- Procure
- Sand Cloud
- ASCM San Diego
- PLSA Engineering
- RBC Wealth Management
- IAPD
- Amazon Web Services
- Becton, Dickinson, and Co.
- Opto Investments



# EDUCATION PROGRAM



## PROJECT SWELL: K-8 EDUCATION

This innovative environmental education program connects San Diego students to climate science and local water issues. **Project SWELL** was developed in partnership with **Think Blue San Diego** and is available to teachers of grades K-8 within the San Diego Unified School District with a focus on Title 1 Schools. A special thanks to our partners at **Elementary Institute of Science (EIS)** for facilitating these engagements.

## K-8 IMPACT

Students Engaged	965
Total Engagements	2,082



## SCIENCE TO STEWARDSHIP: HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION

Through a series of field trips and in-class engagements, students learn to become change-makers through knowledge building on local water quality issues and then developing projects in their own community. **Science to Stewardship** is a place-based education program which engages high school students within the San Diego Bay watershed, in partnership with the **Port of San Diego**.

## HIGH SCHOOL IMPACT

Students Engaged	150
Total Engagements	420

## SCHOOLS ENGAGED IN 2023

- Chollas/Mead Elementary (EIS)
- Marston Middle
- Horton Elementary (EIS)
- Encanto Elementary (EIS)
- Porter Elementary (EIS)
- High Tech High Media Arts
- Miller Elementary
- Vista Grande Elementary

- Johnson Elementary (EIS)
- La Jolla Elementary
- Dingeman Elementary
- Doyle Elementary
- Gage Elementary
- Green Elementary
- Penn Elementary
- Museum School





# COMMUNITY SCIENCE PROGRAM

*Collecting vital water quality data while  
empowering community members to become  
environmental stewards*



## MISSION BAY : Water Quality Monitoring

Launched in August 2023, this new program leads monthly water quality sampling of 10 locations throughout Mission Bay with a team of trained community volunteers. This data identifies water quality concerns and complements the **ReWild Mission Bay** campaign.



[Click the Icon to Learn More  
About this Program](#)

## CHOLLAS CREEK : Youth Science Program

In 2023 we trained and led 14 Lincoln High School students on monthly water quality sampling of 6 sites on Chollas Creek, and facilitated outdoor recreation activities and professional development workshops in collaboration with our partners at **Groundwork Chollas Creek** and **Outdoor Outreach**. The data collected helps inform decision-makers about the health of the Creek, and the program empowers youth from diverse backgrounds to enter the environmental workforce.



[Click the Icon to Learn More  
About this Program](#)





# THE SEASIDE SOIRÉE

*an annual celebration  
of our achievements in clean water*



Thank you to those who joined San Diego Coastkeeper for our special golden hour gathering this year, hosted at Tom Ham's Lighthouse!

Over 150 of our closest friends, including Environmental Advocates, Community Leaders, Decision-makers, Supporters & Partners joined us to commemorate 2023 successes in our mission for the future of San Diego County.

We look forward to seeing you at Seaside Soirée 2024!



*Our 2023 Seaside Soirée featured a special presentation by our guest speaker Dr. Jeff Seminoff, head of the Marine Turtle Ecology & Assessment Program at NOAA; and live entertainment by local artist, Jesus Gonzalez.*

