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## **WORLD WATER MONITORING DAY SET FOR FRIDAY OCTOBER 13<sup>th</sup> AT OLD POWAY PARK**

*Students, Teachers, Officials Join to Test Water Quality in San Diego as a part of a global effort*

California may be leading the way in terms of environmental legislation for greenhouse gas reduction, but there is still much work to be done to ensure sustainable and clean water for the residents of San Diego County. World Water Monitoring Day is one way whereby each member of the community can become involved in understanding and assessing water quality and preventing further degradation of our most precious resource.

Students, teachers and citizens throughout San Diego County will conduct water quality analyses on Friday, October 13th, as part of World Water Monitoring Day, an effort to assess and positively impact the health of local rivers, lakes, estuaries and other water bodies. This regional event is coordinated by the *San Diego Citizen Watershed Monitoring Consortium* and is part of a worldwide effort to improve water quality.

Held annually between September 18 and October 18, World Water Monitoring Day engages communities in monitoring the condition of local rivers, streams, estuaries and other water bodies. Since its inception, more than 80,000 people have participated in 50 countries. October 18 was selected as World Water Monitoring Day in recognition of the inception of the U.S. Clean Water Act — a milestone in efforts to restore and protect U.S. water resources — enacted by Congress in 1972. World Water Monitoring Day became an international program the following year.

"This is an issue of major importance to our community," said Bruce Reznik, Director of San Diego Coastkeeper. "We encourage people of all ages and backgrounds to get involved and we hope that this event will increase the public's awareness of their role in protecting and preserving the quality of local and global waters".

Volunteer groups and students will test water temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, and turbidity using water quality kits in sites throughout San Diego County and along the Baja California coast. Their results will be shared with other students monitoring in several countries around the globe, including China, Mexico, Poland, Uzbekistan, Vietnam and Malaysia.

The Water Monitoring Day media event held in San Diego County will be held at Old Poway Park, located at 14134 Midland Road, Poway, California 92064 and testing begins after the 9:00 AM news conference. Tijuana events will take place October 5th and 6th at Parque Morelos as part of Expo Ambiente. Tribal World Water Monitoring Day is scheduled for September 17<sup>th</sup> at the La Jolla Reservation.

Teachers and interested members of the community can get involved by visiting the Consortium website: [www.sdawmc.org](http://www.sdawmc.org). Participants may select their own water sampling sites and guidelines are given on the website. Water quality monitoring kits are available following registration on this website. Following this event, all participants are asked to post their results onto our website so we can share this information with both decision-makers and members of the public. We look forward to your involvement in this important event!