



NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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No Trash Left Behind! 700 Volunteers Haul 27,000 Gallons of Trash

During San Luis Obispo County's 21st Annual Creek Day Clean-up, over 700 community volunteers trudged through the river, creeks, and other waterways throughout San Luis Obispo County this past Saturday with one goal in mind—to clean our creeks before the winter rains arrive.

Meeting at 9 different local regions and 50 access sites, volunteers removed more than 17,400 gallons of trash which would overflow a 5-ft deep swimming pool that is 29-ft long and 16-ft wide. An additional 9,100 gallons of recyclable trash was collected and is on its way through the recycling loop.

Volunteers of all ages and sizes made a big impact in just three hours. Among the usual litter and beverage containers, there were about 100 tires, shopping carts, couches, bicycles, and mattresses. Some unusual and interesting items this year included an ironing board, picnic tables, a toilet, and laminate floor remnants.

“While the overall amount of trash removed from our local watershed is declining, we are still seeing a lot of illegal dumping and littering. It’s disheartening to see such big items being pulled from the creeks. Each year, we hope that more citizens become aware of the harmful effects that human trash can have in our local creeks and rivers. Educating people about the proper way to dispose of trash safely and legally is the key to our group’s success.” said Teresa Tibstra, Membership & Outreach Coordinator for The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County.

RESULTS

See attached spreadsheet for a regional breakdown of clean-up results.

WHY CLEAN OUR CREEKS?

Trash finds its way into our local waterways from overflowing trash cans and careless litterbugs. Winter rains wash that debris into the ocean and onto our beaches. Trash pollution threatens wildlife, harms the environment, and impacts our local economy. Plus, trash makes our community less attractive to residents, visitors, and tourists.

COUNTYWIDE CREEK DAY EFFORT

Creek Day is a collaborative county-wide effort led by: Atascadero Mutual Water Company, Cal Poly SLO, Central Coast Salmon Enhancement, Citizens of Santa Margarita, ECOSLO, The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, Nipomo Community Services District, San Luis Obispo County, City of San Luis Obispo, City of Paso Robles, City of Atascadero, Lake Nacimiento Resort, Central Coast Partners for Water Quality, and Templeton Community Services District.

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