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## **Secretary Laird to Participate in California Coastal Cleanup Day**

SANTA CRUZ, Calif. – California Secretary of Natural Resources John Laird will participate in California Coastal Cleanup Day at Main Beach in Santa Cruz this Saturday, September 17. Organized by Save Our Shores, the Secretary will join local community members, high school students, and other volunteers at Cowell Beach and Main Beach, two of the most popular beaches in Santa Cruz. By cleaning up litter on the beach, volunteers will prevent thousands of cigarette butts, plastic bags, food wrappers, and plastic pollution of all type from entering the ocean.

This weekend's cleanup is one of more than 80 cleanups in the Monterey Bay area and 920 cleanups statewide. The California Coastal Commission, which coordinates Coastal Cleanup Day, has produced an interactive map of cleanup locations and events in every corner of the state, which is available at [www.coastalcleanupday.org](http://www.coastalcleanupday.org). In most locations, the cleanup will take place on Saturday, September 17 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Californians have shown their willingness to reduce plastic pollution by coming to Coastal Cleanup Day each year. In 2015, more than 68,300 volunteers turned out for the event, ridding California of more than 1.1 million pounds of trash. Over the 31-year history of the cleanup, almost 1.4 million volunteers have removed over 22 million pounds of trash – all during the annual 3-hour event.

Please join Secretary Laird and thousands of volunteers across the state in collecting trash from our beaches and waterways on Saturday.

**What:** California Coastal Cleanup Day at Cowell Beach and Main Beach in Santa Cruz  
**Where:** Cowell Beach right off from the Cowell Beach Parking Lot  
**When:** Saturday, September 17, at 9:00 AM  
**Note:** For pre-registration, information, and contact info visit <http://saveourshores.org/acc/>

In addition to beaches and coasts, the Delta Protection Commission and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy invite the public to join Inland Estuary and Great Sierra River Cleanups to help preserve our inland waterways. Five Delta sites, one in each Delta county, will hold cleanup events. More information can be found [here](#). The Sierra Nevada Conservancy, tasked with encouraging efforts that improve the environmental, economic and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada Region, is coordinating its yearly [Great Sierra River Cleanup](#) in order to promote good stewardship on all of our waterways, from the Sierra to the sea.

For those who cannot attend Coastal Cleanup Day on September 17<sup>th</sup>, the Coastal Commission maintains a calendar of events taking place during the three weeks following the Cleanup, known as COASTWEEKS. For more information on the Cleanup, please visit [www.coastalcleanupday.org](http://www.coastalcleanupday.org).

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