



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Students Around the Globe Unite for World Water Monitoring Day

More than 400 children learn about water monitoring, water health

San Diego Coastkeeper and Sister Schools of San Diego hosted their 8th **Annual World Water Monitoring Day** on Tuesday, Nov. 10, at La Jolla Shores and Friday, Nov. 13, at the Chula Vista Nature Center. The events featured water quality monitoring activities for approximately 400 school children from San Diego; Tijuana, Mexico and Novocheerkassk, Russia.

“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**, San Diego Coastkeeper 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.”

During World Water Monitoring Day events, students rotated through a number of interactive water education activities including Water Quality Monitoring, Bioassessment, Edible Aquifer, Green Machine and San Diego County of Education Splash Lab. This year’s events celebrated public stewardship of water quality and conservation, the importance of clean water in the San Diego Region and educating youth on watershed protection and the value of World Water Monitoring Day.

Tuesday’s La Jolla event kicked off with a press conference featuring Franz, San Diego Coastkeeper Executive Director **Bruce Reznik** and Executive Director of the Birch Aquarium **Nigella Hilgarth**. Friday’s celebration included an introduction by Franz, Sister Schools of San Diego’s **Ron Plotkin**, Principal of Secondary School #1 **Inna Tereschenko**, and Chula Vista Nature Center’s **Charles Gailband**.

The two-day event commemorates the 37th anniversary of the Clean Water Act, which aims to raise awareness about and assess and improve water quality around the globe. It also brings to close World Water Monitoring Month in San Diego, which is held annually between September 18 and October 18 and involves more than 900 students countywide. Their water monitoring results, along with those from World Water Monitoring Day, will be shared with other students monitoring in San Diego, China, Japan, Mexico, Poland, Russia, Uganda and others.

Participating schools in this year's World Water Monitoring Day festivities included San Diego's Del Sur Elementary, Perkins Elementary, Muirland Middle, Crawford Multimedia & Visual Arts, Hilltop High School; Tijuana, Mexico's Colegio Effel, Instituto Defensores de Baja California, Instituto, Juan Diego, Instituto Miguel De Cervantes and Instituto Metropolitano, and Novoherkassk, Russia's School Number #1.

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ABOUT SAN DIEGO COASTKEEPER

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.

ABOUT SISTER SCHOOLS OF SAN DIEGO

Sister Schools of San Diego is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting cross-cultural understanding by connecting schools around the globe. Classrooms separated by border, culture, and geography are united through similar interests and common principles. Students participate in collaborative projects ranging from literature and social development to science and technology. By connecting classrooms worldwide, we use the academic setting to conquer ignorance, bridge cultural gaps, and create international friendships.

ABOUT THE SAN DIEGO CITIZEN WATERSHED MONITORING CONSORTIUM

Led by San Diego Coastkeeper and the Sister Schools of San Diego, with participating organizations San Diego River Park Foundation, San Diego Stream Team, and the State Water Resources Control Board's Clean Water Team. The San Diego Citizen 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 San Diego Citizen Watershed Monitoring Consortium thanks County of San Diego Watershed Protection for making this year's World Water Monitoring Day and Month activities possible.