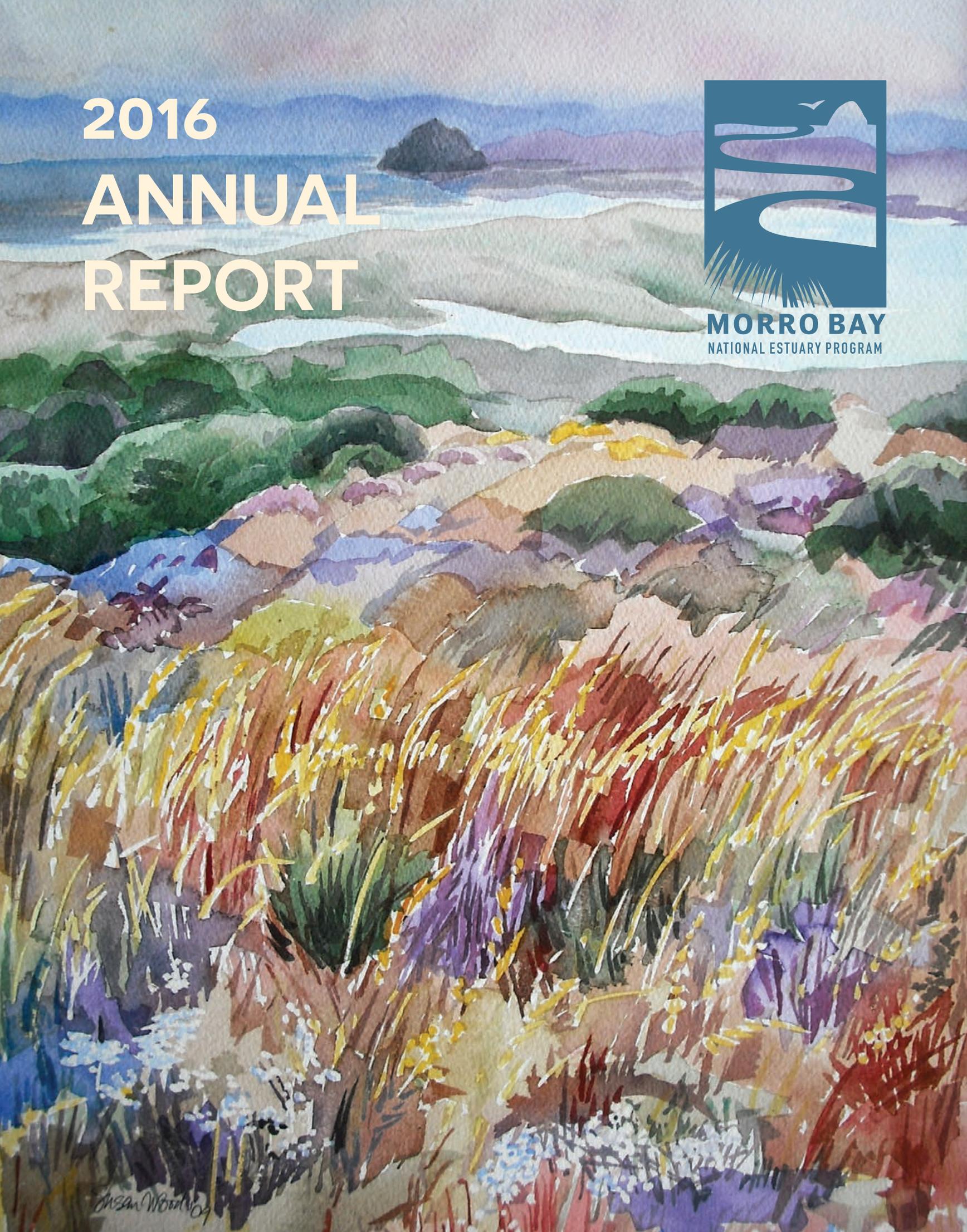


# 2016 ANNUAL REPORT



**MORRO BAY**  
NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM



*Susan Wood 09*

# Visit & Explore

## NATURE CENTER

*The Nature Center is located upstairs near our offices.*

**Nature Center open every day**  
10 a.m.–6 p.m.

(January & February  
open 10 a.m.–5 p.m.)

# Come Say Hello

## ESTUARY PROGRAM OFFICE

601 Embarcadero, Suite 11  
Morro Bay, CA 93442

805.772.3834

**MBNEP.ORG**

# Keep in Touch

*Subscribe to our weekly blog. It offers an in-depth look at our work, ideas for bay-friendly living, information about the local area, and more. **MBNEP.ORG/BLOG***



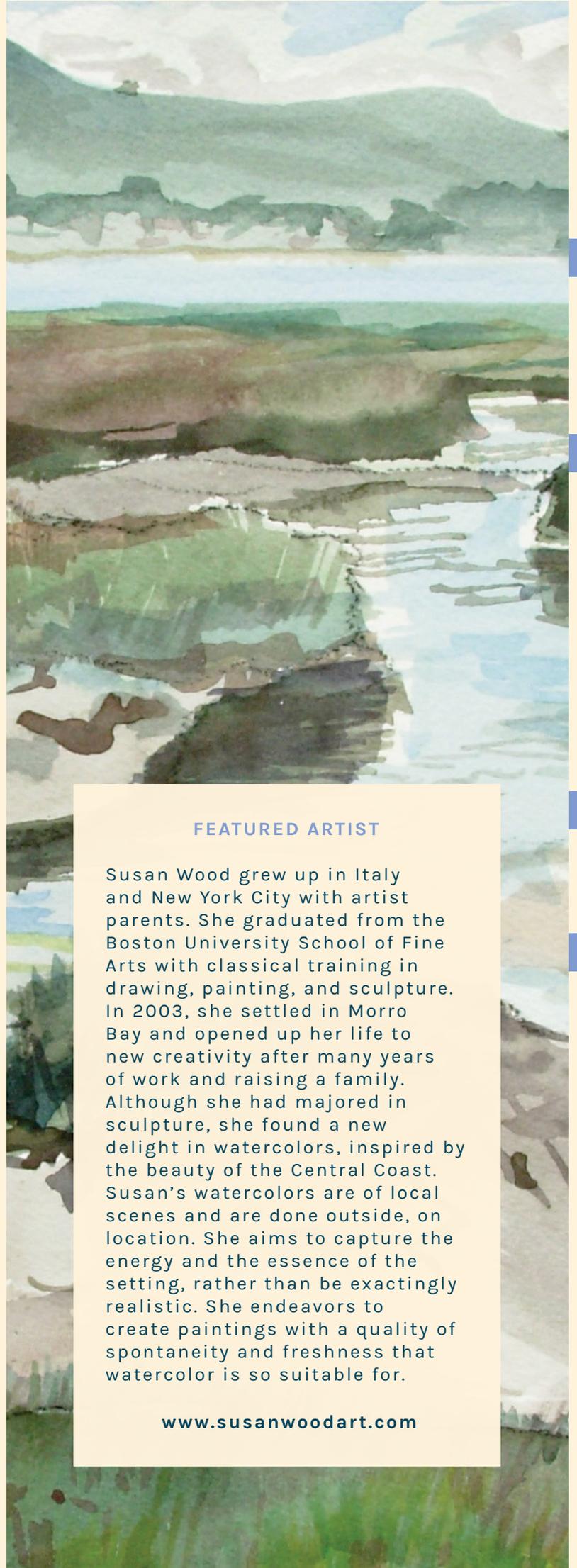
**FACEBOOK.COM/MBESTUARY**



**@MORROBAYNEP**



**@MORROBAYNEP**



### FEATURED ARTIST

Susan Wood grew up in Italy and New York City with artist parents. She graduated from the Boston University School of Fine Arts with classical training in drawing, painting, and sculpture. In 2003, she settled in Morro Bay and opened up her life to new creativity after many years of work and raising a family. Although she had majored in sculpture, she found a new delight in watercolors, inspired by the beauty of the Central Coast. Susan's watercolors are of local scenes and are done outside, on location. She aims to capture the energy and the essence of the setting, rather than be exactly realistic. She endeavors to create paintings with a quality of spontaneity and freshness that watercolor is so suitable for.

