



NEWPORT BAY CONSERVANCY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNUAL MEETING  
Thursday, November 7, 2024, 7:00 PM,  
In-person, Peter and Mary Muth Interpretive Center & **ZOOM**

Attending current Board Officers and Nominated Board Members:

President - Cassandra Radcliff

Board Members – Peter Bryant, Saam Shams, Bettina Eastman, Mario Cuevas, Susan Jarratt, Bryan Tsu, Ramraghi Fuller, Stacey Tutt, Susie Onate

Nominated Board Members - McKenna Wegner, Julie Powers, Lori Metherate, Yugina Yun

Staff and guests - Heather Cieslak

OC Parks – Molly Waldram

Excused Absence - Rubi Ontiveros, Cesar Gallo

7:04 Call to order/roll call: Cassandra Radcliff, President

Cassandra welcomed all in attendance in person and on zoom, and thanked everyone for their volunteer efforts the past year and making 2024 a great year.

Approval of Minutes of 2023: No changes were presented. Stacey Tutt moves to approve the minutes from 2023; Ramraghi seconds; approved by acclamation.

The Annual Report presentation (attached) kicked off with President Cassandra Radcliff who highlighted the year's accomplishments between Board, staff and volunteers.

Treasurer, Ramraghi Fuller, presented the Financial Report.

Operations Director, Heather Cieslak, in memory honored Allan Beek, Andy Lingle and Dennis Kelly, all who made significant impacts on the Bay and gave thanks to the outgoing Board Members, Rahmragi Fuller (departing Treasurer), Cesar Gallo (departing Vice-President), Susan Jarratt (departing Secretary), Cassandra Radcliff (departing President) and Saam Shams.

Board Development Chair, Stacey Tutt, presented the proposed board candidates and proposed changes to the bylaws, extending board members' terms from 2 years to 3 years. A pause in the meeting was held while ballots were collected and tallied. We established that there was a quorum for voting and tallied mail-in and on-site votes. All old and new candidates received a majority of the votes.

The new Board of Directors is now comprised of:

Peter Bryant (New term ending 2027)  
Lori Metherate (New term ending 2027)  
Julia Powers (New term ending 2027)  
McKenna Wegner (New term ending 2027)  
Yugina Yun (New term ending 2027)

Mario Cuevas (Updated term ending 2026)  
Bettina Eastman (Updated term ending 2026)  
Bryan Tsu (Updated term ending 2026)

Susie Onate (Existing term ending 2025)  
Rubi Ontiveros (Existing term ending 2025)  
Stacey Tutt (Existing term ending 2025)

Molly Waldram (OC Parks representative)

7:55: Adjournment motioned by Stacey Tutt, seconded by Mario Cuevas; approved by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan Tsu, President in lieu of Susie Onate, Secretary

# Newport Bay Conservancy 2024 Annual Meeting



## Board of Directors

Cassandra Radcliff, President  
Cesar Gallo, Vice President  
Ramraghi Fuller, Treasurer  
Susie Onate, Secretary  
  
Peter Bryant, Mario Cuevas, Bettina Eastman, Rubi Garcia,  
Susan Jarratt, Saam Shams, Bryan Tsu, Stacey Tutt, Molly Waldram



## Our Mission

Protect and preserve the Upper  
Newport Bay and its watershed  
through education, restoration,  
research and advocacy.

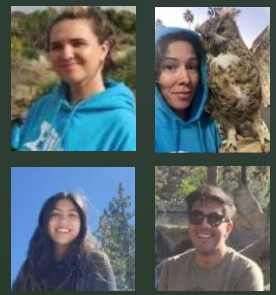


We acknowledge that our work takes place on the ancestral lands of native peoples, original inhabitants and stewards of this territory. We respect their continuing connection to these lands and waters.

## Staff



Heather Cieslak, Operations Director  
Hilary Cunningham, Education Manager  
Alys Arenas, Restoration Manager (until April 2024)  
Chris Fabela, Habitat Restoration Coordinator  
David Banuelas, Habitat Restoration Technician II  
Randall English, Habitat Restoration Technician II (April 2024)  
Claire Phillips, Habitat Restoration Technician  
Mariah Sabo, Education Specialist  
Alex Sasikumar, Outdoor Activity Leader  
Isabelle Beltran, Outdoor Activity Leader  
Damian Pizano, Outdoor Activity Leader



## Volunteers

October 2023 to  
September 2024

147 volunteers  
submitted hours

49 voting members

6,900+ total  
volunteer hours!



