



Community Grants Program: Past Funded Projects



Project Title: Dust Mitigation for Boat Owners

The Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Organization (MBCFO) supplied the Morro Bay Harbor Department with two combination dust-extractor vacuums and sander tools in an effort to decrease dust pollution from common boat maintenance activities in Morro Bay. Paint dust produced by maintenance on boat hulls can contain copper, lead and zinc. These heavy metals are highly toxic to Estuary plant and wildlife. The vacuums can capture

up to 98% of dust and are available to all boat owners in Morro Bay through the Harbor Department.

The Morro Bay Harbor Department stores the tools and has developed a system for lending them out to Morro Bay boat owners. MBCFO is responsible for informing boat owners that these tools are available, as well as, supplying the necessary accessories and upkeep for prolonged use.

Morro Bay does not have a boat haul-out facility for larger vessels. Thus, many of the boats used for commercial activities conduct as much in-water maintenance as possible in order to avoid costly trips to other ports for haul-out. Hull scraping, sanding and painting are some of the activities conducted at the docks. This project is intended to make it easier for individual boat owners to implement Best Management Practices to reduce estuary pollution. Additionally, it improves Estuary awareness among a key population of community members that have a large impact on Estuary health.





Project Title: "A Healthy Sea Begins with Me"

Morro Coast Audubon Society (MCAS) announced the first ever "A Healthy Sea Begins With Me" art contest and public ad campaign. For 4 months, MCAS board members "migrated" to local elementary and middle school classrooms, teaching youth about marine debris and its devastating consequences on our oceans, waterways, birds, and sea life. Students were engaged in conversations regarding marine debris impacts, sources, and solutions and were also taught the importance of acting responsibly with our fishing gear, as well as proper plastic and litter disposal.

At the conclusion of the presentation, drawing materials were given to the students for them to help spread the message by depicting images illustrating the importance of protecting Morro Bay and our Central Coast beaches and waterways.

The artwork submitted from the students was exhibited at the 2013 Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival. A panel of judges chose 10 pieces of art that were made into full color, durable signs that were placed around our local beaches, piers, campgrounds, and visitor centers.

MCAS believes this is a cost effective project that engages the community while reaching a broad audience. Hundreds of people and multiple organizations are reached as part of this project. The local community, visitors, recreational boaters and fisherman are educated about marine debris issues through the children's art. Potentially, thousands of people will be reached since the signs are showcased on MCAS's website, Flyway Newsletter, and Facebook page.



Project Title: Achievement House Hydroponics Water Reclamation Project

Achievement House is constructing a 2600 sq ft. hydroponic greenhouse for the purpose of growing and selling vegetables and flowers to the general public. The greenhouse will generate approximately 4,900 gallons of nutrient enriched water every 15 days. In order to save and recycle this limited resource, AHL is planning to construct a 5000 gallon waste water

reclamation storage facility next to the hydroponics greenhouse. This captured waste water will then be used to provide water for AHI's proposed community garden and two other greenhouses.

When completed, Achievement House is planning a hydroponics open house and will invite the general public, news media, Camp SLO staff and local elected officials to tour our new facility. As part of our outreach and education process, AHI will have brochures and signage describing AHI's efforts to recapture and recycle greenhouse wastewater. AHI will also incorporate the water recapturing program into its website, social media outlets, and PowerPoint presentation used for public relations purposes. Achievement House has been part of the SLO community for over 55 years is committed to finding environmentally friendly approaches to preserving the health and wellbeing of our beautiful natural resources.