



MEDIA ADVISORY

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CONTACT:

Kathleen Jacecko, 310-822-4522

Santa Monica Baykeeper kicks off new Clean Water Act: Empower the People Program

On Wednesday, July 19, concerned citizens from all over Los Angeles County came to Baykeeper's first Empower the People Workshop to meet Jonathan Bishop, Executive Officer of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, and to learn how the Clean Water Act allows citizens to stand up for clean water.

At this first workshop in a series of eight, participants got a basic overview of the Clean Water Act and learned about the Regional Board's role in protecting and restoring our local waters. Mr. Bishop fielded numerous questions about how water quality laws are enforced here in Los Angeles, from how stormwater compliance is monitored, to what you can do if you want to comment on a water quality issue of concern, but aren't able attend a Regional Board hearing.

The next workshop will take place on August 9 at 7:00pm at the Hyperion Wastewater Treatment Plant (12000 Vista del Mar, Playa del Rey, 90293). The Clean Water Act topic of the evening will be beneficial uses and the guest speakers will be Mark Gold of Heal the Bay and Brent Lorscheider of the Bureau of Sanitation, City of Los Angeles. Each workshop is unique, and they do build on one another to some extent, so attendance at each is recommended, if possible. For a complete list of workshop dates, topics and locations, visit www.smbaykeeper.org/ep/ep.html. This program is supported by the California Coastal Commission's Whale Tail License Plate Grants Program.

Santa Monica Baykeeper is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and restoring the Santa Monica Bay, San Pedro Bay, and adjacent coastal waters through enforcement, fieldwork, and community action. Since 1993, the Santa Monica Baykeeper has stopped millions of gallons and thousands of tons of toxic waste from entering the local bays. Santa Monica Baykeeper is one of over 150 environmental organizations throughout the world that form the international Waterkeeper Alliance, committed to protecting our oceans and waterways.

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