

Progress Report for San Diego Unified Port

Chula Vista Nature Center Foundation's Education and Endangered Species Programs

58350

Report Period: December 15, 2011 – January 15, 2012

Description of Work Completed

Our work and billing during this report period was primarily focus toward the Nature Center's new **Washed Ashore** exhibit and a portion of the monthly expenses toward our Pacific Sea Turtle Husbandry program . We are excited to share with you the details about each of the funding components.



Washed Ashore Exhibit (100% of Work Complete)

The contract was finalized with **Artula** and the artist Angela Hazzeltine-Pozzi. The exhibit will run from December 2011 through July 2012 with a possible extension through September 8.

The artist traveled to San Diego work with Nature Center staff to install the 12 sculpture on site. Marketing and sponsorship campaigns are under development for the phased art exhibit. Guests are amazed by this "larger than life" display of ocean debris that has been transformed into "art." It is truly inspiring engaging conversations of the visiting students and guests at the Nature Center.



We have already garnered media attention and print articles featuring the Port's generous funding of the **Washed Ashore** exhibit. (Samples attached.) The Port announcement was picked up by KPBS Radio News and featured an on-air report and interview with Executive Director Brian Joseph. Other outlets



who picked up the piece were the San Diego Daily Transcript, Star News, and SD Metro Daily Business Report. Additionally, the **Washed Ashore** exhibit will also be featured with a full page editorial about the exhibit in San Diego Magazine's February issue.

We have also created a postcard to be used when CVNC out in our community at educational outreach event. It carries recognizes the Port's exhibit funding.

Pacific Sea Turtle Husbandry (16% of Work Complete)

Four juvenile Pacific Green Sea Turtles are being raised or cared for at the Chula Vista Nature Center. The turtles continue to thrive and be important ambassadors for the Nature Center in providing compelling conservation messaging.



Expected work for the next progress report includes developing Pollution Prevention and Conservation messaging into Turtle Keeper talks during feeding and guest interactions.

Nature Day Camp Program (16% of Work Complete)

Nature Day Camp Highlights through this reporting period include:

- 234 campers ages 4-18 over 13 days during school winter break
- 12 different curricula emphasizing water and marine ecosystem conservation and the local wildlife of the San Diego Bay region. Sample camp programs included:

Commotion in the Ocean: Make a real splash in a camp that's all about ocean life! Prepare to dive into a world of sea turtles, sharks, seahorses and more as we discover the amazing marine critters that call San Diego Bay and the Pacific Ocean home!

Ecosystem Explorers: The wild places of California are some of the coolest around! Each day we'll explore a different "terrain" to discover the special wildlife that lives there. Whether we dive into ocean life, muck through the marsh or trek the dry upland terrain, we'll discover amazing wildlife each step of the way!

Jr. Apprentice: The perfect camp for budding biologists! On Monday we'll track wildlife and explore life under the microscope. Tuesday we'll feed sharks and meet baby sea turtles up-close. Wednesday is for the birds as we see what it takes to care for eagles, owls and endangered clapper rails. Being a biologist has never been more fun!

Turtles in My Sandbox: Eggs buried in the sand, shells as big as a preschooler...what can it be? It's turtles! We'll discover these awesome reptiles and learn how cool being cold-blooded really is. We'll even get to meet baby sea turtles!



School Partnerships and School Bus Funding (10% of Work Complete)

Though this report period included holiday breaks, it was still an active month. Highlights include:

- # of Education experiences-
 - (10) Total Groups Tours (with guided docent tour)
 - (6) School Groups
 - (296) Children and (44) adults
 - Silver Gate Elementary received both admissions and transportation cost (San Diego Unified)

- # of Teachers trained
 - No trainings occurred this month (Teachers on break)

- Expected work for next progress report- January 15-February 15
 - # of Education experiences-
 - (29) Total Group Tours (27 with guided docent tour)
 - (28) School tours (5 Port-funded)
 - (840) Children and (125) Adults
 - Silver Gate Elementary will receive both admissions and transportation cost (San Diego Unified)

 - # of Teachers trained
 - (6) Teachers attending CVNC field trip orientation

 - Initial planning for a Teacher Workshop highlighting the Washed Ashore: Plastics, Sealife & Art exhibit.

 - Curricula development for and training to emphasize the Washed Ashore: Plastics, Sealife & Art exhibit and the marine debris crisis, including docent tours and guest experience activities.

Port Lobby Fish Tank (10% of Work Complete)

Staff plan developed and proposed timeline created. Plans are underway to meet with Port staff to determine location, installation date and service schedule.

Expected work for the next progress report includes meeting with Port staff regarding the above mentioned and a determined path forward.



Light-footed Clapper Rail Propagation Program

(16% of Work Complete)

Currently, the Nature Center is caring for nine Clapper Rails. The grouping consists of 2 pairs and a single female. In January, next structures are being enhanced and repaired for the captive breeding pair. Nesting material is being added to their environments.

Both breeding pairs are exhibiting positive signs in regard to breeding preparedness. (Vocalization/duets increased bathing and preening, are more easily seen.) These are behavioral changes that precede actual mating and egg laying.

The Clapper Rail Study Team is meeting on January 24th and is considering releasing a pair of rails into the Sweetwater Marsh. Expected work for the next progress report could include having eggs on site.

Summary

In addition to the education visits and experiences, 3,235 enjoyed the Nature Center during our typical slow season. Our biggest challenge during this timeframe to quickly respond to the opportunity to bring the Washed Ashore exhibit the venue prior the Spring timeline. We are looking forward to working with Convis on the rebranding of the Nature Center and how that will unfold in the marketing of the Washed Ashore exhibit. We expect a busy Spring and look forward to sharing the developing activities and timelines.