**[www.susanwoodart.com](http://www.susanwoodart.com)**

# Table of Contents

## WELCOME

- 1 Poetry Contest Winners
- 2 Director's Letter: A Window on the Bay
- 3 Retiring & New Board Members

## 2016 IN FOCUS

- 4 Eelgrass Update
- 6 Roads Restoration Efforts Complete
- 7 Bioassessment
- 8 Assessing Climate Change Risks
- 9 Community Grants
- 10 Mutts for the Bay
- 11 What's New at the Nature Center
- 12 Outstanding Volunteers in 2016
- 13 Spotlight on Partner Projects

## FISCAL DATA

- 14 Funding in 2016

## SUPPORT

- 15 Supporters
- 16 Organizational Structure



**MORRO BAY**  
NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

Morro Bay National Estuary Program brings together citizens, local governments, nonprofits, agencies, and landowners to protect and restore the Morro Bay estuary.

LEARN  
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[MBNEP.ORG](http://MBNEP.ORG)

## POETRY CONTEST WINNERS

### LOVE IN AN ESTUARY

by Dawn Wood

I am drawn by the soft outline of the shore,  
beds of sand dunes, edges to sleep on.  
The coming and goings, wet footprints  
throughout the day.  
Always amusing me, pulling back and forth,  
the tide exposes bubbles, homes  
for sand dabs and tiny crabs.

There is so much life.

A sea otter hugs an oyster shell looking up,  
to the silhouetted curve of a great  
white egret's neck, as it collapses into  
a eucalyptus nest releasing sustenance.  
A great blue heron on a private piece of shore  
is statuesque, still, and silent.  
Moving on foot until the sharp beak  
falls like a guillotine and spears a wayward smelt.

Salty boats tightly moored dance with a daily rhythm.  
Compelled by the water's soft hand, the bows  
first float gracefully from north until all is reversed  
and for a moment each reaches out for  
the southern lip of the sea.  
As sky darkens, I watch a blood red orange  
spill over Morro Rock.

There is so much life that lives and dies.

An estuary breeds an afterglow,  
a process that never ends.  
Let me not just visit and forget,  
but remember all I have loved.  
Let this estuary continue to bless  
those who come to know its quiet kiss.

### ESTUARY BLISS

by Fiona Reams

The faint bark of a sea lion.  
  
Birds gathered in groups,  
searching for food.

Boats out on the water.

A bright blue sky.

No clouds for a mile.

The water shimmering  
under the golden sun.

A blue heron soars  
over head.  
Observing life  
at its most  
peaceful moment.

### THE WAY MORRO LIVES

by Dylan King

A calm, salty wind  
Birds call everywhere with you  
Thick mud, crawling crabs.

### UNTITLED

by Richard Immel

Low tide at Back Bay  
Swirling clouds of sandpipers  
Feast in the fresh mud

# Director's Letter: A Window on the Bay

**HELLO FRIENDS,**

Have you visited our office lately? Our work here at the Estuary Program has a lot of perks (paddleboarding for science, anyone?), but one of the most immediate is the simple pleasure of looking out our office window. The view of the bay is stunning and inspiring. Early one workday morning, we were treated to a show between a floating otter munching on breakfast and an interloping seagull looking to steal a tasty morsel.

In the summer, we watch schools of sailing students meandering by, fishing boats motoring back from the deep blue, and novice kayakers learning the strength of an outgoing tide. During the fall, we relish the retreat of the fog and enjoy sunnier days. Wintertime brings waves breaking on the harbor jetty, the sea foam visible over the sand dunes, and hundreds of winged migrants looking for a resting place. Spring winds create shifting sands on the dunes and spur on migrating whales, which sometimes visit the bay itself.

Our window onto the bay brings wonder to each day and motivates us. In 2016, this inspiration fueled the completion of our road erosion prevention project. This project will keep 1,200 tons of sediment from reaching local creeks

and the estuary each year for the next decade. It also inspired our quest to better understand the loss of eelgrass in the bay and work to bring it back by supporting multiple Cal Poly research efforts. Our work does not happen without our dedicated partners and volunteers. In 2016, 89 volunteers contributed more than 870 hours testing water quality, participating in beach cleanups, and educating visitors to our Nature Center.

The bay also inspires our community. Local photographers captured the textures of Morro Bay in this year's photo contest, while poets pondered the beauty and diversity of our native wildlife. Look for the winning poetry entries on page one of this report.

In April of 2017, we look forward to having you join us for our State of the Bay events. Come learn how water quality, wildlife, and natural habitats are doing in and around the bay during a series of fun events. We will talk at Science After Dark, toast the bay with spirits and celebration, and explore the estuary and watershed with an array of partners.

As always, you can join us on Facebook or Instagram, and visit us at our Nature Center or online. I look forward to hearing how the bay inspires you!



A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Lexie Bell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**LEXIE BELL**  
Executive Director  
Morro Bay National Estuary Program

# Retiring & New Board Members

As the fiscal sponsor for the Estuary Program, the Bay Foundation Board applies for grants, manages funding for the Estuary Program, and employs its staff.

## RETIRING BOARD MEMBER



After serving on the board of the Bay Foundation for three years, **CARLA WIXOM** is stepping down. Carla is active in the local Rotary Club and 4-H, and is a longtime business owner in Morro Bay. She runs the popular Carla's Country Kitchen, where she has pioneered integrating zero-waste practices into daily operations. Carla provided a valuable local business perspective on the board and was a strong supporter for the Estuary Program's volunteer activities. We will miss seeing her more often, but we wish her all the best in her business and personal endeavors. Thank you, Carla, for your service and support of the Estuary Program!

