



**MEDIA ALERT**

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## **The Bay Foundation's 12<sup>th</sup> Coastal Cleanup Day Event (Sept. 17) Will Clean 'Trash' of the Plant World...Invasive Species**

### **Event Coincides with 'National Estuaries Week' Kickoff**

LOS ANGELES (August 30, 2015) – On Saturday, September 17, from 9:00am-12:00pm, The Bay Foundation (TBF) will host its 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Coastal Cleanup Day event. TBF is returning to the dunes between LAX and El Segundo beaches, also known as the LAX Dunes, to remove invasive species of plants. These invasives take space away from healthy and native species of plants, much as trash invades our beaches, parks and streets. TBF will once again partner with Friends of LAX Dunes (FOLD) to help restore Los Angeles County's largest remaining dune system. Registration is now open and filling up fast.

Last year, TBF's dunes event drew 70 volunteers who collected over 2,000 pounds of invasive vegetation. TBF's event is part of the greater annual Coastal Cleanup Day (CCD), which draws over 14,000 volunteers to hundreds of events across Los Angeles County. To volunteer, please [CLICK HERE](#), or visit Events at [www.santamonicabay.org](http://www.santamonicabay.org). For questions on volunteering, please contact Rod Abbott, [rabbott@santamonicabay.org](mailto:rabbott@santamonicabay.org).

CCD is an international event with over 90 countries around the world participating, making it one of the largest volunteer efforts on the planet. California CCD began in 1985—following the first such event in Oregon in 1984—to combat the increasing marine debris along our shorelines, and is coordinated in Los Angeles County by Heal the Bay in conjunction with the California Coastal Commission (statewide) and the Los Angeles County Department of Beaches & Harbors.

"I love working at the LAX Dunes," says Tom Ford, TBF Executive Director. "It's the largest expanse of coastal dunes that remains in Southern California, so the potential for the restoration work is huge. And people really get a thrill out of working on the dunes with its spectacular view of the Bay. It's always a rewarding day."

CCD coincides once again with the launch of National Estuaries Week (NEW), which celebrates beaches and estuaries—the vibrant coastal areas where rivers meet the sea. TBF, as a member of the EPA's National Estuaries Program, helps educate about the connection between the watersheds that feed, or drain into, the Santa Monica Bay. TBF encourages everyone to take part in the national #EstuariesWeek social media campaign during that week, starting with pictures of their participation in CCD on Sept. 17, and continuing through Sept. 24.



NEW is the nation's largest volunteer event for [estuaries](#) in our country, and this year marks the 28th anniversary of the first National Estuaries Day in 1988. More than a quarter century later, we now have even more evidence that estuarine ecosystems serve as natural barriers to buffer against storms and floods, absorb and store carbon, and provide critical habitat for commercial and recreational fisheries.

For 2016, NEW continues to focus on the connections between our estuaries and our economy. With growing concern about our nation's financial health, it is important to recognize the value that protecting and restoring our estuaries delivers to our national economy. In fact, coastal counties provide more than half the nation's gross domestic product and support more than 69 million jobs—that's about 40% of U.S. employment!

Returning CCD sponsors include Starbucks (coffee), Chipotle (free food vouchers), and Patagonia (raffle prizes!). Various snacks will be available throughout the event.

TBF's Coastal Cleanup Day will be funded by a grant from the State Coastal Conservancy.

#### **About The Bay Foundation (TBF)**

The Bay Foundation is a 501(c) 3 non-profit environmental group founded in 1990 to restore and enhance the Santa Monica Bay (from the LA-Ventura county line to the Palos Verdes Peninsula) and local coastal waters. The Foundation is the non-profit partner of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, raising and expending funds for research, education, planning, cleanup efforts and other priorities identified in the Commission's Santa Monica Bay Restoration Plan. As advocates for the Bay, TBF works collaboratively with a broad group of stakeholders, including government agencies, industry, environmental groups, and scientists, to implement innovative policies and projects that clean up the waterways, create green spaces and natural habitats in the Los Angeles region. The TBF conducts research and mentors student intern and volunteers through its Center for Santa Monica Bay Studies at Loyola Marymount University. <http://www.santamonica.org/>  
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