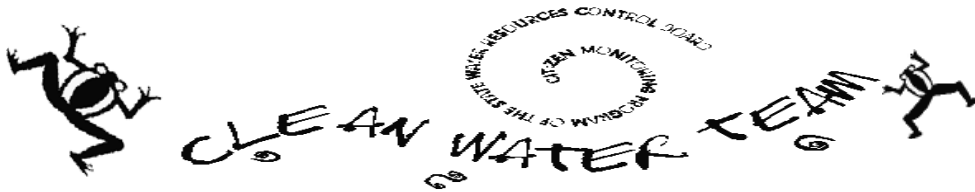




CURRENTS

Citizen Monitoring Program Newsletter of the California State Water Resources Control Board

Summer 2003



World Water Monitoring Day: October 18, 2003

Building on the energy of last year's National Water Monitoring Day, America's Clean Water Foundation is partnering with the International Water Association to bring event's messages, goals, and approaches to an international audience this fall. Over **75,000** people participated in last year's first ever National Water Monitoring Day celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Clean Water Act.

Join the SWRCB's Clean Water Team and participate in the WWMD. Training and a limited amount of equipment are available. Monitoring data collected from Sept. 18 through Oct. 18 will be accepted. To keep up with developments or to order monitoring kits and other materials please check out the WWMD web site: www.worldwatermonitoringday.org

For questions, please contact Holly Sheradin of the SWRCB's Clean water Team at sherh@swrcb.ca.gov &

Save the Date

October 18, 2003

Take part in World Water Monitoring Day!

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Coast Wide Snapshot Day 2003: A Coastal Success!

By Tamara Doan, Coastal Watershed Council



Hundreds of volunteers spent Saturday, May 17, 2003 testing the

water quality in California's coastal watersheds. The effort was the largest citizen monitoring snapshot event in California. Snapshot Day – was a one-day, simultaneous water quality monitoring event where trained volunteers collected important information about the health of coastal waters flowing into the Pacific Ocean. Over 679 volunteers tested water from the Oregon Border south into Mexico, approximately **565 Stations**. Parameters measured included air & water temperature, pH, conductivity, turbidity, and dissolved oxygen. Water samples were also tested for nutrients and bacteria levels. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the California State Water Resources Control Board funded this year's coast wide event.



The goal of Snapshot Day was to help people gain a better understanding of the natural systems that surround them, as well as their impacts on it, and to highlight the key role volunteer monitors can play. By involving people directly in monitoring activities they also gain a sense of ownership and

responsibility to keep their waterways clean. Once the data has been reviewed and analyzed it will be available at the Coastal Commission web site www.coastforyou.org. A final report for each coastal area a Coast Wide Snapshot Day report will be available later this fall.

This event was led by the Snapshot Day Coast Wide Coordination Team—Bridget Hoover at the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation, Ross Clark of the California Coastal Commission and Tamara Doan of the Coastal Watershed Council. Eight Coastal Monitoring Coordinators supported the event at a local level (Nicole Murano-Redwood Community Action Agency's Natural Services Division, Sierra Cantor-Sotoyome RCD, Steve Cochrane and Andy Peri-Friends of the Estuary, Bridget Hoover-MBSCWMN, Jessica Alstatt and Leigh Ann Grabowsky- Santa Barbara ChannelKeeper, Angie Bera- Santa Monica BayKeeper, Ray Heimstra Orange County CoastKeeper, and Hiram Sarabia-San Diego BayKeeper). A technical advisory committee was also formed to support this event (Revital Katznelson-SWRCB Clean Water Team, Karen Taberski-CCRWQCB, Erick Burrese-SWRCB Clean Water Team, Kaitilin Gaffney-Ocean Conservancy, Donna Meyers-Coastal Watershed Council, Amy Wagner-USEPA Region 9, Sam Zeigler-USEPA Region 9, Eben Schwartz-California Coastal Commission).
(continued on page 3)



Coast Wide Snapshot Day 2003: A Coastal Success! (continued from page 2)



For more information please contact:

Tamara Doan

Coastal Watershed Council:

831-464-9200, tcdoan@coastalws.org;

Bridget Hoover

Monterey Bay Sanctuary Citizen Watershed Monitoring network

831-883-9303, bhoover@monitoringnetwork.org

Erick Burres

State Water Resources Control Board Clean Water Team

213-576-6788

Or visit the California Coastal Commission Education and Outreach web page at:

www.coastforyou.org and follow the Snapshot Day links. 

