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Ocean Advocates Join Forces to Support Local Bans on Single-Use Plastic Bags

(January 13, 2011) Santa Cruz, CA – For the benefit of the marine environment, [Save Our Shores](#) (SOS), the leader in ocean awareness, advocacy and citizen action on the Central Coast, continues to increase community support for local bans on single-use plastic bags all around the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

Save Our Shores is asking those interested in ocean conservation and environmental stewardship to attend the County of Santa Cruz's Public Information Meeting on January 26th to support the proposed Single-Use Bag Reduction Ordinance and push for speedy implementation of this law in early 2011.

The Public Information Meeting takes place on Wednesday, January 26th, from 6:00 - 7:30 pm at the Simpkins Swim Center, 979 17th Ave, Santa Cruz. Input from the community is requested concerning the County's proposal to adopt an ordinance regulating the use of single-use bags. All interested parties are invited to attend.

Joined by representatives of their newly-formed Central Coast Sanctuary Alliance, as well as students from the Mount Madonna School and some Bag Monsters, Save Our Shores will speak in support of the County's Single-Use Bag Reduction Ordinance, present corresponding cleanup data and fact sheets, and deliver over 500 petition signatures in support of a local ban on single-use plastic bags.

The Central Coast Sanctuary Alliance is working toward banning single-use plastic bags in each municipality and county around the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. With a growing Alliance of over 24 environmental organizations, this joint effort will protect hundreds of marine species from suffocation or strangulation caused by plastic bag pollution. The Central Coast Sanctuary Alliance is now expanding the Alliance to include retailers and businesses that support local bans on single-use plastic bags. Stay tuned to saveourshores.org for updates.

Laura Kasa, Executive Director of Save Our Shores says, "It was very exciting to have our first Alliance meeting yesterday to outline plans for outreach to the public, businesses, and our local governments to obtain support for the much needed plastic bag bans that will help protect the precious resources we have in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary."

Banning single-use plastic bags will become an economic support system for a flourishing coastal economy while providing protections for our fisheries, marine animals, and environment from the ever growing problem of plastic pollution in our ocean. Contact Lauren at lauren@saveourshores.org for more information.

About Save Our Shores:

Save Our Shores is the Central Coast leader in caring for the marine environment through ocean awareness, advocacy and citizen action. Our core initiatives are Plastic Pollution, Clean Boating, and Ocean Awareness. Over the last 30 years, Save Our Shores helped to establish the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, prevent offshore oil drilling and cruise ship pollution, and today focuses on educating youth about our local watersheds, tackling pollution on our beaches and rivers, implementing our renowned DockWalker program, and providing our community with educated and inspired Sanctuary Stewards. For more information visit: www.saveourshores.org.

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Caring for the marine environment through ocean awareness, advocacy and citizen action.