## 2023 SPONSORS

**Platinum Level - \$5,000**

**San Diego Regional Airport**

**Satechi**

**NextLeft**

**Gold Level - \$2,500**

**Sand Cloud**

**BAE Systems**

**Silver Level - \$2,000**

**Seaport Village**

**Beneficial State Bank**

**Bronze Level - \$1,000**

**Sportfishing Association of CA**

**Met Water District of So. CA**

**San Diego Unified Port District**



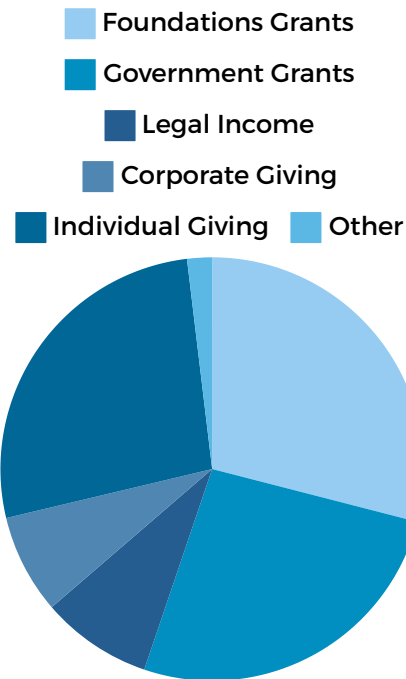
# FINANCIALS

## FY2023

### 2023 REVENUE

Foundation Grants	\$303,893.44
Government Grants	\$274,317.26
Individuals	\$280,910.14
Legal Income	\$88,888.69
Corporate Giving	\$79,584.18
Other	\$19,927.72

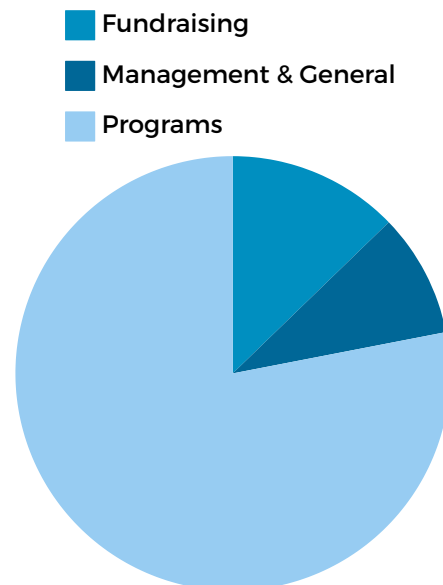
**TOTAL REVENUE** **\$1,047,521.43**



### 2023 EXPENSES

Programs	\$875,058.70
Fundraising	\$143,006.83
Management & General	\$103,118.75

**TOTAL EXPENSES** **\$1,121,184.28**



These figures may differ slightly from the 2023 audited financials statements, which were not available at the time this report was published.



SAN DIEGO  
COASTKEEPER

# THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 SUPPORTERS!

## FUNDERS & DONORS

### **\$150,000+**

Cathy Stiefel & Keith Behner  
Dorrance Family Foundation  
City of San Diego

### **\$25,000 - \$149,999**

Resources Legacy Fund  
Hervey Family Non-endowment Fund at The San Diego Foundation  
Marisla Foundation  
CalEPA  
David Welborn and Ann Hunter-Welborn

### **\$10,000 - \$19,999**

San Diego Unified Port District  
Cox Communications  
Sand Cloud

### **\$5,000 - \$9,999**

Jewish Community Foundation of San Diego  
Hunter Industries  
The Campbell Foundation  
The Elwyn Heller Foundation of San Diego

### **\$2,000 - \$4,999**

Lee Duran Household	Rebecca Jorgensen Household
The San Diego Foundation-Endowment	Tanteo Spirits
Jerome & Carole Turk Household	Susanna Flaster Household
The Kroha/Casner Family	Oregon Community Foundation
Jordan Neysmith Household	The Nature Conservancy
The Samuel I. & John Henry Fox Foundation	

All supporters who donate over \$20 are considered Members indefinitely.  
Thank you to all of our past and continued supporters!



# THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 SUPPORTERS!

## FUNDERS & DONORS CONTINUED

### \$500- \$1,999

Tyler Hee  
Tershia d'Elgin  
Sara Ochoa  
Salmon Family Foundation  
Rudy Robles  
Pamela Maher  
Megan O'Neill  
Max Petrich  
Ashleigh Sheehy  
Sri Cressy

John and Chris Fikes Household  
Brenda Wertanen Household  
David Allgeyer & Melinda Look  
Miller Hull  
Tory Burch  
PALO  
Schmidt Design Group  
FM Global Foundation  
Benjamin Williams

Bill Fletcher  
Laura Marion  
John & Nuri Pierce  
Environmental Help, Inc  
Eileen Zei  
Ed & Carolyn Parrish  
Deborah Wadkins  
Bright Green Family Fund  
Arielle Levine

### \$100- \$499

The San Diego Foundation  
Clam and Clasp  
Evari Consulting Inc.  
Buffalo Exchange  
Collaborative Land Use Solutions  
Loews Coronado Bay Resort  
Campland on the Bay  
San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E)  
Storm Trap  
WILD COAST  
Alberto Corona  
Alex Jiang  
Alicia Appel  
Amanda Matheson  
Amanda Sousa  
Anne Middleton  
Antonio Harper  
April Denny  
Beryl & Edward Flom  
Brian Elliott  
Brian Matthews  
Brianna Datti  
Bruce Reznik  
Chanté Coleman  
Christian McDonald