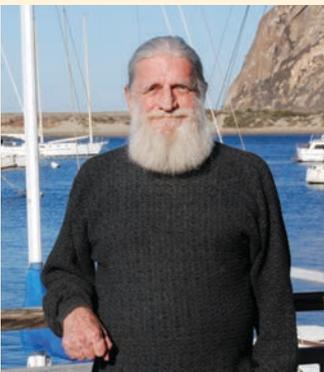
## NEW BOARD MEMBERS



After moving to Los Osos in 2014, **REBECCA GERSHOW** felt the pull of the bay and wanted to help keep it clean and healthy. She joined the Board of Directors this April. "I couldn't believe our luck to be living next to such an amazing resource. I hope that by serving on the Bay Foundation Board I can be a part of protecting and celebrating it," Rebecca says. Rebecca is an associate planner with the City of San Luis Obispo, where she works on downtown planning, neighborhood grant programs, climate action planning, and many other efforts. Rebecca previously worked as a parks and open space planner in Springfield, Oregon. She served on a number of local committees, including the Springfield Historical Commission, Springfield Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, and the Oregon Outdoor Recreation Committee. Rebecca also has experience on the staff side of the nonprofit sector, working previously with the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy in Washington, D.C. Rebecca enjoys kayaking on the bay, spending time with her family, and exploring new places in San Luis Obispo County.



**TOM EDELL** is a longtime resident of San Luis Obispo County. He moved here to attend Cal Poly and is lucky enough to have never left! Tom joined the Board of Directors in June 2016. Tom recently retired from a career as a biologist with Caltrans, which allowed him to work throughout San Luis Obispo, Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Barbara counties. Tom also served for many years as the Caltrans representative on many of the Estuary Program's stakeholder committees. Always interested in birds, an ornithology class at Cal Poly sparked a birding passion that continues today. He has been the San Luis Obispo County bird records compiler for North American Birds since 1983 and the Morro Bay Christmas Bird Count Compiler since 1988. Tom says, "I can think of nothing more valuable than protecting our bay and watershed for future generations." He enjoys birding and hiking the many trails of the Central Coast.



**DAVE PARADIES** sailed his vessel StarWind into Morro Bay in 1978 and has resided in Los Osos since 1980. Dave has a long history with the Morro Bay National Estuary Program. He was a co-author of the Governor's Nomination of Morro Bay as an estuary of national significance. Dave also served as a founding Program Director. He has served on numerous Boards of Directors for local organizations, including Friends of the Estuary, South Bay Community Council (predecessor of LOCAC), and County Service Area 9 Advisory Board (predecessor of the LOCSD). Dave previously sat on the Board of Directors of the Bay Foundation from 1992-2012. We are thrilled to once again have his expertise and passion for the bay on the Board. Dave is an expert on software development and management. He works as the data manager for the Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program and supports many water quality improvement efforts throughout the state of California.

# Eelgrass Update: Monitoring and Research Efforts

## TRACKING THE DECLINE: EELGRASS LOSS IN MORRO BAY FROM 2007 TO 2015

Eelgrass is a submerged aquatic plant that is native to Morro Bay. It serves many important functions in our bay: it helps dampen wave action, holds bay sediments in place, and provides a quiet place for marine life to rest and find food. Due to its ecological importance, the Estuary Program has been mapping eelgrass habitat for over ten years. In 2007, surveys showed 344 acres of eelgrass. After that, the plant underwent a rapid decline, with less than 20 acres detected in 2013. The rate of loss has since stabilized, but the decline of eelgrass continues to be of concern.

The Estuary Program partnered with agencies, research scientists, and volunteers to conduct eelgrass restoration planting. But, as current monitoring efforts indicate that the replanted eelgrass did not successfully reestablish in many areas, the Estuary Program has shifted its focus to monitoring and research to better understand the reasons for the losses and to come up with an informed restoration plan moving forward.



The bright green areas in the maps above represent intertidal eelgrass beds. A precipitous loss occurred in the mid and back bay areas. Eelgrass beds in the north portion of the bay have remained relatively stable. Aerial image courtesy of Pinnacle Mapping Technologies.

## STUDYING THE CAUSES AND IMPACTS

The Estuary Program and its partners are working together to understand the causes of the eelgrass decline and to better understand how the loss of eelgrass has impacted the bay.

### UNDERSTANDING WATER QUALITY



California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo (Cal Poly) Professor Ryan Walter snapped this photo of fellow researcher Ian Robbins cleaning a water quality sensor at the mouth of Morro Bay this past summer. The data track bay hydrodynamics and water quality as part of a larger effort to assess the causes and consequences of eelgrass decline and develop future restoration efforts. In partnership with the Estuary Program and with funding from NOAA, Ryan plans additional deployments to collect data throughout the different seasons. Photo courtesy of Ryan Walter.

### POTENTIAL CAUSES OF EELGRASS DECLINE

Although exact causes for the decline are not known, some potential factors include:

- Changing water quality conditions, including temperature, oxygen, and salinity.
- Increasing sediment, which clouds waters and blocks sunlight from reaching the plants.
- Rising bay bottom, which exposes eelgrass during low tides.
- Shifting predator populations, whose foraging directly or indirectly impacts eelgrass.

### IDENTIFYING THE IMPACTS OF THE LOSS



With such a drastic decline in this valuable habitat type, we expect to see impacts on the wildlife that make the bay their home. Brant geese (pictured above) feed primarily on eelgrass and stop in Morro Bay during their migration from Alaska to Mexico. Partly in response to eelgrass decline, the number of brant in the bay has also steeply declined. Photo by "Mike" Michael L. Baird, from Flickr.

### MONITORING CURRENT CONDITIONS



The Estuary Program worked with Cal Poly Professor and California Sea Grant Extension Specialist Jennifer O'Leary to develop an eelgrass bed condition monitoring protocol. This in-depth monitoring will be conducted twice a year to keep a close eye on the condition of the remaining beds. Work by Cal Poly Professor Jenn Yost will look at the differences in eelgrass genetics throughout the bay, to better understand how these differences might impact eelgrass restoration.

# Roads Restoration Efforts Complete

In the summer of 2016, the Estuary Program completed a three-year project to restore rural roads from the WWII era in the upper portions of the Morro Bay watershed. The steep terrain and erosive soils in this area can lead to road failure, which can deliver sediment to nearby streams. These streams eventually carry the sediment into the Morro Bay estuary. Although estuaries naturally fill over time, human activities have greatly accelerated the rate of sediment transport into the bay. Projects like this address this problem by helping reduce erosion, a major sediment source.

This project repaired 58 areas, spanning a total of 11.4 miles of road. We partnered with Cal Poly, the U.S. Forest Service, and Camp SLO to implement this project with Water Board funding. We estimate that the project will prevent 1,225 tons of sediment erosion from roads each year over the next decade.

