

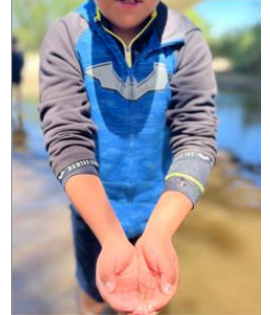


SUMMER 2023 UPDATE

As we jump into rivers, lakes, and the ocean this summer, Monterey Waterkeeper is working hard to ensure 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:

Central Coast Water Leaders

On June 3, students from Soledad visited the San Antonio River and the downstream Salinas River to experience pristine waters and learn about water pollution. Since launching the Central Coast Water Leaders program in late 2022, we have facilitated water education trips for more than 80 youth, the majority of whom are from underserved communities in the Salinas Valley.



Reducing Agricultural Nitrate Runoff

Monterey Waterkeeper is advocating to strengthen the 2021 Central Coast Agricultural Order to reduce fertilizer nitrate pollution into our drinking water and promote sustainable farming. Many residents in the Salinas Valley face nitrate contamination, which can cause serious illness or death in babies (blue baby syndrome) and various cancers in adults. Unfortunately, the State Water Board issued a [Draft Order](#) that would allow growers to continue over-applying fertilizers, and create their own timeline to clean up contaminated drinking water. [Sign up here](#) by August 15 to tell the Board to protect the Central Coast's waters during the September 19 public hearing on this important policy.

Preventing Pollution at Point Sur

Many of California's MPAs face pollution threats from industrial facilities, agricultural operations, and highway runoff. On June 28, we nominated the Point Sur MPAs to receive the first new water quality protections in California in nearly 50 years. If approved, these iconic marine ecosystems will be monitored and maintained for water quality by the State Water Board. We are proud to help facilitate new protections that will preserve these sensitive habitats for future generations. Read more about the nomination [here](#).

Marine Protected Areas for All

We are excited to receive a grant to tell the little-known history of how people of Asian descent lived in and used areas of the Monterey Bay, including present-day marine protected areas (MPAs) such as Point Lobos and Lovers Point State Marine Reserves. Through outdoor and classroom education activities, we hope that all communities feel that they belong in MPAs, and the importance of protecting our coastline and its cultural richness. We will partner with the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History and students from underserved communities in the Salinas Valley, Watsonville, and Castroville areas on this new project. This grant was awarded by Coastal Quest, with funding from the Ocean Protection Council and private foundations.

Please join us for fun kayak cleanup excursions on August 19! [RSVP here](#).

*In gratitude,
Chelsea*

*Please consider [donating](#) to support clean water for all.
We are always looking for passionate volunteers and bright ideas!*

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