# Thank You!

Linda Barker, 488  
Don Millar, 386  
Gwenn Abrams, 320  
Ken Yamagata, 252  
Arvid Spor, 247

**Over 100 Hours**

Denise Blocher  
Judy Booth  
Candy Chapman  
Susan Esch  
Mary Gartung  
Patricia Goheen  
John Kueny  
Teresa Kueny

Annette McCall  
Lori Metherate  
Cassandra Radcliff  
Jean Savage  
Jane Welgan



**Gwenn Abrams - OC Parks  
Volunteer of the Year for UNB**

# Board Committees

- Bylaws Committee
- Board Development Committee
- Finance Committee
- Fundraising Committee
- Education Committee
- Community Outreach Committee
- Research and Advocacy Committee
- Restoration Committee
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee

# Education: Volunteer and Naturalist Training

Naturalist Training  
Fall 2023  
16 naturalists graduated  
  
Naturalist Training  
Fall 2024  
12 trainees

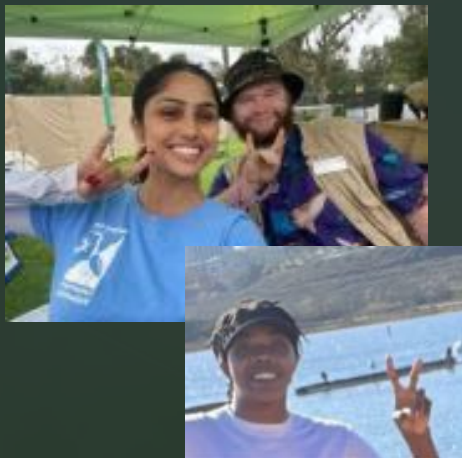


NBC/OC Parks Volunteer  
4 trainings onboarding  
56 associate volunteers

## Education: College Corps

2023/2024  
3 UCI Fellows

2024/2025  
3 UCI Fellows  
2 Vanguard Fellows



## Education: New Naturalists in Action

Summer Solstice  
Lantern & Meditation



Nature Scavenger Hunt

## Education: Muth School Tours & Community Day

27 Grade school field trips  
Tuesday mornings, 1,346 students



Community Day at the Back Bay  
Science Center  
Sundays 10am-2pm  
over 2,000 visitors

## Education: FiiN Program serving 560 students

Heather Cieslak, Bugs  
Hilary Cunningham, Hurricane  
Mariah Sabo, Mermaid  
Brooke Medina, Pika  
Cameron Stairs, Mugwort  
Catherine Ishii, Willow  
Clarissa Galindo, Clay  
Cody Groom, Goby  
Daniella Hernandez, Prickly Pear  
Denise Blocher, Baleen  
Diego Fuentes, Cacti  
Eden Britton, Moon Jelly  
Eunice Avila, Grizzly  
Isabelle McNall, Newt  
Jenna Bailey, Coral  
Jordan Navarro, Sage  
Kaysen Pajarillo, Mulefat  
Maddy McDonald, Sunny  
Madison Ta, Bobcat

Marina Rice, Blue Shark  
Michael Jiang, Turkey Vulture  
Nikki Logan, Sea Lavender  
Tiffany Sun, Ray  
Tin Duc Nguyen, Rail



## Education: California Boating & Safety

Grants to provide 700 scholarships for students as part of the Environmental Education Program



## Community Outreach



OC Marathon



Friends Tour



Heroes Elementary Fall Festival

## Research



## Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

- Grant applications
- Earth Day Exit Survey
- Outreach events & school field trips
- Translating materials into Spanish
- Expanding accessibility



# Restoration Committee



# Big Canyon Restoration



Corporate Group Attendees:

