

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STUDENTS AROUND THE GLOBE COME TO POWAY FOR WORLD WATER MONITORING DAY

*****photos attached*****

San Diego Coastkeeper and the San Diego Citizen Watershed Monitoring Consortium coordinated the **6th Annual World Water Monitoring Day** on Friday, **October 12, 2007** at Old Poway Park, Poway, California. This event was 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 anniversary of the Clean Water Act and 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 engages volunteers worldwide to monitor their local rivers, lakes, streams and watersheds’ water quality and helps assess the state of our precious and threatened water resources,” said San Diego Coastkeeper Executive Director Bruce Reznik.

World Water Monitoring Day featured water quality monitoring activities for approximately 135 school children from San Diego and Baja California, Mexico schools. Students from Mesa Verde Middle School, Poway High School High Tech High International, the Pauma Tribal Land After School Program, and CETYS Universidad Preparatoria and Instituto Defensores de Baja California in Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico participated. Students rotated between various stations including Water Monitoring with San Diego Coastkeeper, Bioassessment, Edible Aquifer, Green Machine, San Diego County of Education Splash Lab, the Old Poway Park Museum and Best Management Practices. Their water monitoring results will be combined with other students monitoring in San Diego, China, Japan, Mexico, Poland, Russia, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

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.

The World Water Monitoring Day media was held at Old Poway Park located at 14134 Midland Road, Poway, California. Events took place from 9:00am-12:00pm on Friday,

October 12 and included a news conference; speakers included San Diego Coastkeeper Watershed Monitoring Program Director *Karen Franz*, Assistant City Manager *Penny Riley*, and Citizen Monitoring Coordinator, *Erick Burres*, from the Clean Water Team – State Water Resources Control Board. We would also like to thank our corporate sponsors Henry's Marketplace, Trader Joes, Starbucks, Vons and Ralphs, for their contributions to this event.

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.

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