

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release: March 15, 2017

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Morro Bay National Estuary Program Releases Report on Health of Morro Bay

Is it safe to swim in Morro Bay? How healthy are Morro Bay's eelgrass beds and bird populations? How much of the bay and watershed have been protected and restored? Every three years, the Morro Bay National Estuary Program's State of the Bay report and event series answer these questions and others about the health of Morro Bay. The 2017 State of the Bay report is available now.

Find the report online at <u>www.mbnep.org/state-of-the-bay</u>, along with all of the details for a month-long series of State of the Bay events that invite people to explore our bay through science. These talks, walks, hikes, interactive presentations, and special events stretch from our Clean Water Talk and Wild Ale launch at the Libertine Pub on April 1, to Pickup and Paddle event at Tidelands Park on Earth Day, and into May with the A National Treasure in Words Poetry Contest reading and DogFest event. Everyone is invited to come participate in the fun and learn about this natural treasure in our backyard.

The Morro Bay National Estuary Program brings together citizens, local governments, other nonprofits, agencies, and landowners to protect and restore the Morro Bay estuary. The Estuary Program has been conducting monitoring and research, restoring natural habitats, and educating residents and visitors on how to keep Morro Bay clean and healthy since 1995.

Please contact Rachel Pass, Communications & Outreach Coordinator, at <u>rpass@mbnep.org</u> or 805-772-3834 with any questions about the report or the event series.