- Clark Construction
- Edison Energy
- JWCE
- AAA
- Fleetguard
- PIMCO

Highlights

- Removed six, 40-yard dumpsters of vegetation from the canyon, estimated to weigh almost 60,000 lbs
- Recorded more than 1,730 hours of support given by volunteers
- Planted 250 native plants throughout the canyon

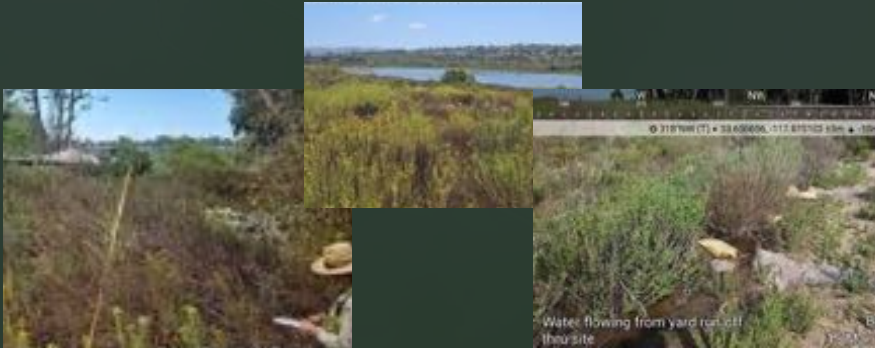
# Big Canyon: Phase III, Fall 2025



## Monitoring & Maintenance

### Bayview Heights Drainage

- Mitigation site to address erosion between two residential homes
- NBC contracted by the City to conduct maintenance and monitoring
- New runoff drainage and erosion into Basin from backyard of residential home



## Invasive Species Control Efforts

### USFWS/Warne Foundation Grants

Invasive Limonium (1,647 hours spent removing 10,000 lbs plant material)

Algerian Sea Lavender (*Limonium ramosissimum*),  
European Sea Lavender (*Limonium duriusculum*),  
Asian sea lavender (*Limonium otolepis*)



Desert Knapweed (1,168 plants removed)

*Voluntaria tubuliflora*



## Weed Warrior Program 2024

- Volunteers trained in mapping invasive species and collecting data using Field Maps application
- 324 observations, 25 species, ~2 acres of infested area documented
- Will start up again for the third season in 2025



## Other Restoration Events

- Second Sundays with OC Parks
- Sow & Grow Fridays
- Monthly bird surveys in Big Canyon (all levels welcome)
- Adopt-A-Plot
- Restoration field trips with Sage Hill, Early College High School, Biola University and others
- Added restoration option to outrigger tours



## Restoration Outreach

- UCI Networking Event
- CNPS BIPOC Kayak Tour
- San Bernardino Community College Tour
- Teachers Conference Tour
- Santa Ana Art Collective, regular removal of cattails in Big Canyon
- Ecological Society of America Kayak Tour
- California Society for Ecological Restoration Conference
- Kizh Nation, Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians



## Major Public Events:

Earth Day at the Bay  
2,800 people



## Back Bay Plein Air Art Festival



10-day exhibition  
1,000+ attendees  
88 paintings sold from 34 artists  
\$22,000 to artists  
\$11,000 to NBC programs



## Gourmet By the Bay



80 people enjoyed an evening at the Bay,  
raising roughly \$18,000 for our programs

## Coastal Cleanup Day



Over 600 volunteers  
12,000 pounds of trash removed  
Most interesting find:  
Mud Minion



## Kayak Tours - 670 kayakers



## Thank You to Our Partners

- City of Newport Beach and Newport City Council
- Orange County Parks and OC Board of Supervisors
- California Department of Fish & Wildlife



## Treasurer's Report



**Project Bay Watersheds & Friends**  
**Monthly Financial Statements**  
**By the Treasurer Monthly Budget December 31, 2023**

|                      | Actual        | Budget        | Variance     |                       | Actual        | Budget        | Variance |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|----------|
| <b>REVENUE</b>       |               |               |              | <b>EXPENSES</b>       |               |               |          |
| Membership           | 11,100        | 10,000        | 1,100        | Administrative        | 10,000        | 10,000        | 0        |
| Donations            | 10,000        | 10,000        | 0            | Education             | 10,000        | 10,000        | 0        |
| Grants               | 10,000        | 10,000        | 0            | Restoration           | 10,000        | 10,000        | 0        |
| Other                | 10,000        | 10,000        | 0            | Other                 | 10,000        | 10,000        | 0        |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUE</b> | <b>41,100</b> | <b>40,000</b> | <b>1,100</b> | <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b> | <b>40,000</b> | <b>40,000</b> | <b>0</b> |
| <b>Net Income</b>    | <b>1,100</b>  | <b>0</b>      | <b>1,100</b> |                       |               |               |          |

