

# ANNUAL REPORT 2015





## VISIT & EXPLORE

The Nature Center is located upstairs near our offices.

NATURE CENTER  
OPEN EVERY DAY  
**10 a.m.-6 p.m.**  
(January & February open 10 a.m.-5 p.m.)

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**MBNEP.org**

### Keep in Touch

Subscribe to our weekly blog. It offers an in-depth look at our work, ideas for bay-friendly living, information about the local area, and more.

**BLOG** [MBNEP.org/blog](http://MBNEP.org/blog)

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**Instagram** [@MorroBayNEP](https://www.instagram.com/MorroBayNEP)

**YouTube** [YouTube: MorroBayEstuary](https://www.youtube.com/MorroBayEstuary)

### Featured Artist

Barbara Rosenthal has been a nature lover since childhood. The pleasure she gets from the natural world prompted her move to the Central Coast in 1981. She uses local parks and forests as part of her studio, working directly in acrylic, oil, and pastel, absorbing and learning from her surroundings.

Barbara has generously donated the use of her artwork for this report.

[rosenthalart.com](http://rosenthalart.com)



# CONTENTS

## WELCOME

- 2** 2015: A Banner Year
- 3** Bay Foundation Board Updates

## 20TH ANNIVERSARY REVIEW

- 5** A National Treasure in Words Poetry Contest
- 5** Bay-Friendly Gardening Tour
- 6** Celebrating a National Treasure Traveling Art Show
- 6** Sharing Locals' Bay Stories
- 7** Estuary Update Community Meeting
- 7** Twentieth Anniversary Party

## 2015 IN FOCUS

- 8** Good, Clean, Boating Fun
- 9** Dogs for Clean Water
- 10** Rural Road Restoration Update
- 11** Chorro Creek Ecological Reserve
- 12** Give a Day for the Bay Success
- 13** Community Grants Awarded
- 14** Volunteer Focus

## FISCAL DATA

## SUPPORT

- 18** Program Funders and Donors
- 20** Organizational Structure



**MORRO BAY**  
NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

Morro Bay National Estuary Program brings together citizens, local governments, nonprofits, agencies, and landowners to protect and restore the Morro Bay estuary.

*Learn*  
*Volunteer*  
*Donate*

[MBNEP.org](http://MBNEP.org)

# 2015, A BANNER YEAR

**In our community,** we have a long history of working to protect Morro Bay, our estuary. This effort has taken many forms over the decades, but all with the same goal, to protect the special nature of this place. Morro Bay was designated as a State Estuary in 1994, and the Morro Bay National Estuary Program was established in 1995 after many years of hard work by our community, in particular, the Bay Foundation of Morro Bay and the Friends of the Estuary. The individuals who served in these organizations never quit until they reached their goal of National Estuary designation. Many still work today to protect our bay.

2015 was filled with milestones. The Morro Bay National Estuary Program celebrated 20 years of service to our bay and community. We acknowledged our long-time supporters and thanked new friends who gathered together to recognize all we've accomplished. Adrienne celebrated five years with the program, and Joel took on his second term as Bay Foundation President. We both have thoroughly enjoyed working with this dedicated group of community members and partner organizations, and while Adrienne left the organization in 2016, she will always be grateful to have worked with such passionate supporters.

This year, we worked together to keep 6,000 cubic yards of sediment from entering creeks in our

watershed by fixing chronic erosion issues on rural roads. We began planning for our largest floodplain restoration project yet along Chorro Creek. Community members used 250,000 bags provided by our Mutt Mitts program to keep pet waste out of our bay. And, all year long, we celebrated the beauty of our bay through art and storytelling.

As Jeremiah O'Brien, a local fisherman, put it in his 20th anniversary Bay Story interview, "We all love this place that we get to call home and work in. It's certainly special to all of us, that's why we're here in Morro Bay."

We live in this place, we work in this place, we love this place. Each of you reading this report has helped the Estuary Program throughout the last 20 years. Thank you for your service to our bay.

Our work is not over. Our estuary still faces threats from pollution and climate change. The National Estuary Program is dedicated to solving the complex problems that face our bay and ocean now and in the future. We have work to do, and together we will continue this important work in the decades to come.



**Joel Neel**  
*President*



**Adrienne Harris**  
*Executive Director*

*from November 2010 through December 2015*



## BAY FOUNDATION BOARD UPDATES



### *Rick Algert Retires*

Rick knows our community well. He is a long-time resident of the area, the former Morro Bay Harbor Director, and currently works with local fishermen to help develop more sustainable practices. Rick's knowledge and depth of experience have made him a tremendous asset to the Bay Foundation Board. Though we are sad to see him go, we are glad that he will have more time for his loved ones and his family farm, alpacas and all! We thank Rick for his valuable service and hope to see him around the bay often.

