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Secretary Laird to Participate in Coastal Cleanup Day

WATSONVILLE, Calif. – California Secretary of Natural Resources, John Laird, and Ocean Protection Council (OPC) staff will participate in California Coastal Cleanup Day in Watsonville this Saturday, September 19. Organized by the City of Watsonville, the Secretary and OPC staff will join local community members, high school students, and other volunteers at the Pajaro River, a site chosen to highlight how inland waterways contribute to ocean pollution. By reducing litter at the Pajaro River and wetlands, Watsonville has kept thousands of pieces of trash from entering the ocean downstream. This weekend's cleanup is one of more than 30 community cleanups the City of Watsonville organizes annually to beautify and renew freshwater sloughs, river and ocean.

What: California Coastal Cleanup Day at the Pajaro River in Watsonville
Where: River Park (formerly Linear Park) – 100 E Front St, Watsonville, CA 95076
When: Saturday, September 19, at 9:00 AM

Every year, on the third Saturday in September, people join together at sites all over California to take part in the California Coastal Cleanup Day, the State's largest volunteer event. In 2014, nearly 67,000 volunteers removed more than 1,190,000 pounds of trash and recyclables from California's beaches, lakes, and waterways. Families, friends, coworkers, scout troops, school groups, service clubs, and individuals come together to celebrate and share their appreciation of California's scenic coast and waterways. The event is part of the International Coastal Cleanup, organized by the Ocean Conservancy, which is the largest volunteer event on the planet. The most recent [Thank You Ocean report](#) highlights the cleanup's effort and shows the profound benefits to our ocean and coast.

Please join Secretary Laird, OPC staff, and thousands of volunteers across the state in collecting trash from our beaches and waterways on Saturday. The ocean takes care of us. Let's return the favor!

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