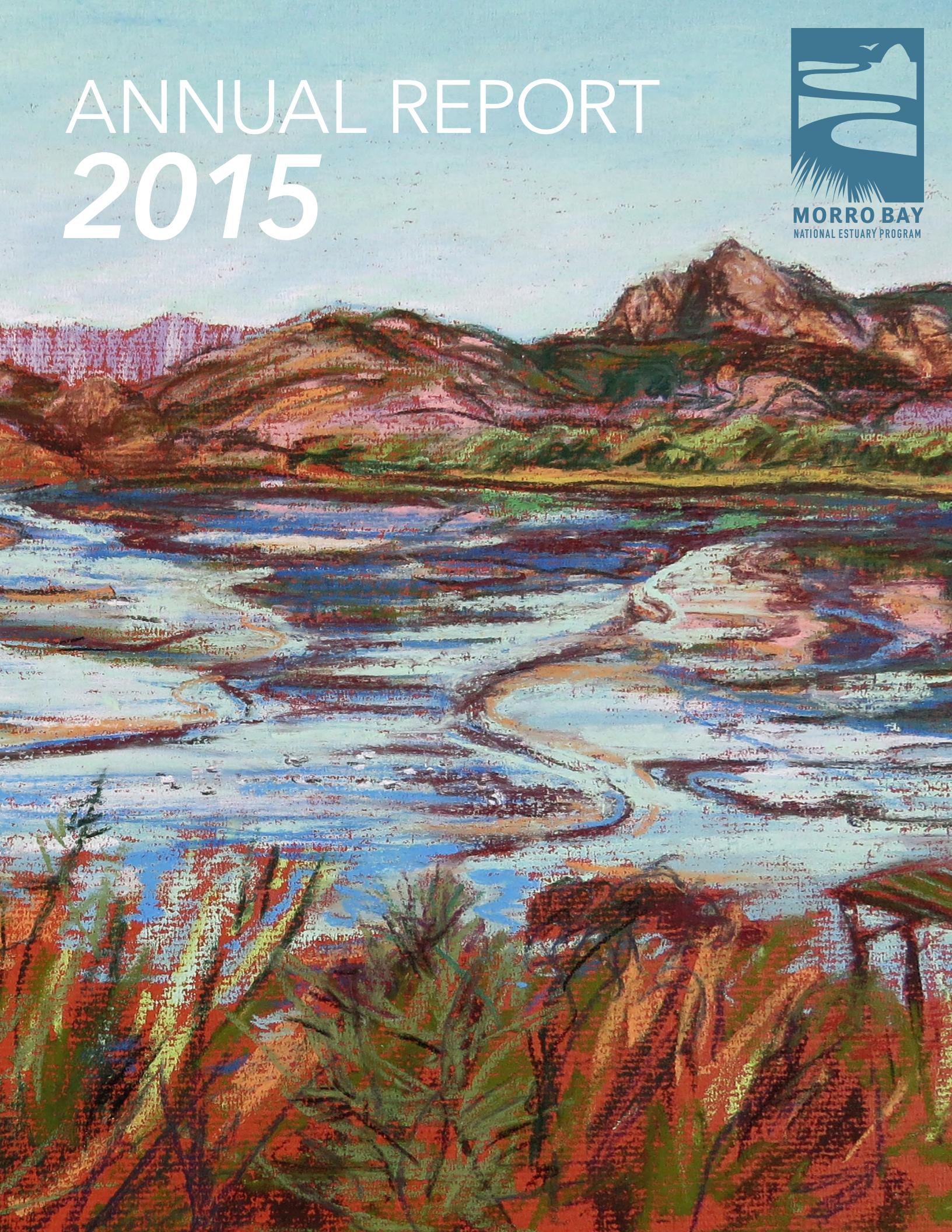


ANNUAL REPORT 2015





VISIT & EXPLORE

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!

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.

BLOG MBNEP.org/blog

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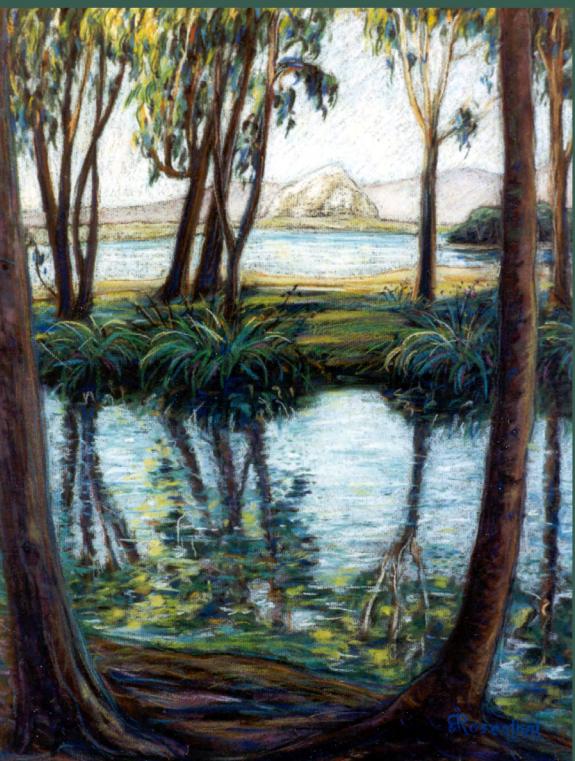
YouTube: MorroBayEstuary

Featured Artist

Barbara Rosenthal has been a nature lover since childhood. The pleasure she gets from the natural world prompted her move to the Central Coast in 1981. She uses local parks and forests as part of her studio, working directly in acrylic, oil, and pastel, absorbing and learning from her surroundings.

Barbara has generously donated the use of her artwork for this report.

rosenthalart.com



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**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
Volunteer
Donate

MBNEP.org

2015, A BANNER YEAR

In our community, we have a long history of working to protect Morro Bay, our estuary. This effort has taken many forms over the decades, but all with the same goal, to protect the special nature of this place. Morro Bay was designated as a State Estuary in 1994, and the Morro Bay National Estuary Program was established in 1995 after many years of hard work by our community, in particular, the Bay Foundation of Morro Bay and the Friends of the Estuary. The individuals who served in these organizations never quit until they reached their goal of National Estuary designation. Many still work today to protect our bay.