### *We Welcome Our New Board Member*

Kris Vardas joined the Bay Foundation Board in July 2015. Kris Vardas is a principal land/environmental planner with Pacific Gas and Electric Company, where he handles land use and environmental planning for a large variety of energy supply, decommissioning, and electric transmission and distribution projects. Kris worked in private consulting for several years and previously worked for two state agencies in Sacramento. Kris also serves on the board of the California Coastal Coalition and the French Hospital Foundation Board. He served two four-year terms on the Pismo Beach City Council and a two-year term on the Pismo Beach Planning Commission. Kris was also a commissioner with the San Luis Obispo Local Agency Formation Commission, and a board member of the Zone 3 Water Advisory Board. He has an MBA and a BS in Environmental Policy and Planning. Kris enjoys spending time with his family, stand up paddling, surfing, and woodworking.

### **Blue Sanctuary**

The valuable moment:  
River, air, and ocean empty  
Into blue estuary,  
While sea otters usher  
Fellow estuarians:  
Steelhead trout,  
Brown pelican,  
And Morro manzanita  
Through eel-grass beds  
Spreading across  
Tributaries  
Like a tapestry.  
Its earthy green threads  
Grab deep and  
Reach out to  
Us.

Poem by **Marnie L. Parker**,  
*Free Verse Category Winner*

# 2015 WAS OUR 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY YEAR

*We celebrated the estuary with a series  
of fun and informative public events.*

## Tidal Song

The tide fills the channels, winding like tree limbs  
Great egrets stalk through the tall grass  
Legs like stilts, giving them an advantage over their prey  
Crabs dribble over the banks, plop into the water,  
and flutter to the floor like feathers from their hunter  
Salty mist hugs the ever-changing estuary  
A small cheep can be heard as a mother mallard returns to her chicks  
Seagulls call from distant dunes  
As Time pulls the sun, sea, and moon, the channels empty  
The sky becomes the cheek of a child playing in the snow: blush pink  
It darkens to the deep blue of the night  
Kin of the sky, the ocean, imitates the color till the land is coated in shadow  
The only light comes from the moon  
It illuminates the bay, waking the creatures that play under its faithful watch  
Mud glistens in the gloom, munching on the shoe it had stolen from a stranded sailor  
A black silhouette silently dances in front of the stars and touches down on a eucalyptus  
Huge eyes peer out as it takes in a panoramic view in one full turn of its feathered head  
Nothing can save the prey it spies  
Across the water, fox cubs play in the elfin forest  
Yipping and growling when an ear is bitten  
The night curls overhead  
Slowly, silently, a glow smudges the horizon, and the mother fox herds her brood back to the den  
A light out of batteries, the moon shrinks away from the dawn and with it go the creatures to await its return  
The sun slips over the hills, and coaxes a greeting from the sea  
Waves melt into the channels  
Grasses peek above the surface and shake with laughter when the cool water embraces their tiny stems  
A small minnow kisses the top of the water to catch its breakfast  
At the first gull's cry, the sun floats fully above the land, casting diamonds on the water  
Clouds dot the sky like the insides of an unlucky stuffed animal  
Twenty-four hours turn over again  
The tide fills the channels, winding like tree limbs

Poem by **Lauren Tarica**,  
Youth Free Verse Category Winner

## *A National Treasure in Words* **POETRY CONTEST & CELEBRATORY READING**



Thanks to poets from Morro Bay, Los Osos, San Luis Obispo, and beyond, we received about 100 entries for this year's estuary-themed poetry contest. The poets' passion for this special place helped them to capture the spirit of the bay with their words.

Our guest judges—local poets Kevin Patrick Sullivan, Youssef Alaoui, and Rob Seitz—chose youth and adult winners and runners-up for the haiku and free verse categories. Fifty people gathered at Coalesce bookstore to hear the winning poems and to celebrate the estuary.

You can find the winners' poems throughout this report and on our website.



*Great Egret*  
Illustration by Eva Moylan



## *Bay-Friendly* **Gardening TOUR**

We partnered with Sage Ecological Landscapes & Nursery to hold a bay-friendly gardening information session. Participants learned how to use native and drought-tolerant plants to conserve water, and to avoid using chemical pesticides and fertilizers in the garden.



# *Celebrating a National Treasure* **TRAVELING ART SHOW**

Fourteen different artists created paintings, photographs, and mixed media pieces that showcased the Morro Bay National Estuary.

