

# 2009 Coastal Cleanup Day sets record in Pacifica

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Twelve hundred forty dedicated volunteers collected 7,038 pounds of debris and recyclables from thirty sites along Pacifica's beaches, bluffs, creeks, and streets on Saturday for California's Coastal Cleanup Day. This is the most volunteers and the most collected waste from any Coastal Cleanup Day in Pacifica since being held in 1995. Julie Lancelle, Mayor of Pacifica, thanked the Pacifica Beach Coalition organizing committee and members along with the site captains and group leaders who worked together and directed groups, families, businesses and all of the volunteers to achieve so much in just 3 hours time. She also commended the volunteers who covered all of Pacifica and filled the 20 yard dumpster beyond its capacity and created a huge pile of recycling. According to Lancelle, the city of Pacifica is grateful for and celebrating the 1200 workers and the people they affect who will not litter in the future!

Statewide with just 60 percent of the cleanup sites accounted for, 66,550 volunteers collected 819,394 pounds of trash and an additional 89,900 pounds of recyclable materials for a total of 909,295 pounds of removed debris. Over 1,000,000 pounds of trash is expected when all the totals are in.

As occurs every year, some unusual items were found throughout California. The winners of California's 2009 Most Unusual Item contest are:

Coastal California: A volunteer in Marin found 10 single shoes, none of which matched.

Inland California: A volunteer along a creek in Yolo County found a grand piano.

According to the California Coastal Commission who has organized 25 Coastal Cleanup Days, "data tell us that most (between 60-80 percent) of the debris on our beaches and shorelines comes from inland sources, traveling through storm drains or creeks out to the beaches and ocean. Rain or even something as simple as hosing down a sidewalk can wash cigarette butts, bits of styrofoam, pesticides, and oil into the storm drains and out to the ocean". The California Coastal Commission is asking all Californians to take responsibility for making sure trash goes where it belongs securely in a trashcan, recycling bin, or a hazardous waste dump when appropriate. Pacifica Beach Coalition

## **You Rock — PBC members, CCCD Organizing Committee, site captains, group leaders and volunteers**

With your help, and all sites reporting, we had a Coastal Cleanup Day record of 1,275 volunteers, 5,937 pounds of trash (20 yard dumpster was overflowing) and 1,101 pounds of recycling. A record in all categories for Coastal Cleanup Day in Pacifica — and we've been doing this since 1997. Thirty sites were cleaned, another record for CCCD. Some of them were huge, like all of the West Sharp Park streets or all of the Esplanade/Mussel Rock bluff and streets from McDonald's to Mussel Rock on Palmetto and Westline Drive.

Thank you everyone. Thank you especially to Amy Parkko, Deirdre Finnegan, Tim Duff and Lynn Adams who worked tirelessly on the CCCD organizing committee and the Pacifica Beach Coalition Members who continue to lead the way. Without their help and your help too, this event would not have affected so many places and people.

How about 49 people at the Community Center because Ms. Dwyer at Cabrillo gave her science students extra credit if they came out and helped, another record!

Forty five people at Mori Point who split into three groups to clean Hwy 1 from Moose Lodge to Vallemar, Fairway Drive, and the Moose Lodge area. There were two or three truckloads from these sites.

Mussel Rock — almost 800 pounds of debris. Volunteer Joe Recto made a huge sieve to filter the cigarette butts from the sand and helped remove over 2,000 from the area.

Palmetto / Westline bluff — The 4-H club cleaned all of Palmetto and Westline Drive. The 4-H has helped at Mussel Rock every cleanup since 2006.

Manor Bluff and streets around it — 18 people just under 400 pounds.

Milagra homeless encampment — 4 people almost 1,000 pounds.

Big Inch — close to 500 pounds, including an old axle that had to be pulled out of the creek with a chain and 4-wheel drive. This is a creek no one has cleaned before.

Sharp Park Beach and Promenade — 150 volunteers, over 500 pounds.

IBL/West Sharp Park Streets — 55 students, four teachers, a principal, plenty of parents. A screen door, street barricades, thousands of cigarette butts, over 45 blocks of clean streets.

Lakeside Way — More high school kids at this site than ever before. Thank you Paul Orth, Mary Bier, Partnership for a Safe and Healthy Pacifica and Oceana High School.

Vallemar — 25 people cleaning up litter and pulling out invasive plants. What a community.

Rockaway beach, bluff, parking lots and streets — 49 people, including a boy scout, cub scout troop and the Knights of Columbus. 137 pounds of mostly cigarette butts and plastic (that's a lot of toxins).

Fassler Avenue — One family, one clean street. 105 pounds that was destined to Linda Mar Beach.

Roberts Road — 18 volunteers, including the Moreno family of nine. 340 pounds of recycles, 720 pounds of trash, a cleaner hillside.

Milaga Trail from Connemara to Oceana High School — never been cleaned before. 140 pounds collected by a group of new homeowners, many meeting each other for the first time.

Linda Mar State Beach (welcome back Jim, Ana and Paul) — 102 volunteers. 200 pounds from Girl Scout Troop 1471 filmed to be featured on National TV show for high school students for their commitment and work to help the environment.

San Pedro Creek (from 2 places) — 30 people. 500 pounds including a volunteer on a motorized wheelchair who collected 162 cigarette butts and a 7 year old who held up two hands full of litter and exclaimed, "Isn't this great? We are helping the environment aren't we!"

Sunset Ridge School — 590 students and teachers. From 450 pounds of litter in 2008 to 30 pounds this year a cleaner schoolyard and kids who don't litter.

Adobe Street, Secret Waterfall, Salada Creek — Drum Circle. Thank you Ian.

How about so many people coming back for the celebration. Sorry that we ran out of pizza. I saw a car axle from the Big Inch Creek, 2 culverts and a truckbed cover from Roberts Road, who knows what all that was from Mori Point, 250 pounds of clothes, a huge stack of cardboard, glass jars, and propane gas containers from Milagra homeless camp, a screen door, not one, but 2 TVs, of course, tires, shopping cart, too many cigarette butts and what else?

Thank you to the City of Pacifica for sponsoring this event, council members for participating and serving refreshments, Public Works staff for keeping everyone safe on the streets and assisting us in a number of ways, PBR for supplies.

Hats off to Coastside Scavenger for once again providing the dumpster, hauling, sorting, and disposal of all the collections. Thank you Extreme Pizza for the pizza, Safeway for help with the watermelons, Coastal Commission for the bags, gloves, posters, and score cards, County of San Mateo Pollution Prevention Program for coordinating San Mateo County cleanup sites, and the food team, record keeping team, site and group captains. There was definitely a village working to make this event so successful.

Go here for preliminary statewide results: [www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/ccd/9.19.09.pressrelease.pdf](http://www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/ccd/9.19.09.pressrelease.pdf).

Thank you everyone for caring so much for the environment and for helping others do something about it!

Editor's Note: See next week for a full page of photos of Coastal Cleanup volunteers in Pacifica.

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