The Mission of the Living Coast Discovery Center is to:

- Partner in collaborative research and restoration of coastal wetlands and bays.
- Provide student-focused education through STEaM: Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics.
- Increase knowledge of coastal environments, climate change adaptation, and human coexistence with the natural resources of San Diego Bay.
Dear Friends and Supporters,

Thank you for your loyal support and commitment to the Living Coast Discovery Center. I am pleased to share with you the highlights from fiscal year 2014-2015. I am proud to report we’ve made tremendous progress over the past year. With a focus on STEaM education, our standards-based Living Lab field trip program has sparked the interest of teachers throughout San Diego County. Feedback results showed students were not only enjoying the fun activities and getting up close with the animals, but learning important lessons about their role and impact on the environment.

I first came to the Living Coast as a volunteer aquarist in the 1990’s while studying Marine Biology at San Diego State University. I never imagined it would have led to a thirteen-year career resulting in my being the Executive Director. During that time, my passion for the Living Coast and its impact on local students, families, and our environment has grown and I am still humbled by the tremendous outpouring of support from the community.

We are grateful for the support of our corporate sponsors, foundations, and longtime friends of the Living Coast. I am especially grateful for the support of the City of Chula Vista for continuing to provide the Living Coast with the facility in which we provide educational programs and a place for visitors to enjoy the outdoors and the natural surroundings of the San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Sweetwater Marsh Unit.

The Living Coast is also honored to be designated the beneficiary of a $2 million endowment from San Diego Gas and Electric. The SDG&E Living Coast Discovery Center South Bay Enhancement Fund will support the continued operation of the Living Coast environmental education programs and public’s access and enjoyment of San Diego Bay for years to come.

Through our special events, general admissions, and educational programs, 67,371 guests visited the Living Coast this year to learn about our native wildlife in San Diego and the importance of wildlife habitats in our ecosystem. With the expansion of our educational programs, 25,223 school children had an opportunity to participate in hands-on interactive learning experiences either at the Living Coast or through Our Wild San Diego outreach programs at their schools.

I am excited for the upcoming year as we plan for our first capital improvement in ten years – the Turtle Lagoon exhibit enhancement project – which will begin this winter. The renovated enclosure will provide the Eastern Pacific green sea turtles with more space in which to swim and provide guests with a more interactive way to learn about sea turtles in the wild.

Thank you for supporting our vision to inspire care and exploration of the living Earth by connecting people with coastal animals, plants and habitats. Together, we are making a difference.

Sincerely,

Ben Vallejos
Executive Director
After being injured by a boat in the Florida Keys and rehabilitated at the Turtle Hospital in Florida, Sapphire was in need of a forever home in a safe environment. The wonderful medical team at the Turtle Hospital escorted Sapphire to San Diego by chartered flight compliments of FedEx. Today, Sapphire helps us educate students and families about loggerhead sea turtles in the wild and responsible outdoor recreation.
SuperWild, the family-friendly seasonal exhibit, celebrated the amazing world of animal superheroes combined with original local artwork. SuperWild animals included ribbon snakes that fish with lightning fast speed, Hulk-sized insects, and reptiles that stretch to the extreme – all natural adaptations that help them survive in the wild.
The Living Coast Experience

Farm to Bay had its most successful year yet, raising over $85,000 in net proceeds. San Diego’s only tasting event held within a national wildlife refuge sold out at 500 tickets. The event supports coastal wildlife, conservation, and education programs at the Living Coast throughout the year.

ZERO WASTE INITIATIVE

77% of collected waste was diverted from the landfill, up from 60% the previous year

46% reduction in waste from previous year
The annual Wine on the Waterfront maritime industry fundraiser raised $11,849 for the Living Coast. We’d like to give special thanks to hosts Bob Kilpatrick, BAE Systems, Huntington Ingalls, Marine Group Boat Works, and General Dynamics NASSCO.

140 guests in all varieties of fun costumes came out to celebrate Owl-O-Ween, a spooktacular event that provided a safe and educational night for families to enjoy wildlife after dark! From live encounters with nocturnal species to gross science experiments, Owl-O-Ween was a hoot for the whole community.
The SoCal Urban Wildlife Refuge Project provided an opportunity for us to partner with the San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Sweetwater Marsh Unit to engage urban communities and youth in outdoor recreation and conservation. Funding from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided 443 local youth the opportunity to participate in the Student Scientist Series and Wild WISE programs.