2015 was filled with milestones. The Morro Bay National Estuary Program celebrated 20 years of service to our bay and community. We acknowledged our long-time supporters and thanked new friends who gathered together to recognize all we've accomplished. Adrienne celebrated five years with the program, and Joel took on his second term as Bay Foundation President. We both have thoroughly enjoyed working with this dedicated group of community members and partner organizations, and while Adrienne left the organization in 2016, she will always be grateful to have worked with such passionate supporters.

This year, we worked together to keep 6,000 cubic yards of sediment from entering creeks in our



**Adrienne Harris
Executive Director**

from November 2010 through December 2015

watershed by fixing chronic erosion issues on rural roads. We began planning for our largest floodplain restoration project yet along Chorro Creek. Community members used 250,000 bags provided by our Mutt Mitts program to keep pet waste out of our bay. And, all year long, we celebrated the beauty of our bay through art and storytelling.

As Jeremiah O'Brien, a local fishermen, put it in his 20th anniversary Bay Story interview, "We all love this place that we get to call home and work in. It's certainly special to all of us, that's why we're here in Morro Bay."

We live in this place, we work in this place, we love this place. Each of you reading this report has helped the Estuary Program throughout the last 20 years. Thank you for your service to our bay.

Our work is not over. Our estuary still faces threats from pollution and climate change. The National Estuary Program is dedicated to solving the complex problems that face our bay and ocean now and in the future. We have work to do, and together we will continue this important work in the decades to come.

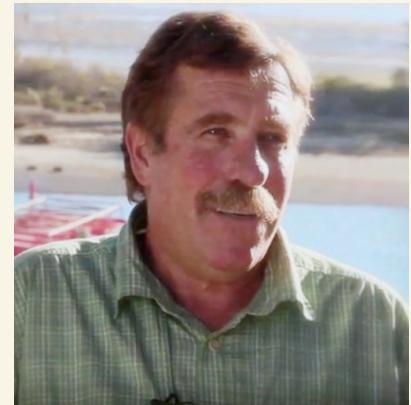
**Joel Neel
President**



BAY FOUNDATION BOARD UPDATES

Rick Algert Retires

Rick knows our community well. He is a long-time resident of the area, the former Morro Bay Harbor Director, and currently works with local fishermen to help develop more sustainable practices. Rick's knowledge and depth of experience have made him a tremendous asset to the Bay Foundation Board. Though we are sad to see him go, we are glad that he will have more time for his loved ones and his family farm, alpacas and all! We thank Rick for his valuable service and hope to see him around the bay often.



We Welcome Our New Board Member

Kris Vardas joined the Bay Foundation Board in July 2015. Kris Vardas is a principal land/environmental planner with Pacific Gas and Electric Company, where he handles land use and environmental planning for a large variety of energy supply, decommissioning, and electric transmission and distribution projects. Kris worked in private consulting for several years and previously worked for two state agencies in Sacramento. Kris also serves on the board of the California Coastal Coalition and the French Hospital Foundation Board. He served two four-year terms on the Pismo Beach City Council and a two-year term on the Pismo Beach Planning Commission. Kris was also a commissioner with the San Luis Obispo Local Agency Formation Commission, and a board member of the Zone 3 Water Advisory Board. He has an MBA and a BS in Environmental Policy and Planning. Kris enjoys spending time with his family, stand up paddling, surfing, and woodworking.

Blue Sanctuary

The valuable moment:
River, air, and ocean empty
Into blue estuary,
While sea otters usher
Fellow estuarians:
Steelhead trout,
Brown pelican,
And Morro manzanita
Through eel-grass beds
Spreading across
Tributaries
Like a tapestry.
Its earthy green threads
Grab deep and
Reach out to
Us.

Poem by **Marnie L. Parker**,
Free Verse Category Winner

2015 WAS OUR 20TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

*We celebrated the estuary with a series
of fun and informative public events.*

Tidal Song

The tide fills the channels, winding like tree limbs
Great egrets stalk through the tall grass
Legs like stilts, giving them an advantage over their prey
Crabs dribble over the banks, plop into the water,
and flutter to the floor like feathers from their hunter
Salty mist hugs the ever-changing estuary
A small cheep can be heard as a mother mallard returns to her chicks
Seagulls call from distant dunes
As Time pulls the sun, sea, and moon, the channels empty
The sky becomes the cheek of a child playing in the snow: blush pink
It darkens to the deep blue of the night
Kin of the sky, the ocean, imitates the color till the land is coated in shadow
The only light comes from the moon
It illuminates the bay, waking the creatures that play under its faithful watch
Mud glistens in the gloom, munching on the shoe it had stolen from a stranded sailor
A black silhouette silently dances in front of the stars and touches down on a eucalyptus
Huge eyes peer out as it takes in a panoramic view in one full turn of its feathered head
Nothing can save the prey it spies
Across the water, fox cubs play in the elfin forest
Yipping and growling when an ear is bitten
The night curls overhead
Slowly, silently, a glow smudges the horizon, and the mother fox herds her brood back to the den
A light out of batteries, the moon shrinks away from the dawn and with it go the creatures to await its return
The sun slips over the hills, and coaxes a greeting from the sea
Waves melt into the channels
Grasses peek above the surface and shake with laughter when the cool water embraces their tiny stems
A small minnow kisses the top of the water to catch its breakfast
At the first gull's cry, the sun floats fully above the land, casting diamonds on the water
Clouds dot the sky like the insides of an unlucky stuffed animal
Twenty-four hours turn over again
The tide fills the channels, winding like tree limbs

Poem by Lauren Tarica,
Youth Free Verse Category Winner

A National Treasure in Words POETRY CONTEST & CELEBRATORY READING



Great Egret
Illustration by Eva Moylan



Thanks to poets from Morro Bay, Los Osos, San Luis Obispo, and beyond, we received about 100 entries for this year's estuary-themed poetry contest. The poets' passion for this special place helped them to capture the spirit of the bay with their words.

Our guest judges—local poets Kevin Patrick Sullivan, Youssef Alaoui, and Rob Seitz—chose youth and adult winners and runners-up for the haiku and free verse categories. Fifty people gathered at Coalesce bookstore to hear the winning poems and to celebrate the estuary.

You can find the winners' poems throughout this report and on our website.



Bay-Friendly Gardening TOUR

We partnered with Sage Ecological Landscapes & Nursery to hold a bay-friendly gardening information session. Participants learned how to use native and drought-tolerant plants to conserve water, and to avoid using chemical pesticides and fertilizers in the garden.



