



***MEDIA RELEASE FROM***  
**OAKLAND PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY**

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**For Immediate Release:**  
**September 4, 2009**

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**Volunteers Needed to Lend a Helping Hand  
to Oakland's Creeks**

**WHAT:** Oakland's **Creek to Bay Day**, volunteer creek cleanup and beautification event

**WHERE:** Lake Merritt, Oakland Estuary and creek locations throughout Oakland

**WHEN:** **Saturday, September 19, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon**

**WHO:** City of Oakland and community volunteers

**Oakland, CA** – Volunteers are needed for Oakland's 14<sup>th</sup> annual *Creek to Bay Day* event to help clean and protect Oakland's creeks, Lake Merritt and the Oakland Estuary. This event is part of the 25<sup>th</sup> annual *California Coastal Cleanup Day*, presented by the California Coastal Commission. Volunteers will help with trash pickup, non-native plant removal, planting creek sides with California native plants, and metal storm drain marker installation around the city.

Groups of all ages are welcome to participate in this community event, so gather your friends, family and coworkers to help improve the health of local communities and the environment. Complete event information and clean-up site details are available at [www.oaklandcreektobay.org](http://www.oaklandcreektobay.org).

Last year's *Creek to Bay Day* had over 1,300 participants volunteering at 24 different locations across Oakland. Volunteers picked up over 5 tons of trash from Oakland's

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creeks, Estuary and Lake Merritt, and removed 321 cubic yards of non-native green waste from our creeks to allow native plants to flourish. Cleaning up our waterways prevents litter from being washed through our creeks and to the Bay where it can harm wildlife. The data collected about items commonly found by our *Creek to Bay Day* volunteers reveals important information about potential sources of marine debris and pollution. Items like plastic bags and packaging, cigarette butts, bottle caps, Styrofoam, batteries, electronics and tires often travel downstream and damage fragile creek and bay ecosystems.

Without volunteer support, this trash would persist in the local environment and continue to cause harm. *Creek to Bay Day* is an opportunity for residents to see first hand the connection between littering, pollution and the health of our watershed, and to work with their community to mitigate the problem. With 24 sites conducting cleanup and beautification activities this year, we welcome and encourage community members to join this volunteer effort and help make ***Creek to Bay Day 2009*** a success.

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