



The Bolsa Chica Conservancy

2023

Annual Report



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of The Bolsa Chica Conservancy is to provide services that inspire and connect all generations through community involvement and leadership in hands on restoration and education in wetland science, watersheds, coastal ecology, and environmental sustainability.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

On behalf of The Bolsa Chica Conservancy and its Board of Directors, thank you for your help and support this past year. We have worked hard to connect and continue our commitment of inspiring the present and next generation of environmental stewards.

For 33 years, The Bolsa Chica Conservancy has offered educational opportunities to visitors from all generations and from every segment of our community. What we teach aligns with the Next Generation Science Standards and is tailored to suit the age, grade, and maturity level of our participants. We cover all aspects of wetland ecology, watershed protection, biology, and history, with an emphasis on education, conservation and restoration.

Taking a moment to pause and reflect on the successes of our organization over the past few years. We completed our new Interpretive Center located on the corner of Pacific Coast Highway and Warner Avenue. This center is a success story that will serve visitors to Bolsa Chica for decades to come. Our new Executive Director, Carissa Macias, has been in place for a year now and is leading our organization and our staff and volunteers. They are engaged and working hard every day to fulfill our mission. In addition, we are weeks away from launching our new Windows to Our Wetlands WOW Program featuring a brand new mobile classroom that will expand our reach to schools and students in under-served and disadvantaged communities.

I want to thank all of our donors and sponsors that stood behind us this past year. A special thanks go to our Board Members, Advisory Council, staff and volunteers for their many efforts that helped 2023 become a year to remember. As we look forward to 2024, I can say with great pride that YOU have all risen to the challenge of allowing our organization to grow strong and ready for whatever comes next. 2024, here we come!

Thank you,



Weikko Wirta
2023 Board Chairman

EDUCATION

In 2023, we engaged thousands of students through education programs for pre-k to college level and visitors through our Interpretive Center.

Daily, The Bolsa Chica Conservancy offers expert guided hikes to engage students and visitors in the many wonders of the wetlands and surrounding area. Every visit starts at the Interpretive Center where exhibits set the stage by providing the history and legacy of the area.

Students and visitors are introduced to the varied wildlife and a call to action to join us in our mission to protect and preserve this special place we call Bolsa Chica. Program offers high school students with both short-term and long-term opportunities that often lead to internships and future employment.

24,648

Students & Visitors participated in Education programming in 2023



WINDOWS TO OUR WETLANDS - **WOW**

We are only weeks away from launching our new **WOW** van! The exterior of our new Windows to Our Wetlands **WOW** van is fully wrapped with beautiful wildlife and information including an outdoor monitor with tablets for STEAM applications.

The interior houses a large aquarium filled with our ambassador organisms, an interactive touch tank, and programming materials featuring hands on ecology lab experiences, taxidermy displays, and live reptile displays.

A special thank you to AES and Simple Green for helping us make this new educational dream opportunity for kids in disadvantaged communities a reality.



6,418

Total participants in
WOW Program
activities in 2023

86%

of **WOW** programs offered on
school sites serve students living
in disadvantaged communities
or attending Title 1 Schools

RESTORATION & RESEARCH



Restoration staff and volunteers stepped up to meet the challenges facing the ongoing restoration projects at Harriet Weider Regional Park and Rabbit Island in 2023 due to an exceptionally rainy winter.

241+ hours that were spent in the field by 2,245 volunteers resulted in more than 25,000 pounds of invasive plants and trash collected and removed from the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve.



Pounds of invasive plants removed



Pounds of trash removed



Volunteers at 122 events

VOLUNTEER & OUTREACH

Volunteers and community member engagement play a critical role in the work that The Bolsa Chica Conservancy does. Through 33 outreach events, including EARTH DAY held at our site and across Southern California, community members learn more about new programs that may peak their interest. The result is engaged new volunteers that make a difference in our community.

In 2023, volunteers helped remove trash, debris, and invasive plants. Volunteers conducted monthly birds surveys and supported the Eyes On Nest Sites (EONS) program.

Without the engagement and connection of our neighbors and visitors, we would not be able to accomplish the great work that we do every day.



ACCOUNTING

Where Funding Comes From

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Program Related Revenue | \$ 45,300 |
| Grants & Donations Special | \$318,921 |
| Events & Fundraisers Estate | \$213,670 |
| Gift to Reserve | <u>\$353,869</u> |
| Total Revenue | \$931,760 |



of every dollar
donated goes to
programs

Where Our Dollars Go

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Program Related Services | \$436,713 |
| Management & Operating Capital | \$ 77,067 |
| Improvements & Repairs Special | \$ 21,808 |
| Events & Fundraisers Reserve | \$ 64,750 |
| Contribution | <u>\$325,000</u> |
| Total Expenses | \$925,338 |

*Unaudited and without depreciation

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS



2023 Conservator of the Year
Amigos de Bolsa Chica



2023 Selected Charity
Surf City Rotary of HB



2023 Selected Charity
HB Mayor's Ball

OUR LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman, Bob Hoxsie

Hoxsie Builders, CEO

Vice Chairman, Jeff Hyder

Simple Green, Chief Operating Officer

Treasurer, Tom Ross

Retired Auditor MetLife

Secretary, Tanya Hoxsie

Retired CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs
of Huntington Valley