Celebrating a National Treasure

TRAVELING ART SHOW

Fourteen different artists created paintings, photographs, and mixed media pieces that showcased the Morro Bay National Estuary.

Visitors enjoyed the show and gallery receptions at the Art Center Morro Bay, the San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, and the Office of Deanna Richards, Edward Jones.



Sharing Locals' Bay Stories

VIDEOS & PODCASTS



Our Bay Stories are told by local citizens, families, business owners, and nature enthusiasts who love the bay. The videos show the beauty of the wildlife and rare landscapes that surround us, and reveal the speakers' hopes for the future of the estuary. They remind us why the estuary should be protected and restored.

We debuted a selection of these Bay Story videos at our traveling art show and hosted a viewing party at the Los Osos Library. The podcast versions aired on The Rock community radio station, 97.3 FM. Now, you can watch all the videos and listen to the extended podcast versions on our website.



Estuary Update COMMUNITY MEETING

Ann Kitajima, Monitoring Program Manager, discussed the current health of the bay and watershed as well as the importance of keeping our waters healthy for people and animals alike.

Jennifer Nix, Restoration Projects Manager, talked about the eelgrass decline in Morro Bay and outlined the Estuary Program's efforts to help restore and understand this important species.



Twentieth Anniversary PARTY

We gathered together with founders, supporters, partners, local government officers, and community members to celebrate 20 years of working to protect and restore Morro Bay.

Adrienne Harris, Executive Director, acknowledged the hundreds of people who participated in the grassroots effort to form the Estuary Program and to write the original Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan and the 2012 update.

Assemblyman Katcho Achadjian and State Senator Bill Monning wrote a special joint resolution that recognized the Estuary Program's good work. Great people, delicious food, a photo booth, a microscope station, and other activities made for a fun day.

After all of these events and celebrations, we are rejuvenated, inspired, and more than ready for the next 20 years!

2015 in focus

GOOD, CLEAN, BOATING FUN

The Morro Bay National Estuary

Program partners with the City of Morro Bay's Harbor Department to help boaters keep our waters clean. This year, we consulted with the Harbor Department to design a user-friendly Clean Boating kit that includes a map of boater resources (like pumpout stations and the Harbor Department's new Oil Recycling facility), an oil-absorbent sock for soaking up spills and leaks, and dye tablets that can detect sewage leaking from marine head (a.k.a. onboard toilet) holding tanks. We are distributing these kits to

local and visiting boaters so that they'll have the tools they need to protect the estuary.

We've also continued to help the Harbor Department fund the removal of abandoned, derelict vessels. These are boats that are in states of significant disrepair. If left alone, exposure to the elements might cause them to leak oil, gas, paint, and other pollutants into our waters. Removing and demolishing them before they further deteriorate—or even sink—is essential to preserving the health of the bay.



In 2015, the Harbor Department removed and demolished eight vessels. The largest one was a 52' steel-hulled commercial fishing boat.

Critters feel at home
A safe place where no waves break
salty mud and wind

Poem by Nick Murphy, Youth Haiku Winner



DOGS FOR CLEAN WATER

Dogs bring us joy, companionship, unconditional love, and—well, a whole lot of **waste**—**poop**—**excrement**... “stuff” to clean up. In the Morro Bay and Los Osos area, there are approximately 5,500 canine residents doing their duty every day—and this can have quite an impact on water quality.

Rain can wash bacteria from dog waste right into our creeks and bay. The Estuary Program and its partners combat this problem by providing dog-waste bags (Mutt Mitts) for free at dispensers throughout the Morro Bay area. 2015 was a busy year. Dog owners used approximately 250,000 bags to properly dispose of waste. The Estuary Program created a map of the dispensers in our area (you can find it on our website), installed three new dispensers and adopted two existing dispensers into our program. For the second year in a row, the Estuary Program hosted a fun, free, family-friendly dog event called DogFest to educate residents and visitors about the importance of picking up after our canine companions. DogFest 2015 nearly doubled attendance from the inaugural event; approximately 300 people attended with dogs in tow. Dogs showed off tricks, performed in an agility course, dressed up for costume awards (we even had a dog in postal uniform!), and learned new obedience tips.

In 2016, we hope to see this program continue to grow as we educate more dog owners about how they can help keep the bay clean.



RURAL ROAD RESTORATION UPDATE

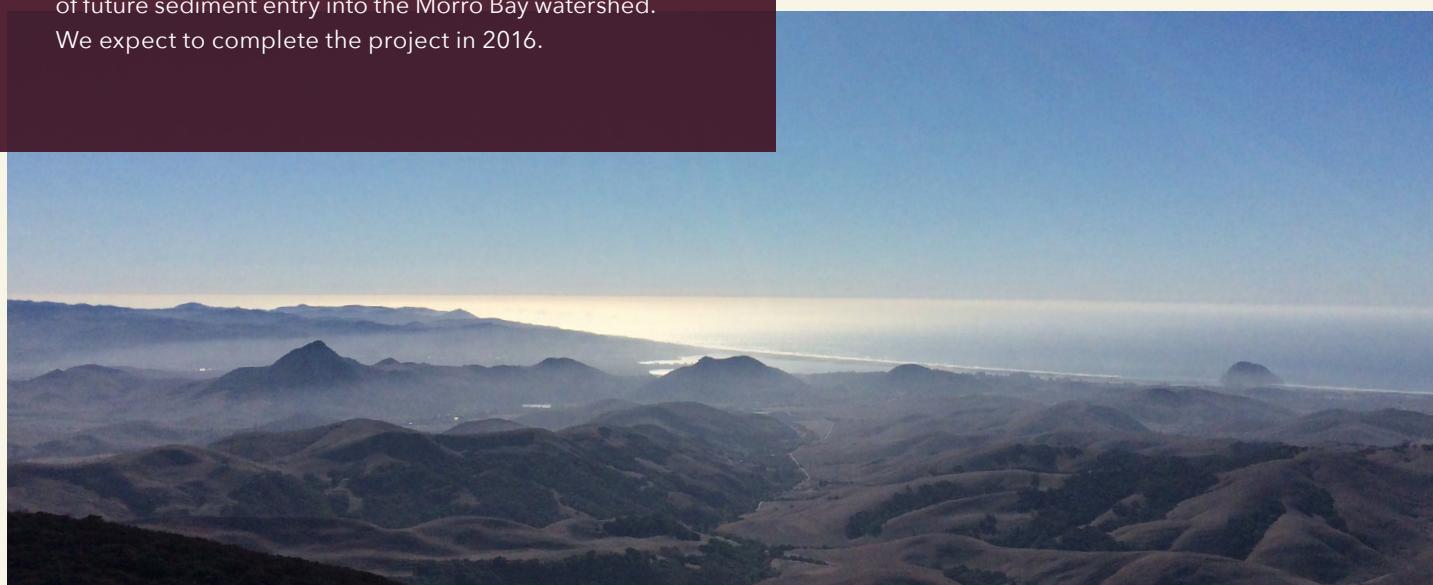
In 2014, the Estuary Program broke ground on an ambitious project to restore World War II era roads in the Morro Bay watershed. After weathering decades of use and storms, these roads were in danger of failing and sending large amounts of sediment into nearby streams and down to the estuary.

