



## Dana Point Harbor Underwater/ On-the-Water Cleanups and Cigarette Butt Roundup Event September 20, 2014

OC Dana Point Harbor is preparing for the 30<sup>th</sup> annual California Coastal Cleanup Day, part of The International Coastal Cleanup, the largest volunteer event on the planet produced through the cooperative efforts of the Ocean Conservancy, California Coastal Commission and California State Parks Division of Boating & Waterways. The event will be held on Saturday, September 20, 2014. In conjunction with this event the 12<sup>th</sup> biannual Dana Point Harbor underwater cleanup will run during the morning, along with the annual cigarette butt roundup campaign. New this year, to complement the underwater and landside cleanup components, will be an on-the-water cleanup program administered from kayaks and dinghies.

Nearly 40% of all debris items collected on Coastal Cleanup Day in 2013 were cigarette butts – volunteers picked up over 217,000 of them in less than three hours. It also marked the 25<sup>th</sup> straight year in which cigarette butts were the most littered item in California; this is most likely because many smokers mistakenly believe cigarettes are biodegradable. Cigarette butts are composed of cellulose acetate, a form of plastic, and contain over 165 chemicals. Plastic pieces have been found in the stomachs of birds, fish, whales, and other marine creatures that mistake them for food, swallowing harmful plastic and deadly chemicals.

Each event will be serving refreshments and have some great prizes and opportunity drawings. OC Dana Point Harbor seeks certified volunteer scuba divers to participate in the underwater cleanup event. Participants will receive an event t-shirt, as well as prizes awarded for unusual items recovered. Aqualung America, Inc. will be awarding a SCUBA regulator valued at \$650 to the most unusual item recovered.

**For more information including how to register, please see the attached press release.**

Special thanks to all of our additional generous sponsors: Aqualung America, Brio Tuscany Grille, Coffee Importers, Dana Point Yacht Club, Dana West Yacht Club, Dana Wharf Sportfishing, Dream Catcher Yachts, Elesco, Get College Funding, Jack's Restaurant, RJ's Café, Rubio's Fresh Mexican Grill, San Clemente Villas, Trademark Marketing & Graphics and Vintage Marina Partners.

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**PRESS BULLETIN  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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949-923-2236

**DATE:** August 15, 2014

**Dana Point Harbor Underwater and On-the-Water Cleanup  
Plus Cigarette Butt Roundup Event  
September 20, 2014**

OC Dana Point Harbor is preparing for the 30<sup>th</sup> annual California Coastal Cleanup Day, part of The International Coastal Cleanup, the largest volunteer event on the planet. The event will be on Saturday, September 20, 2014, in conjunction with the 12<sup>th</sup> Bi-annual Dana Point Harbor Underwater Cleanup, and Annual Cigarette Butt Roundup. New this year will be an On-the-Water Cleanup program administered from kayaks and dinghies.

“These events are critical to the success of our extensive water quality improvement program. Once a cigarette butt hits the ground, wind and rain carry it into the ocean, where the toxic chemicals in the filter threaten the quality of the water, and aquatic plants and animals. The removal of cigarette butts from the areas surrounding the marina will make a significant impact on water quality in Dana Point Harbor,” stated Director Brad Gross. “OC Dana Point Harbor is also extremely pleased with the success of our underwater cleanups. Over the years since implementation, the cleanups have removed more than 36,000 pounds of debris from the harbor floor.

We’re pleased to be adding a new component that will address the floating debris in the Harbor that our skimmers may not capture. With this added component, OC Dana Point Harbor is the only location along the entire 1,100-mile California coast that is cleaning underwater, on the water, and landside – we’re very excited to take the lead and set an example for the other harbors like ours.”

**Underwater Cleanup 8am to Noon** - certified divers, kayakers and volunteers can register and obtain more information by contacting the Dana West Marina office at (949) 493-6222 or visit [www.DPHunderwatercleanup.com](http://www.DPHunderwatercleanup.com). Free parking will be provided.

**On-the-Water Cleanup 8am to Noon** – volunteers should contact Lisa Hazelton at Dana Point Yacht Club at (949) 463-7970. Registration and sign in will take place at the yacht club located at 24399 Dana Drive, Dana Point, CA 92629. Parking for volunteers will be made available.

**Cigarette Butt Roundup 9am to Noon** – volunteers should contact Penny Elia at (949) 499-4499. Registration and sign in will take place at the Dana West Marina, cove side parking lot at 24650 Dana Point Harbor Drive, Dana Point, CA 92629. Free parking will be provided.

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