San Diego Baykeeper goes Binational for Coast Wide Snapshot Day

By Brandon Swope, San Diego Baykeeper


Nearly 120 miles of coastline were monitored as part of 2003 Snapshot Day through San Diego Baykeeper's coordination. The goal of this citizen based water quality monitoring event was to assess the health of coastal waters flowing into the mighty Pacific on either side of the US/Mexico border. Snapshot Day also promoted the importance volunteers play in the preservation of local water bodies.

In working with over 30 organizations and academic institutions, San Diego Baykeeper recruited a total of 138 volunteers to collect water quality data. Monitors from Mexico included Ja Jan Binational Water Monitoring Group, teachers and students from Cetys Preparatoria and Universidad, UABC, Universidad Iberoamericana, Universidad and Preparatoria Xochicalco, Instituto Mexico and the Preparatoria Federal Lazaro Cardenas. In all, 38 sites extending from Oceanside to Ensenada, Mexico were monitored.

Prior to the event, volunteers were trained on how

to collect water samples, gather site observations, and conduct field analyses.

On the day of the event volunteers met at the Baykeeper office where they received official T-shirts, test kits and anxiously set out in teams to their assigned sites. Once at their sites, water samples were collected and measured for temperature, conductivity, pH, turbidity and dissolved oxygen levels. Water samples were returned to the Baykeeper office and then distributed the University of San Diego and UCSD for analyses of bacteria (Total Coliform and *E. coli*), nitrate, and dissolved metal concentrations.

All in all, Snapshot Day was a highly successful event and everyone involved had a lot of fun. The event also marked the beginning of an unprecedented level of cross-border community participation and collaboration on water quality issues. We look forward to another great event in 2004! 

Orange County Snapshot Day 2003

By Ray Hiemstra, Project Coordinator, Orange County Coastkeeper

Snapshot day 2003 was a great event for water quality monitoring in Orange County. The cooperation of many local volunteers and organizations made the event go very well. After attending a two day Train the Trainers



workshop in Long Beach to learn the proper procedures and techniques we were ready to proceed with the event. Working with the Coast Wide Coordination Team we identified and obtained equipment and chose sampling sites for the area. We were delighted to provide water quality test kits for Golden West College, Trout Unlimited and other volunteers for just this event. Additional equipment owned by local environmental organizations was procured for the project. Publicity was prepared that was distributed to high school teachers, local newspapers and television stations.

Volunteers for the project were recruited primarily through the Citizens Watershed Monitors of Orange County, a group of local agencies, schools and nonprofit organizations interested in water monitoring that was brought together by Erick Burres of the Clean Water Team. A calibration and training session was held on April 30th; other groups were met on a one by one basis to go over methods and calibration techniques so that all volunteers would be trained and reminded



of the QA/QC procedures in the monitoring plan. To further our goal for top quality data, Del Mar Analytical labs in Irvine arranged to have some duplicate chemical samples for quality control. Orange County Sanitation District also ran duplicate bacterial samples for quality control on bacterial tests run at the Coastkeeper lab.

Our Orange County sites located in both the Santa Ana and San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Boards were successfully monitored. Duplicate samples were also taken that day to both participating labs for processing. Data and QA/QC information is currently being analyzed and will be reported on this fall when the picture is more fully developed.



🐸

Russian River Citizens Capture First Flush Runoff

By Revital Katznelson, CWT

What happens when the first rain of the winter washes our cities after a long summer? The city gets cleaned up, but where does the stuff go? You guessed correctly: into the storm drains and into the creeks.

Betty Andrews



The Santa Rosa Creek team testing pH of the sample.

The First Annual Russian River First Flush sampling effort took place on November 7, 2002, when thirty teams of intrepid citizen

volunteers mobilized and braved the elements in the wee hours of night. The effort was organized and realized by a dedicated group of community volunteers throughout the Russian River watershed, who worked in close collaboration with academia (UC Cooperative Extension) and agencies (City of Santa Rosa, Regional Water Quality Control Board, Clean Water Team of the State Water Resources Control Board, and the US Environmental Protection Agency).

Event logistics were tuned to our weather gurus, who analyzed weather models, sent daily weather updates, and recommended when to activate the phone-tree with the “Red Alert” notification for volunteers to begin sampling. The Sotoyome Resource Conservation District (RCD) functioned as the “Hub” for all equipment and collected samples to be analyzed by the lab.