This project will control erosion at certain roads along Chorro Creek and its tributaries, reducing the amount of sediment that enters the water. This project is part of an ongoing effort to improve water quality and aquatic habitat in Morro Bay and its surrounding watershed. In cooperation with Cal Poly, the U.S. Forest Service, and Camp SLO, we've already completed work at 42 project sites. When the project is complete, we will have addressed 47 sites along over 10 miles of failing roads, resulting in the reduction of 9,260 cubic yards of future sediment entry into the Morro Bay watershed. We expect to complete the project in 2016.

PRE-PROJECT
FAILING STREAM
CROSSING WITH
EXPOSED CULVERT



POST-PROJECT
UPGRADED
CROSSING WITH
ARMORED FILL



CHORRO CREEK ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

The Estuary Program partnered with several agencies, including the California Coastal Conservancy and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, to fund the purchase of a parcel of land along Chorro Creek in 2003. They named it the Chorro Creek Ecological Reserve.

Prior to its acquisition, the land was used for agriculture. Berms and levees created during that time have disconnected the creek from its floodplain. As a result, an unstable secondary channel has formed, and habitat for sensitive species such as South-Central California steelhead and California red-legged frog has been compromised. Areas of this secondary channel show drastic erosion, causing sediment to flow downstream.

Because of these conditions, the Estuary Program and our partners have two main goals for the reserve. One is to restore habitat for wildlife,

and the second is to keep sediment from washing down the stream and into the estuary.

We are excited to report that a team of experts and partners are now working on ways to enhance water quality and habitat within the reserve. Thanks to funding from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Fisheries Restoration Grant Program, Jen Nix, the Estuary Program's Restoration Projects Manager, is leading this team through the design process. They are drafting plans that will stabilize and strengthen sections of the creek, breach or remove existing levees, restore connection to the natural floodplain, and improve a road crossing.

Once the planning process is complete, we will be closer to seeing major benefits to habitat and water quality in this section of Chorro Creek. We're excited to watch these plans unfold!



GIVE A DAY FOR THE BAY SUCCESS

Our Give a Day for the Bay volunteer initiative helped our partner organizations get the word out about volunteer cleanups to benefit the bay. We were very happy with the results.

and
192
volunteers **572**
total hours

Give a Day for the Bay events and partners:

TSUNAMI DEBRIS CLEANUP ON THE SANDSPIT
at Montaña de Oro with ECOSLO & Surfrider

ROADSIDE CLEANUP ALONG SOUTH BAY BOULEVARD
with Small Wilderness Areas Preservation (SWAP)

ELFIN FOREST SHORELINE CLEANUP BY KAYAK
with Small Wilderness Areas Preservation (SWAP)

THREE MORNINGS TO BEAUTIFY CENTENNIAL PARKWAY
in August, September, and October with Morro Bay in Bloom

INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP DAY
on the Sandspit with the Estuary Program
(many thanks to San Luis Obispo County organizer, ECOSLO)

UNDERWATER CLEANUP IN MORRO BAY
with Depth Perceptions Diving Services

PICK-UP AND PICNIC AT BAYSHORE BLUFFS PARK
with Eco Rotary Club of Morro Bay

SUNSET CLEANUP AT MORRO ROCK
with Surfrider & ECOSLO



COMMUNITY GRANTS AWARDED

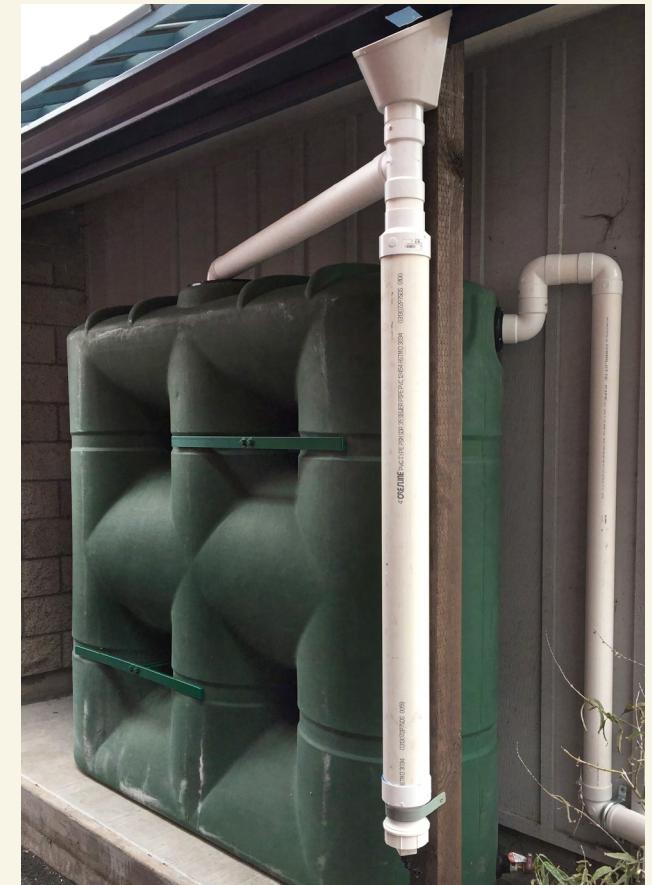
Our Community Grants Program fosters creative projects that address priority issues facing the Morro Bay estuary. The Estuary Program awarded the following Community Grants during the 2015 fiscal year.



