



2007 Project SWELL Report

The year 2007 was a successful one for Project SWELL (Stewardship: Water Education for Lifelong Leadership). With the roll out of the 2nd grade Pebbles Sand and Silt curriculum and the other three grade level lessons, we are reaching more than 40,000 students through Project SWELL in San Diego County.

Project SWELL balances environmental and scientific studies as a comprehensive and hands-on K-12 water quality and pollution prevention curricula. San Diego Unified School District, the City of San Diego and San Diego Coastkeeper have united to enhance the existing science curriculum used with inquiry-based FOSS (Full Option Science System) hands-on science kits. The lessons align with the State Science Content Standards for California Public Schools, Science Framework for California and meet the State's environmental education requirement. It teaches children about the importance of our recreational waterways and human-water interaction from both environmental-conservation and environmental-science standpoints.

This unique San Diego-based education program supports progressive change by educating our children about pollution prevention and how their participation can help to improve the health of our ocean and waterways. Through these lessons, students learn how they can minimize impacts to this sensitive coastal environment and address environmental issues pertaining specifically to our region.



Student engages in SWELL lesson about water and earth materials in San Diego.



Students learn about water quality and pollution prevention through a project SWELL lesson.

Project SWELL's 5th grade "Water" kit now reaches 10,000 students, 6th grade "Landforms" kit reaches 10,000 students, 4th grade "Ecosystems" kit reaches 10,500 students, and 2nd grade "Pebbles, Sand, and Silt" kit reaches 9,000 students. We are currently planning for our next SWELL grade lessons for San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) and Oceanside Unified School District (OUSD) and continuing the expansion of Project SWELL regionally in North County schools. Ultimately, we plan to reach 100,000 students annually in San Diego through Project SWELL.

Every seven years, the State Board of Education reviews the curriculum framework for each subject. This year, San Diego and Oceanside Unified School Districts re-adopted the FOSS science curriculum. However, there are new requirements including a mandate that every teacher has a science kit in the classroom. In the past, teachers rotated the kits throughout the year, teaching the lessons at different times of the academic calendar year. The past few months, Coastkeeper and SWELL partners have been working to update the existing Project SWELL lessons to meet the new adoption requirements by the beginning of the next school year. As we finish lesson edits, we are moving forward with expansion in SDUSD and are developing Kindergarten curriculum which is expected to be launched in 2009, reaching another 10,000 students annually. In addition to expanding Project SWELL in SDUSD, Coastkeeper will continue to expand in OUSD with the launch of the 6th grade lessons in the 2009.

Your support allowed San Diego Coastkeeper to implement and maintain Project SWELL curriculum in 2nd, 4th, 5th and 6th grade classrooms in SDUSD and 5th grade classes in OUSD. Support has also helped with existing curriculum edits, the development of formal student evaluation for 2nd grade classes and Kindergarten curriculum development. In addition, we are working with other school districts county-wide to implement Project SWELL in the future.



Mayor Sanders' views a demonstration of Project SWELL at the 2nd grade media launch in May 2007.

In Academic Year 2008-2009, the Project SWELL curricula will be in four grade levels at 130 San Diego Unified Schools and in one grade level in Oceanside Unified Schools, reaching more than 40,000 children county-wide. Ultimately, we hope to provide hands-on environmental education to reach every K-12 student in San Diego County through Project SWELL.

Your continued support will help us maintain the existing lessons, complete the development of Kindergarten curriculum and implementation in SDUSD, continue the expansion of the program in OUSD and regional expansion efforts in North County and South Bay schools enhancing environmental awareness among San Diego's youth. The Project SWELL curriculum will foster a sense of stewardship for our natural environment and help to empower and educate these future leaders of America to understand and improve the condition of San Diego's coast and waterways. Thank you again for supporting this important environmental program!