Over 75 volunteers participated in training

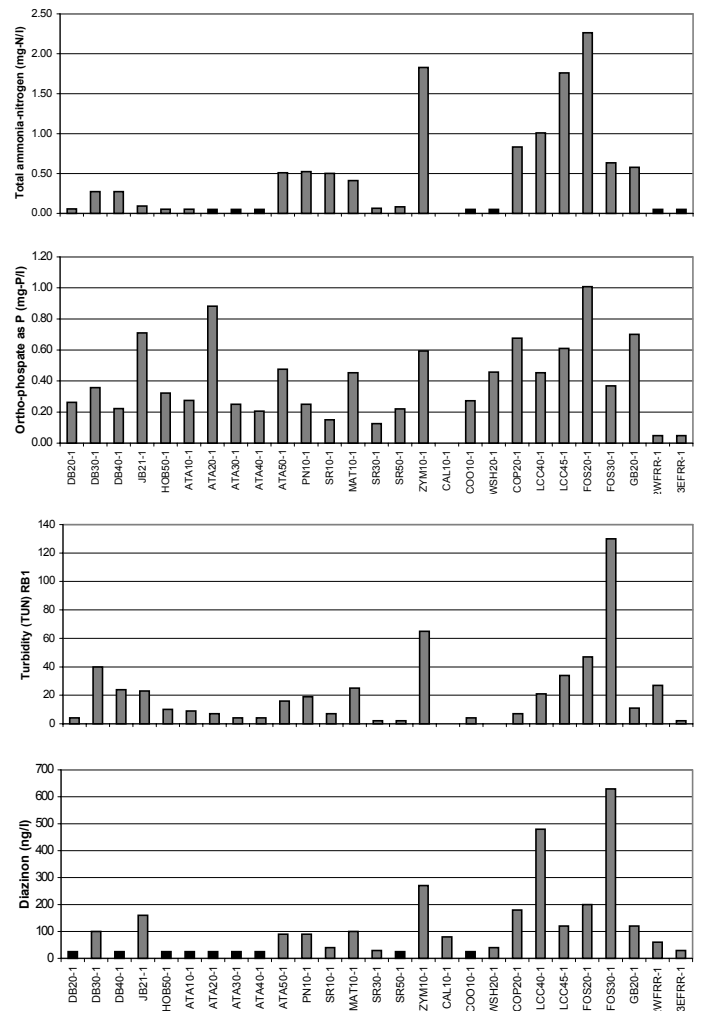


Figure 1. Monitoring Results in Russian River First Flush

sessions and data collection activities to capture the first runoff of the year as it entered the Russian River and its tributaries. The field teams conducted measurements and observations (including conductivity, water level, and murkiness) to identify rain runoff flows. Then they took samples for analyses of nutrients and total suspended solids at the In-House laboratory of the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB). (continued on page 6)

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Sample aliquots were sent to the EPA laboratory in Richmond, who donated their services to analyze the samples for bacteria (E. coli and total coliform) and pesticide (diazinon). Your Clean Water Team coordinator provided the scientific coordination and technical support.

Russian River First Flush 2002 data indicate that a few locations in the watershed had elevated levels of nutrients (ammonia, nitrate, and orthophosphate), suspended solids, E. coli, and diazinon, in comparison to other locations. The graphs in Figure 1 show the variability in concentrations at different watershed locations at the same time, and also indicate that areas with high concentrations of one constituent (parameter) are not necessarily a major source of other constituents (e.g., a “hot spot” for nutrients was not necessarily high in diazinon,

and high phosphate was not necessarily associated with high ammonia). These and other results have been compiled and released in a Summary Report. To download the 900K PDF file from the NCRWQCB website, go to <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb1> Select “available documents”, and look for the Russian River First Flush Summary Report.



The Santa Rosa Creek First Flush team collecting samples.

This article is based in part on the Russian River First Flush Event Summary prepared by Sierra Cantor of the Sotoyome Resource Conservation District (RCD), Santa Rosa, November 2002. [↗](#)



One of the finished panels of the Liberty High School Watershed Mural.

Seeing Stormwater's Impact from a Whole New Perspective!

The Liberty High School Watershed Mural has moved out into the public eye. When the Watershed Mural is finished it will find its home at the Lodi Lake Nature Area information kiosk, located at the trailhead on an already existing structure.

The purpose of the mural will be to educate visitors to the Lodi Lake Nature Area, on the history of the Mokelumne River. The mural will depict the Mokelumne River Watershed, from its source in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, above Silver Lake, then following its course through the community of Lodi, and on out to the Pacific Ocean.