Educational Video Microscope System Upgrade CENTRAL COAST STATE PARKS ASSOCIATION (\$4,500)

The Central Coast State Parks Association (CCSPA) upgraded the video microscope system at the Morro Bay Natural History Museum. It now has two high definition color cameras and a powerful new compound microscope. The high-tech control system allows museum docents to take pictures and capture video footage of anything under the scope for later use and study. This has allowed them to better identify plankton samples and to use the detailed images they've collected with students, museum-goers, and other groups.

The microscope system that this one replaced (also funded in part by the Estuary Program) has been moved to the Pismo Nature Center, where it will continue to be used by visitors and school groups.

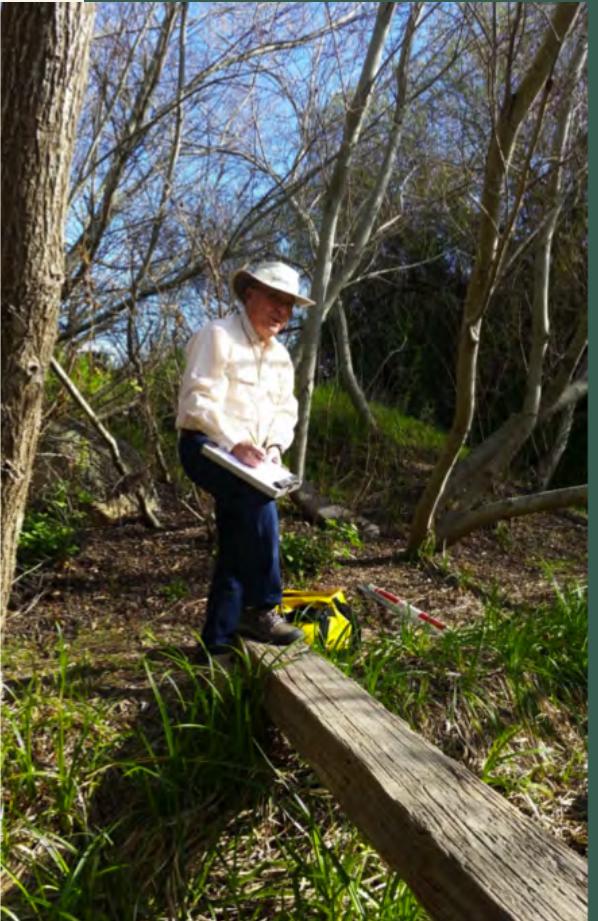


Rainwater Harvesting Demonstration at Centennial Parkway (\$5,000) MORRO BAY IN BLOOM

Rainwater harvesting is doubly good for the estuary—it keeps rainwater from flowing directly into the bay and stores it for use during dry periods. Morro Bay in Bloom's project will show locals and visitors alike the kind of collection system that they can install at home. For every inch of rain that falls in a day, the tank will collect about 800 gallons of water. The water will be used to keep the drought-tolerant plants that landscape Centennial Parkway green throughout the year.

Thank you, partners and volunteers, for your hard work!

VOLUNTEER FOCUS



LONG-TIME VOLUNTEER RETIRES

An avid kayaker, Jim Crescenzi loves an early morning paddle through the calm waters of our bay. Jim first learned about the Estuary Program in 2009 when he paddled by our office. Curious, he decided to stop in, and thus a long and productive relationship was born.

Jim was a dedicated Dawn Patrol volunteer, paddling the bay in the early hours to collect valuable data on oxygen levels in the water. Jim also helped monitor local creeks for basic water quality parameters. As a fly fisherman, Jim is interested in conservation. He says he especially enjoyed "the objectivity of collecting scientific data and using it to assess conditions." Jim contributed nearly 350 hours during his seven years with our program.

A Cambria resident since 2000, this past summer Jim and his wife Elaine moved across the country to be closer to their two sons and two grandchildren on the East Coast. We would like to thank Jim for his work for our program and the time he dedicated to help protect one of the landscapes that he loves.

Thank you, Jim!

Quick flash of feathers
Swirl of fresh and salt water
Slow sway of eelgrass

Poem by George Asdel, Haiku Winner

MONITORING VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR *Charles Payton*

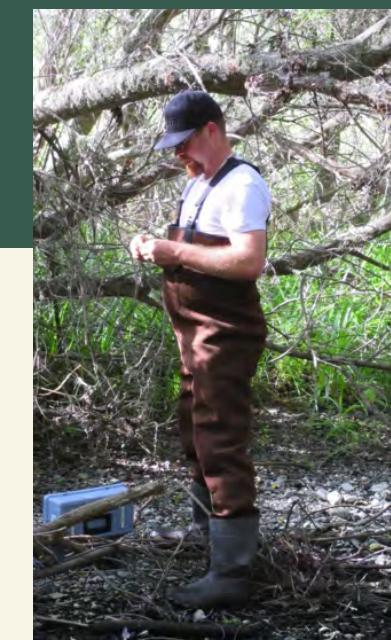
Charles has long had a passion for big water and fish. He grew up in central Idaho and has childhood memories of watching the salmon run on the local rivers. Charles' volunteer experience began with a desire to educate himself and an interest in environmental issues and fish restoration.

He was curious about how environmental data was collected and what it meant. In his words, "To really change something, you need to participate," so he found the Estuary Program and its volunteer monitoring program in 2013. Since then, he's conducted monthly creek water quality monitoring and participated in our spring bio-assessment monitoring, which involves collecting bugs and habitat data from local creeks.

You can always count on Charles to be here for his volunteer shift. He makes time for it despite a long commute and busy schedule, and he always conducts his work precisely.

What Charles enjoys most about volunteering for the Estuary Program is being outside and "getting to play scientist." He says he misses the big rivers and greenery up in the Northwest. But for now, the Central Coast is a pretty good place to be, and we feel privileged to have him as part of our dedicated volunteer corps.

*Thank you,
Charles!*



CHARLES,
MONITORING
WATER QUALITY
IN A LOCAL
CREEK.