- STEaM curriculum training for 16 teachers
- 138 students, grades 6-12, participated in the Student Scientist Series to build and launch remotely operated vehicles in the 21,000 gallon shark and ray exhibit at the Living Coast
- 305 youth from MANA of San Diego, Wilson Middle School, SD Science Alliance BeWISE, and Girl Scouts of San Diego participated in the Wild WISE workshops focused on environmental activities in San Diego County.
Educational Programs

Special thanks to the Port of San Diego and Sprouts Farmer’s Market – Chula Vista and Eastlake for sponsoring 81 field trips. With their support, 2,454 students were able to participate in the interactive Living Lab field trip program for free.

Reached 3,880 students through Our Wild San Diego School Outreach Program where we bring science to classrooms throughout San Diego County, including 3 homeschool sites.

13,890 students

+ 2,692 adult chaperons

participated in field trips at the Living Coast

2,735 kids

attended Day Camps
The Living Coast Discovery Center and the Port of San Diego share a mutual interest in the health and sustainability of San Diego Bay. We are proud to support their environmental education efforts each year, reaching thousands of students and ensuring a new generation learns the importance of everything from coastal resource conservation to watershed protection, from pollution protection to recognizing native plants and animals, to active participation in endangered species propagation. Discovery is just the beginning.

– Randa Coniglio, President & CEO, Port of San Diego

Compost Workshops
228 guests attended compost workshops

Master Composter Program
35 master composters trained

“The Living Coast Discovery Center and the Port of San Diego share a mutual interest in the health and sustainability of San Diego Bay. We are proud to support their environmental education efforts each year, reaching thousands of students and ensuring a new generation learns the importance of everything from coastal resource conservation to watershed protection, from pollution protection to recognizing native plants and animals, to active participation in endangered species propagation. Discovery is just the beginning.”

– Randa Coniglio, President & CEO, Port of San Diego
Research Collaboration

**Burrowing Owl Study**
In collaboration with San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research, burrowing owls at the Living Coast participated in a research study testing the feasibility of using solar-powered satellite transmitters. The transmitters help to document foraging movements during breeding season to learn more about the owl’s life history and habitat needs as they apply to conservation of the species.

**Oystercatcher and Limpet Study**
An independent study was conducted by a Master’s student to examine the effects of low tide temperature on the susceptibility of a prey to its predators. In order to truly understand how climate change might affect our intertidal systems in the future, we must understand how temperature affects not only the physiology of organisms, but also the interaction between different species.

**Ridgway’s Rail Captive Breeding Program**
The Living Coast Discovery Center is the only location in the world where the light-footed Ridgway’s rail species can be viewed by the public. Due to the efforts of Team Clapper Rail, over 400 rails have been released into the wild since 2000.
Boy Scout Troop 801 with Eagle Scout Jacob Blauser, removed and replanted flora around the perimeter to better showcase the endangered Shaw’s agave, which is likely to become extinct in our lifetime.
Volunteers cleaned up the bay on kayaks near J Street Marina Park. In just one cleanup, volunteers collected:

- **855** cigarette butts
- **450** pieces of styrofoam
- **360** pieces of plastic
- **250** cigar tips
- **130** food wrappers
- **45** pounds of trash

“Without a doubt I do not know where I would be in my life right now if it wasn’t for this center; I am now a sophomore in college majoring in Sustainability. This center opened my eyes to a different world, in high school they encourage students to aim high by choosing engineering, medicine, or business as a major, but Living Coast opened my eyes to the importance of conservation, sustainability, and agriculture. My time is tight with school, work, and sports, but I will always have time to go back and visit the Living Coast Discovery Center, my second home. This center has a special place in my heart and without it, I wouldn’t be the person I am today.”

– Alejandra Lozano Estrada, teen volunteer
Volunteers

19,800 volunteer hours equating to $532,026 in value of donated volunteer time

248 active volunteers (ages 16 to 89)

48 outreach events throughout San Diego County

950 docent-led tours providing guided nature walks, bird watching tours, and school field trips

26 college and high school student internships
Honor Roll

Thank you to all of our generous donors for their loyal support of the Living Coast Discovery Center.

Fiscal Year 2014-2015

**$100,000 and above**

- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

**$50,000 - $99,999**

- County of San Diego Board of Supervisors
- The Nelson Foundation
- Orca Fund at The San Diego Foundation
- The San Diego Foundation
- Unified Port of San Diego
- Walton Family Foundation

**$25,000 - $49,999**

- Anonymous Donor
- Goodrich Foundation
- Marine Group Boat Works
- The Parker Foundation
- San Diego Gas and Electric*

**$10,000 - $24,999**

- Hervey Family Fund at The San Diego Foundation
- Mission Federal Credit Union Foundation
- SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund
- Sprouts Farmers Market – Chula Vista and Eastlake
- Walter J. and Betty C. Zable Foundation