The Liberty High School students who painted the mural over the past year were students of Steve Jordan's Art class, and were also under the direction of professional artist Suzanne Kennedy.

Funding was provided by a CALFED grant, awarded in 2002, to the City of Lodi's Public Works Department, Water/Wastewater Division.

Lower Merced's Hot "Like A Whirlwind" Tour

By Teri Murrison, Watershed Coordinator, East Merced Resource Conservation District / Merced River Stakeholders

What has 40 legs and 40 wheels, drinks buckets of water, doesn't stay in any one place for too long, and won't quit despite 104+ degree heat among the rock piles of the Lower Merced River? If you guessed 20 parched people in 10 cars on an incredibly accelerated tour of the Lower Merced River on July 14th, you guessed right.



Catching some shade at Henderson Park.

Despite extremely hot weather, an intrepid and diverse group of people visited 9 different projects and sites and traversed more than 55 river miles in 8 hours to

gain a macro view of the lower watershed and its issues. And sweated, a lot.

During the tour, the group discussed water quality, easement projects, and fish barriers near the confluence with the San Joaquin River, dairies, cropping patterns, and a high water table in the Hilmar area, municipal and industrial waste

processing adjacent to the river, erosion and bank stabilization, non-native invasive plant species, Salmonids, farmland reclamation of former gravel



Confluence of the Merced and San Joaquin Rivers.

mining sites, the CDFG's new Merced River Ranch project, the Merced River Restoration Plan, Merced Irrigation District's role in the lower watershed, and New Exchequer Dam.

Participants included farmers and ranchers,



Cindy Lashbrook at Living Farms.

Merced River Stakeholders members, interested public, Merced County District 4 Supervisor Deidre Kelsey, and agency staff (Merced

County Ag Commissioner's office, Merced County Farm Bureau, Merced Irrigation District, SWRCB Clean Water Team, Department of Conservation, California Dept. of Fish & Game, California Department of Water Resources, and US Fish & Wildlife Service).

The tour was birthed when 4 watershed coordinators started talking about their desire to learn more about each other's regions. East Merced RCD's

lower Merced River watershed coordinator Teri Murrison volunteered to organize the lower Merced tour.

Coordinators Nancy McConnell and Holly Warner (upper Merced) and Steve Haze (San Joaquin) will reciprocate at a future date.



Oak restoration Bettencourt Ranch.

Participants are looking forward to that and hoping for cooler weather. ☺

Government Agencies Can Count on Volunteers:

TMDL Data Collected at Lake Tahoe

By Heather Segale, Environmental Education Coordinator, Lake Tahoe Environmental Education Coalition (LTEEC)

Snapshot Day 2003 was the third annual citizen volunteer stream monitoring event for the Lake Tahoe and Truckee River watershed. On May 10, 2003, 250 volunteers collected water quality data at 125 distinct monitoring sites. Some of the teams were able to collect samples and data at multiple sites. Locations included tributaries to Lake Tahoe, shoreline and lake sites, and the Truckee River and its tributaries from Tahoe City to Pyramid Lake near Reno.

| 2003 Snapshot Day | Volunteers | Locations |
|--------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| North Shore Lake Tahoe | 59 | 40 |
| South Shore Lake Tahoe | 85 | 37 |
| Lake Tahoe (lake sites) | 16 | 6 |
| Marina Sites | 6 | 2 |
| Middle Truckee River | 55 | 26 |
| Lower Truckee River | 29 | 14 |
| Totals for 2003 | 250 | 125 |

Snapshot Day is an annual one-day event sponsored by the Tahoe-Truckee Clean Water Team, a working group of the Lake Tahoe Environmental Education Coalition (LTEEC). It is designed to get community volunteers involved in monitoring the water moving through the Lake Tahoe and Truckee River watersheds. Water samples are taken in order to develop a picture of water quality and watershed health at a single point in time. The volunteer monitoring teams test streams for dissolved oxygen, conductivity, pH and temperature. They also conduct a visual assessment, collect field data, grab samples and take photos. Water samples are taken back to central meeting locations, measured for turbidity, and sent to local labs for nutrients and fecal coliform bacteria analyses.

Sponsoring agencies include the SWRCB's Clean Water Team, RWQCB and USEPA, which provided sampling and monitoring equipment and lab analyses.

This year volunteers in the Tahoe watershed also participated in collecting much needed data for the Lake Tahoe TMDL Project and the UC Davis Lake Tahoe Clarity Model. Water samples were gathered from the mouths of all 63 tributaries in order to analyze the sediment content.

