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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Thousands of Volunteers Gathered Today for 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Coastal Cleanup Day**  
*Large-scale effort removes 75 tons of debris from San Diego communities*

**San Diego County, CA** – An estimated 7,500 volunteers at 102 sites gathered on Saturday, September 21 for the County’s largest volunteer event, the 29<sup>th</sup> annual Coastal Cleanup Day (CCD). Coastal Cleanup Day is part of a statewide cleanup event that engages more than 60,000 volunteers from practically every county in the state. Locally, CCD is coordinated by environmental non-profit I Love A Clean San Diego. This year, volunteers cleaned more sites than any year in the past, and in doing so demonstrated the continued importance of keeping San Diego’s communities clean and beautiful.

Throughout the day, volunteers removed trash and recycling from coastal, inland, canyon, and urban sites throughout the County. Over the course of the day, these dedicated volunteers collected more than 75 tons of trash and recycling. These sites were diverse, ranging from Bonsall to City Heights to Coronado. Keeping inland areas free of litter is crucial: 80% of the trash that ends up in the ocean originates from inland sources; it then travels through San Diego’s watersheds to the coast. The most unusual items found during today’s event include: an electric foot massager, an Ipad and Ipod (both working), and a puppy!

Trash was not the only focus of CCD 2013. Participants also helped beautify our communities through urban renewal. Because government funding for maintenance is not back to its pre-recession levels, it is even more important for volunteers to help with graffiti removal, tree planting, and urban park renewal. CCD also allowed volunteers an important opportunity to give back to their neighborhoods and served as an educational activity for children and adults alike.

Coastal Cleanup Day is a statewide event managed by the California Coastal Commission. The event is coordinated locally by I Love A Clean San Diego. This year’s event was made possible through the support of presenting sponsor San Diego Gas & Electric, with additional support from the County of San Diego and the City of San Diego’s Storm Water Department. Additional information about Coastal Cleanup Day will be posted in the coming days on the event website, [www.CleanupDay.org](http://www.CleanupDay.org).

**About I Love A Clean San Diego**

*I Love A Clean San Diego is the go-to organization for programs that enhance and conserve San Diego’s environment. Through recycling, education, and cleanups of our most beloved areas, I Love A Clean San Diego is the only community-based organization dedicated to the future of the entire county – from inland to the coast, in every community, for generations to come. For more information, visit [www.cleansd.org](http://www.cleansd.org).*

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