**$5,000 - $9,999**

- BAE Systems
- Daphne Seybolt Culpeper Memorial Foundation, Inc.
- Friends of San Diego Wildlife Refuges
- Susan Fuller
- Hattie Ettinger Conservation Fund at The San Diego Foundation
- J.F. Beyster Fund at The San Diego Foundation
- Mitzi Swift

**$1,000 - $4,999**

- American Scaffold
- AT&T California
- Baldwin & Sons
- Barbara and Allen Bellini
- Gary Bryant
- Mary Lu and Thomas Bucknell
- Lori and Phil Coons
- Pattie Frazer*
- Jeff and Sylvia Gaffney
- John and Jane Harriman
- Hoffman Hanono Insurance Services
- Kristi McClure Huckaby
- Kohl’s Cares
- Las Primeras
- Larry Lewis
- Loews Coronado Bay Resort
- Mater Dei Catholic High School
- Ann and David Mears
- Miller Marine
- General Dynamics NASSCO
- NSC Technologies Worldwide
- Pacific Yacht Refitters
- Pacifica Companies
- PCE San Diego
- Nancy and Tom Pilcher
- Pratt Memorial Fund
- R.E. Staite Engineering, Inc.
- La Bella Pizza Garden
- Sharon Jasek Reid
- Republic Services
- Jane and Arthur Riggs
- Rita’s Water Ice Franchise Co., LLC
- Joan and Frank Roseman
- Aquatica, SeaWorld’s Waterpark
- The Securities Center, Inc.
- Debra and Donald W. Smith
- Southcoast Welding & Mfg, LLC
- Stanley/Stearns Fund at The San Diego Foundation

**$500 - $999**

- Susan Bigelow
- Robyn Bottomley
- Judy and George Cave
- Continental Maritime of San Diego
- Frances and Alan Cornell
- Denise and Gary David
- David DiDonato
- Christine and Douglas Evans
- Fiddler’s Green Restaurant
- Susan and Mike Hein
- Judy and George Hopwood
- Patti and Wylie Huffman
- Michele Mangan and Robert Kilpatrick
- Cheryl Lawrence
- Margaret and Jerome McSwain
- Kathleen L. Morgan
- David Noji
- North Island Credit Union
- Pacific Realty Sales & Management, Inc.
- Brenda Pearson
- Karen and Cesar Quiros
- Sara and Gerald Ramirez
- Sean Ramirez
- Kimberly Schanz
- Jan and Leland Sebring
- Sandra and Todd Sgoutas-Emch
- Eldbjorg and Bjorn Syversen
- Darlene Whorley
- Ella Wilson

*deceased

The Living Coast Discovery Center is grateful for the loyal commitment and support of the City of Chula Vista!
Board of Directors and Leadership Staff

Executive Committee
Susan Fuller, Chairperson  
Retired, Fuller’s Plumbing
Sylvia Gaffney, Vice Chairperson  
Associate General Counsel, General Dynamics NASSCO
Bob Kilpatrick, Treasurer  
Maritime Consultant
Dr. Larry Wergeland, Secretary  
Retired Colonel of the U.S. Army Medical; Retired Corps Ophthalmologist
Andrew Yuen, Executive Committee Project Leader, San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Complex, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Directors
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Herb Engel, President, Marine Group Boat Works
Bob Koerber, Vice President/General Manager, BAE Systems San Diego Ship Repair
Steven Miesen, Division Manager, Republic Services; Councilmember, City of Chula Vista
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Kyle Strong, Associate General Counsel, UTC Aerospace Systems - Aerostructures
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Sherry Lankston, Director of Communications and Guest Experience
Lori Coons, Director of Development
Tina Matthias, Volunteer and Programs Manager
Amanda Grant-Stout, Education Manager
Lindsay Bradshaw, Animal Care Manager
Jessica LaFave, Development Manager
Mark Valen, Facilities and Horticulture Manager

*Honorary Member
## Financials

### Revenue and Support

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<th>Revenue Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Program Services</td>
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<td>Admission</td>
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<td>Farm to Bay and Special Events</td>
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<td>Membership</td>
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### Expenses

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<td>Animal Care</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
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*due to rounding, percentages may not add up to 100%*
Thank you to San Diego Gas and Electric for establishing the $2 million endowment fund, SDG&E Living Coast Discovery Center South Bay Enhancement Fund, which supports the continued operations of the Living Coast Discovery Center, including environmental education programs and public access and enjoyment of San Diego Bay.
To learn more about ways to support the Living Coast, please visit: www.TheLivingCoast.org/donate

Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2014-2015

Thank you for supporting our vision to inspire care and exploration of the living Earth by connecting people with coastal animals, plants, and habitats.

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