

Aug. 18, 2014
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dana Point Harbor Cleanup Plus Cigarette Butt Roundup **Scheduled for Sept. 20**

OC Dana Point Harbor is preparing for the 30th annual California Coastal Cleanup Day, part of the International Coastal Cleanup, the largest volunteer effort on the planet. The event will be held Saturday, September 20, in conjunction with the 12th Biannual 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,” said OC Dana Point Harbor Director Brad Gross. 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,” Gross said, adding that the Harbor is also pleased with the success of the underwater cleanups. “Over the years, these cleanups have removed more than 36,000 pounds of debris from the harbor floor.”

The new On-the-Water cleanup is intended to address the floating debris in the Harbor that skimmers may not capture. OC Dana Point Harbor is the only location along the entire 1,100-mile California coast that is cleaning underwater, on the water and on land. “We’re very excited to take the lead and set an example for the other harbors like ours,” Gross said.

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. Free parking will be provided.

On-the-Water Cleanup: 8am to Noon – Volunteers should contact Lisa Hazelton at Dana Point Yacht Club at (949) 496-2900. 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’s cove side parking lot at 24650 Dana Point Harbor Drive, Dana Point, CA 92629. Free parking will be provided.

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