

**CVESD Coastal Education Program located at the Chula Vista Nature Center
Progress Report**
Karen Quiros

Work completed to date:

There are two registration sessions for the Coastal Education Program. One took place in August and the other one will take place in early December. We were not notified that we had received the grant until after all the Fall classes had been scheduled and their transportation was already arranged. On December 9th there we are hosting an open house that all certificated employees in the district have been invited to. At the open house the attendees will be offered free transportation for their class, paid for by the Port with priority going to classes that have never previously attended.

I have already received some RSVP's for the open house and over half of them are from teachers that have never before visited the Nature Center. At the open house we will discuss the requirements to receive the grant money and register their classes.

Registration Fliers were also mailed out to all certificated employees in the Chula Vista Elementary District. Registration for the Winter/Spring session will be from Dec. 2nd - Dec. 11th and classes will be from January 12th - June 8th.

During the Fall session I had 76 classes visit the Nature Center totaling almost 2,000 students. We anticipate the same or more classes visiting during the Winter/Spring session.

How effective the project is at benefiting the Bay

The 76 classes that attended this past Fall all came away from their program with a better understanding of the San Diego Bay flora and fauna. The students then went home and told their families and friends what they had learned. Each student received a free pass to come back to the Nature Center therefore expanding the group of people being exposed to this wonderful educational resource. We anticipate that the same number or greater will come to the Nature Center in the Winter/Spring because of the Coastal Education Program. They will have their eyes opened to the importance of the San Diego Bay and its wildlife.

Costs incurred to date:

Funds provided by the Port District for transportation to and from the Nature Center Education Program have not yet been used because all Fall classes had already arranged their transportation when the Nature Center was notified that they had been awarded the grant.

A specific account has been created at the district office for the Port District's grant money and will be used only after participants fulfill their paperwork commitments. The grant money will be used by classes coming from January through June this year.