



NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Tatum Wan, Ancon Communications

(818) 590-1530

tatum@tatumwanco.com

Paul Gomez, City of Los Angeles, Public Works

(213) 978-0316 (office)

(213) 359-5266 (cell)

Paul.Gomez@lacity.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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4,500 STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND VOLUNTEERS “COME TOGETHER” FOR THE OCEAN AT 24TH ANNUAL KIDS OCEAN DAY

**Students Demonstrate Their Love for Healthy Oceans and Waterways
With Massive Beach Clean up and Aerial Art Formation**

(LOS ANGELES – MAY 25, 2017) Nearly 4,500 Los Angeles-area students, teachers and volunteers are participating today in the 24th Annual Kids Ocean Day Adopt-A-Beach Clean up at Dockweiler State Beach. Celebrating this year’s theme of “Come Together” for the ocean, students will clean the beach and form a human aerial art piece in the sand. Third Grader Tyler Giddens from Brentwood Science Magnet is being honored for her poem “Coming Together for the Ocean,” which won a citywide poetry contest.

The day’s activities begin with a program kick off involving City of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works Commissioner Luz Rivas; LA Sanitation Watershed Protection Program Manager Shahram Kharaghani, California Coastal Commission Chair Dayna Bochco and the Vice Chair Effie Turnbull-Sanders and Malibu Foundation for Environmental Education Executive Director and Kids Ocean Day Founder Michael Klubock.

“It is very important to bring children together and teach them to be environmental stewards,” says Los Angeles Board of Public Works Commissioner Luz Rivas. “Kids Ocean Day is a great opportunity to help shape good habits early on in a child’s life. Teaching good habits will ensure our beaches, oceans and all waterways stay clean for future generations.”

Kids Ocean Day takes place during National Public Works Week with this year’s theme: “Public Works Connects Us,” celebrating the vital role public works plays in connecting us all together.

Kids Ocean Day is the culmination of a year-round school assembly program by the Malibu Foundation for Environmental Education, which teaches school children about the adverse impacts of pollution on our oceans and waterways. Kids Ocean Day is an opportunity for students to apply what they have learned in the classroom. It is a powerful and actionable step towards a healthier planet.

“Kids Ocean Day is about empowering KIDS into action,” says Michael Klubock, founder of Kids Ocean Day. “By getting children involved in a hands-on activity after learning about the environment in the classroom, we strengthen the connection between individual actions and the health of the environment. As these children get older, they will remember the time that they made a difference and feel empowered to continue protecting our oceans.”

Kids Ocean Day’s finale is the creation of an aerial art piece. The 4,000 students, teachers and volunteers will create the words “Come Together” and individual sea creatures on the sand. The resulting photo will highlight the importance of teamwork to keep our oceans clean. Kids Ocean Day Los Angeles is one of six in the state of California, sponsored by the California Coastal Commission. Eight thousand children are expected to participate in Kids Ocean Day statewide, with half of them at the Los Angeles event.

“These students have been learning about the many ways humans depend on the ocean, and about the threats to ocean health,” says Dayna Bochco, Chair of the California Coastal Commission. “And now they are all coming together to do something positive for the ocean. Through their aerial art, they hope to inspire adults to do the same, because they understand a simple truth - it will take all of us joining forces to address global problems like plastic pollution, warming seas, and overfishing.”

“We know that children who enjoy the beach become adults who value and protect the coast,” says Sam Schuchat, executive officer of the California State Coastal Conservancy. “We love supporting Kids Ocean Day not only to give young people this fantastic experience, but also to help instill the values of conservation and stewardship in the next generation.”

Kids Ocean Day in Los Angeles is organized by the Malibu Foundation for Environmental Education; LA Sanitation Watershed Protection Program; the City of Los Angeles Board of Public Works; the California Coastal Commission; California State Coastal Conservancy; and Keep Los Angeles Beautiful. The California Coastal Commission coordinates the program statewide and provides financial support through the Whale Tail License Plate Fund.

Organizers work hard to ensure that Kids Ocean Day is an environmentally sensitive event that incorporates composting, recycling and an overall reduction of non-biodegradable materials. LA Sanitation facilitates the recycling, composting or disposal of all collected beach trash and lunch refuse.

Kids Ocean Day is thankful to many of its supporters. Author Joel Harper has donated a copy of his book “All the Way to the Ocean” to each of the participating schools., FedEx, A-1 Rentals, Los Angeles Airport, SJ Linking Systems, Whole Foods, Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf, Klean Kanteen, Kid Basix, Southwest Airlines, Target, NRG Energy, Westin Hotels, Bank of America, and Surkus, contribute volunteers and to the event’s sustainability efforts.