Visitors enjoyed the show and gallery receptions at the Art Center Morro Bay, the San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, and the Office of Deanna Richards, Edward Jones.



# *Sharing Locals' Bay Stories* **VIDEOS & PODCASTS**



Our Bay Stories are told by local citizens, families, business owners, and nature enthusiasts who love the bay. The videos show the beauty of the wildlife and rare landscapes that surround us, and reveal the speakers' hopes for the future of the estuary. They remind us why the estuary should be protected and restored.

We debuted a selection of these Bay Story videos at our traveling art show and hosted a viewing party at the Los Osos Library. The podcast versions aired on The Rock community radio station, 97.3 FM. Now, you can watch all the videos and listen to the extended podcast versions on our website.



# *Estuary Update* **COMMUNITY MEETING**

Ann Kitajima, Monitoring Program Manager, discussed the current health of the bay and watershed as well as the importance of keeping our waters healthy for people and animals alike.

Jennifer Nix, Restoration Projects Manager, talked about the eelgrass decline in Morro Bay and outlined the Estuary Program's efforts to help restore and understand this important species.



# *Twentieth Anniversary* **PARTY**

We gathered together with founders, supporters, partners, local government officers, and community members to celebrate 20 years of working to protect and restore Morro Bay.

Adrienne Harris, Executive Director, acknowledged the hundreds of people who participated in the grassroots effort to form the Estuary Program and to write the original Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan and the 2012 update. Assemblyman Katcho Achadjian and State Senator Bill Monning wrote a special joint resolution that recognized the Estuary Program's good work. Great people, delicious food, a photo booth, a microscope station, and other activities made for a fun day.



*After all of these events and celebrations, we are rejuvenated, inspired, and more than ready for the next 20 years!*

# 2015 *in focus*

Critters feel at home  
A safe place where no waves break  
salty mud and wind

Poem by Nick Murphy, Youth Haiku Winner

## GOOD, CLEAN, BOATING FUN

**The Morro Bay National Estuary Program partners** with the City of Morro Bay's Harbor Department to help boaters keep our waters clean. This year, we consulted with the Harbor Department to design a user-friendly Clean Boating kit that includes a map of boater resources (like pumpout stations and the Harbor Department's new Oil Recycling facility), an oil-absorbent sock for soaking up spills and leaks, and dye tablets that can detect sewage leaking from marine head (a.k.a. onboard toilet) holding tanks. We are distributing these kits to

local and visiting boaters so that they'll have the tools they need to protect the estuary.

We've also continued to help the Harbor Department fund the removal of abandoned, derelict vessels. These are boats that are in states of significant disrepair. If left alone, exposure to the elements might cause them to leak oil, gas, paint, and other pollutants into our waters. Removing and demolishing them before they further deteriorate—or even sink—is essential to preserving the health of the bay.



*In 2015, the Harbor Department removed and demolished eight vessels. The largest one was a 52' steel-hulled commercial fishing boat.*

## DOGS FOR CLEAN WATER

**Dogs bring us joy**, companionship, unconditional love, and—well, a whole lot of ~~waste~~ ~~poop~~ ~~excrement~~ ... "stuff" to clean up. In the Morro Bay and Los Osos area, there are approximately 5,500 canine residents doing their duty every day—and this can have quite an impact on water quality.

Rain can wash bacteria from dog waste right into our creeks and bay. The Estuary Program and its partners combat this problem by providing dog-waste bags (Mutt Mitts) for free at dispensers throughout the Morro Bay area. 2015 was a busy year. Dog owners used approximately 250,000 bags to properly dispose of waste. The Estuary Program created a map of the dispensers in our area (you can find it on our website), installed three new dispensers and adopted two existing dispensers into our program. For the second year in a row, the Estuary Program hosted a fun, free, family-friendly dog event called DogFest to educate residents and visitors about the importance of picking up after our canine companions. DogFest 2015 nearly doubled attendance from the inaugural event; approximately 300 people attended with dogs in tow. Dogs showed off tricks, performed in an agility course, dressed up for costume awards (we even had a dog in postal uniform!), and learned new obedience tips.

In 2016, we hope to see this program continue to grow as we educate more dog owners about how they can help keep the bay clean.






# RURAL ROAD RESTORATION UPDATE

In 2014, the Estuary Program broke ground on an ambitious project to restore World War II era roads in the Morro Bay watershed. After weathering decades of use and storms, these roads were in danger of failing and sending large amounts of sediment into nearby streams and down to the estuary.