Claire Grozinger

Retired Research Technician

Robert Grundstrom

California Resources Corporation

Thomas Mays

Retired Insurance Executive

Jose Perez

AES, Director of Operations

James Peterson

Southern California Edison,
Senior Policy Advisor

Eric Smalstig

Geosyntec Consultants
Senior Principal Engineer

Philip Smith

Retired Communications Executive

Peter "PT" Townend

ActivEmpire, Principal

Mike Vigliotta,

City of Orange, City Attorney

Christine Whitcraft Ph.D

CSULB, Professor of Biological Sciences

Fred Wilson

Ralph Anderson Associates, Sr. Consultant

Stephanie Wilson

Fred's Mexican Cafe & Sandy's Beach Shack
Managing Partner

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Mark Abramowitz

Community Environmental Service

Diane Dixon

Assemblymember, 72nd Assembly District

Kevin Elliot

CEO CodeFour

Chris Epting

Author

Dave Garofalo

The Local News

Cathy Green

OCWD 1st Vice President

Billy Hamilton

HB Legendary Surfer

Ed Laird

Coating Resources

Janet Nguyen

California State Senator, 36th District

Michelle Steele

US Congresswoman, 45th District

John Tillotson

Developer

Gracey Van Der Mark

Mayor, City of Huntington Beach

Dr Van Vu

Anesthesiologist

Weikko Wirta

AES

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Carissa Macias, Executive Director

Kenny Perez, Program Manager

Brooke Ristow, Sr. Education Coordinator

Mara Salisbury, Sr. Restoration &
Research Coordinator

Steven Bell, Administrative Services

Sophia Bean, Education Coordinator

Jess Roberts, Restoration & Research
Coordinator

David Pryor, Senior Scientist

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

\$100,000

AES Corporation

\$50,000

EGBAR Foundation Orange
County Community
Foundation

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Lee Deshong
G&M Oil
Mark Lepore
Pacific Life Foundation
Simple Green
Surf City Rotary of HB
Southern California Edison
Jacki & Weikko Wirta

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Agents of Discovery
Joanne Ahmadi Charitable Fund
CodeFour
California Resources Corporation
Bob & Tanya Hoxsie
Huntington Beach Auto Dealers
Jeff & JoAnn Hyder
Ed Laird
Carol Lehrer
Dana Leever
MemorialCare
Southern California Gas Co
Wyland Foundation

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Mary Behrens
Richard Busch
Chris Byrne
Disney VolunTEARS
Community Fund
DelMar
DLE Equipment
Fred's Mexican Cafe & Sandy's
Beach Shack
Virginia Gorske
Claire & Siegmund Grozinger
Hines
HB Firefighters Association
HB Fire Management Association
HB Police Officer's Association
Huntington Central Park
Equestrian Center
Kingston Technology
Kiwanis Club of HB
Dave Lang

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Thomas Lawless
Michael Markus
Julie Mercurio
Orange County Water District
Pacific Premier Bank
Shelby Thurley
CouncilMember Tony Strickland
Surf Rider Foundation NOC
Phil Smith
Peter Townend
Butch & Dana Twinning
Van Vu
Mark Wersching
Stephanie Wilson

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Boys & Girls Clubs of
Huntington Valley
The Bridge Builders Foundation
Cabrillo Point Academy
Orange County Coast Keeper
Dolores Street School
Downey Foundation for
Educational Opportunities
Fountain Valley School District
Mark Gaughan & Marea Suozzi
Nicolette Hackett
Betty Kanne
Kari Kerr
Jeff & Lisa Kuecker
Murdy Foundation
City of Rancho Palos Verdes
Pacific Premier Bank
Republic Services
Chelsea Roger
Allen Tran
Michael Vigliotta

\$500 - \$999

Aldergate Children's Center
Anderson Elementary
Joe Bartone
Larry & Susan Bjork
Keith Bohr
Brookhurst Elementary PTA
Cerritos Elementary PTA
Creative Stream
Deloitte & Touche
Marissa Demes
Liane Donati
Wendy Edelbrock
Elemental Marketing
John Ethridge
Firebaugh High School
James Flavin

\$500 - \$999

Claudia Flores
Calvin & Pam Free
Fryberger Elementary
Alana Garibaldi
Granite Mountain Charter School
Bob Grundstrom
GSOC Yorba Linda Day Camp
Wynter Hart
Hawes Elementary School
Hoag Memorial Hospital
David Isrealsky
Holly Johnston
Xanthipe Jordanides
Don Kennedy
Doris Kennedy
Kroger
Kristen Pugh
Victor Leipzig
Leport Stratford Inc.
Lynwood United School District
Carissa Macias
George Manyak
Marshall Fundamental School
Tom Mays
Ed Mountford
Naples Bayside Academy Senator
Janet Nguyen
Ocean View School District
Olita Elementary PTA
David Pryor
Maria Rohaidy
Tom & Kathy Ross
Steve Scerra
Lyn & Rich Semetta
Cathy Shulte
Pam & Patrick Sciarra
Andy & Lauren Serrano
Phil Shuluk
Eric Smalstig
Michele Soutner
State Farm Insurance
Lynne Stoner
Surf City Christian Child
Development Preschool
TeWinkle Middle School
Dianne Thompson
Shaun & Grisel Voigt
Lizze Webster
Christine Whitcraft
Fred Wilson
Karen Wolff
Shawn Wood
Janet Yee
Blake Zwerling

We apologize for any errors or omissions.

UPCOMING EVENTS - **Mark Your Calendar**

EARTH DAY Festival Saturday, April 21, 2024 at the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve

4th of July Brunch Thursday, July 4, 2024 at Fred's Mexican Cafe, 300 PCH, HB

Barefoot Ball Friday, August 16, 2024

**Bolsa Chica
Conservancy**



SAVE the DATE

11th Annual

BAREFOOT  BALL

August 16, 2024

The Waterfront Beach Resort, A Hilton Hotel

REGISTER ONLINE

Barefoot2024.GiveSmart.com

714.846.1114

For more information about Bolsa Chica Conservancy visit BolsaChica.org

educate • restore • inspire



The Bolsa Chica Conservancy

3842 Warner Avenue
Huntington Beach, CA 92649

BolsaChica.org

714-846-1114

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