



San Diego Bay at Chula Vista

www.TheLivingCoast.org

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2016-2017





The Mission of the Living Coast Discovery Center is to:

- Partner in collaborative research and restoration of coastal wetlands and bays.
- Provide student-focused education through STEAM: Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics.
- Increase knowledge of coastal environments, climate change adaptation, and human coexistence with the natural resources of San Diego Bay.



The Living Coast Discovery Center is uniquely located on the San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Sweetwater Marsh Unit.



Dear Friends and Supporters,

Thank you for your support of the Living Coast Discovery Center. I am proud to share with you the highlights from fiscal year 2016-17. For the fourth consecutive year, audited financial reports reflected a net positive budget. I am grateful for the Living Coast staff and volunteers who worked tirelessly on our behalf, helping us to serve thousands of students and families, and protect our local environment!

As part of our mission to connect people with coastal animals, plants, and habitats, a new Native Pollinator Garden was created to educate students and visitors of all ages about local plant species and pollinators. The garden features interpretive education stations highlighting the region's pollinators that support the rich biodiversity of San Diego County. The garden also includes host plants and nesting sites for bees, insects, and birds. The garden pathways lead to the trailhead for guests to explore the refuge along San Diego Bay. I want to give special thanks to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hind Foundation, and Walton Family Foundation for their partnership and contributions which will help to attract pollinators to the South Bay region.

The Living Coast is fortunate to have the support of corporate partners, foundations, and dedicated friends in the local community. I would like to acknowledge the generous support of the City of Chula Vista for providing the Living Coast with a site in which to provide educational programs and a place for visitors to enjoy the outdoors and the natural surroundings of the San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Sweetwater Marsh Unit. I also want to thank the Unified Port of San Diego and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for their support and commitment to environmental education for underserved students and youth in San Diego County.

Through general admissions, special events, and our many educational programs, over 82,000 guests visited the Living Coast this year to learn about our native wildlife in San Diego and the importance of their habitats in our ecosystem. With the expansion of our educational programs, over 25,000 school children had an opportunity to participate in hands-on interactive learning experiences either at the Living Coast or through Our Wild San Diego outreach programs at their school.

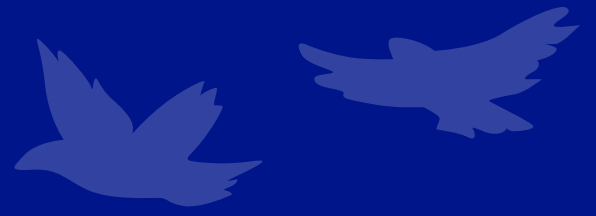
Thank you for supporting our vision to inspire care and exploration of the living Earth by connecting people with coastal animals, plants and habitats. Together, we are making a difference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ben Vallejos". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. It is set against a light-colored, textured background that looks like a piece of paper or a card.

Ben Vallejos
Executive Director

The Living Coast Experience



Native Pollinator Garden

- The Native Pollinator Garden provides outdoor spaces for students to learn about the rich biodiversity in our region, and to educate visitors about the importance of pollinators as an essential part of a healthy ecosystem.
- Thank you to the local community members who supported and volunteered their time to help us build the new garden!

The Living Coast Experience



Back to Nature a special exhibition that encouraged the community to unplug, rewind, and get back to nature. It featured the history of Sweetwater Marsh, animals that have adapted to urban life, and the new Native Pollinator Garden.



82,723
total visitors



2,000 Living
Coast members

The Living Coast Experience



The **6th Annual Wine on the Waterfront** maritime industry benefit generated more than \$25,000 in net proceeds in support of the Living Coast. Special thanks to hosts Bob Kilpatrick, along with, BAE Systems, Continental Maritime, Marine Group Boat Works, and General Dynamics NASSCO

Thanks to our sponsors: HII Technical Solutions Fleet Support group's San Diego Shipyard (CMSD), International Marine Industrial Application, PCE, South Bay Sand Blasting & Tank Cleaning, Southcoast Welding, Tecnico Corporation, BAE Systems San Diego Ship Repair, PYR, Russell Interior Systems, Turn Key Scaffold.