This project will control erosion at certain roads along Chorro Creek and its tributaries, reducing the amount of sediment that enters the water. This project is part of an ongoing effort to improve water quality and aquatic habitat in Morro Bay and its surrounding watershed. In cooperation with Cal Poly, the U.S. Forest Service, and Camp SLO, we've already completed work at 42 project sites. When the project is complete, we will have addressed 47 sites along over 10 miles of failing roads, resulting in the reduction of 9,260 cubic yards of future sediment entry into the Morro Bay watershed. We expect to complete the project in 2016.



PRE-PROJECT  
FAILING STREAM  
CROSSING WITH  
EXPOSED CULVERT



POST-PROJECT  
UPGRADED  
CROSSING WITH  
ARMORED FILL



## CHORRO CREEK ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

The Estuary Program partnered with several agencies, including the California Coastal Conservancy and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, to fund the purchase of a parcel of land along Chorro Creek in 2003. They named it the Chorro Creek Ecological Reserve.

Prior to its acquisition, the land was used for agriculture. Berms and levees created during that time have disconnected the creek from its floodplain. As a result, an unstable secondary channel has formed, and habitat for sensitive species such as South-Central California steelhead and California red-legged frog has been compromised. Areas of this secondary channel show drastic erosion, causing sediment to flow downstream.

Because of these conditions, the Estuary Program and our partners have two main goals for the reserve. One is to restore habitat for wildlife,

and the second is to keep sediment from washing down the stream and into the estuary.

We are excited to report that a team of experts and partners are now working on ways to enhance water quality and habitat within the reserve. Thanks to funding from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Fisheries Restoration Grant Program, Jen Nix, the Estuary Program's Restoration Projects Manager, is leading this team through the design process. They are drafting plans that will stabilize and strengthen sections of the creek, breach or remove existing levees, restore connection to the natural floodplain, and improve a road crossing.

Once the planning process is complete, we will be closer to seeing major benefits to habitat and water quality in this section of Chorro Creek. We're excited to watch these plans unfold!



# GIVE A DAY FOR THE BAY SUCCESS

Our Give a Day for the Bay volunteer initiative helped our partner organizations get the word out about volunteer cleanups to benefit the bay. We were very happy with the results.



## COMMUNITY GRANTS AWARDED

Our Community Grants Program fosters creative projects that address priority issues facing the Morro Bay estuary. The Estuary Program awarded the following Community Grants during the 2015 fiscal year.

 and   
**192** volunteers  
**572** total hours

### Give a Day for the Bay events and partners:

**TSUNAMI DEBRIS CLEANUP ON THE SANDSPIT**  
at Montaña de Oro with ECOSLO & Surfrider

**ROADSIDE CLEANUP ALONG SOUTH BAY BOULEVARD**  
with Small Wilderness Areas Preservation (SWAP)

**ELFIN FOREST SHORELINE CLEANUP BY KAYAK**  
with Small Wilderness Areas Preservation (SWAP)

**THREE MORNINGS TO BEAUTIFY CENTENNIAL PARKWAY**  
in August, September, and October with Morro Bay in Bloom

**INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP DAY**  
on the Sandspit with the Estuary Program  
(many thanks to San Luis Obispo County organizer, ECOSLO)

**UNDERWATER CLEANUP IN MORRO BAY**  
with Depth Perceptions Diving Services

**PICK-UP AND PICNIC AT BAYSHORE BLUFFS PARK**  
with Eco Rotary Club of Morro Bay

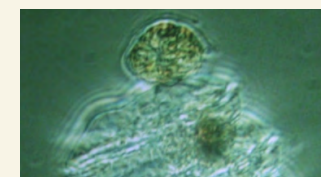
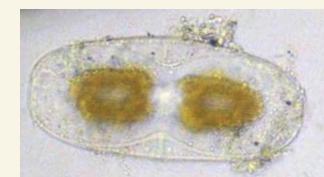
**SUNSET CLEANUP AT MORRO ROCK**  
with Surfrider & ECOSLO



### Educational Video Microscope System Upgrade CENTRAL COAST STATE PARKS ASSOCIATION (\$4,500)

The Central Coast State Parks Association (CCSPA) upgraded the video microscope system at the Morro Bay Natural History Museum. It now has two high definition color cameras and a powerful new compound microscope. The high-tech control system allows museum docents to take pictures and capture video footage of anything under the scope for later use and study. This has allowed them to better identify plankton samples and to use the detailed images they've collected with students, museum-goers, and other groups.