Christopher Rupp  
Clayton Tschudy  
Courtney Brown  
Craig Heiserman  
Cynthia Benner  
Debra Ann Quick-Jones  
Diane Castaneda  
Diane Nygaard  
Eeva Routio  
Eowyn Bates  
Eric Armstrong  
Erik Humphrey  
Fatima Oguz  
Gale M Krause  
Gary Smith & Kathleen Kemper  
Greg Murphy  
HJ Walker  
Ildiko Lutar  
Jake Keeney  
James Huntley  
Jenny Cornelius  
Katz & Associates  
Cassandra, Patrick & Alyssa Kelley  
Joe & Tori Callahan

Joel Liberson  
John Alper  
John Rouse  
Jose Franco Garcia  
Julie Rueckheim  
Justin Knowles  
Kate Comeskey  
Marisol Williams Mendoza  
Kevin Casillo  
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Laurie & Jeff Lindeneau  
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Maureen Melville  
McDonough-Belknap  
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Miri Montiel  
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Mike & Jackie Wasiluk

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Ross Goldman  
Ryan Burke  
Sam Mazzeo  
Samantha Murray  
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Susan Mitchell & Patrick O'Neil  
Suzanne Walker  
Teresa Barth  
Tracy Tempest  
Valerie Garza  
Vann & Carol Parker  
Victoria Tsai  
Warren Lordo  
Wendy Liu

### Gifts of up to \$100

Starbucks  
Spiral Financial  
Alex Behiling  
Alfredo Guerrero  
Alyssa & Resul Senturk  
Andrew Edmonston  
Andrew Meyer  
Andy Tenn  
Angela Stearns  
Ann Cao  
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Bob Heygood  
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Bryan Eppich

Carol Kerridge  
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Cary Lowe & Patricia Butler  
Casey Giese  
Cassandra Lintz  
Christine Bodell  
Christopher Lund  
Christopher Mecham  
Claudia Moscola  
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Hazelruth Adams  
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Kim-Ashleigh Mostert-Freiberg  
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Leanne Friedrich  
Marco Tomas  
Matthew Marcin  
Nancy Hart

Patrick Ritto  
Paul Couillard  
Paul Herrera  
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Serennella Cosentino-Long  
Roberto Kosaka  
Ryan Wallrich, DMD PC  
Scott Harris  
Serennella Cosentino-Long  
Shelley Woodham  
Theodore Deffenbaugh  
Veronica JH  
William Golisch  
Xyrone Ocampo

All supporters who donate over \$20 are considered Members indefinitely.  
Thank you to all of our past and continued supporters!





# OUR VISION FOR 2024

## **Protect Clean Water**

We will continue to hold polluters accountable, from the Tijuana River to Oceanside, from our inland waterways to our coastal waters, through direct legal action in Federal Court.

## **Advance Climate-Smart Water Supply for San Diego**

We will ensure Pure Water stays on track to start providing clean, sustainable drinking water by 2026, reducing our reliance on the dwindling Colorado River for our regional water needs.

## **Engage and Activate the Public to Protect Clean Water**

Our diverse coalition will galvanize public support for increased stormwater infrastructure funding for San Diego to reduce flooding, improve water quality, increase local supplies, create sustainable green jobs, and provide community benefits like green spaces and parks.

## **Be the Voice for Clean Water for San Diego**

We will continue to speak truth to power in support of equitable, safe, & clean access to our public waterways and clean drinking water for all San Diegans.

## **Make Equity, Inclusion & Justice a Core part of San Diego Coastkeeper**

Through our advocacy, education, litigation and targeted community outreach efforts, we will work tirelessly to dismantle and reverse decades of environmental & social injustice in historically disenfranchised communities of our region.



SAN DIEGO  
COASTKEEPER®

# HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED



DONATE



JOIN US AT AN EVENT



SIGN UP FOR NEWSLETTER



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San Diego, CA 92111  
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[www.sdcoastkeeper.org](http://www.sdcoastkeeper.org)  
Tax ID: 33-0647946