To learn more about Kids Ocean Day, visit www.kidsoceanday.org. To view aerial art from previous years, visit www.oceanday.net.

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About the Malibu Foundation for Environmental Education

The Malibu Foundation for Environmental Education coordinates Kids Ocean Day for the Los Angeles region by giving presentations year round at the schools and organizing the annual culminating event at the beach. Founded in 1991, the Malibu Foundation for Environmental Education’s Adopt-A-Beach School Assembly has been presented worldwide to over 720,000 children and over 140,000 have participated in Kids Ocean Day events . For more information, please visit www.malibufoundation.org.

About the California Coastal Commission

The California Coastal Commission is committed to protecting and enhancing California’s coast and ocean for present and future generations. It does so through careful planning and regulation of environmentally-sustainable development, strong public participation, education and effective intergovernmental coordination.

The Kids’ Adopt-A-Beach program is part of the Commission’s effort to raise public awareness of marine and coastal resources and promote coastal stewardship. It is funded by the generous support of the Whale Tail License Plate Fund. For more information about the California Coastal Commission’s programs and how to buy a Whale Tail Plate, call (800) COAST-4U or visit www.coastforyou.org.

About the California State Coastal Conservancy

The Coastal Conservancy is a state agency established in 1976 to protect and improve natural lands and waterways, help people get to and enjoy the outdoors, and sustain local economies along the length of California’s coast and around San Francisco Bay.

The Conservancy is a non-regulatory agency that supports projects to protect coastal resources and increase opportunities for the public to enjoy the coast. The Conservancy works along the entire length of California’s coast and within the watersheds of rivers and streams that extend inland from the coast. The Conservancy also works throughout the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area and the entire Santa Ana River watershed, providing technical assistance and grant funding to local communities, nonprofit organizations, other government agencies, businesses, and private landowners to implement multi-benefit projects.

About LA Sanitation Watershed Protection Program

LA Sanitation plans and administers the Clean Water Program, the Solid Resources Program and the Watershed Protection Program. These programs all contribute to and build upon LA Sanitation's overarching program of environmental sustainability. The Watershed Protection Program implements projects and programs to reduce urban runoff pollution in four local watersheds—Los Angeles River, Ballona Creek, Dominguez Channel and Santa Monica Bay. To achieve its flood control and pollution abatement objectives, the Watershed Protection Program employs a multi-pronged approach, utilizing education, engineering, enforcement and evaluation to ensure Los Angeles' compliance with federal, state and local regulations and reduce the amount of polluted urban runoff flowing into and through regional waterways. To learn more, visit www.LACitySan.org/watershedprotection.

About the City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

Since 1906, the Department of Public Works has led the way to advance and sustain the foundation of infrastructure facilities, resources and services that enable the City of Los Angeles to deliver social, economic and environmental benefits that serve more than four-million residents in more than 450 square mile geographic area. The Department is comprised of five bureaus: Sanitation, Engineering, Street Services, Street Lighting and Contract Administration, and consists of over 5,000 employees who are responsible for design, construction, renovation and operation of public projects ranging from bridges to wastewater treatment plants and libraries; curbside collection and graffiti removal; and maintenance of streets, sidewalks, sewers, streetlights and street trees.

The Department is governed by the Board of Public Works (BPW), a five-member full-time executive team that focuses on solutions for the infrastructure issues and challenges that invisibly but critically manifest themselves as uninterrupted everyday conveniences. The Board is committed to deliver projects and programs that enhance quality of life, economic growth, public health and the environment. For more information, please visit <http://bpw.lacity.org>.

About Keep Los Angeles Beautiful

Keep Los Angeles Beautiful (KLAB), established in 2007, is a citywide volunteer-based community improvement and education campaign affiliated with Keep America Beautiful to engage residents, businesses and local government in programs that prevent litter and promote the reduction of waste through reuse and recycling, and beautification projects. Through public-private partnerships and strategic alliances, KLAB annually mobilizes thousands of volunteers to clean up, beautify and improve their neighborhoods, upholding quality of life and protecting community environments in Los Angeles. For more information, visit www.laocb.org.

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California Department of Conservation

[California State Coastal Conservancy www.scc.ca.gov](http://www.scc.ca.gov)

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[Lisa Boyle & Plastic Pollution Coalition www.plasticpollutioncoalition.org](http://www.plasticpollutioncoalition.org)

Los Angeles Board of Public Works

Los Angeles City Council

[Los Angeles Conservation Corps www.lacorps.org](http://www.lacorps.org)

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors

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Los Angeles Department of Public Works Stormwater Program www.lastormwater.org

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