GEORGE (RIGHT)
AND HIS NEPHEW,
JOHN, WORKING
ON THE GRASSY
BAR OYSTER
COMPANY FARM.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

George Trevelyan

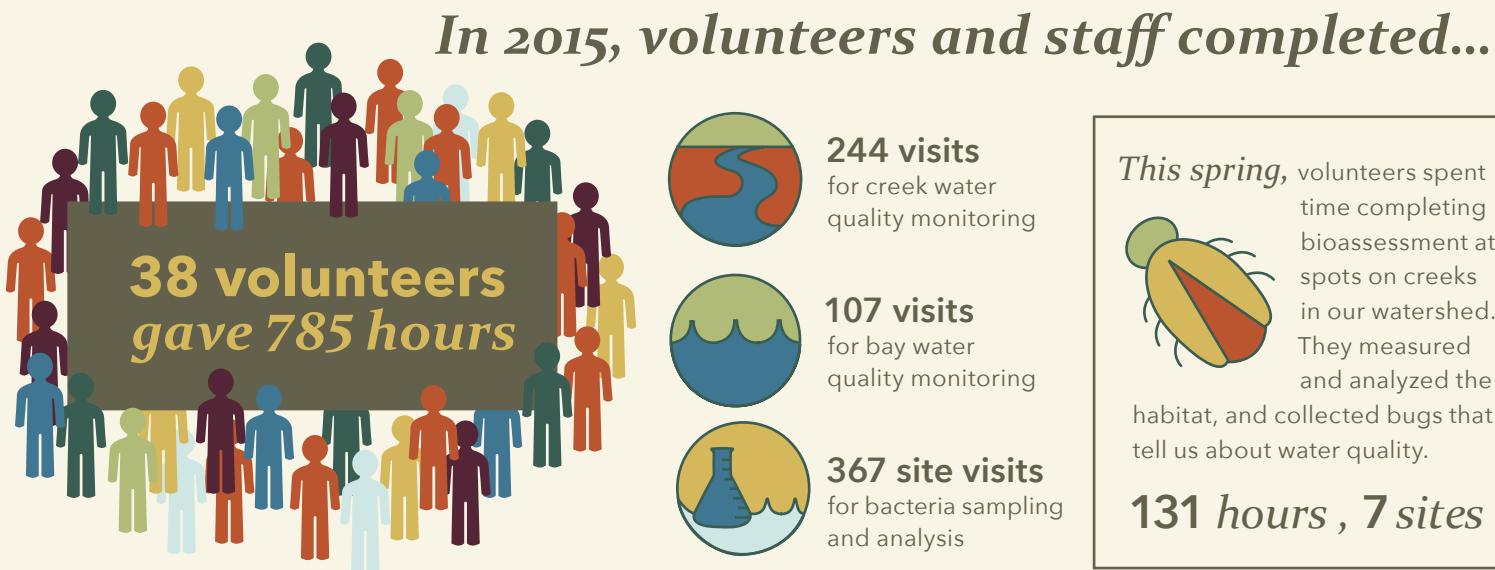
The ocean has always been part of George's life. He grew up surfing, earned a doctorate in Marine Biology, and now owns and runs Grassy Bar Oyster Company in Morro Bay. He is proud of the fact that our clean waters can support high-quality aquaculture on the Central Coast.

George has helped the Estuary Program with many different facets of our work. He has appeared in two of our educational video projects—one that highlights aquaculture in the bay and one in which he tells his own Bay Story. He is also an active Mutt Mitts volunteer, stocking bags so that dog owners can easily pick up after their pets and keep harmful bacteria out of the bay. Grassy Bar Oyster Company even sponsors a Mutt Mitts dispenser.

Lucky paddlers who venture near his oyster farm and meet George are always welcomed warmly. Even on a busy day, he often stops to talk with passersby, educating them about oysters' role as filter feeders, their need for clean water, and how we can all be good neighbors to this beautiful bay.

We are lucky to work with this natural teacher who is so generous with his time and his deep understanding of the bay.

