



Protect Our Coast and Oceans Fund

Fiscal Year 2021/2022

\$154,205 FOR “KIDS OCEAN DAY” SCHOOL PROGRAM AND BEACH FIELD TRIP

This program engages low-income schools from coastal and inland communities and involves upwards of 8,000 children a year. The program was started in Los Angeles County in 1993 by the Malibu Foundation for Environmental Education with the support of the Coastal Commission, and has expanded into five additional locations, coordinated by separate partner grantees: San Diego (**I Love a Clean San Diego**), Orange County (**Orange County Coastkeeper**), Kern County (**Community Action Partnership of Kern**), San Francisco Bay Area (**Marine Science Institute**), and Humboldt Bay (**Friends of the Dunes**). The program includes a school assembly or classroom presentation and discussion of watersheds and the storm drain system, waste and litter reduction strategies, and the impact on the ocean and marine species. Teachers are provided with additional related activities to conduct with their classes. At the end of the school year, students enjoy a field trip coinciding with World Oceans Day to play at the beach, participate in a beach cleanup, and create an aerial art display by standing in formation to spell out an ocean conservation message which is photographed from above. Art coordination is funded through a grant to the **National Fisheries Conservation Center**. The theme for the 2022 aerial art is “Finding Joy in Nature.”

In 2020, assemblies were suspended and beach events were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During the 2020/21 schoolyear, presentations were held virtually, and students created artwork that was incorporated into an online picture mosaic and video for their culminating project. Students, teachers, and program coordinators are thrilled to be able to take kids back to the beach for Kids Ocean Day 2022!

