



NEWS RELEASE

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“California Snapshot Day” at The Bolsa Chica Wetlands, May 5th 2007

Now in its fifth year, California Snapshot Day is a day of fun in the outdoors designed to inform the public of the water quality issues affecting their local creeks and beaches. For this event, citizen volunteers participate in water monitoring activities and get to know their local waters. Orange County Coastkeeper along with other participating organizations from the Citizen Watershed Monitors of Orange County (www.cwmoc.org) will provide citizens with training and water testing kits free of charge, both in advance of the event and at the event site at the Bolsa Chica Wetlands.

This “snapshot” monitoring of the water quality throughout the county increases public awareness of water quality in our local creeks and lakes and encourages protecting and conserving our water resources beyond the event day. Volunteers will meet at The Bolsa Chica Conservancy Interpretative Center at the Bolsa Chica Wetlands in Huntington Beach starting at 9am Saturday May

5th. After being trained and issued sampling kits along with directions to local lakes and streams, volunteers will conduct the water tests and collect samples for later analysis. Simultaneously, highly trained water monitoring teams from the Citizen Watershed Monitors of Orange County member groups will test water at sites throughout the county to gather accurate data on water quality. All volunteers will return to the event site to turn in their water samples and browse the educational materials and demonstrations at booths hosted by the participating organizations. Additionally there will be a nature hike, trash pick up, and a special speaker (to be announced).

Along with providing an overview of water quality for the county, the event will allow citizens to participate in water sampling with people trained to use standard equipment and methods, giving them a better understanding of water quality issues. A report of the data collected for the event will be created and posted on the CWMOC website for public use.

Orange County CoastKeeper is the primary organizer of the day's activities. Other participants involved are the Bolsa Chica Conservancy, Earth Resource Foundation, Surfrider, D.I.V.E.R.S., Trout Unlimited, and Golden West College, all members of The Citizen Watershed Monitors of Orange County. Generous support is being provided by the County of Orange through their Stormwater Program, and the Orange offices of J.D. Power and Associates, a division of the McGraw-Hill Companies.

The event is scheduled to run from 9am to 2pm on Saturday, May 5th at the Bolsa Chica Interpretative Center 3842 Warner Ave. in Huntington Beach (714) 846-1114. Snacks and parking are free.