The microscope system that this one replaced (also funded in part by the Estuary Program) has been moved to the Pismo Nature Center, where it will continue to be used by visitors and school groups.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CCSPA



### Rainwater Harvesting Demonstration at Centennial Parkway (\$5,000)

#### MORRO BAY IN BLOOM

Rainwater harvesting is doubly good for the estuary—it keeps rainwater from flowing directly into the bay and stores it for use during dry periods. Morro Bay in Bloom's project will show locals and visitors alike the kind of collection system that they can install at home. For every inch of rain that falls in a day, the tank will collect about 800 gallons of water. The water will be used to keep the drought-tolerant plants that landscape Centennial Parkway green throughout the year.

*Thank you, partners and volunteers, for your hard work!*

# VOLUNTEER FOCUS

Quick flash of feathers  
Swirl of fresh and salt water  
Slow sway of eelgrass

Poem by **George Asdel**, *Haiku Winner*



## LONG-TIME VOLUNTEER RETIRES

**An avid kayaker**, Jim Crescenzi loves an early morning paddle through the calm waters of our bay. Jim first learned about the Estuary Program in 2009 when he paddled by our office. Curious, he decided to stop in, and thus a long and productive relationship was born.

Jim was a dedicated Dawn Patrol volunteer, paddling the bay in the early hours to collect valuable data on oxygen levels in the water. Jim also helped monitor local creeks for basic water quality parameters. As a fly fisherman, Jim is interested in conservation. He says he especially enjoyed “the objectivity of collecting scientific data and using it to assess conditions.” Jim contributed nearly 350 hours during his seven years with our program.

A Cambria resident since 2000, this past summer Jim and his wife Elaine moved across the country to be closer to their two sons and two grandchildren on the East Coast. We would like to thank Jim for his work for our program and the time he dedicated to help protect one of the landscapes that he loves.

*Thank you, Jim!*

## MONITORING VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

*Charles Payton*

**Charles has long had a passion** for big water and fish. He grew up in central Idaho and has childhood memories of watching the salmon run on the local rivers. Charles’ volunteer experience began with a desire to educate himself and an interest in environmental issues and fish restoration.

He was curious about how environmental data was collected and what it meant. In his words, “To really change something, you need to participate,” so he found the Estuary Program and its volunteer monitoring program in 2013. Since then, he’s conducted monthly creek water quality monitoring and participated in our spring bio-assessment monitoring, which involves collecting bugs and habitat data from local creeks.

You can always count on Charles to be here for his volunteer shift. He makes time for it despite a long commute and busy schedule, and he always conducts his work precisely.

What Charles enjoys most about volunteering for the Estuary Program is being outside and “getting to play scientist.” He says he misses the big rivers and greenery up in the Northwest. But for now, the Central Coast is a pretty good place to be, and we feel privileged to have him as part of our dedicated volunteer corps.

*Thank you,  
Charles!*



CHARLES,  
MONITORING  
WATER QUALITY  
IN A LOCAL  
CREEK.



GEORGE (RIGHT)  
AND HIS NEPHEW,  
JOHN, WORKING  
ON THE GRASSY  
BAR OYSTER  
COMPANY FARM.

## COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

*George Trevelyan*

**The ocean has always** been part of George’s life. He grew up surfing, earned a doctorate in Marine Biology, and now owns and runs Grassy Bar Oyster Company in Morro Bay. He is proud of the fact that our clean waters can support high-quality aquaculture on the Central Coast.

George has helped the Estuary Program with many different facets of our work. He has appeared in two of our educational video projects—one that highlights aquaculture in the bay and one in which he tells his own Bay Story. He is also an active Mutt Mitts volunteer, stocking bags so that dog owners can easily pick up after their pets and keep harmful bacteria out of the bay. Grassy Bar Oyster Company even sponsors a Mutt Mitts dispenser.

Lucky paddlers who venture near his oyster farm and meet George are always welcomed warmly. Even on a busy day, he often stops to talk with passersby, educating them about oysters’ role as filter feeders, their need for clean water, and how we can all be good neighbors to this beautiful bay.

We are lucky to work with this natural teacher who is so generous with his time and his deep understanding of the bay.

*Thank you, George!*

## *In 2015, volunteers and staff completed...*



**244 visits**  
for creek water  
quality monitoring



**107 visits**  
for bay water  
quality monitoring



**367 site visits**  
for bacteria sampling  
and analysis

*This spring*, volunteers spent time completing bioassessment at spots on creeks in our watershed. They measured and analyzed the habitat, and collected bugs that tell us about water quality.