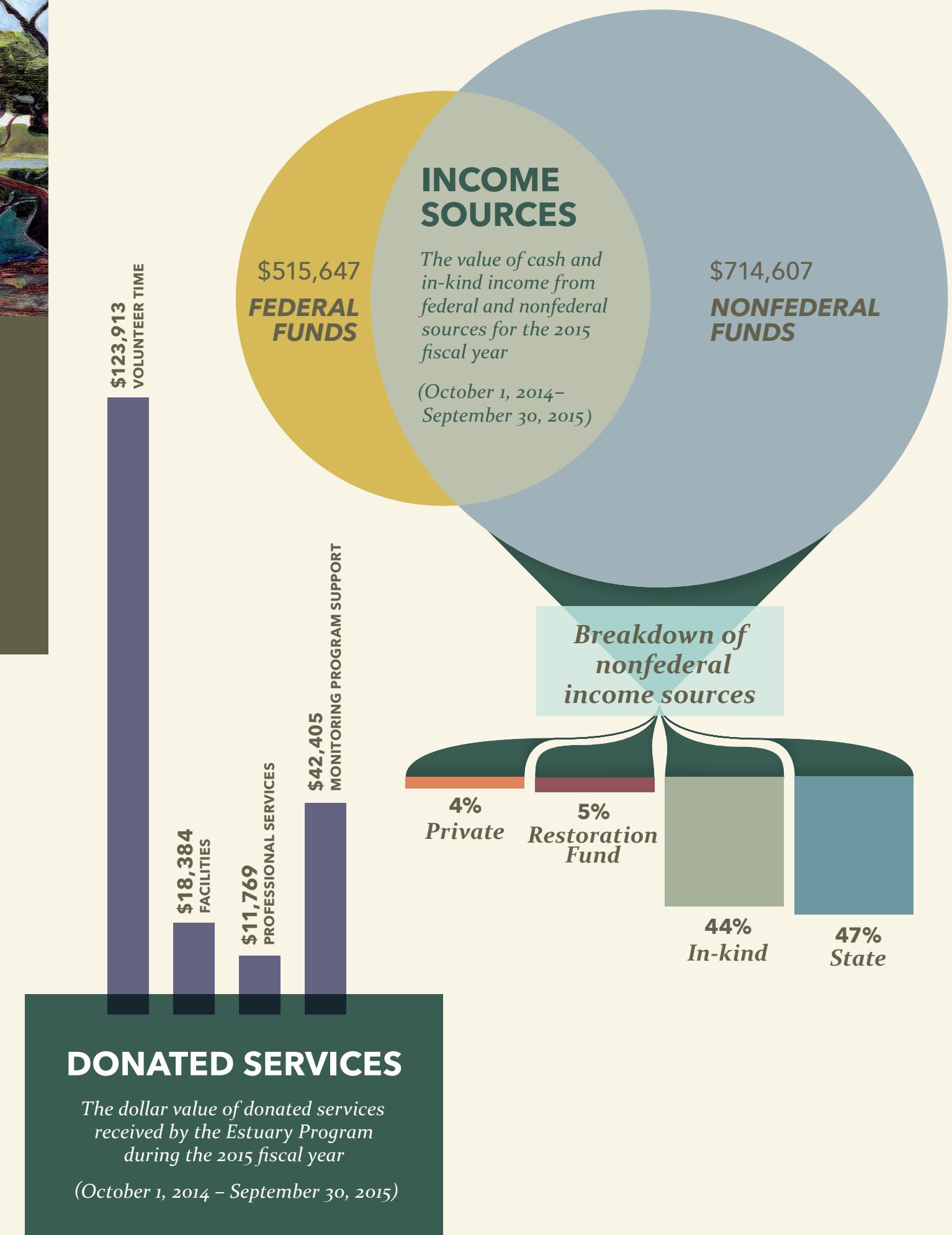
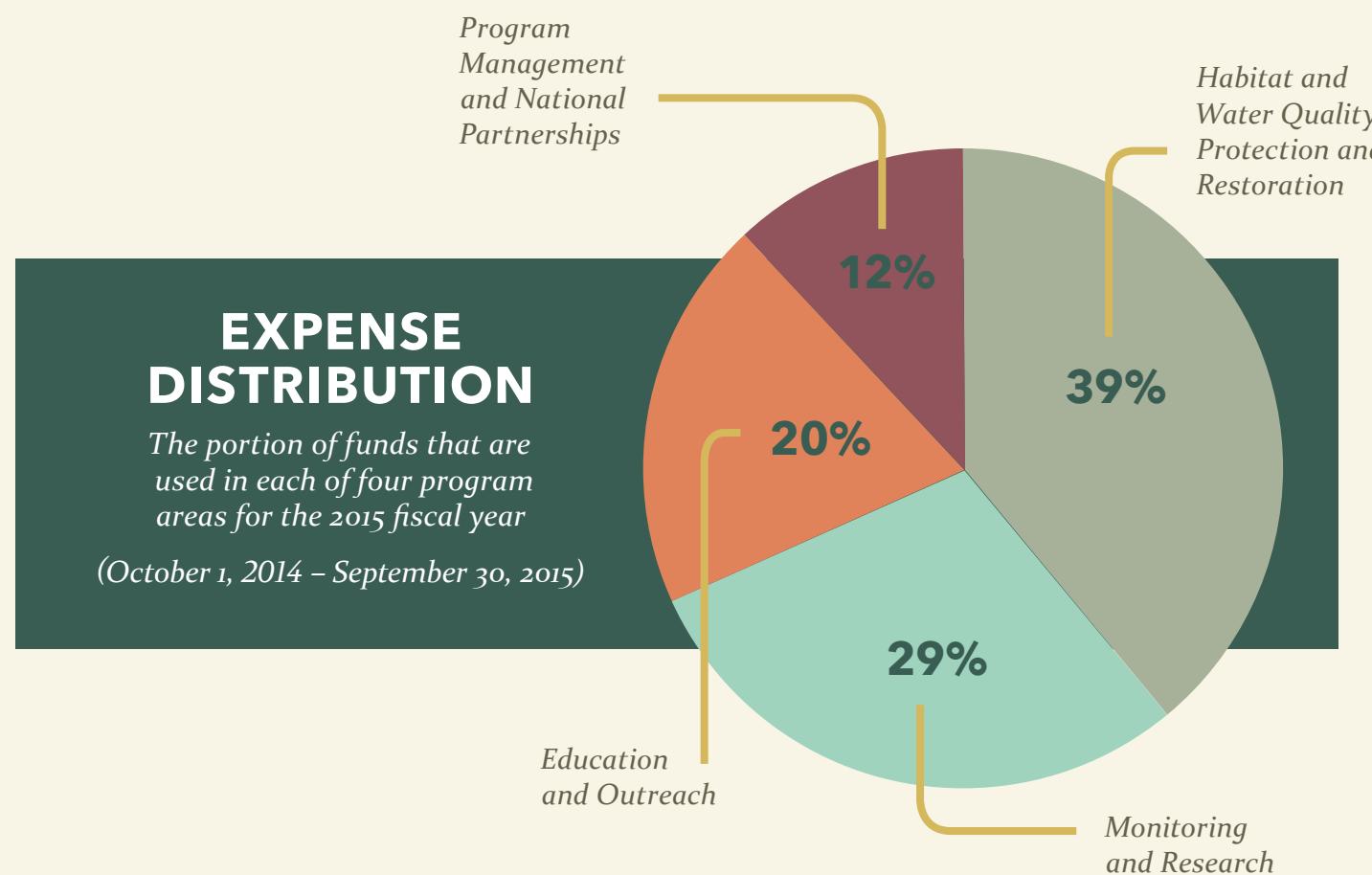
Thank you, George!





FISCAL DATA

The Morro Bay National Estuary Program is one of 28 National Estuary Programs around the country. As a member of this group, the Estuary Program receives an annual grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Estuary Program has leveraged each dollar of this federal funding into nearly ten dollars of support for projects that benefit the bay and watershed. The majority of these funds are provided to partners and other local organizations through grants and collaborative projects.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN 2015!

The generosity of the following individuals, companies, and organizations has allowed us to have a greater positive impact on the Morro Bay estuary this year. Thank you for helping us protect and restore this national treasure to keep it clean and healthy for all of us.



