FALL 2023 UPDATE

As we celebrate nature's harvests this fall, Monterey Waterkeeper celebrates its anniversary protecting and restoring drinkable, swimmable, and fishable waters for all in the northern Central Coast. Here is a snapshot of our work and achievements in the past three months:

Fall Garden Party Fundraiser

Our second annual fall garden party was a success! In spite of the cold, guests enjoyed Monterey Bay fish, live jazz, and inspiring speeches by the Central Coast's state representatives, Senator John Laird and Assemblymember Dawn Addis. The rain held off until the very end and we raised $15,000, TWICE the amount raised last year! ***Please consider contributing to clean water for all at: www.montereywaterkeeper.org/donate***

Central Coast Water Leaders

Meet our new education & outreach manager, Emily Gottlieb! Emily leads the Central Coast Water Leaders program. Emily is an experienced educator and community science specialist, and has managed award-winning programs for the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History. Emily received a Fulbright scholarship in 2019 to conduct intertidal research in Argentina, and has a Master's in marine biodiversity and conservation from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. "Stewardship begins when people engage deeply with their environment," Emily said. "I'm excited to connect hands-on science with actions that youth and families can take to protect their water."

Reducing Agricultural Nitrate Runoff

On September 20, Monterey Waterkeeper led a coalition of advocates and residents to urge the State Water Board to strengthen the 2021 Central Coast Agricultural Order (Ag 4.0 or Order) and reduce fertilizer nitrate pollution into our drinking water, rivers, and ocean. Many communities in the Salinas Valley suffer from nitrate contamination, which can cause serious illness or death in babies (blue baby syndrome) and various cancers in adults. See a Monterey County Weekly article on this public health crisis.

Instead of strengthening Ag 4.0, the State Water Board removed the Order's limits on fertilizer pollution. The Board committed to convening an expert panel to evaluate fertilizer use data, and will give further direction to the Regional Water Boards based on the panel's recommendations. The Board also directed the Central Coast Water Board to create an alternative drinking water program for residents that rely on nitrate-contaminated water. We will participate in these next steps to ensure that the Water Boards protect the health of our families and the environment.

In gratitude,
Chelsea

Please consider donating to support clean water for all.
We are always looking for passionate volunteers and bright ideas!

831 204 1381 | Post Office Box N°855 | Seaside, California 93955 montereywaterkeeper.org
Instagram: montereywaterkeeper Facebook: Monterey Waterkeeper Twitter: MCoastkeeper