Researcher Geoff Schladow from UC Davis will take the samples collected on May 10 and study the quantity and size of sediment particles in the spring runoff from the tributaries entering Lake Tahoe.

Volunteers that participate in citizen water quality monitoring events such as Snapshot Day learn about their watershed, water quality issues, how streams function, and how to assess stream health. These volunteers can be an extra set of eyes and ears that government agencies can

count on to ensure that local streams and watersheds are looked after on a regular basis.

Monitoring data can serve as the



basis for determining problem areas (potential "hot spots"), protecting local streams from potentially harmful land use decisions, or restoring your stream if it is already degraded. By learning more and helping to promote environmental stewardship, volunteers create an informed public voice that collectively
(continued on page 9)

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can influence decisions that affect our environment, and subsequently our water resources. Thank you to everyone that participated in Snapshot Day 2003! A volunteer appreciation dinner party will be held in the Fall and results and data will be presented.

If you would like to learn more about how you can participate in water quality monitoring in the Lake Tahoe watershed contact Heather Segale at (775) 832-4138 or email segaleh@unce.unr.edu &

Working Together in the Truckee River Watershed

By Beth Christman, Program Manager, Truckee River Watershed Council

The Truckee portion of the 2003 Tahoe Truckee Snap Shot Day went smoothly – nobody fell in a stream, samples made it to the labs on time, and everyone had a great day! Each of the major portions of the Tahoe Truckee watershed has a slightly different focus for their sampling efforts on Snap Shot Day. In 2003, the Middle Truckee group was working on establishing baseline information for each of the 27 sub-basins within the portion of the watershed that runs from the outflow of Lake Tahoe to the California-Nevada State line. The fifty-five volunteers that participated at Truckee were able to sample 22 of the sub-basins with multiple samples from 3 of those sub-basins.



Ed Johnson

Volunteers collect water quality data at Sagehen Creek, approximately 7 miles north of the town of Truckee.

coliform samples were collected at 15 sites, and nutrient samples at 13 sites. Preliminary results from the event indicate that water quality is generally good within the Middle Truckee watershed.

The Truckee River Watershed Council (TRWC) coordinated the Middle Truckee portion of the Tahoe Truckee Snap Shot Day and conducts other citizen monitoring through the Truckee River Aquatic Monitors (TRAM). TRAM collects benthic macroinvertebrate samples (also known as “stream bugs”) along with basic water chemistry data. Between 5-7 streams are sampled each year by TRAM during the summer field season. Volunteers then identify the samples to the taxonomic level of family during the winter lab season. TRWC is in the process of integrating information obtained by TRAM with Snap Shot Day data.

Contact information: Beth Christman, Program Manager, Truckee River Watershed Council, P.O. Box 8568 Truckee, CA 96162
Phone: 530-550-1533
web address: www.truckeeriverwc.org &

Upper Merced River Watershed Snapshot Day

By Breezy Jackson



The Upper Merced River Watershed Council hosted its first annual Water Quality Monitoring Snapshot Event Saturday July 19, 2003.

Watershed Intern Breezy Jackson organized the event with the help of Watershed Coordinators Nancy McConnell and Holly Warner. Holly Sheradin from the SWRCB's Clean Water Team also assisted by providing equipment and training for the Snapshot Day.



The UMRW, based in Mariposa, CA has jurisdiction over the Upper Merced River from its headwaters in Yosemite National Park to Lake McClure at Bagby. The Upper Merced is a wild and scenic river open to many types of recreation including camping, fishing, hiking, rafting, and swimming. Most of the land adjoining the river is managed by government agencies including the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, the National Forest Service, the Stanislaus State Park Service, and California Department of Forestry. Private landowners, surrounding communities and vacationers also share a vested interest in the Merced.

The goal of this Snapshot Event was to establish a foundation of interested volunteers, baseline data, and equipment familiarity for future testing. In addition the Snapshot Day was designed as an educational opportunity to increase public awareness of water quality issues. The event attracted 17 volunteers and covered 16 sites both in the mainstream of the river and in selected

tributaries. Saturday morning the two-person teams checked out their equipment from event leaders and proceeded to their respective creek, stream, or river location to test the physical parameters of the water including temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, nitrates, and conductivity. Four sites of special concern were also tested for total coliform and fecal coliform. These parameters indicate the general health of the water as well as helping to identify possible problem areas. Nancy McConnell said, "Everyone keeps telling us its such a healthy watershed, but without monitoring the water quality and getting baseline data, we just don't know that for sure." Breezy Jackson added, "The UMRW would like to do this on a quarterly basis so that we can better identify trends and problem areas, but this is a good first step."

