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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Thousands of Volunteers Celebrate Earth Day at 16th Annual Creek to Bay Cleanup

SAN DIEGO COUNTY - Today, I Love A Clean San Diego's (ILACSD) 16th Annual Creek to Bay Cleanup empowered an estimated 6,000 volunteers to give back for Earth Day at 113 cleanup sites around San Diego County. Volunteers including residents, corporate groups, and civic organizations transformed their appreciation for San Diego's environment into action for Mother Earth by putting in the time and effort to give back in their local communities. During this three-hour cleanup, volunteers enhanced the overall health and beauty of San Diego's natural environment by removing more than 175,000 pounds of trash and debris from San Diego County.

Among the debris, there were several notable odd items collected during the cleanup including: 19 shoes at one site, a giant teddy bear, and a bathrobe.

Volunteers also restored the local environment through beautification projects such as painting park structures, planting native plants and trees, mulching, and weeding. Thanks to thousands of volunteers, 113 parks, beaches and community spaces received special care to keep the area healthy and beautiful for the community.

Creek to Bay was an opportunity for the community to go green in more ways than one. With a push toward zero waste practices, ILACSD encouraged all youth and adult volunteers to be more sustainable by choosing to bring at least one reusable item for the cleanup like a water bottle, work bucket, or gloves. Many stepped up to the challenge! Volunteers could showcase their zero waste commitments in the Sony Photo Contest with the 2018 theme of "Rocking Reusables" or by entering the Bling Your Bucket Contest. Both contests offer prizes to the winners to celebrate their sustainability and creativity.

Creek to Bay also received attention from several of San Diego's elected officials who visited cleanup sites in their respective districts including:

- San Diego City Councilmembers Barbara Bry, Myrtle Cole, Mark Kersey, David Alvarez, and Georgette Gomez
- Assemblymembers Todd Gloria and Shirley Weber

Creek to Bay is one of two annual countywide cleanups hosted by I Love A Clean San Diego that engages thousands of local families, community groups, and local businesses. Beyond countywide events, ILACSD continues to empower volunteers at hundreds of cleanups targeting specific neighborhoods, parks, and open spaces on an ongoing basis throughout the year. In 2017, ILACSD mobilized over 32,000 volunteers who removed half a million pounds of debris from San Diego County. For more information about upcoming cleanups, workshops, or zero waste tips, please visit CleanSD.org.

About I Love A Clean San Diego (ILACSD) *As San Diego's most influential advocate for sustainability, I Love A Clean San Diego (ILACSD) is an environmental catalyst, awakening passion and inspiring action, empowering everyone to improve the health and beauty of our local environment. For over sixty years, we've brought the best in all of us together for a lasting, positive impact on our region. We are passion in action. For more information, to volunteer or donate, visit www.cleansd.org or call (619) 291-0103. Connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).*

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