**131 hours , 7 sites**



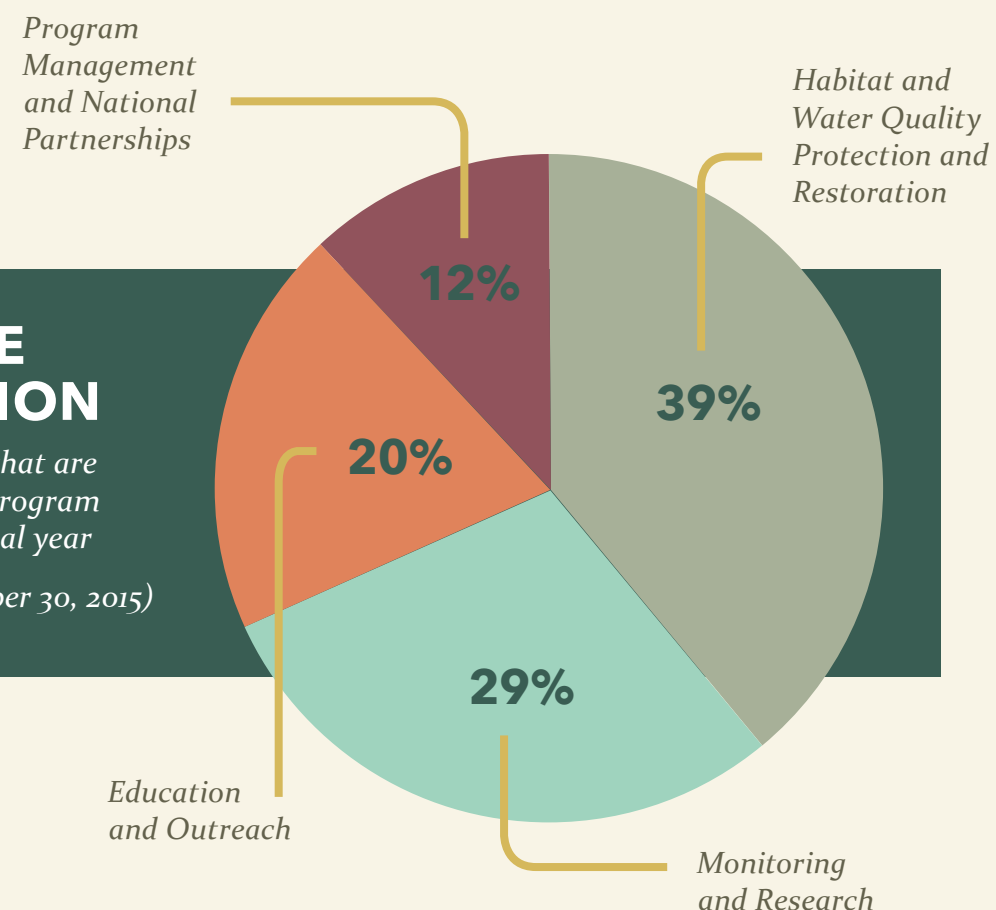
# FISCAL DATA

The Morro Bay National Estuary Program is one of 28 National Estuary Programs around the country. As a member of this group, the Estuary Program receives an annual grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Estuary Program has leveraged each dollar of this federal funding into nearly ten dollars of support for projects that benefit the bay and watershed. The majority of these funds are provided to partners and other local organizations through grants and collaborative projects.

## EXPENSE DISTRIBUTION

The portion of funds that are used in each of four program areas for the 2015 fiscal year

(October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015)



\$123,913  
VOLUNTEER TIME

\$515,647  
FEDERAL FUNDS

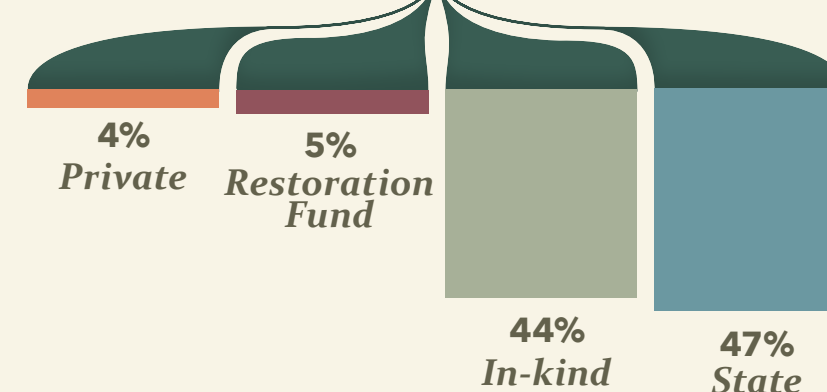
## INCOME SOURCES

The value of cash and in-kind income from federal and nonfederal sources for the 2015 fiscal year

(October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015)

