

# Coastal Coalition – Year in Review

The Orange County Coastal Coalition is an association of local, regional, state and federal agencies, non-profit organizations, private industry and the public whose role is to advocate, educate and coordinate activities along the Orange County coast.

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## *Winter*

The year started in February with “Welcome to the Coast” presentations. Five Coastal Cities and State Parks provided us with an overview of their water quality efforts. This was a great introduction for all of us on who’s doing what to improve coastal water quality.

The next meeting “...honed in on bacteria in urban runoff” with presentations on the Poche Beach/Prima Deshecha Watershed studies. During this meeting, we learned how over-watering our lawns contributes to bacteria at the beach.

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## *Spring*

In April, we heard from steelhead recovery experts who are removing barriers to steelhead migration in San Juan Creek and Trabuco Creeks. This will be the first steelhead run in Orange County in decades!

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## *Summer*

Our June meeting focused on domoic acid and other HABs (Harmful Algal Blooms). Local experts and state officials provided insight on the impacts of HABs to the health of marine life and why this is an area of growing concern.

In July, we were treated to the Annual Beach Report Card, updated on the NPDES Municipal Stormwater Permit, and learned about the concept of “Green Streets” at El Toro from Pat Fuscoe. Projects like “Green Streets” showcase creative strategies for improving water quality in the urban environment.

The August meeting featured water conservation strategies by Metropolitan Water District and UC Cooperative Extension. We can all do our part to conserve this precious resource.

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## *Fall*

Just before the Santiago Fire broke out, we held a meeting in September on potential impacts to our watersheds from fires. In addition we heard from the Nature Reserve of Orange County on fire management planning and from Chief Blaul from the Orange County Fire Authority on fire safety at the urban-wildland interface zone.

In October, we featured two non-profit organizations dedicated to ocean education and stewardship. The Ocean Institute presented their terrific ocean & watershed education programs. Miocean supports projects which measurably improves water quality through corporate partnerships and education.