The first ever Upper Merced River Snapshot Day proved a great success. Analysis of the physical parameters showed

no locations of concern. Each year more data will be added to what was established this year. As this database grows more can be learned and the river will be better understood. Observing trends and consistency of results, we can help stakeholders to manage the watershed better, and continue to facilitate community education. ♪



Citizen Monitoring on the Mokelumne River-It Takes a Local Commitment

By Kathy Grant, City of Lodi

The Lodi Storm Drain Detectives, a citizen monitoring group in Lodi, is about to begin its 4th year monitoring the Mokelumne River,



and the influence stormwater has on the river. This program would not be possible without the professional oversight and expertise of the City of Lodi's Public Works Department, Water/Wastewater Division. This relationship accounts for the steady, regular work done each month, which is posted on-line at www.lodi.gov, under Storm Drain Detectives.

Student volunteers are attracted to the program for different reasons, and are generally recruited by the teachers who have returned each year to join forces with city staff. Time has shown that the best teacher, though, is the one who takes an active role in the learning herself, and requires her students to learn the material, and to demonstrate



that learning with a written and oral report. We learned this past year that several students out of more than 35 of our volunteers, who had to

actually attend and present at the 1st Annual Watershed Symposium in Sacramento this spring, in the end had the best grasp of what the data was showing us over the year.

It takes a committed local government to invest precious time and money in a monitoring

program. But the payback is a win-win situation. Students need the real world connection for senior projects, community service hours, career possibilities or for credit. Teachers need the help from professionals with expertise in the environmental sciences and data management, and local government needs its citizenry to better understand the complex impacts

potential stormwater pollution from urban sources has on a river system.



Together, communities can begin to solve their stormwater problems. Lodi is investing in its young students to be better prepared for tomorrow's problems. ♪

Brown and Caldwell offers several free electronic newsletters that link readers to the latest news on water, wastewater, water resources and waste related topics in several U. S. regions.

Website: www.bcwaternews.com

University of Southern California's Sea Grant for Coastal Ecology Day

By Kerry Flaherty, Southern California Marine Institute



The Southern California Marine Institute (SCMI), which works closely with the SWRCB's Clean Water Team Program to help train and educate citizen monitors, has just recently been asked to write a full proposal to fund Coastal Ecology Day for University of Southern California's Sea Grant. SCMI started Coastal Ecology Day in the fall of 1994 to survey rocky intertidal beaches. Coastal Ecology Day is a biannual survey of southern California's rocky shoreline. This proposed intertidal study would run from March 1, 2004-February 28, 2006 and involve several non-profit groups and K-12 students. Each group participating will be provided with all of the materials needed for the survey. Since 1994, SCMI has completed 14 Ecology Day surveys along the local rocky shoreline and has involved over 1,000 students.

Community Awareness:

In the highly urbanized Los Angeles basin area, there are, interspersed with the sandy beaches, rocky intertidal areas that are largely overlooked when it comes to beach clean-ups. These areas also contain populations of invertebrates that may be used as indicators of pollution and general ecosystem health. Coastal Ecology Day increases community awareness of natural ecosystems in the coastal zone, monitors coastal environments in order to ascertain changes over time, helps determine if ecosystem changes may be related to human impacts, and develops baseline information in the event of a catastrophic pollution incident. Surveys involve

integrated teams of middle school, high school, and college students from Los Angeles area schools. Students are introduced to the ecology of the intertidal zone, scientific sampling methods, the use of quadrants and transect lines to sample the rocky intertidal zone, and taught to identify intertidal algae and animals. After the survey is completed students then participate in a beach clean-up.

Student Assessment:

To determine how much the students have learned due to the training and participation in this program, each student will be given a pre-survey questionnaire before the intertidal survey training session and a post-survey questionnaire to be filled out back at their school. The questionnaire will include questions regarding the ecology of intertidal zones, and some of the problems facing the intertidal zones. Also, each teacher participating in this program will fill out an evaluation form and a post-survey questionnaire regarding whether the program helps with their curriculum development.