Animals on the Bay Day, sponsored by the California State Coastal Conservancy, was a community day celebrating San Diego Bay. Over 2,500 adults and children enjoyed learning about local wildlife and conservation through animal encounters and interactive activities.



The Living Coast Experience



The **7th Annual Farm to Bay Celebration** hosted a crowd of 400 guests who enjoyed tastings from 43 food and beverage partners. The event raised \$96,000 in net proceeds that support coastal wildlife, conservation and education programs at the Living Coast.

ZERO WASTE GOAL

78% of event waste was diverted from landfills and overall waste was down 4% to 602 lbs., our lowest ever decrease in total amount of waste from previous years.



The Living Coast Educational Programs



24,795

preK-12th grade
students

experienced the
Living Lab field trips from
schools throughout
San Diego
County

Of these, **9,648** students received free field trips supported by grant funding. Many of these students would not have had the opportunity to visit without this generous support.

Special thanks to all educators throughout San Diego County – **1,781 teachers** brought their classes to experience the Living Lab field trips.

The Living Coast Educational Programs



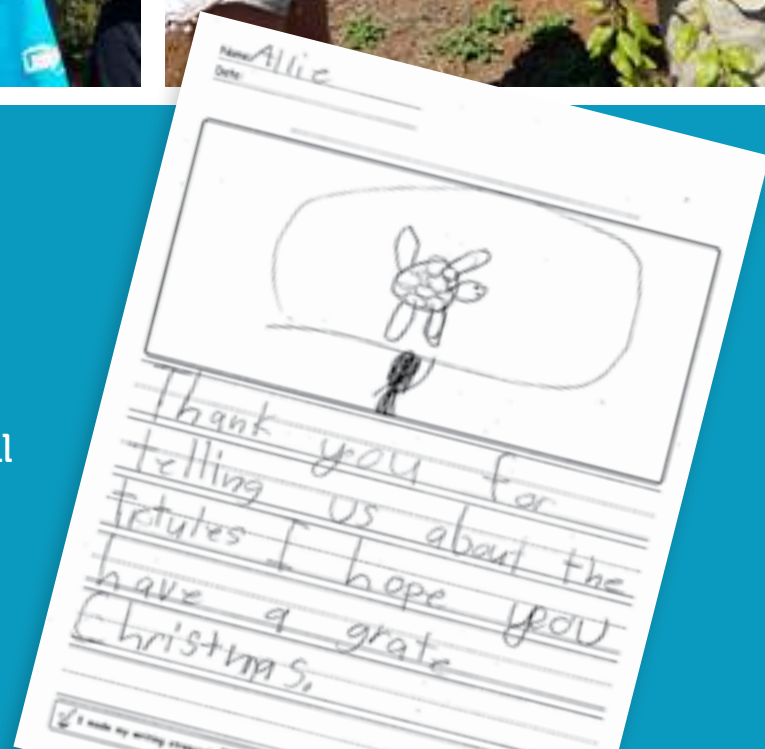
3,159 campers

(preK-teen) enjoyed
Wildlife Camps at
the Living Coast



**5,574
students**

participated in Our
Wild San Diego educational
outreach, where we
take programs into local
classrooms, libraries and
community centers.



