



ECO-WARRIORS TO RESTORE MALIBU CREEK WATERSHED

Volunteers sought for Heal the Bay's Stream Team event on March 15

Santa Monica, CA (Wednesday, March 5, 2008) -- Heal the Bay will lead dozens of volunteers in habitat restoration work at Malibu Creek State Park on Saturday, March 15, as part of its revitalized Stream Team program.

The Southland environmental group is sending out a call for volunteers to help remove invasive plant species and manmade debris from various sites in the Malibu Creek watershed. During the four-hour program, the team will also plant beneficial native species.

This type of restoration contributes to the ecological health of the Santa Monica Bay by providing improved stream habitat, preventing erosion and better filtration of urban runoff. The March 15 event, part of an ongoing series, will directly improve water quality at nearby Malibu Lagoon State Park and world-class Surfrider Beach.

“Everything that goes on upstream has a direct effect on the quality of our beaches and oceans,” said Joyce Sisson, manager of the Stream Team program. “So our event is a really fun way for people to do their part to protect the environment. You get your hands dirty in a beautiful setting and you make a real difference.”

Volunteers of all backgrounds are welcome and no previous restoration experience is required. Tools, refreshments and ecological education will be provided during the program, which is mildly strenuous.

Potential participants can either RSVP to Heal the Bay for more details or show up at 9 a.m. at the lower parking lot of Malibu Creek State Park. Please bring sunscreen, a wide-brimmed hat and a reusable water bottle.

Participants must be at least 14 years old. Everyone must sign a liability waiver form (available at healthebay.org or at the event). Participants under the age of 18 who will not have a parent or guardian present must bring a signed waiver.

About Stream Team

Heal the Bay launched The Stream Team in 1998 as a citizen-driven program to assess and promote the health of the Malibu Creek Watershed. The group has monitored and mapped more than 70 miles of local streams. It monitors water quality, identifies pollution sources and fixes problems via targeted restoration throughout the watershed. It works closely with state and local government agencies to achieve meaningful change.

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