Objective:

The objective of this research is to quantify populations of invertebrates in intertidal areas. The dataset from previous Coastal Ecology days is a valuable asset to monitoring the health of rocky intertidal ecosystems. The funding obtained from Sea Grant will be used to reinstitute Coastal Ecology Day, funding 4 survey dates over 2 years, completing a dataset covering a total of 11 years. Educational materials will be developed for continuing education about rocky intertidal areas for high school participants. This data and those *(continued on page 13)*

University of Southern California's Sea Grant for Coastal Ecology Day (continued from page 12)

from previous studies would then be compiled and analyzed for changes in invertebrate population trends including diversity and abundance. In addition, a coastal cleanup will be used to characterize and quantify the type of debris found on rocky intertidal shores. Water quality parameters will also be collected for comparisons between sites and years. ♪

For more information on SCMI visit their website at: www-rcf.usc.edu/~scmi/

For more information on the Sea Grant visit their website at: www.usc.edu/org/seagrant/

Meyers Elementary Fifth Grade is an Environmentality Challenge Winner!

By Cindy Wise, Regional Water Quality Control Board

Mr. Comlossy's fifth grade class from Meyers Elementary School in South Lake Tahoe is one of the state finalist winners in the Jiminy Cricket Environmentality Challenge for their water quality monitoring and watershed education project. This year, over 500 classes enrolled in the competition and 50 classes completed their project and project portfolio. As part of the state finalist award, the fifth graders from Meyers Elementary received hats, shirts, certificates and a cash award of \$500 for the classroom. For more detailed information on their class project, please refer to the Spring 2003 edition of the Currents Newsletter. ♪



Teacher Mr. Bob Comlossy and Principal Kathi Jensen with the winning fifth grade class at Meyers Elementary School.

Grand Prize Winning Class of Jiminy Cricket's Environmental Challenge Receives Honors at The Disneyland Resort

By Janice Sindoni, *Disney's Environmental*



ANAHEIM, Calif. (May 22, 2003) – A class of fifth grade students from El Verano Elementary School in Sonoma, CA, was honored as the Grand Prize winner of the ninth annual Jiminy Cricket's Environmental Challenge, a statewide competition designed to promote environmental awareness and action in the classroom.

Roy E. Disney, Vice Chairman of the Board for The Walt Disney Company and Daina Baker, Disneyland Resort Ambassador, hosted a special ceremony in front of Sleeping Beauty Castle, where fifth grade teacher David Neubacher and his class from El Verano were honored by Jack O'Connell, State Superintendent of Public Instruction and William Hartwig, Assistant Director of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Also present to acknowledge the class were Cheryl Peace, Member of the California Integrated Waste Management Board; John Hayashi, President of the California State Board of Food and Agriculture; and Kym Murphy, Senior Vice President, Environmental Policy, The Walt Disney Company.

"It's really heartwarming for me, and all of us here at The Walt Disney Company, to see so many young people working together, in their schools and communities, to make a real difference in our environment, both for today and for the future," said Roy E. Disney.

Mr. Neubacher's students were among 95,600 California students from almost 3,200 classes who participated in this year's Environmental Challenge. The class won the competition with its environmental education project "Protectors of the Earth." As part of this project, the students developed a single-stream recycling program managed by all fifth grade classes at their school. They also collaborated with expert university scientists from UC Berkeley and UC Irvine to research the causes of deformed frogs discovered in

their local creeks. In addition, the class conducted an extensive letter-writing campaign urging elected officials to protect the Van Hoosear Wildflower Preserve as a "Forever Wild" easement. Finally, the class conducted monthly

local creek clean-up and water-testing efforts and organized an assembly to educate other students about waste management.

Jiminy Cricket's Environmental Challenge is sponsored by The Walt Disney Company and the State of California's Environmental Education Interagency Network (CEEIN). Since its inception in 1994, more than 534,000 California students have participated in this program that encourages students to think and act environmentally at school, at home, and in their community. ♪



Announcements of Upcoming Conferences:

California 2003 Nonpoint Source (NPS) Conference

Restoring Clean Water: NPS Pollution Prevention and TMDLs

November 5-7, 2003 Sheraton Four Points Hotel, 1050 Schooner Drive, Ventura, CA

http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/nps/docs/registration_conference.pdf

The conference is an outstanding opportunity for landowners, watershed coordinators, local resource groups, nonprofit organizations, and local agencies to convene and learn from the wealth of knowledge that has developed in nonpoint source pollution prevention programs.

More conference information is available at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/nps/fall2003.html>

CalCoast/CSBPA Annual Conference Headwaters To Oceans (H2O) Conference (Integrating Rivers, Wetlands, and Coastlines in an Urban Environment)

October 23-25, 2003 Westin Hotel, Long Beach, California

Information is posted at http://www.calcoast.org/news/spr2003_fallconf.html

The conference is being organized as an integration of the annual conferences of the following organizations: California Coastal Coalition, California Shore and Beach Preservation Association, Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project, and the Society of Wetlands Scientists (Western Chapter).