## BEFORE CONSTRUCTION



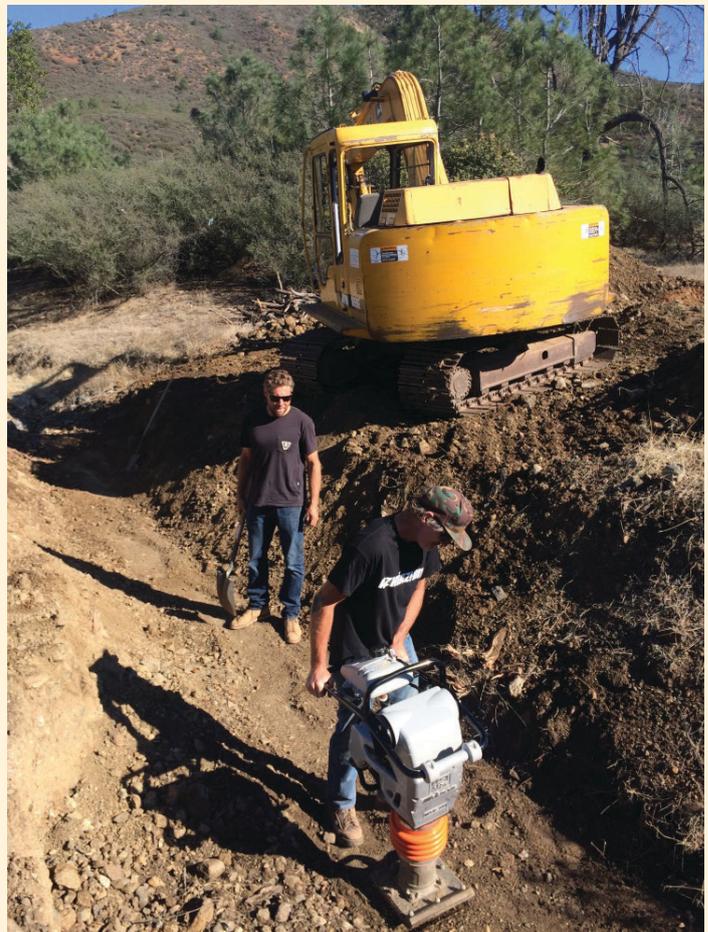
The way that rain ran off the road at this site, pictured prior to construction, created a gully. Gullies are prime sources of erosion.

## AFTER CONSTRUCTION



At this site, we added large rocks and boulders to the right of the road to support it where water will run off during storms. This treatment is called an armored fill.

## DURING CONSTRUCTION



Workers prepared this site before installing a culvert to carry rain water under the road.

# Bioassessment

## WHAT ARE OUR BUGS TELLING US?

Our Monitoring Program and its volunteers use various tools to measure the health of our local creeks. One method is bioassessment monitoring, a time-intensive effort to gather habitat data and collect macroinvertebrates, or "macros," which are animals without backbones that are visible to the naked eye.

These include insects, worms, clams, snails, and crustaceans. The macro samples collected this past spring were sent to a lab for counting and identification. The results show stable or improving scores as compared to 2015, other than lower Chorro Creek, which suffered from poor habitat and water quality conditions.



*This past spring, more than 20 volunteers joined us to collect data from eight sites in our watershed. They spent over 100 hours collecting more than eight thousand pieces of information that tell us about the health of our creeks.*



*Commonly known as a net-spinning caddisfly, the larvae pictured here will spin a net in the rocks to catch food, such as algae, that floats by in the current. They create a silk similar to that of a caterpillar for constructing their nets.*

## THE MIOSSI TRUST: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The Harold J. Miozzi Charitable Trust provided generous grants totaling \$30,000 for the Estuary Program's bioassessment effort in 2013, 2014, and 2016. While the data and samples are primarily collected with volunteer labor, the lab work to analyze the macro samples is intensive and expensive. The support from the Trust makes this important work possible.

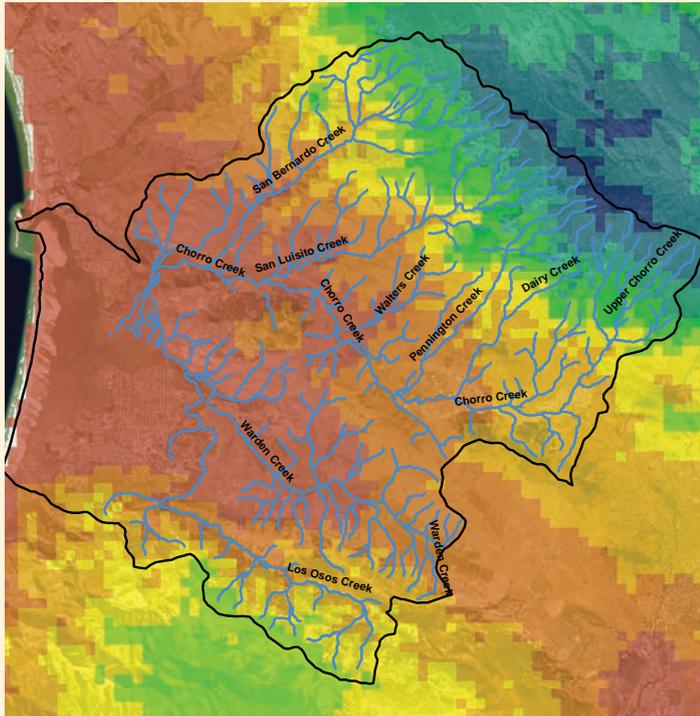
The Estuary Program is pleased to announce a \$10,000 grant from the Harold J. Miozzi Charitable Trust to support the monitoring effort in 2017.

# Assessing Climate Change Risks

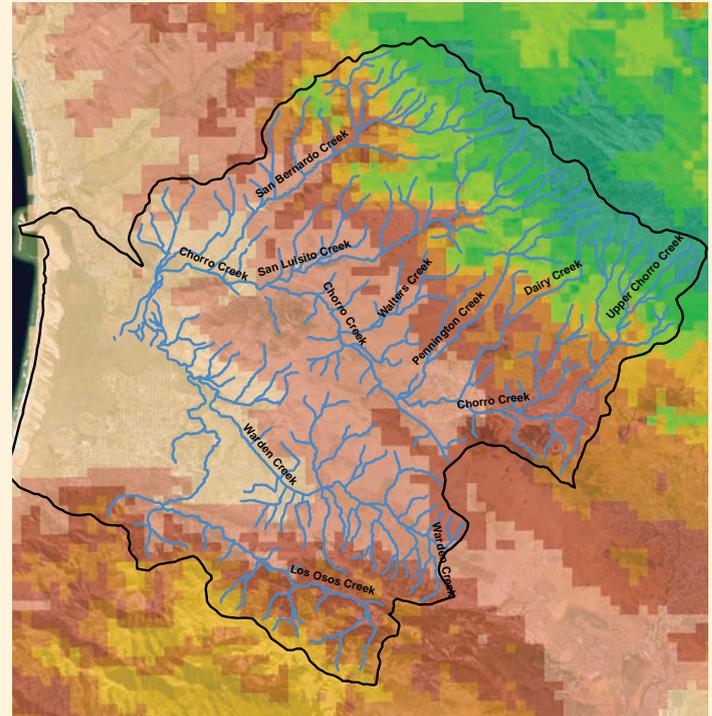
How could climate change affect the Morro Bay estuary? In 2016, the Estuary Program completed a climate vulnerability assessment to help answer that question. The assessment analyzed the likelihood and severity of climate change effects and also discussed some possible adaptation actions. We used climate change models, historic data, and local experts to determine the impacts

that the estuary may face. Likely changes include increased average maximum temperature, increased frequency and intensity of storm events, overall drier conditions, and sea level rise. The Estuary Program will incorporate these potential impacts into future project planning and continue to monitor how the environment changes in our watershed over time.

