



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

701 OCEAN STREET, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4073

(831) 454-2000 WWW.SANTACRUZCOUNTY.US

CARLOS J. PALACIOS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Jason Hoppin
Communications Manager
831-454-3401

June 8 is World Oceans Day

With “World Oceans Day” coming up Friday, June 8, Santa Cruz County is reaffirming its dedication to protecting the Monterey Bay and all marine life.

This year’s World Oceans Day theme is preventing plastic pollution and encouraging solutions for healthy oceans. With 32 miles of coastline along the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Santa Cruz County has a special responsibility to care for one of the world’s most unique and precious resources, and the County has been a national leader in reducing plastic pollution and protecting the environment.

The strongest polystyrene ban in the country means that this pollutant no longer litters our shores. Recent changes to food service rules have largely eliminated plastic straws in the unincorporated areas, along with other contaminants that once littered beaches and endangered wildlife. And Santa Cruz County’s ban on plastic bags has already prevented the use of half a billion of these wasteful products.

Our oceans remain under threat. Plastic bags have been found deep in the ocean, and scientists estimate there are hundreds of millions of tons of plastic polluting oceans across the globe. On this World Oceans Day, Santa Cruz County asks all residents to be thoughtful about purchases, reduce the use of plastic wherever possible, recycle carefully and be sure never to leave litter that can pollute our precious and unique environment.

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary stretches from San Francisco to Cambria and includes pristine beaches, kelp forests, the Monterey Canyon and the Davidson Seamount, and includes a stunning array of marine life, including endangered species. For more information, go to montereybay.noaa.gov.

For more information about World Oceans Day, go to <http://www.worldoceansday.org/>.
For more information about Santa Cruz County programs, go to <https://www.santacruzcountyrecycles.org>.