\$714,607  
NONFEDERAL FUNDS

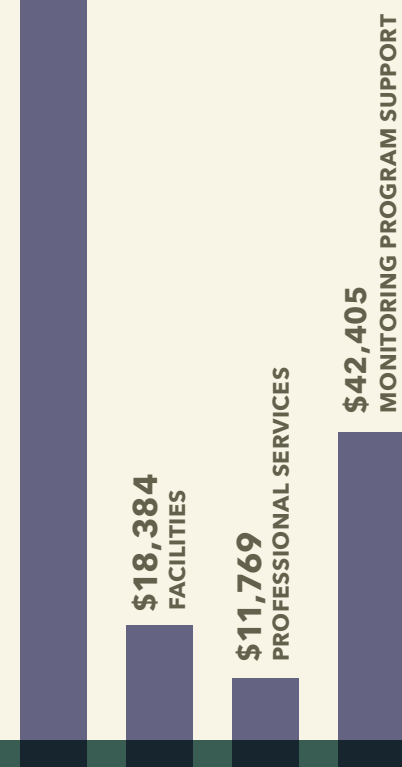
### Breakdown of nonfederal income sources



## DONATED SERVICES

The dollar value of donated services received by the Estuary Program during the 2015 fiscal year

(October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015)



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN 2015!

*The generosity of the following individuals, companies, and organizations has allowed us to have a greater positive impact on the Morro Bay estuary this year. Thank you for helping us protect and restore this national treasure to keep it clean and healthy for all of us.*

## IN-KIND SERVICES & PRODUCTS

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Better Business Financial Services                       | Kayak Horizons                           |
| Black Brant Group  | San Luis Obispo County Library, Los Osos |
| California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo | Lost Isle Adventure Cruises              |
| California Sea Grant                                     | Mama Ganache Artisan Chocolates          |
| California Army National Guard, Camp San Luis Obispo     | Marina Square                            |
| Central Coast Outdoors                                   | Michael "Mike" L. Baird                  |
| Christopher McMains                                      | Michael Multari                          |
| City of Morro Bay  | Morro Bay Art Association                |
| Coalesce Bookstore                                       | Morro Bay Stand Up Paddleboarding        |
| Cuesta College   | Pacific Watershed Associates             |
| Deanna Richards, Edward Jones                            | Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E)            |
| Digital West Networks, Inc.                              | San Luis Obispo Museum of Modern Art     |
| Donald Quintana Nature Photography                       | Simo Nylander                            |
| Eco-Econ Future  | SLO Roasted Coffee                       |
| Franceska Angel  | South Bay Wild                           |
| Glenn Burdette   | Sub Sea Tours                            |
| Good Fortune Gifts                                       | Sullivan & Associates                    |
| Growing Grounds Downtown                                 | Thomas Neuman, WildWare                  |
| Hayward Construction                                     | Thomas C. Wilmer                         |
|  | Wendy Disch, éphé mer                    |
|  | Windows on the Water                     |

## PROGRAM FUNDERS

United States  
Environmental  
Protection Agency

State Water  
Resources  
Control Board

California  
Department of  
Fish and Wildlife

Harold J. Miossi  
Charitable Trust

## LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

(\$500 to \$1000)

Dale Kaiser Real Estate, Inc.\*  
Charlotte Kelley,  
*in memory of Alan Larsen*  
Morro Bay Garden Club  
John Alcorn, Morro Bay Aquarium,  
*in memory of Dean R. Tyler*

## FRIENDS OF MORRO BAY

(\$100 to \$249)

Anonymous  
Kate Anderson\*  
Anna Aven\*  
Lexie & Michael Bell  
Terry & Lucy Brown  
James & Elaine Crescenzi  
Joy & John Diercks\*  
Karen Biaggini, Embarcadero Inn  
Janetta Ruth Evers\*  
Franklin Real Estate & Rentals\*  
Rickey & Karen Gilligan\*  
Bill Henry  
Carolyn Hodge\*

## STEWARDS OF MORRO BAY

(\$250 to \$499)

Bayfront Inn\*  
Virginia Cahill\*  
Dorothy Christie\*  
Grassy Bar Oyster Company °°  
John & Roberta Kerchinski  
Kitchen & Bath Works\*  
Lemos Feed & Pet Supply\*  
Morro Cove HOA\*  
Motel 6 Morro Bay\*  
Gary Ruggerone, Piedra  
Environmental Consultants  
Deanna Richards  
Linda & Richard Williams\*  
Dan & Carla Wixom