## HISTORIC AVERAGE ANNUAL PRECIPITATION (1981-2010)



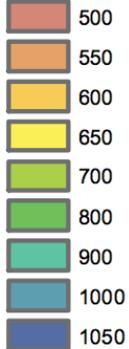
## PROJECTED AVERAGE ANNUAL PRECIPITATION (2070-2099)



- Streams
- Watershed boundary

### Historic Avg. Annual Precip. (1981-2010)

mm



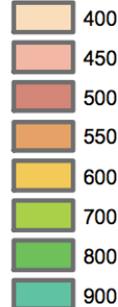
*Historic precipitation data was downloaded from the BCM.*

*Map shows average annual precipitation for Morro Bay from 1981 to 2010.*

- Streams
- Watershed boundary

### MIROC RCP4.5 Avg. Annual Precip. (2070-2099)

mm



*Precipitation projections were downloaded from the BCM and used the RCP 4.5 scenario for carbon emissions produced by the IPCC.*

*Map shows the projected average annual precipitation for Morro Bay from 2070 to 2099.*

For more information, please refer to the assessment in our online library [MBNEP.ORG/LIBRARY](http://MBNEP.ORG/LIBRARY).

# Community Grants

*Our Community Grants Program fosters creative projects that address priority issues facing the Morro Bay estuary.*

## SEALIFE STEWARDS

Equipment for Kayak Docent Program  
Central Coast State Parks Association (\$3,260)

SeaLife Stewards is a new kayak docent program modeled on the successful Team OCEAN program in Monterey Bay. SeaLife Stewards docents are California State Parks volunteers who go out on the water during the busy summer months to act as roving interpreters, engaging paddlers and others out enjoying the bay with information about the animals that live here. Docents also help people understand how to protect sensitive marine mammals and birds by keeping a safe distance away from them, so that they can continue to thrive in the bay's waters.

When they aren't talking with paddlers, SeaLife Stewards docents are acting as citizen scientists. They note the location of marine mammals in the bay and information about recreational activities. The data they collect will inform their future education efforts to reduce wildlife disturbances and share valuable information about the bay's fascinating wildlife and habitats.

This grant provided essential equipment for the program, including kayaks, paddles, storage racks, and more. SeaLife Stewards will start its second season on Morro Bay's waters in the spring of 2017.

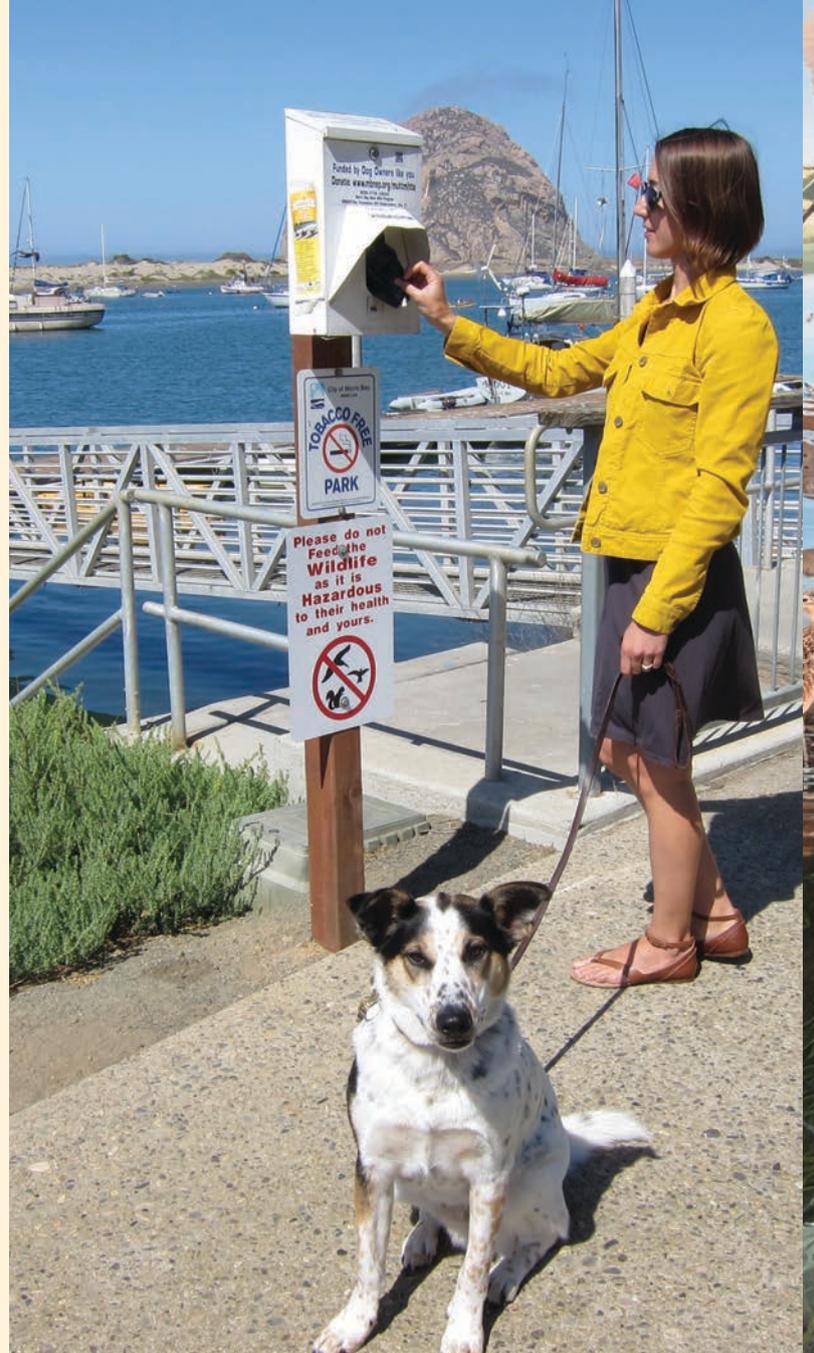


# Mutts for the Bay

Thoughtful dogs and their human companions help keep Morro Bay clean and healthy by using free pet waste bags from Mutts for the Bay dispensers. Picking up dog waste with these bags and putting it in the trashcan makes sure that harmful bacteria stay out of our creek and bay waters.

The Estuary Program has managed the Mutts for the Bay program for more than eight years. In 2016, we added six new dispensers, for a total of 27 in Morro Bay. This means that dog owners have more convenient options for picking up bags on their walks around town. It also means that more people are using more bags. In 2016, we used more than 358,000 bags in Morro Bay. We also initiated a new partnership with the County of San Luis Obispo to stock dog waste bags in three previously unused dispensers in Los Osos.

The Estuary Program is thankful to the dog owners who do the dirty work of picking up after their pets, and to the amazing volunteers who make this program possible. This year, 12 Mutts for the Bay volunteers gave over 800 hours to stock and repair dispensers. Their dedicated efforts prevent bacteria washing into the bay from unremoved pet waste.



# Dogfest 2016

This year's DogFest was full of bright-eyed faces, both furry and not-so-furry, enjoying themselves in the sun. We welcomed more than 300 people to City Park to watch agility and obedience demonstrations, test out agility equipment, visit vendor booths, and learn about how they can help keep our waters clean by picking up dog waste. The event ended with Morro Bay's first-ever Poo Pickup Race, during which local children raced to pick up as much fake poo as possible.