Waterfowl Management and Biology in the 21st Century:

Looking Back and to the Future November 5-9, 2003 in Sacramento

The 3rd North American Duck Symposium, to be held in Sacramento California, November 5-9, 2003. The conference program will include invited plenary papers by internationally recognized speakers, contributed oral and poster paper session and evening workshops. Our goal is to provide a forum for managers, researchers, students and other concerned individuals to share their concerns, ideas and solutions to the issues facing North American ducks in the new century. <http://www.ducksymp3.com/pages/1/index.htm>



2003 Cal-APPC Symposium

Planning Weed Management for Ecosystem Recovery

October 2-4, at the North Tahoe Conference Center, in King's Beach

Mark your calendars! Held every year since 1992, the Cal-EPPC Symposium is the place to hear the latest weed information and meet others working on wildland weed management. This year's Symposium focuses on the theme, "Planning Weed Management for Ecosystem Recovery," and the sessions are being organized in collaboration with our colleagues from Nevada. The Symposium will be held October 2-4, at the North Tahoe Conference Center, in King's Beach on Lake Tahoe. Bring your family and spend Sunday after the conference in the gorgeous Tahoe basin.



http://groups.ucanr.org/ceppc/Symposium_2003/

What's next?



ATTENTION FIFTH GRADE TEACHERS!!



Jiminy Cricket is inviting you to the Environmentality Challenge!
It provides an opportunity for your class and all other fifth grade classes in the State of California to "think green." It's a challenging and fun hands-on experience that will help fifth graders learn more about their environment and the State of California and show them why "it's cool to care" about the earth. The purpose is to encourage students to think and act environmentally at school, at home, and in their community. The program is the result of a unique partnership between Disney and the California's Environmental Education Interagency Network (CEEIN) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Please check out the web site at www.jceckids.org for more information or call the hotline at 800-290-0299.



COASTAL CLEANUP EVENTS

California's shorelines collect millions of pounds of debris throughout the year— debris that can endanger marine animals and humans alike. You can help reduce this problem by participating in one of the world's largest volunteer events. Please join us for the California Coastal Commission's 19th Annual California Coastal Cleanup Day on Saturday, September 20, 2003 from 9 AM to Noon.

COASTWEEKS is an international celebration of our coastal and water resources. The celebration is kicked off by Coastal Cleanup Day on Sept. 20 and continues through Oct. 12th with fun events for both youth and adults.

For more information, please contact:

www.coastforyou.org
(800) Coast-4U
Coast4u@coastal.ca.gov

Contact Information:

California State Water Resources Control Board:

1001 I Street, 15th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 341-5455
Fax: (916) 341-5463

Clean Water Team Web Site:

www.swrcb.ca.gov/nps/volunteer.html

Clean Water Team Contact:

Statewide Citizen Monitoring Coordinator (Region 5 & 6 interim)

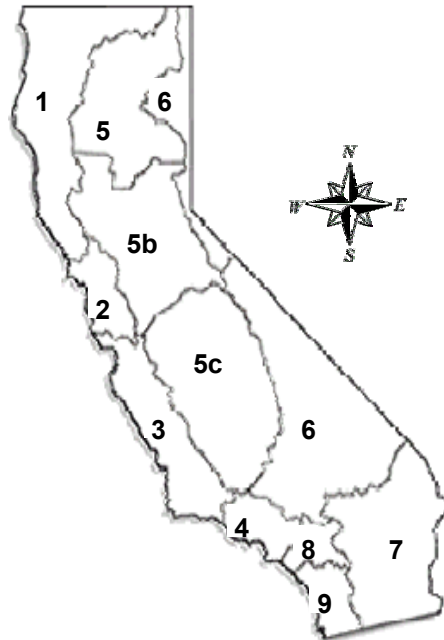
Holly Sheradin
(916) 341-5466
E-mail: Sherh@swrcb.ca.gov

North and Central Coast (Regions 1, 2 & 3)

Revital Katznelson
(510) 622-2470
E-mail: rk@rb2.swrcb.ca.gov

South Coast & Colorado River Basin (Regions 4, 7, 8, & 9)

Erick Burres
(213) 576-6788
E-mail: eburres@rb4.swrcb.ca.gov



*Editing & Designing:
Linda Liu and Fawn Sheradin*

