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## California Coastal Cleanup Day coming Saturday, Sept. 21

By Lynn Adams | *Special to the Pacifica Tribune*

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"Let's make trash extinct" is the motto of California Cleanup Day, which is fast approaching, and in Pacifica people have been working very hard to make that happen. This California Coastal Cleanup Day, Saturday, Sept. 21, from 9 to 11:30 a.m., we will conduct beach/street/park cleanups that include counting surveys of the top 10 trash items at each site. This important tool helps us to assess the level of trash in our environment, whether it is increasing or decreasing or changing in type of trash. You may recall the aluminum ring pulls from soda cans we used to find, but which are no longer found since the design of the cans has changed to retain the ring pull on the can after opening. That is the kind of action that comes from such data; data that support a need and lead to a solution.

Data are collected by the Pacifica Beach Coalition and reported to the California Coastal Commission, who announces our findings on local radio and TV, and also crunches the data to compare with national and global results. Locally in Pacifica, Daly City, and throughout the County there will be many sites where the counts will take place during cleanups. Teams will be equipped with tally forms that list the top ten most frequently picked up items, such as cigarette butts, cigar wrappers, candy wrappers, plastic bags, etc. Working in teams, volunteers pick up trash while another keeps count, and at the end they report their findings to Site Captains. This year it will be interesting to observe if we see a reduction in plastic bags due to the recent ban on retail plastic bag issue that started on Earth Day this year.

Continuing our educational journey from Earth Day in April, we will again honor the shark as our Earth Hero. We are again seeking volunteers from schools, colleges, businesses, churches, Boy & Girl Scout troops, community groups and the public to adopt or help at the many Pacifica sites.

You are welcome to join any site on Sept. 21, but if you would like to bring a team of colleagues or friends to the counting cleanup, please contact the Pacifica Beach Coalition at [pickituppacific@gmail.com](mailto:pickituppacific@gmail.com) (<mailto:pickituppacific@gmail.com>) or call 355-1668 to register for a location in need. More info can be found at [www.pacificabeachcoalition.org](http://www.pacificabeachcoalition.org) (<http://www.pacificabeachcoalition.org>).

-- Lynn Adams, Pacifica Beach Coalition

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