Photo courtesy of Jillian Parks.



10 MUTTS FOR THE BAY



This mural highlights the different habitat types that are found in and around the Morro Bay Estuary.

## What's New at the Nature Center

The Estuary Nature Center provides fun, free activities for locals and visitors to Morro Bay. Every year, more than 30,000 visitors come through the doors. They visit our steelhead tank, catch a glimpse of sea otters from our wildlife viewing station, learn about the thousands of birds that migrate through Morro Bay each year, and come to understand how the health of the land that surrounds the bay affects the bay's waters.

This year, we were pleased to begin two new projects that will enhance our visitors' experience in the Nature Center. We received a grant from the Harold J. Miossi Charitable Trust for over \$13,900 to upgrade our interactive educational kiosk. This generous grant will allow us to create new science-based content, and to move all of the kiosk content online, so that it can be accessed by teachers, students, and others who are unable to visit the Nature Center in person.

We also began working with the Cal Poly Computer Engineering Capstone Design class to create an educational video game based on estuary-science topics. This game will be available online, and will be featured on the updated kiosk in 2017.



# Outstanding Volunteers in 2016



**KAREN WATTS** has always felt the pull of the ocean. In 1991, she and her husband packed up their life in San Mateo and spent a year sailing in Mexico. They stopped in Morro Bay on their way down the coast, fell in love with the area, and bought a house here. They kept the house while Karen taught high school science and biotechnology in the LA area, and retired to Morro Bay in 2006. In 2007, Karen became a bacteria volunteer with the Estuary Program. She has always been passionate about estuary ecology and felt that this position was a great fit with her lab experience. Karen has volunteered over 325 hours with the Estuary Program in a variety of volunteer roles. What Karen enjoys most about volunteering with the Estuary Program is that it gets her outside and helps her take the time to appreciate the things that drew her to Morro Bay in the first place. We can always count on Karen to make time for volunteering and to collect high-quality data.



An avid rower, birder, and fisherwoman, **CHARLOTTE KELLEY** loves water. After a long and fulfilling career as a geriatric nurse practitioner, she moved from Iowa to Morro Bay. She started volunteering with the Estuary Program to monitor bacteria in the bay in 2014. Bacteria monitoring requires a volunteer like Charlotte who's interested both in being outdoors and in lab work. Her passion for being on the water combined with her healthcare experience made her a perfect match. As Charlotte has continued on with the Estuary Program, she has taken on more volunteer roles and responsibilities. She is a stand-out docent in our Nature Center, and has even helped out at Estuary Program booths at festivals, talking with local children about water conservation and stewardship. Charlotte loves volunteering because it gives her the chance to get involved with her community, to get outside, and to "do something that means something." We admire Charlotte's passion for Morro Bay, her commitment to recording highly accurate data, and her natural talent for teaching.

## By the numbers

### MONITORING

**61** monitoring volunteers gave **787** hours. Volunteers and staff completed...

- **244** visits for creek water quality monitoring
- **343** visits for bacteria sampling and analysis
- **77** visits for bay water quality monitoring

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

**28** community volunteers gave **84** hours. Volunteers and staff...

- Educated visitors in our Nature Center
- Talked about clean water with festival goers
- Picked up trash on the Morro Bay Sandspit

# Spotlight on Partner Projects

## COASTAL SAN LUIS RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT Morrissey Ranch

With financial support from the California Coastal Conservancy, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Estuary Program, the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District (RCD) acquired the 82-acre Morrissey Ranch that abuts the Morro Bay estuary. The RCD is developing restoration plans for this site to reduce erosion, improve water flow, and restore habitat. Once restored, the area could provide habitat for tidewater goby, steelhead, and California red-legged frogs, all of which are either threatened or endangered.



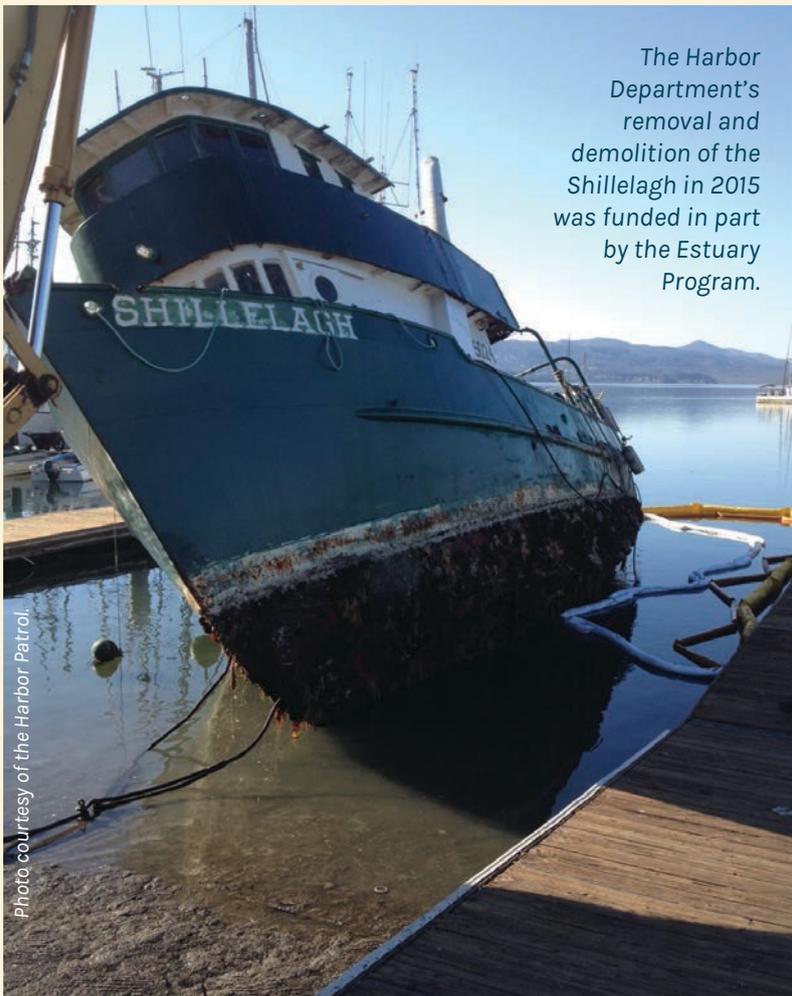
*This picture shows part of the Morrissey Ranch property, the site of the habitat restoration project. Photo courtesy of the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District.*

## COASTAL SAN LUIS RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT Los Osos Creek Bank Stabilization Project

The Estuary Program provided funds to the Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District for their Los Osos Creek Bank Stabilization Project, which came to a close in fall of 2016. This project stabilized an eroding bank that was threatening a bridge, improving habitat along a one-hundred-foot stretch of Los Osos Creek. Native vegetation was planted to enhance habitat and reduce erosion, while rootwads were placed in the creek to stabilize banks and enhance fish habitat. These actions support habitat conditions for California red-legged frog and steelhead by improving water quality and habitat.



*This picture shows the highly eroded bank that was shored up by the Los Osos Creek Bank Stabilization Project. The creekbed has been drained of water (according to regulatory requirements) and the top of the bank is visible at the very top of the picture.*



*The Harbor Department's removal and demolition of the Shillelagh in 2015 was funded in part by the Estuary Program.*

Photo courtesy of the Harbor Patrol.