## Highlights

### 2023-24:

- Continue to reconcile high revenues and expenses for 10 ongoing education and restoration grant projects.
- Wrapping up the state funding for the Big Canyon Phase II Restoration but the retainage (withholding 5-10%) makes it hard to manage cash flow which is dipping into our reserves.

### 2024-2025:

- Look to transition duties from current Treasurer to new Treasurer.
- Still need to build our reserves to \$250,000 or more to maintain our regular programming while taking on larger restoration projects.

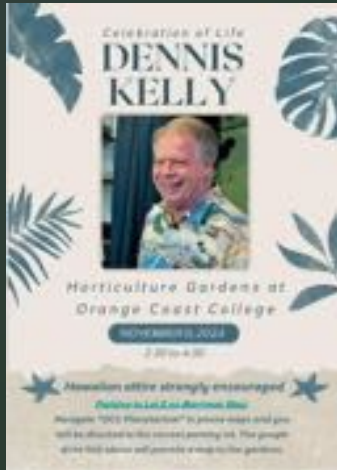
## In Memoriam - Allan Beek



## In Memoriam - Andy Lingle



## In Memoriam - Dennis Kelly



In Memoriam  
A minute for quiet reflection



## THANK YOU to our outgoing Board Members



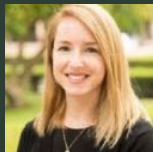
**Ramraghi Fuller**  
Board Member 2020-2024  
Treasurer



**Cesar Gallo**  
Board Member 2022-2024  
Vice President, Community  
Outreach Committee Chair



**Susan Jarratt**  
Board Member 2020-2024  
DEI Committee Chair  
Secretary



**Cassandra Radcliff**  
Board Member 2020-2024  
President, Vice President, Community  
Outreach Committee Chair



**Stacey Tutt**  
Board Member 2022-2024  
Board Development  
Committee Chair



**Saam Shams**  
Board Member 2022-2024  
Restoration Committee Chair

## Presentation of Board Candidates (Approved by voting membership on 11/7/24)

### Proposed Candidates for Board of Directors

|                          |                |              |
|--------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Peter Bryant (Incumbent) | Lori Metharate | Julie Powers |
| McKenna Wegner           | Yugina Yun     |              |

### Current Directors whose term ends in 2025

|                         |                 |             |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Mario Cuevas            | Bettina Eastman | Susie Onate |
| Rubi Ontiveros (Garcia) | Bryan Tsu       |             |

### Proposed Representative appointed by OC Parks per our MOU

Molly Waldram

### Proposed Non-Board Members of the Board Development Committee

|               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| Nancy Gardner | Taylor Sais |
|---------------|-------------|

# Proposed Bylaws Changes

(Approved by voting membership on 11/7/24)

## ARTICLE V – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Section 3. Term.** The term of service for Board members shall be ~~two~~ **three** years, and shall start upon election at the annual meeting. ~~The terms of half plus one of the Board members shall commence in even numbered years and the terms of the remaining members shall commence in odd numbered years. Board terms shall be staggered to have 1/3 of the Board members terms commencing at the annual meeting.~~ No more than ~~two~~ **three** terms shall be served consecutively.

## ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS

**Section 4. Term.** Officers shall serve a one-year term beginning immediately upon their election at the November meeting. No member may hold more than one office at a time. ~~No member may be elected to office if their board term expires at the same time as their officer term. Board members are not precluded from serving as an officer during the last year of their board term contingent upon the officer committing to an additional board term.~~

## BREAK

### Support NBC Online

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- **Facebook** @newportbay
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- **LinkedIn** @newport-bay-naturalists-and-friends

## Adjourned



Thank  
you for  
coming!