



October 13, 2011

Charles Hoppin, Chair and Board Members
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: California Coastal Cleanup Day Trash Policy Letter

Dear State Water Board Members and Staff,

The undersigned groups represent hundreds of thousands of Californians who are concerned about the way trash and plastic pollution is degrading our waterways, beaches, and ocean. Many of us participated in this year's 27th annual California's Annual Coastal Cleanup Day. We spent the day with our families, neighbors and members to remove over almost 600,000 pounds of trash from California beaches, streams, rivers, and parks. The overwhelming quantity of trash we found on Coastal Cleanup Day reinforces our organizations' commitment to the permanent reduction of plastic pollution on California beaches. We ask the State Water Board to support our work by drafting a Trash Policy that includes:

- **A zero trash and zero pre-production pellet and resin water quality objective statewide.** Water Quality Objectives must be set at levels that are technically and scientifically necessary to support beneficial uses of water. There is *no* acceptable level of trash that may be present in our state's waters without impairing a number of beneficial uses, demonstrating that the state must adopt a "zero trash" water quality objective statewide.
- **A source control strategy that reduces plastic pollution at its origin.** Source control must be addressed through strategies that can be implemented in permits. Such strategies should encourage: Extended Producer Responsibility; bans on single-use plastic bags; bans on polystyrene foam food and beverage containers and other plastic food and beverage packaging; bans on smoking in public places; reusable food and beverage container laws; the establishment and enforcement of litter fees; and the enforcement of laws to eliminate pre-production pellet pollution. The Policy should likewise include monitoring components that evaluate the implementation of the water quality objective, and the effectiveness of any source controls.
- **A requirement for currently proposed stormwater permits to effectively reduce the flow of trash to waterways.** Proposed stormwater permits, including the Phase II Small MS4 General Permit, Caltrans MS4 General Permit, and Industrial General Permit, must include effective provisions requiring structural controls to ensure that no trash enters our waterways and communities.

We thank the State Water Board for leading the development of a strong Statewide Policy for Controlling Trash in Waters of the State. Hopefully, if the Board adopts a strong Trash Policy, next year's Coastal Cleanup Day volunteers can focus less on garbage removal and more on restoration efforts.

Best regards,

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2011 California Coastal Cleanup Day Photo's and Statistics

With 80% of the cleanup sites reporting for the 2011 Coastal Cleanup Day, the statewide count stands at 62,963 volunteers. The California Coastal Commission reports that volunteers picked up 523,201 pounds of trash and an additional 68,543 pounds of recyclable materials, for a total of 591,743 pounds of debris collected in just one day. This letter's signatories provide snapshots and specific information below about what they encountered in and around California's beaches, rivers, bays and coastline. A larger collection of 2011 Coastal Cleanup Day photos is available at <http://www.ecoplates.com/photos.html>.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Humboldt Baykeeper along with local environmental organizations, schools and businesses brought together 866 volunteers to remove 8,000 pounds of trash and recyclables from 35 beaches, rivers and sloughs throughout Humboldt County.

San Francisco Baykeeper volunteers cleaned up more than 500 pounds of trash from India Basin Shoreline Park. As usual, food wrappers and cigarette butts made up a large percentage of the total trash collected.

Green Sangha's volunteers cleaned a mile of McNear's Beach in San Rafael, collecting over 100 pounds of trash and 28 pounds of recyclables.



Green Sangha volunteers at McNear's Beach in San Rafael on Coastal Cleanup Day.



Green Sangha's volunteers collected 100 lbs of trash and 28 lbs of recyclables.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

On Coastal Cleanup Day 2011, Save Our Shores coordinated 4,600 volunteers collecting over 18,000 pounds of trash in Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties. Included in that were over 23,000 cigarette butts, over 6000 bottle caps, and more than 4300 plastic bags.



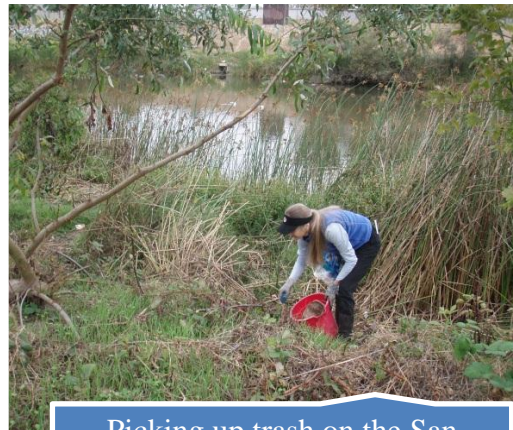
Save Our Shores coordinated 4600 volunteers collecting over 18,000 lbs of trash in Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties.
Credit: Mark Torres-Gil



Save Our Shores collected over 23,000 cigarette butts, over 6,000 bottle caps, and more than 4,300 plastic bags.
Credit: Michelle Hohensee



Volunteers sorting trash on Carmel Beach, Carmel.
Credit: Ronn Rygg.



Picking up trash on the San Lorenzo River, Santa Cruz.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

San Diego Coastkeeper and project partners led 7,500 volunteers in removing 140,000 pounds of trash and invasive species from 90 sites across San Diego County.

Heal the Bay worked with over 11,000 volunteers to remove over 44,000 pounds of trash in Los Angeles County.

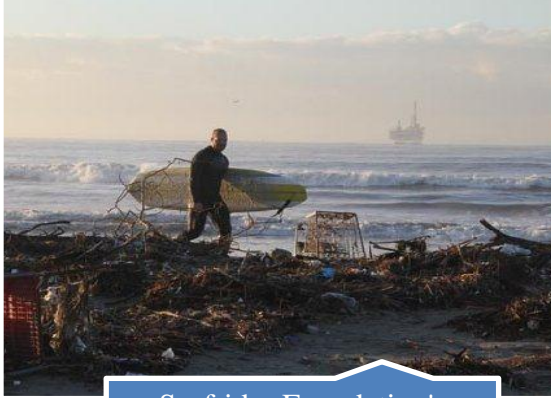


Surfrider Foundation's Huntington Beach Chapter has over 350 volunteers cleaning the beach monthly.



Heal the Bay had over 11,000 volunteers collect over 44,000 lbs of trash.





Surfrider Foundation's Huntington Beach Chapter cleans the beach twice each month.



The California Coastal Commission reports that volunteers picked up 523,201 lbs of trash and an additional 68,543 lbs of recyclable materials on Coastal Cleanup Day.



Statewide 62,963 volunteers came to cleanup California's beaches for Coastal Cleanup Day.