## CITY OF MORRO BAY HARBOR PATROL

### Removal of Derelict Vessels, Pollution Abatement Supplies

Through our Community Grants program, the Estuary Program funded the City of Morro Bay Harbor Patrol's efforts to prevent the spread of contaminants in the bay. Funds supported the Small Pollution Abatement Response Equipment Supplies (SPARES) project, which provided the materials necessary for the city to clean up oil and fuel spills, as well as marine fires. We also supported the Derelict Vessel Abatement Program, which removes and properly disposes of derelict and abandoned vessels that threaten the environment and navigation in Morro Bay.

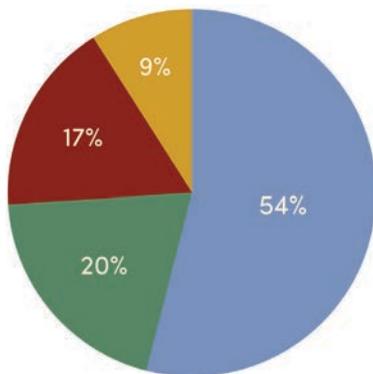
# Funding in 2016

The Morro Bay National Estuary Program is a locally-managed nonprofit organization that is recognized by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Financial and technical assistance from the EPA supports each of the 28 National Estuary Programs across the country. These funds, along with other grants and donations, sustain Estuary Program projects and collaborative efforts with a wide variety of partners in the watershed. The figures on this page illustrate how Estuary Program funds were spent during the 2016 fiscal year (October 1, 2015–September 30, 2016).

## PROGRAM FUNDERS

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- State Water Resources Control Board
- Harold J. Miossi Charitable Trust
- California Department of Fish & Wildlife
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Pacific Gas & Electric Company

## EXPENSES



The portion of funds that are used in each of four program areas for the 2016 fiscal year (October 1, 2015–September 30, 2016)

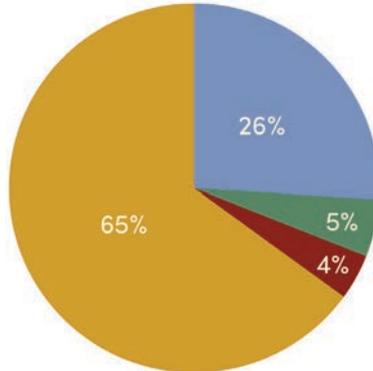
- Habitat and Water Quality Protection and Restoration
- Monitoring and Research
- Education and Outreach
- Program Management and National Partnerships

## IN-KIND SERVICES AND PRODUCTS

These businesses and individuals donated services and products to our organization this year.

- Annie Gillespie
- Better Business
- Financial Services
- California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
- California Sea Grant
- Camp San Luis Obispo
- Central Coast Outdoors
- Christopher McMains
- City of Morro Bay
- Coalesce Bookstore
- Cuesta College
- Deanna Richards, Edward Jones
- Digital West
- Donald Quintana
- Eco-Econ Future
- ESTERO
- Eco Rotary Club of Morro Bay
- Glenn Burdette
- Growing Grounds Downtown
- Lost Isle Adventure Cruises
- Marina Square
- Michael "Mike" L. Baird
- Morro Bay Stand Up
- Paddleboarding
- Pacific Watershed Associates
- Pagnol at 3rd Street Bakery
- Pacific Gas & Electric Company
- Simo Nylander
- Sub Sea Tours
- Sullivan and Associates
- Susan Woods
- Thomas Wilmer
- Windows on the Water

## INCOME



The value of cash and in-kind income from federal and nonfederal sources for the 2016 fiscal year (October 1, 2015–September 30, 2016)

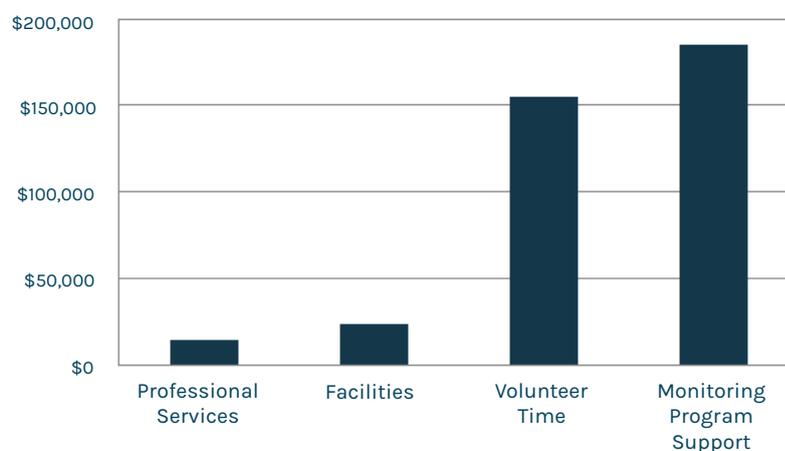
Federal = \$443,000  
Nonfederal = \$1,031,000

Graph of percentages of nonfederal sources:

- State
- Private
- Restoration Fund
- In-Kind

## DONATED SERVICES

The dollar value of donated services received by the Estuary Program during the 2016 fiscal year (October 1, 2015–September 30, 2016)



# Supporters

**Your generosity matters.** The generosity of the following individuals, companies, and organizations has allowed us to have a greater positive impact on the Morro Bay National Estuary and the surrounding watershed this year. Thank you for your continued support!

\* MUTTS FOR THE BAY PROGRAM SUPPORTER

## GUARDIAN'S CIRCLE

(\$1000 to \$4,999)

Judy Clement  
Dale Kaiser Real Estate\*  
Santa Lucia Fly Fishers  
David & Helianthe Stevig

## LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

(\$500 to \$999)

Terry & Lucy Brown,  
in memory of Tim Brown  
Virginia Cahill\*  
Grassy Bar Oyster  
Company\*  
Rosalie Valvo  
Eco Rotary Club  
of Morro Bay

## STEWARDS OF MORRO BAY

(\$250 to \$499)

Anonymous  
Kathleen Baker\*  
Dorothy Christie\*  
Bayfront Inn  
Lemos Feed & Pet Supply  
Julie Loe\*  
William & Delayna Luffee  
Michael Multari & Denise  
Fourie  
Morro Bay Active Adults\*  
Morro Cove HOA\*  
Motel 6 Morro Bay  
Joel Neel  
Piedra Environmental  
Consultants  
Rotary Club of Morro Bay\*  
Shirley & Paul Vinson\*  
Linda & Richard Williams\*

## FRIENDS OF MORRO BAY

(\$100 to \$249)

Homer & Dede Alexander\*  
Kate Anderson\*  
Lexie & Michael Bell  
Karen Biaggini  
Monica & Edward  
Bischof\*  
James & Elaine Crescenzi  
Janetta Ruth Evers\*  
Franklin Real Estate  
& Rentals  
Rebecca Gershow  
& Timothy Black  
Rickey & Karen Gilligan\*  
Myron & Sue Hood  
Laurie & Bruce Keogh\*  
in memory of Jack Keogh  
Frankie McGuire\*  
Patricia Mumma  
Bill Newman  
B.K. Richard\*  
Dominic Roques & Beth  
Fillerup  
Safe Harbor Tax Service\*  
Ted Schade  
David & Justine Thomas\*  
Linda Veale  
Yolanda & Jay Waddell  
Fred & Candy Wickman\*  
Carla Wixom

