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4,584 Volunteers Keep Over 17,000 Pounds of Pollution from Entering Monterey Bay

(September 17, 2011) Santa Cruz, CA – [Save Our Shores](#) (SOS) is excited to announce the results of Coastal Cleanup Day 2011 for Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties. Taking place at 81 cleanup sites from Wadell Creek in the north to the Big Sur coast in the south, Save Our Shores coordinated an impressive 4,584 volunteers during this annual cleanup event. Of the 81 cleanups, 9 were exclusively school cleanups.

In Santa Cruz County, 2,882 volunteers worked at 50 cleanup sites spanning over 76 miles of beach, river, creek, river, slough and lake to remove 9,676 pounds of trash and 2,799 pounds of recyclables in just 3 hours. Totaled, that's 12,475 pounds of pollution removed in Santa Cruz County alone.

With the help from 1,702 volunteers in Monterey County who removed 4,543 pounds of trash and 485 pounds of recyclables from 81 miles of beach, river, slough, creek, and lake, volunteers in both counties combined prevented a total of 17,503 pounds of pollution from entering the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary today.

Total volunteers in Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties combined: 4,584
Total trash and recyclables removed in Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties combined: 17,503
Total volunteers in Santa Cruz County: 2,882
Total trash and recyclables removed in Santa Cruz County: 12,475

At the onset of the cleanup at Cowell Beach this morning, Save Our Shores was presented with a Mayor's Proclamation declaring September 17, 2011, as **Save Our Shores Day in the City of Santa Cruz** by Santa Cruz City Council Members David Terrazas and Hilary Bryant. The Proclamation states: "The City of Santa Cruz is fortunate to have Save Our Shores as an organization in our community." Full language of the Proclamation can be found online at: <http://bit.ly/SOS-Day>.

California Congressman Sam Farr spoke with volunteers at Carmel Beach this morning. "Marine debris...is a global problem," said Sam Farr. "The neat thing about Annual Coastal Cleanup Day is that it's an international event -volunteers in hundreds of countries are filling out the same data cards so we can get a global picture of this problem (and) SOS does a great job of coordinating this effort locally."

Assemblymember Luis A. Alejo, at the Pajaro River cleanup, said, "It is exciting to see such a large group of Watsonville residents helping out today, understanding that the trash we find here would otherwise end up in the Monterey Bay. This is my third year doing the cleanup and it is becoming a tradition for this community to come out and help keep the trash out of the Bay."

Watsonville Mayor Daniel Dodge was also at the Pajaro River cleanup this morning. Said Mayor Dodge, "There are so many young people here today which makes me excited. Over one-third of the residents of Watsonville are under 18, so we really have the ability to live change by educating the youth."

"When thousands of local residents volunteer to clean our beaches and watersheds they demonstrate their care for what makes this area special - the Monterey Bay," said Andrew Hoeksema, Coordinator of Volunteer Programs at Save Our Shores.

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Caring for the marine environment through ocean awareness, advocacy and citizen action.

“Our goal is to raise awareness about the problem trash, particularly plastics, creates in our oceans, and inspire our community to make the connection between their actions on land and the impact these actions have on our Marine Sanctuary,” says Laura Kasa, Executive Director of Save Our Shores.

Cleanup Site Captains saw a rise in the number of volunteers who brought their own reusable buckets, bags, gloves, and water bottles to help lower the carbon footprint of Annual Coastal Cleanup Day. Save Our Shores conducts monthly cleanups in Santa Cruz County on the 3rd Saturday of each month.

About Save Our Shores:

Save Our Shores is the Central Coast leader in caring for the marine environment through ocean awareness, advocacy and citizen action. Our core initiatives are Plastic Pollution, Clean Boating, and Ocean Awareness. Over the last 30 years, Save Our Shores helped to establish the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, prevent offshore oil drilling and cruise ship pollution, and today focuses on educating youth about our local watersheds, tackling pollution on our beaches and rivers, implementing our renowned DockWalker program, and providing our community with educated and inspired Sanctuary Stewards. For more information visit: www.saveourshores.org.

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