The Living Coast Educational Programs



SoCal Urban Wildlife Refuge Project provided an opportunity for youth to learn about conservation and gain exposure to outdoor recreation:

1,727

students

experienced Refuge Living Lab field trips

121

students

participated in the Wild REC (Refuge Engaged Careers) Overnight Adventure

184

teachers

received STEaM curriculum training

315

adults & children

explored the nature trails during Refuge Days on the Sweetwater Marsh



The Living Coast Educational Programs



Compost Workshops

186 guests attended
36 compost workshops



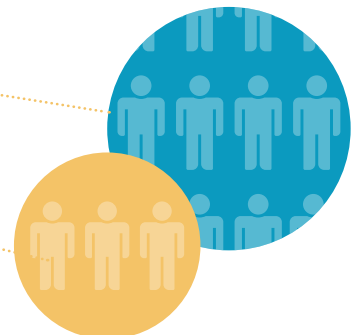
Master Composter Program

34 Master Composter graduates are now certified to teach others about composting

In partnership with Chula Vista Elementary School District, pre-kindergarten to 8th grade students are encouraged to attend a Coastal Education Program once per year at the Living Coast. All programs are aligned with Next Generation Science and Common Core Standards and provide students an enriching and unique science program.

5,107
students

310
teachers



The Living Coast Research Collaboration



Light-footed Ridgway's Rail Breeding Program

The Living Coast is proud to be part of Team Clapper Rail, composed of organizations dedicated to the study, restoration and reintroduction of rails in southern California. As partners within the program, the Living Coast contributed to conservation of this rail species by surveying coastal wetlands, egg translocation, artificial nest surveys and maintenance, and participation in rail releases throughout the region.

The Living Coast managed the rails in pre-conditioning pens, "proving care", a critical stage for all captive bred rails before being released into the wild. Currently, we are the only zoological institution in the world where the endangered light-footed Ridgway's rail species can be viewed by the public.

462+ rails have been zoological bred and released into the wild since 2001. 

The Living Coast Research Collaboration



Burrowing Owl Study

In collaboration with San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research, burrowing owls at the Living Coast participated in a research study testing the feasibility of using solar-powered satellite transmitters to learn more about the owl's life history and habitat needs as they apply to conservation of the species.

Bat Monitoring and Threat Management Plan

The Living Coast Discovery Center, in partnership with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Cabrillo National Monument, and San Diego Natural History Museum conducted surveys to determine bat species composition on and around the Sweetwater Marsh Unit of the San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The primary goals of this project are to establish permanent survey locations within Sweetwater Marsh, to contribute to the data collection in regional bat studies, and to establish a site-specific bat habitat threat reduction and management plan based on the survey results.



The Living Coast Volunteers



Special thanks to **SeaWorld Busch Gardens Conservation Fund** for supporting our clean-up efforts.

Thank you to our local partners for helping to keep our community clean!
Chula Vista Kayak, Republic Services, Sprouts Farmer's Market – Chula Vista and Eastlake, Unified Port of San Diego, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

"I am a member of the Living Coast Club at Chula Vista High. Since joining, I have participated in one cleanup with some fellow club members from my school. It was my first time doing a cleanup with the Living Coast Club and I got to experience clearing out shrubs and working as a team to make the environment cleaner.

Since that day, I feel like nature is truly everywhere and there is life surrounding us wherever we are. I saw a lot of different insects and bugs, and it was fun trying to figure out what kind of species it was. I made new friends while I was there as I got closer to nature and helped tidy it up. "

– Tina Vo, High School Volunteer

TEAM UP TO CLEAN UP

Thank you to the **575 volunteers** that helped us clean up local parks, bays, rivers, and nature trails.



11,000 lbs
of trash removed



135 new plantings



16 location sites

The Living Coast Volunteers



26,743

volunteer hours equating
to **\$645,576** in value of
donated volunteer time



335

active volunteers
(ages 16-90's)



43

community outreach
events throughout
San Diego County



\$100,000 and Above

Unified Port of San Diego
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

\$50,000-\$99,999

County of San Diego Board of Supervisors

\$25,000-\$49,999

Anonymous
Price Philanthropies Foundation
San Diego Gas and Electric®

\$10,000-\$24,999

California State Coastal Conservancy
Chula Vista Charitable Foundation, an affiliate of The San Diego Foundation
Integral Communities
Marine Group Boat Works
The Miller Hull Partnership, LLP
Mission Federal Credit Union
SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund
The Walton Family Foundation, Inc.
Walter J. and Betty C. Zable Foundation