IN-KIND SERVICES & PRODUCTS

Better Business Financial Services	Kayak Horizons
Black Brant Group	San Luis Obispo County Library, Los Osos
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo	Lost Isle Adventure Cruises
California Sea Grant	Mama Ganache Artisan Chocolates
California Army National Guard, Camp San Luis Obispo	Marina Square
Central Coast Outdoors	Michael "Mike" L. Baird
Christopher McMains	Michael Multari
City of Morro Bay	Morro Bay Art Association
Coalesce Bookstore	Morro Bay Stand Up Paddleboarding
Cuesta College	Pacific Watershed Associates
Deanna Richards, Edward Jones	Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E)
Digital West Networks, Inc.	San Luis Obispo Museum of Modern Art
Donald Quintana Nature Photography	Simo Nylander
Eco-Econ Future	SLO Roasted Coffee
Franceska Angel	South Bay Wild
Glenn Burdette	Sub Sea Tours
Good Fortune Gifts	Sullivan & Associates
Growing Grounds Downtown	Thomas Neuman, WildWare
Hayward Construction	Thomas C. Wilmer
	Wendy Disch, éphé mer
	Windows on the Water

PROGRAM FUNDERS

United States Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Harold J. Miossi Charitable Trust

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

(\$500 to \$1000)

Dale Kaiser Real Estate, Inc.*
Charlotte Kelley,
in memory of Alan Larsen
Morro Bay Garden Club
John Alcorn, Morro Bay Aquarium,
in memory of Dean R. Tyler

STEWARDS OF MORRO BAY

(\$250 to \$499)

Bayfront Inn*
Virginia Cahill*
Dorothy Christie*
Grassy Bar Oyster Company °°
John & Roberta Kerchinski
Kitchen & Bath Works*
Lemos Feed & Pet Supply*

Morro Cove HOA*
Motel 6 Morro Bay*
Gary Ruggerone, Piedra Environmental Consultants
Deanna Richards
Linda & Richard Williams*
Dan & Carla Wixom

FRIENDS OF MORRO BAY

(\$100 to \$249)

Anonymous
Kate Anderson*
Anna Aven*
Lexie & Michael Bell
Terry & Lucy Brown
James & Elaine Crescenzi
Joy & John Diercks*
Karen Biaggini, Embarcadero Inn
Janetta Ruth Evers*
Franklin Real Estate & Rentals*
Rickey & Karen Gilligan*
Bill Henry
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Betsy Ann & Michael Kinter*
Rebecca Leventhal
Diane & Roger Ludin*
Frankie McGuire*
Alaina Morgan
Jay Mueller
Marie & David Palchak,
in memory of Jack Moore
John Pepple
Victoria Petty, *in honor of*
Charles & Tammi Woodhouse
Ronald Rasmussen

Dominic Roques & Beth Fillerup
Rotary Club of Morro Bay*
Glenn Silloway
Helianthe & David Stevig
Justine & David Thomas*
Kathryn & Robert Thomas*
James & Christina Van Beveren
Linda Veale
Shirley & Paul Vinson
Yolanda & Jay Waddell
Dr. Frederic J. Sloan II
& Beverley Wainwright*
Fred & Candi Wickman*
Eleanor Williams,
in memory of Jack Moore
Rex & Janice Wolf

SUPPORTERS (Up to \$99)

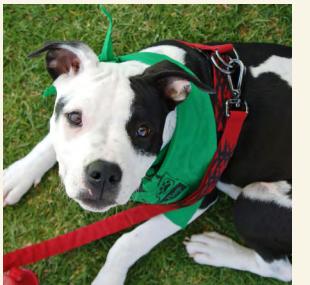
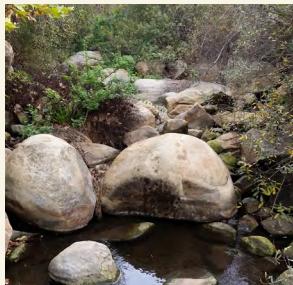
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Alyssa Ball*
Irina Beatty
Karen & Barton Beckman*
Karen Biaggini
Edward & Monica Bischof °°
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Edward Boies
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JUDAVH*
Judith Kaliski
Heidi Kausch & Jean Fergus*
Ellen Lewis
Julian Lipschitz*
Catherine & Donald Lockwood*
Maureen Kurtz*
Marti Construction, Inc.
Donald Maruska
Deb & G.S. Mickle
Kyoko Mitsuoka*
Kate Montgomery
Ginny Moore*
Gail Morgan*
Barbara & Oscar Muñoz*

Rhonda Norelius*
Joanna Osborn*
Jamie Palmer*
Kaleen Perlich
Randal & Tami Ponder*
Dolores & Manuel Quezada
Lana Rauch
Freddie & Gary Ream*
Thomas L. Richards
Linda & Jack Ritchie*
Marilyn Roberts*
Kate & Paul Rowe,
in memory of Jack Moore
Jim Ruddell, Ruddell's Smokehouse
Ron Ruppert
Sandprints Photography*
Lynne & Steven Sanoian*
Julie & Ray Smith
Cheri & Scott Subler
Shaunna Sullivan
Harry Thal °°
Rochele Ullum
A.L. Viselli*
Carol & Robert Walker °°
Greg & Cynthia Wheeler*
Mary Whiteford*
Sidonie Wiedenkeller

°° GENERAL ESTUARY PROGRAM AND MUTT MITTS SUPPORTER

* MUTT MITTS PROGRAM SUPPORTER



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.



Bay Foundation Board of Directors

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.

Joel Neel	President
Gary Ruggerone	Vice President
Bill Henry	Secretary
Mark Rothe	Treasurer
Rick Alger	
Deanna Richards	
Shaunna Sullivan	
Kris Vardas	
Carla Wixom	

(More information at BayFoundationMB.org)

Staff in 2015

Adrienne Harris	- Executive Director
Lexie Bell	- Assistant Director
Cynthia Milhem	- Office Manager
Ann Kitajima	- Monitoring Program Manager
Karissa Willits	- Monitoring Coordinator
Jen Nix	- Restoration Projects Manager
Daniel Miller	- Restoration Technician
Evan Mundahl	- Climate Vulnerability Assessment Intern
Rachel Pass	- Communications & Outreach Coordinator
Sara Markham	- Communications Intern
Larissa Clarke	- Former Restoration Technician
Tom Sanford	- Former Water Quality Technician

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 Sleteland
Board Member, California Native Plant Society

Agricultural Interests

Vacant

Tourism/Recreation Interests

John Flaherty
Businessman and Owner, Central Coast Outdoors

Science and Research

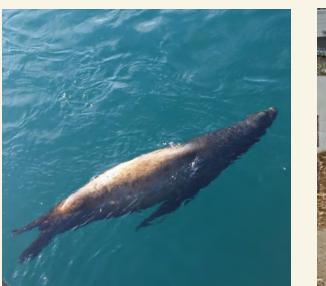
Kristin Hardy
Assistant Professor, Marine and Biological Sciences, California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo

Local Fisheries

Trudy O'Brien
Member, Morro Bay Commercial Fisherman's Organization

Technical Advisory Committees

Local experts give advice about current Estuary Program projects when called upon.



Implementation Committee

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

