



July 31, 2009

Mr. David Merk  
Director  
Environmental Services Department  
San Diego Unified Port District  
P.O. Box 120488  
San Diego, CA 92112-0488

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Environmental  
Services

Re: Interim report on San Diego Coastkeeper's Project SWELL  
Agreement: Document # 51479 as amended by Document # 52062


Dear Mr. Merk:

On behalf of San Diego Coastkeeper (Coastkeeper), thank you for your continued support of Project SWELL. Coastkeeper greatly values the true partnership sustained with the San Diego Unified Port District (Port). Enclosed, please find our July 2009 interim report related to Project SWELL, Coastkeeper's unique K-12 environmental education curriculum. Project SWELL made significant strides during the past year and continues to grow toward our ultimate goal of reaching 100,000 K-12 students in San Diego County. The past year's achievements, listed below, are representative of this growth:

- (1) **Project SWELL successfully reached more than 40,000 students** in five grades across nearly 150 classrooms in San Diego and Oceanside Unified School Districts;
- (2) **Project SWELL's Kindergarten curriculum was completed and will be launched this fall** in San Diego Unified School District, growing the reach of Project SWELL to more than 50,000 students annually; and
- (3) **Coastkeeper responded to new school district requirements**, ensuring that every instructor teaching Project SWELL this school year had the materials required to do so.

Coastkeeper looks forward to the future of our productive partnership with the Port. Together, we can ensure that San Diego's youth continue to be inspired to protect and preserve our community's bays, beaches, watersheds, and ocean through the Project SWELL's unique and engaging curricula.

Sincerely,

  
Bruce Reznik  
*Executive Director*

Enclosure



**Interim Report to the San Diego Unified Port District  
San Diego Coastkeeper’s Project SWELL  
July 31, 2009**

Like the San Diego Unified Port District, Environmental Services Department (Port), San Diego Coastkeeper (Coastkeeper) greatly values the environmental health of our coastal ecosystem and believes that engaging and inspiring our youngest residents – the environmental stewards of the future – will have a significant positive impact on ensuring safe, healthy waters in San Diego Bay and the interconnected beaches, bays, watersheds, and ocean. Coastkeeper is pleased to submit this interim report relaying the activities and accomplishments of Project SWELL from August 2008-July 2009, in accordance with the terms of its Agreement with the Port (Document # 51479 as amended by Document # 52062) for the grant period February 1, 2007-December 31, 2009.

Generous support from the Port has allowed Project SWELL to reach more than 40,000 students in five grades in San Diego County. Despite significant resource challenges, we also expanded the program, moving closer to our ultimate goal of reaching 100,000 students annually. During this reporting period, Coastkeeper achieved the following through Project SWELL:

- (1) Reached more than 40,000 students:** Since August 2008, Project SWELL successfully reached more than 40,000 students in 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade in 130 schools in the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) and in 5<sup>th</sup> grade in 18 schools in the Oceanside Unified School District. We achieved this success by collaborating closely with school district administrators and an experienced curriculum writer and editor to ensure that Project SWELL met state adoption requirements. The implementation of the Kindergarten curriculum in SDUSD and addition of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum in OUSD will expand the reach of Project SWELL during the 2009-2010 school year by approximately 25 percent and we will reach more than 50,000 students annually.

**Students educated through Project SWELL since August 2008**

SDUSD

K: to come in 2009-10  
2<sup>nd</sup> grade: 9,925  
4<sup>th</sup> grade: 9,662  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade: 9,663  
6<sup>th</sup> grade: 9,082

OUSD

5<sup>th</sup> grade: 1,581  
6<sup>th</sup> grade: to come in 2009-10

Community Education and Outreach Events

More than 1,000 additional students

- (2) Develop a Kindergarten curriculum and expand regionally:** We are pleased to report that after working closely with an experienced curriculum writer, the City of San Diego, and SDUSD, the

Project SWELL Kindergarten curriculum is complete. It was piloted in May 2009 and will be launched in San Diego Unified School District in the 2009-10 school year. The implementation of this curriculum will expand the reach of Project SWELL by approximately 10,000 students per year, or 25 percent. The launch of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum in Oceanside Unified School District was delayed by one year—due to the need to focus limited resources on meeting new State and school district requirements for the existing curricula—and will launch this year. Coastkeeper staff also conducted numerous community outreach events based on Project SWELL lessons to ensure that students without access to hands-on science kits in their classroom are able to experience the benefit of Project SWELL's unique learning system, reaching more than 1,000 children. These students reside primarily in low-income communities;

- (3) **Respond to new school district requirements:** Coastkeeper worked closely with the school district to meet new school district requirements by allocating staff time, stocking and storage space, and the materials necessary to provide a complete science kit for every instructor teaching Project SWELL during the 2008-09 school year. This placed significant pressure on time and budget resources, especially because it was coupled with the need to edit each existing curriculum to meet new adoption requirements approved by the State Board of Education and school districts for the 2008-09 school year. Rising to these challenges, Coastkeeper ensured that Project SWELL was available to every school that planned to use the curriculum.

Coastkeeper recognizes the importance of student and teacher feedback regarding the effectiveness of the Project SWELL curriculum. To assess and improve teachers' experiences with Project SWELL, Coastkeeper recently introduced teacher feedback forms. We also piloted a formal student evaluation forms in 4<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms this year in order to better understand students' experiences with the lessons and how to improve their education through Project SWELL. We look forward to sharing the results when data becomes available.

Despite the challenges presented by limited funding, Coastkeeper has not compromised its goal of reaching each of the 100,000 students in San Diego County. State budget cuts to education have been so severe that Coastkeeper bore the majority of the cost to develop our new Kindergarten curriculum and will likely supply most of the funding to develop a 1<sup>st</sup> grade curriculum, which we anticipate doing during the upcoming year. Nonetheless, we believe it is essential that we continue to expand the availability of hands-on environmental science education for all students.

San Diego Coastkeeper looks forward to the future of our productive partnership with the Port. Together, we can ensure that San Diego's youth continue to be inspired to understand the vital role of the San Diego Bay ecosystem and to protect and preserve our community's bays, beaches, watersheds, and ocean through the growing array of Project SWELL's unique and engaging curricula.