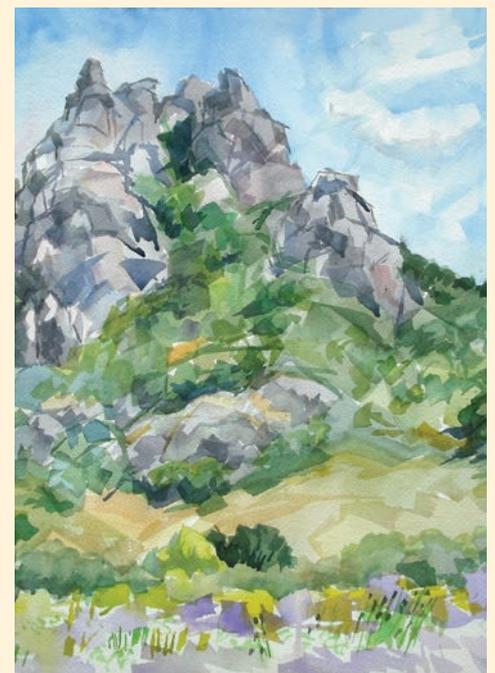
## SUPPORTERS

(Up to \$99)

AmazonSmile  
Anna Aven\*  
Linda & Robert Bailey  
Alyssa Ball\*  
Karen & Barton Beckman\*  
Ian Bell  
Blue Sky Bistro  
Vivian & Barry Branin\*  
Cynthia Calvert  
Judith Carlson\*  
Central Coast Poo Patrol\*

Carol & Paul Courcy  
Marla & Bill Decker\*  
Lerri & Leslie Deedon\*  
Nancy Dickenson  
J.E. Drake\*  
Eddy Drywall\*  
Susan & Gordon Empey\*  
Erika Bocardo & Michael  
Clark  
ESTERO  
Shari Faris  
Jan Goldman  
Armida & Raymond  
Gonzalez  
Michael Gruenke  
Thomas Harrington\*  
Patsy & Herbert Harsch\*  
Bill Henry  
Carolyn & Marilyn Hodge\*  
Gregg Hoversten\*  
Earl Hoyt\*  
Bob & Pam Hyland  
Monica & Jamie Irons  
Susan Jamison  
Sandra Jennings\*  
Jill Denton & Caroline  
Hall\*  
Jean Fergus & Heidi  
Kausch\*  
Elaine & Frank Kelley\*  
Rebecca Leventhal  
Julian Lipschitz\*  
Catherine & Donald  
Lockwood\*  
Karen Lockwood  
Marti Construction, Inc.\*  
Donald & Liz Maruska  
Catherine Marvier  
John Merrells  
Kyoko & J. Chris  
Mitsuoka\*  
Kate Montgomery  
Ginny Moore\*  
James & Gail Morgan\*  
Morro Bay Standup  
Paddleboarding  
Rhonda Norelius\*  
Simo Nylander  
Joanna Osborn\*

Rachel Pass  
Randal & Tami Ponder\*  
Kathleen Raftery, in  
memory of Patricia Flynn  
Gary Ream\*  
Pat Redwine\*  
Shelby Rinck\*  
Jack & Linda Ritchie\*  
Marilyn Roberts\*  
Jim Ruddell & Ruddell's  
Smokehouse in memory  
of Ray & Betty Ruddell  
Lynne & Steven Sanoian\*  
Alan Schluter\*  
Glenn Silloway  
Julie & Ray Smith  
Joel Stein\*  
Cheri & Scott Subler\*  
Harry Thal\*  
Kathryn & Robert Thomas\*  
Rochele Ullum\*  
James & Christina Van  
Beveren  
Albert Viselli\*  
Carol & Robert Walker\*  
Mary Whiteford\*  
Janice & Rex Wolf





# Organizational Structure

The Morro Bay National Estuary Program is a nonprofit organization that works on behalf of the local community to protect and restore Morro Bay. The Estuary Program frequently gathers input from community members, experts, agencies, and other partners to guide its work.

The Bay Foundation is the nonprofit organization that houses the Estuary Program. The Bay Foundation Board applies for grants, manages funding for the Estuary Program, and employs its staff.



## ESTUARY PROGRAM STAFF

- LEXIE BELL — Executive Director
- ANN KITAJIMA — Assistant Director
- CYNTHIA MILHEM — Office Manager
- KARISSA WILLITS — Monitoring Coordinator
- SHANE BENNETT — Monitoring Coordinator
- CAROLYN DOEHRING — Restoration Projects Manager
- STEPH WALD — Senior Restoration Projects Manager, special projects
- EVAN MUNDAHL — Field Technician
- RACHEL PASS — Communications & Outreach Coordinator
- SARA MARKHAM — Design & Communications Specialist

- ADRIENNE HARRIS — Former Strategy Director
- JEN NIX — Former Restoration Projects Manager

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- JOEL NEEL — President
- GARY RUGGERONE — Vice President
- BILL HENRY — Secretary
- MARK ROTHE — Treasurer
- TOM EDELL
- REBECCA GERSHOW
- DAVE PARADIES
- DEANNA RICHARDS
- SHAUNNA SULLIVAN
- KRIS VARDAS
- CARLA WIXOM through October 2016

## IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

*The Implementation Committee provides technical assistance and gives advice on a wide range of decisions, including community grant proposals.*

## TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES

*Local experts give advice about current Estuary Program projects.*



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

*The Executive Committee provides policy direction for the program, assesses progress, and approves community grant proposals.*

## MEMBERS SERVING AT THE PLEASURE OF THEIR ORGANIZATIONS

Federal Government, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
**SUZANNE MARR** – Program Manager for the Estuary Program

State of California, Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board  
**JENNIFER EPP** – Total Maximum Daily Load Program Manager

San Luis Obispo County  
**BRUCE GIBSON** – District 2 Supervisor

City of Morro Bay  
**MATT MAKOWETSKI** – City Council Member

Los Osos Community Services District  
**MARSHALL OCHYLSKI** – Board Member

Bay Foundation of Morro Bay  
**JOEL NEEL** – President

Implementation Committee Chair  
**BECKA KELLY** – Harbor Patrol Supervisor

## MEMBERS REPRESENTING SPECIFIC STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

At Large Government Agency  
**SAM SCHUCHAT**  
Executive Officer, State of California Coastal Conservancy

Environmental Interests  
**HOLLY SLETTELAND**  
Board Member, California Native Plant Society

Agricultural Interests  
Vacant

Tourism/Recreation Interests  
**JOHN FLAHERTY**  
Businessman and Owner, Central Coast Outdoors

Science & Research  
**KRISTIN HARDY**  
Assistant Professor, Marine and Biological Sciences,  
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

Local Fisheries  
**TRUDY O'BRIEN**  
Member, Morro Bay Commerical Fisherman's Organization





Jessie Wood 09