\$5,000-\$9,999

BAE Systems San Diego Ship Repair
Chef Works
Chula Vista Kayak
Cox Communications, Inc.
Daphne Seybolt Culpeper Memorial Foundation, Inc.
Friends of San Diego Wildlife Refuges
Susan Fuller
Matthew Hervey
Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy

J.F. Beyster Fund at The San Diego Foundation
Charlene Krusas
McCarthy Family Foundation
General Dynamics NASSCO Ship Building Company
Republic Services
San Diego Association of Governments
Sprouts Farmer's Market – Chula Vista and Eastlake
Sweetwater Authority
The Heller Foundation of San Diego
The William and Ruth Rathell Tippet Foundation
UTC Aerospace Systems – Aerostructures

\$1,000-\$4,999

Baldwin & Sons
Virginia Ball
Jim Biddle
Shauna Stokes and Joel Chew
Chula Vista Host Lions Club
Lori and Phil Coons
Cheryl and Greg Cox
John Crillo
EDCO Waste and Recycling Services
Employees Community Fund of Boeing California
Fischbeck & Oberndorfer, A.P.C.
Helix Environmental Planning, Inc.
HII Technical Solutions Fleet Support group's San Diego Shipyard (CMSD)
Hoffman Hanono Insurance Services
International Marine Industrial Applicators, LLC
Jeff Katz Architecture
Michele Mangan and Robert Kilpatrick
Loews Coronado Bay Resort

Cynthia and John McCormick
Christine Merchant
Kathleen L. Morgan
T Nelson Family
Karen and Stephen Neudecker, Ph.D.
New Belgium Brewing Company
Pacifica Companies
PCE San Diego
Arthur P. and Jeanette Gladys Pratt Memorial Fund
Qualcomm Matching Grant Program
Karen and Cesar Quiros
Russell Interior Systems
San Diego County Employees' Charitable Organization
San Diego Fly Fishers Club
Mariel and Jayson Schmidt
Steven Semeraro
Seven Mile Casino
Debra and Donald W. Smith
South Bay Sand Blasting and Tank Cleaning
Southcoast Welding & Manufacturing, LLC
Sharon and Kyle Strong
Sweetwater Woman's Club
Sycuan Casino
Tecnico Corporation
The San Diego Foundation
Turn Key Scaffold
Kathleen and Ben Vallejos
The Waitt Foundation
Community Fund at The San Diego Foundation
Dina and Ken Weimer

\$500-\$999

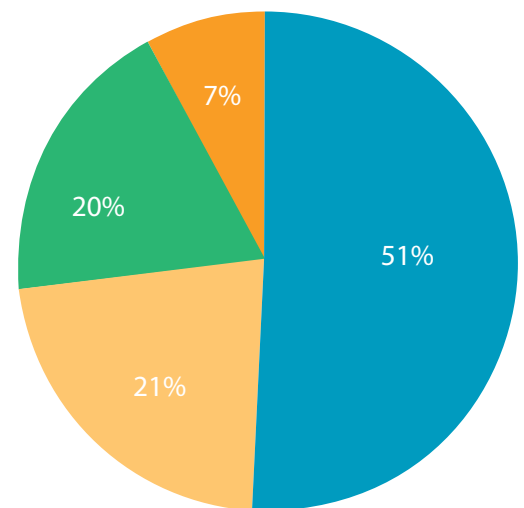
Theresa Acerro
Chrzil Mangaliag and Mark Bandala
The Chula Vista Woman's Club

