



NEWS FROM **OAKLAND PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY**

MEDIA ADVISORY
September 13, 2010

Contact: Bryn Samuel (510) 238-6227
Mark Gomez (510) 238-7314
For Publication: **EVENT HOTLINE** (510) 238-7611

Volunteers Needed to Lend Helping Hands to Oakland's Creeks

Oakland, CA – Volunteers are needed for Oakland's 15th annual Creek to Bay Day to help clean and beautify Oakland's creeks, Lake Merritt and the Oakland Estuary. This event is part of the annual California Coastal Cleanup Day, sponsored by the California Coastal Commission. Volunteers will pick up trash, remove invasive plants, plant California native species and install educational storm drain markers around the city. Groups of all ages are welcome to participate in this community event, so gather your friends, family and co-workers to help improve the health of our community and environment. Complete event information, including volunteer locations, is available at www.oaklandcreektobay.org.

WHAT: Oakland's Creek to Bay Day, volunteer clean-up & beautification event

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

WHEN: Saturday, September 25, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon

WHO: City of Oakland and community volunteers

Last year's Creek to Bay Day saw over 1,500 participants volunteer at 24 different locations throughout Oakland. Volunteers picked up over two tons of trash from Oakland's creeks, estuary and Lake Merritt, and removed 290 cubic yards of non-native green waste to allow native plants to flourish.

Cleaning up our waterways prevents litter from being washed through our creeks to the Bay where it can harm wildlife. Items commonly found by our volunteers reveal important information about sources of marine debris and pollution. Plastic bags and packaging, cigarette butts, bottle caps, Styrofoam, batteries, electronics and tires often travel downstream and damage our fragile creek and Bay ecosystems. With volunteer support, this trash can be removed before it causes serious harm. Creek to Bay Day is an opportunity for residents to see first hand the connections between littering, pollution and the health of our watershed, and to work with their neighbors to improve the quality of our waterways. With 26 sites conducting clean up and beautification activities this year, there are plenty of locations for everyone to join this volunteer effort and make a difference in their community and backyard.

For more information and to sign up, please visit www.oaklandcreektobay.org.

###