

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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***For Immediate Release***

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**Local Students Honored in Exhibit of Coastal Art and Poetry at
Crystal Cove State Park**

(San Francisco, October 13, 2012)—The work of eight Orange County students will be part of an exhibit from October through the end of December at the Rotating Exhibition Center in historic Cottage #46 at Crystal Cove State Park. The students were honored in the 2012 California Coastal Art & Poetry Contest for kindergarten through 12th grade students, presented by the California Coastal Commission.

The Orange County students included in the exhibit are Laguna Niguel 1st grader Lauren Crabtree, Yorba Linda 1st grader Elena Brem, Irvine 2nd grader Kacy Chung, Tustin 3rd grader Guru Balakrishnan, Laguna Hills 4th grader Skylar Scriptor, Irvine 6th grader Michelle Kim, Foothill Ranch 9th grader Clara Suh, and recent graduate Andrew Craddick from Trabuco Canyon. Their work will be exhibited along with 33 other pieces of art and poetry recognized in the statewide contest, which received 2,272 entries from students throughout California.

Annie Kohut Frankel, California Coastal Commission Education Coordinator, commends the student artists and poets. “The creative work on exhibit shows talent well beyond the years of the students and truly evokes our coast and ocean. For example, in Clara Suh’s painting, ‘A Beautiful Creature,’ you’re confronted with a whale whose piercing gaze draws you into the blue ocean depths as it swims by.”

The 2012 California Coastal Art & Poetry Contest comes to Crystal Cove State Park via the Ford House Museum in Mendocino, and will next travel to the Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center in Ventura.

The California Coastal Art & Poetry Contest is held annually to encourage youth to reflect on the beauty and spirit of California’s beaches and ocean. Through this effort the California Coastal Commission endeavors to inspire a greater sense of appreciation and stewardship for these natural places. For more information about the contest and the Commission’s other education programs, visit www.coastforyou.org or call 800-Coast4U. The exhibition is hosted by Crystal Cove Alliance and California State Parks. For information about Crystal Cove State Park, visit www.crystalcovestatepark.com or www.crystalcovealliance.org. The park is located at 8471 North Coast Highway in Laguna Beach.

Images available upon request or at www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/poster/mm12/gallery1-2012.html. Email Annie.Frankel@coastal.ca.gov or call 415-597-5888.

The mission of the California Coastal Commission is to protect, conserve, restore, and enhance environmental and human-based resources of the California coast and ocean for environmentally sustainable and prudent use by current and future generations. It works in partnership with coastal cities and counties to maximize public beach access and recreation, provide for priority coastal development, and assure that new development will protect coastal resources including wetlands, wildlife on land and in the sea, water quality, coastal tourism, and scenic vistas. The Coastal Art and Poetry contest is part of its effort to raise public awareness of marine and coastal resources and promote coastal stewardship.

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