



March 2017

RE: Getting Involved with Newport Bay Conservancy

To Whom it May Concern,

Board of Directors

Peter Bryant, President

Tim Brown

Frances Cork

Randall English

Elizabeth Flint

Donna Flower

Molly Stallcup

Ian Swift

Pamela Winkler

Richard Zembal

The Conservancy is taking on an increasing breadth and scale of activities. Education programs are increasing in number, with more K through 12 participants than ever. We are being asked to lead habitat restoration projects in the saltmarsh, on the bluffs, and in Big Canyon. Fortunately our numbers of active, trained volunteers is also increasing, giving us the “feet on the ground” capacity to take on these responsibilities. There are also things we want to see moved forward to improve community resources around the Bay which require us to be advocating and working proactively with our partner agencies. As an example, we are working with OC Parks to design and install new interpretive signs along the trails within the Nature Preserve, and hope to start work with State Fish & Wildlife on similar new signage along Back Bay Drive. At the same time we have been actively opposing the State’s plan to begin levying a charge for users of the Big Canyon parking lot and loop trail. We are also talking with the City to try to find a solution to the problem of trash in the Bay. We do not support their proposal to install a trash collection device within the Bay itself and are engaged in discussions to find a solution which can be placed in the San Diego creek, the main source of trash and dead vegetation.

Advisory Board

Buck Johns

Colleen Johns

Jean Watt

Ron Yeo

All of this means we need more people who would like to get directly involved in helping us fulfill our mission to preserve and protect the Bay both at a Conservancy-wide level by serving on our Board, and on the different committees which focus on particular aspects of our work, especially marketing, fundraising and advocacy.

If you would like more information about these opportunities to get more involved in leading the Conservancy, please contact any member of the Board Development Committee, listed below.

Sincerely,

Peter Bryant, Board President

Tim Brown, Board Development Chair, tim-brown@sbcglobal.net

Howard Cork, howard.cork@newportbay.org

Elizabeth Flint, lizflint@gmail.com

Virginia Hayter, vhayter@yahoo.com

ABOUT: Newport Bay Conservancy is a California non-profit public benefit corporation driven by a dedicated Board, three committed employees and over 200 diverse volunteers.

VISION: To inspire the community to protect and preserve the natural beauty and ecological value of Upper Newport Bay for future generations.

EDUCATION – Conducting environmental nature programs and tours for school groups and the public designed to enhance knowledge and appreciation of the Bay.

- Over 38,000 people served annually through a plethora of programs including school field trips, public kayak tours, visitor assistance at the Peter and Mary Muth Center and more.
- Volunteers routinely contribute over 10,000 hours each year in program, administration and strategic support

RESTORATION – Managing community-based native habitat restoration projects designed to preserve and protect the Bay.

- During Coastal Cleanup Day 1,000 volunteers removed 10,000 lbs. of trash from the waterway
- Volunteers logged over 700 hours at two sites to restore native habitat in the Bayview restoration project

RESEARCH – Supporting science-based adaptive management of protected tidelands and uplands in the heart of Newport Beach.

- Conducting five-year project to eradicate Algerian Sea Lavender from the upper marsh
- Working with strategic partner conduct monthly Marine Life Inventory

ADVOCACY – In 2018, NBC will celebrate fifty years of fulfilling the Robinson's vision to enlist broad support for the retention and protection of the Bay in its natural state.

- Host Annual Symposia addressing environmental topics on World Wetlands Day
- Encourage over 1,500 annual visitors to take a stand on ways to protect our planet and preserve it for the future at annual Earth Day celebration

Upper Newport Bay: One of the largest natural estuaries in Southern California comprised of 1,000 acres of wetland and corresponding upland habitat for thousands of species of flora and fauna, including a handful of endangered organisms.

Land-owning partners include OC Parks, California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the City of Newport Beach.

Protecting and Preserving the Upper Newport Bay Since 1968