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**California Coastal Commission works toward clean water with the help of thousands of volunteers  
at 34<sup>th</sup> Annual California Coastal Cleanup Day**

*SAN FRANCISCO* \_ – In less than a month, more than 65,000 volunteers are expected to gather at more than 1,000 locations across California, where they will help remove tons of trash from beaches and inland shorelines.

The California Coastal Commission is proud to announce that the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual California Coastal Cleanup Day will take place on Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at most locations. That day Californians will take to streets, parks, creeks, streams, rivers and the coast to help prevent single use plastic items and other litter from polluting our environment and flowing into the ocean.

Californians care deeply about the environment and they continue to show their willingness to act by supporting the cleanup year after year. More than 66,500 volunteers turned out for the event in 2017, clearing 840,000 pounds of trash – all in a matter of hours. And over the 33-year history of the event, more than 1.5 million volunteers have removed over 24 million pounds of trash.

The commission announced this year's cleanup with the release of original artwork donated by Matt Beard, a Eureka resident, artist, surfer, and coastal enthusiast. The posters are set in four distinct areas of California to help signify the breadth of the regions covered by cleanup volunteers. These pieces take viewers on a tour of the environmental diversity of California, and features images of coastal locations in Northern and Southern California, as well as Lake Tahoe. Beard paints onsite, trekking hundreds of miles to bring us his vision of the coast.

"The California coast is my home. Its beauty is an endless source of inspiration for me and all of those who cherish it," said Beard. "Coastal Cleanup Day is a great reminder of just how much Californians collectively value coastal access and preservation."

Eben Schwartz, the Commission's Marine Debris Program Manager, and others at the agency are thankful for Beard's generosity in sharing his artwork in support of Coastal Cleanup Day.

"The harm that we are causing to marine wildlife through our careless overuse of disposable plastic is truly staggering, and the beauty expressed in Matt's art helps remind us what our state should look like. Coastal Cleanup Day is our opportunity each year to ask everyone in California to help us get rid of all this trash before it has a chance to wash out to the ocean. We can make our state even more beautiful and help develop long-term solutions to plastic pollution at the same time."

To find out how to join the effort, the Commission has an interactive map of cleanup locations in every corner of the state, which is available at [www.coastalcleanupday.org](http://www.coastalcleanupday.org). Please check the website for updates and share your cleanup experience on social media using the hashtag #coastalcleanupday. California Coastal Cleanup Day is part of the world's largest volunteer event.

Follow statewide efforts on Facebook at [facebook.com/CaliforniaCoast](https://facebook.com/CaliforniaCoast), Twitter [twitter.com/TheCACoast](https://twitter.com/TheCACoast) and on Instagram at [Instagram.com/thecaliforniacoast/](https://Instagram.com/thecaliforniacoast/).

*California Coastal Cleanup Day event is presented by the California Coastal Commission with lead sponsorship from Crystal Geyser Natural Alpine Spring Water by CG Roxane. Additional support comes from Oracle, Union Bank, Salesforce, the California Tobacco Control Program, Visa, the Whale Tail® Specialty License Plate, and the Protect our Coast and Oceans Fund. The artwork was generously donated by Matt Beard.*

*California Coastal Cleanup Day 2018 is supported by the California Coastal Commission, California State Parks Foundation, and Ocean Conservancy. This event is made possible by the hard work of hundreds of local non-profits and government agencies throughout the state and tens of thousands of volunteers annually.*

*The 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 Coastal Cleanup Day Program is part of its effort to raise public awareness of marine and coastal resources and promote coastal stewardship.*

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