



For Immediate Release

CONTACT

Morgan Patton
Executive Director
Environmental Action Committee of West Marin
(415) 663-9312
morgan@eacmarin.org

**West Marin Community Removes 1,000 Pounds of Debris from Tomales Bay Watershed
during 2019 California Coastal Clean Up Day**

Point Reyes Station, California (September 21, 2019) - More than 100 multi-generational volunteers gathered in West Marin to remove close to a 1,000 pounds of marine debris from Tomales Bay and the surrounding watersheds the week of September 16th through the 21st, 2019 to celebrate Coastal Clean Up Day. This was the 3rd annual Coastal Clean-Up effort on Tomales Bay, spearheaded by the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin, Hog Island Oyster Co. and Marconi State Historic Park & Conference Center.

"The Environmental Action Committee of West Marin has been cleaning up West Marin roadsides and watersheds every fall for more than 20 years. Over the last three years, the partnership with Hog Island Oyster Company has initiated a Tomales Bay wide clean up with oyster companies to clean up the Bay. This annual event keeps our water clean by removing debris and waste that is harmful to our irreplaceable habitats in West Marin. We can't do it without the help of our committed volunteer crews, that included local community members and visitors who love Point Reyes and wanted to give back to the environment that serves as the Bay Area's backyard. Thank you to everyone who made this incredible event happen." - Morgan Patton, Executive Director, Environmental Action Committee of West Marin

The clean up efforts in West Marin kicked off with the Olema Village Association and East Shore Planning Group volunteers removing debris along Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and Hwy 1, and Tomales High School freshman biology classes cleaning up Drakes Beach in Point Reyes National Seashore.

The clean up efforts concluded on Saturday, September 21st with the official California Coastal Cleanup Day on Tomales Bay and Surrounding Watershed where volunteers were tasked with boat-in and roadside clean up efforts. The event was part of the 35th annual California Coastal Cleanup Day, the

state's largest annual volunteer day, coordinated locally by the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin, Hog Island Oyster Company, and Marconi State Historic Park and Conference Center and in partnership with Marin County Coastal Clean Up Efforts, Marin Oyster Co., Tomales Bay Oyster Co., Starbird Mariculture, and Tomales Bay Sailing.

"I am proud of the ongoing efforts from our local community and Tomales Bay shellfish growers who are working to keep our bay clean. This international day of clean up is an incredible opportunity for us all to strengthen these efforts, and build awareness in the greater Bay Area around the importance of healthy watersheds. Resources which are key for cultivating the world class foods our region is known for." - Terry Sawyer, Co-founder and VP, Hog Island Oyster Co.

Hog Island Oyster Company, Tomales Bay Oysters, and other bay aquaculture growers took out 40 volunteers on 10 boats removing roughly 176 pounds of trash and 75 pounds of recycling from the shores of Tomales Bay, *a wetland of international importance.*

The Environmental Action Committee of West Marin coordinated roadside clean ups along Platform Bridge Road, in the heart of Point Reyes Station, and surrounding watershed including the Giacomini Wetlands and Marin County Parks removing 600 pounds of trash and 125 pounds of recycling.

Together volunteers removed close to 1,000 pounds of debris from the Tomales Bay watershed in one week! Trash included micro-debris, toys, oil cans, brake pads, a tire, cigarette buds, single-use plastics, metals, creosote pilings and wood, a crutch (just one), and recyclables including glass and plastics. Representatives from Recology, the area's waste disposal company, helped sort recyclables diverting them from the landfill, and donated dumpsters for the event.

"Recology Sonoma Marin is grateful for the efforts of the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin and other partners on Coastal Cleanup Day. Volunteers from near and far came together to remove several hundred pounds of debris from beaches, waterways, and roads to ensure the continued health of Tomales Bay's ecosystem. Recology was proud to help volunteer crews separate and divert recyclable material from landfill disposal. We are fortunate to service this beautiful area and appreciate the opportunity to give back!" - Garen Kazanjian, Zero Waste Specialist, Recology

The event hosts celebrated the volunteer's efforts with an appreciation BBQ and gathering at the Marconi State Park and Conference Center afterwards with food and beverages donated by West Marin and Bay Area producers. Event sponsors included: Acme Bread, Bovine Bakery, Caggiano Sausage Company, Clif Bar, Cowgirl Creamery, General Mills, Hog Island Oyster Co., Honey Bucket, Lagunitas Brewing Co., Marin Oysters, Marconi Historic State Park and Conference Center, Marin Sun Farms/Mindful Meats, McEvoy Ranch, MinuteMan Press, Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association, Point Reyes Building Supply, Point Reyes Farmstead Cheese Company, Recology, The Palace Market, Tomales Bay Oyster Company, World Centric and through individual donations.

About Coastal Clean Up

Tens of thousands of Californians turned out to take part in the 35th California Coastal Cleanup Day, the state's largest annual volunteer event, organized by the California Coastal Commission. "In all of

California, there were 1,000 clean up sites in 55 of the state's 58 counties – including as far inland as Lake Tahoe. It was the largest collection of sites in the cleanup's history," said Eben Schwartz, marine debris program manager for the state agency. Statewide, with about 75 percent of the sites reporting, there were an estimated 59,772 volunteers who picked up 469,100 pounds of trash and an additional 33,611 pounds of recyclable materials. "According to past cleanup data, 75 percent of the debris that volunteers removed ... was composed of plastic, a material that never completely biodegrades and has numerous harmful consequences for the environment. Plastic debris can kill wildlife, leach toxins into the environment, and even introduce them into the food chain," a news release from the Commission said.

How You Can Help? Join us next year Saturday, September 19th, 2020. In the meantime, learn more about how to become a Marin MPA Watch volunteer at www.eacmarin.org/mpa-watch.

For More Information and Photos Visit: www.eacmarin.org/coastal-clean-up-day/

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Environmental Action Committee of West Marin (EAC) [Mission](#): To protect and sustain the unique lands, waters, and biodiversity of West Marin.

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