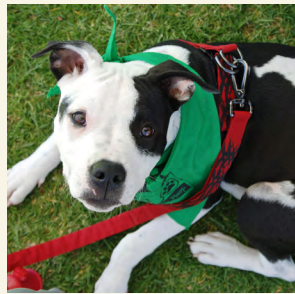
Susan & Myron Hood  
Sandra & Ed Jennings\*  
Laurie & Bruce Keogh\*  
Betsy Ann & Michael Kinter\*  
Rebecca Leventhal  
Diane & Roger Ludin\*  
Frankie McGuire\*  
Alaina Morgan  
Jay Mueller  
Marie & David Palchak,  
*in memory of Jack Moore*  
John Pepple  
Victoria Petty, *in honor of*  
*Charles & Tammi Woodhouse*  
Ronald Rasmussen  
Dominic Roques & Beth Fillerup  
Rotary Club of Morro Bay\*  
Glenn Silloway  
Helianthe & David Stevig  
Justine & David Thomas\*  
Kathryn & Robert Thomas\*  
James & Christina Van Beveren  
Linda Veale  
Shirley & Paul Vinson  
Yolanda & Jay Waddell  
Dr. Frederic J. Sloan II  
& Beverley Wainwright\*  
Fred & Candi Wickman\*  
Eleanor Williams,  
*in memory of Jack Moore*  
Rex & Janice Wolf

## SUPPORTERS (Up to \$99)

AmazonSmile Foundation donors  
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°° GENERAL ESTUARY PROGRAM AND MUTT MITTS SUPPORTER

\* MUTT MITTS PROGRAM SUPPORTER



# ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

*The Morro Bay National Estuary Program is a nonprofit organization that works on behalf of the local community to protect and restore Morro Bay. The Estuary Program frequently gathers input from community members, experts, agencies, and other partners to guide its work.*

## Bay Foundation Board of Directors

The Bay Foundation is the nonprofit organization that houses the Estuary Program. The Bay Foundation Board applies for grants, manages funding for the Estuary Program, and employs its staff.

- Joel Neel** President
- Gary Ruggerone** Vice President
- Bill Henry** Secretary
- Mark Rothe** Treasurer
- Rick Algert**
- Deanna Richards**
- Shaunna Sullivan**
- Kris Vardas**
- Carla Wixom**

(More information at [BayFoundationMB.org](http://BayFoundationMB.org))

## Staff in 2015

- Adrienne Harris** - Executive Director
- Lexie Bell** - Assistant Director
- Cynthia Milhem** - Office Manager
- Ann Kitajima** - Monitoring Program Manager
- Karissa Willits** - Monitoring Coordinator
- Jen Nix** - Restoration Projects Manager
- Daniel Miller** - Restoration Technician
- Evan Mundahl** - Climate Vulnerability Assessment Intern
- Rachel Pass** - Communications & Outreach Coordinator
- Sara Markham** - Communications Intern
- Larissa Clarke** - Former Restoration Technician
- Tom Sanford** - Former Water Quality Technician

## Implementation Committee

*The Implementation Committee provides technical assistance and gives advice on a wide range of decisions, including community grant proposals.*

## Executive Committee

*The Executive Committee provides policy direction for the program, assesses progress, and approves community grant proposals.*

### MEMBERS REPRESENTING SPECIFIC STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

- At Large Government Agency  
**Sam Schuchat**  
*Executive Officer, State of California Coastal Conservancy*
- Environmental Interests  
**Holly Sletteland**  
*Board Member, California Native Plant Society*
- Agricultural Interests  
**Vacant**
- Tourism/Recreation Interests  
**John Flaherty**  
*Businessman and Owner, Central Coast Outdoors*
- Science and Research  
**Kristin Hardy**  
*Assistant Professor, Marine and Biological Sciences, California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo*
- Local Fisheries  
**Trudy O'Brien**  
*Member, Morro Bay Commercial Fisherman's Organization*

### MEMBERS SERVING AT THE PLEASURE OF THEIR ORGANIZATIONS

- Federal Government  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
**Suzanne Marr**  
*Program Manager for the Estuary Program*
- State of California  
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board  
**Jennifer Epp**  
*Total Maximum Daily Load Program Manager*
- San Luis Obispo County  
**Bruce Gibson**  
*District 2 Supervisor*
- City of Morro Bay  
**Matt Makowetski**  
*City Council Member*
- Los Osos Community Services District  
**Marshall Ochylski**  
*Board Member*
- Bay Foundation of Morro Bay  
**Joel Neel**  
*President*
- Implementation Committee Chair  
**Becka Kelly**  
*Harbor Patrol Supervisor*



## Technical Advisory Committees

*Local experts give advice about current Estuary Program projects when called upon.*