Gary Bryant
Alyssa Panichella and Peter Burinskas
Lisa Bydairk
Judy Cave
Kaiyan and James Cheneweth
Sara Giobbi and David Claypool
Sergio Cruz
Denise and Gary David
Lindsay Davis and Tosh Smith
Janie DeCelles
Kathy and David DiDonato
Sandra and Todd Emch
Connie Fey
Fiddler's Green Restaurant
Suzan and Steve Fuller
Anthony Greenwell
Jayne and John Harriman
Marian and Stan Jasek
Debra and Van Johnson
Matt Kingdon
Jeffrey Krebs, M.D.
Caroline Kreiser and Gabriel Wocker
Sandra and Douglas Lawrence
Cheryl Lawrence
Metropolitan Solutions
Ted Molter
Bridget and Jeff Palitz
Barry Payne
Carlos Quiros
Warren Ruis
Mary Ann and David Saponara
Sunny and Jim Shy
Simon Silva
Lola Slater
Eldbjorg and Bjorn Syversen
Darlene Whorley
Terry Yates

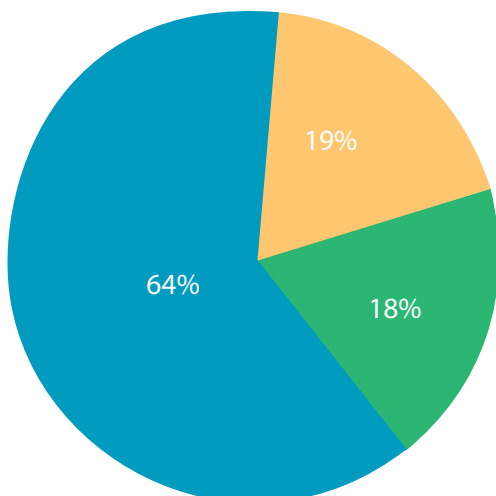


Revenue and Support

■ Fundraising and Special Events	\$1,027,809
■ Educational Program Services	\$410,872
■ Admissions and Membership	\$425,032
■ Gift Shop and Rentals	\$144,283
TOTAL REVENUES	\$2,007,996



*due to rounding, percentages may not add up to 100%



Expenses

■ Program Services	\$1,269,355
■ Fundraising and Marketing	\$372,390
■ Management, Administration, and General Operations	\$354,093
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,995,838

Board of Directors and Leadership Staff



Executive Committee

Susan Fuller, Chairperson
Retired, Fuller's Plumbing

Bob Kilpatrick, Vice Chairperson,
Maritime Consultant

Ken Weimer, Treasurer,
Retired, Insurance Broker

Dr. Larry Wergeland, Secretary
Colonel of the U.S. Army Medical
Corps, Retired; Ophthalmologist,
Retired

Andrew Yuen, U.S. Fish & Wildlife
Service Liaison, Project Leader, San
Diego National Wildlife Refuge
Complex, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Directors

George Allen, Director of Marketing,
Loews Coronado Bay Resort

Herb Engel, President, Marine Group
Boat Works

Sara Giobbi, Assistant Manager,
Environmental Engineering, General
Dynamics NASSCO

Bob Koerber, Vice President/General
Manager, BAE Systems San Diego
Ship Repair

Steven Miesen, Division Manager,
Republic Services; Councilmember,
City of Chula Vista

Michelle Ramler, Marketing Director,
Cox Communications

Kyle Strong, Associate General
Counsel, UTC Aerospace Systems -
Aerostructures

Frank Roseman*, Retired Rohr Aircraft
Corporation

**Honorary Member*

Leadership Staff

Ben Vallejos, Executive Director

Lori Coons, Director of Community
Engagement and Development

Amanda Grant-Stout, Director of
Education

Tina Matthias, Volunteer and
Programs Manager

Lindsay Bradshaw, Animal Care
Manager

Jessica LaFave, Development
Manager

Aaron Hennessey, Facilities
Manager

Elizabeth Argyle, Education and
Guest Experience Manager

Rachel Harper, Marketing and
Communications Manager

*The Living Coast Discovery
Center is grateful for the loyal
commitment and support of
the City of Chula Vista!*





To learn more about ways to support the Living Coast, please visit:
www.TheLivingCoast.org/donate

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