

COASTAL CURRENTS

SEPTEMBER 2019

Coastal San Pedro
Neighborhood Council
1840 S. Gaffey St., #34
San Pedro, CA 90731

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Your Part in Emergency Preparedness: Good News and a Little Nagging

The recent flurry of earthquakes in the California desert inspired the news media and government officials to hit the panic button.

We've been getting all sorts of well-meaning advice from television and radio. They aren't wrong—we should all stock up on food, water, and our prescription medicines, but there is more to it than that.

The problem is that the chance of a really big earthquake has always been with us and will continue to be with us. Emergency preparedness involves community organization in addition to our personal stockpiling.

The good news is that we will survive even the worst earthquake or massive flood. Here's the bad news: should the "Big One" happen anytime soon, we will be left without running water and electricity for days and perhaps weeks. That's where a bit of advance preparation on your part comes in. It is also where your neighborhood council has a role.

The city has asked the neighborhood councils to develop plans for getting all of us up to speed in case a natural disaster happens. In your case, it's as simple as stocking up on one or two weeks worth of water and food, and perhaps teaching yourself some rudimentary survival skills.

In coming months, this neighborhood council will put up links on our web page that will allow you to find survival supplies and sign up for training programs.

There is a program called CERT, which stands for Community Emergency Response Team. It was developed by the Los Angeles Fire Department beginning in 1985 as a way to get members of the public prepared to deal with earthquakes and other

natural disasters. This neighborhood council will be working with the LAFD to present CERT training to the public in the coming months.

As part of the citywide program, this neighborhood council is a member of an organization called the Neighborhood Council Emergency Preparedness Alliance.

The Alliance has been conferring with representatives of the Fire Department, the Police Department, and other agencies that will be responsible for public safety in the event of an earthquake or a fire.

Did you know that the Department of Parks and Recreation has a plan because people tend to go to parks and open spaces when disasters occur? Did

you know that the American Red Cross is prepared to set up temporary shelters for anybody who is displaced?

Your part is to be prepared to live comfortably without electricity or running water for at least a week if the worst shaker happens. We will be providing lists of items you should have (such as a battery powered AM radio) and information about upcoming meetings on our Cspnc.org website.

Your first assignment is to have 10 gallons of water for each person in your household.

Some links to helpful websites:

www.cspnc.org

www.cert-la.com

www.EmpowerLA.org



The Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council Governing Board meets on the third Monday of each month (except in January and February, when meetings are held the third Tuesday because of holidays). Everyone is welcome. For more information, visit CSPNC.org. (Photo by Shannon Ross)



Artist's rendering of the Bridge Home shelter on Beacon Street in San Pedro. Slated to begin construction soon, the project is expected to be completed sometime during the first quarter of 2020.

2019 Homeless Count Results

Results of the 2019 census of homeless persons conducted by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) showed a total of 616 in San Pedro. These include 95 living in emergency shelters and transitional housing. The 521 unsheltered individuals number 280 living in vehicles, 170 in makeshift shelters and tents, and 71 on the street.

These numbers represent an increase of slightly more than 24 percent from the 496 homeless counted in the 2018 census. Much of the increase results from greater numbers living in vehicles (up 44 percent from last year).

For homeless count information on San Pedro, visit the LAHSA website at <https://www.lahsa.org/dashboards?id=13-2019-homeless-count-by-community-city&ref=hc>.

'A Bridge Home' Update

There are three shelters planned for the 15th Council District. These "Bridge Home" facilities are intended to take people off the streets and transition them to permanent housing. The first of the 15th District shelters is expected to open in Watts before the end of this year. The second, in San Pedro, is planned to begin operation during the first quarter of 2020. The third, in Wilmington, should open sometime next year.

More informaton on "A Bridge Home" is online at <https://www.lamayor.org/ABridgeHome>.

CSPNC Will Help Prepare Your Neighborhood for Emergencies

In the spring, Kathleen Martin of the CSPNC Emergency Preparedness Committee spearheaded the city's first-ever multi-neighborhood training session of the Ready Your LA Neighborhood (RY-LAN) program in San Pedro.

The program is designed to organize your neighborhood for a disaster. When disaster hits, 911 will be overwhelmed and your best source of help will be your neighbors.

The first 60 minutes following a disaster are "golden" for saving lives, reducing the severity of injuries and decreasing property damage.

To organize your neighborhood for a disaster, reach out to neighborhood council member Kathleen Martin at pedrogaels@gmail.com.

Your neighborhood will walk away with a Neighborhood Response Plan, neighborhood map, and an "OK/Help" card.

GOVERNMENT AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

If you're in search of help, the following information may be of use.

LAPD non-emergency: 1-877-ASK-LAPD (1-877-275-5273)

CalTrans Maintenance Request: caltrans.ca.gov/onlineservices.html

Abandoned vehicles: 800-222-6366

Animal Regulations: 888-452-7381

Anti Drug Hotline (Anonymous): 800-662-2878

Bureau of Street Services: 800-996-2489

City services: call 311 or get MyLA311 app (info at www.myla311.lacity.org)

Landlord/Tenant Disputes: 213-974-6600

LAPD Harbor Division front desk: 310-726-7700

LAPD Harbor Division Community Relations: 310-726-7920

LAPD Jail Division: 213-356-3400

Department of Water & Power: 800-342-5397

Graffiti removal 213-978-0228

Jail information (Los Angeles County): 213-473-6100

Los Angeles County Information: 2-1-1

Neighborhood Prosecutor: 213-978-7878

Transportation (parking violations): 866-561-9742

Transportation (abandoned vehicles): 1-800-222-6366

Dispute Resolution Program(free mediation of non-criminal civil disputes—legal advice is not provided): 213-978-1880

Bulky item pick up: 800-773-2489

15th District Council Office: 310-732-4515

Illegal dumped trash: 800-974-9794

Mental Health Triage: 213-798-6318

Quality of Life Car: 310-726-6920

Parking Enforcement: 213-485-4184



One Call
to City Hall **311**



The Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council

Our Purpose and Function

Neighborhood councils provide a way for people to get together and discuss their mutual concerns, and then have those concerns communicated directly to our city government.

Representatives of local officials frequently attend our meetings. We also welcome the LAPD senior lead officers, who report on crime trends and confer with us regarding issues such as parking, graffiti, and violent crime.

The governing board hears public comments at the beginning of every meeting and also receives public input on each agenda item. The public comment period often results in the creation of a resolution or action item to be taken up at a later board meeting.

The city funds each neighborhood council at the rate of \$42,000 a year. This is used to publish this newsletter and publicize the council. Money is also allocated in a number of ways, including support of local cultural activities, youth programs, crime prevention, and education. The city has rules which limit the acceptable uses and which provide for audits and oversight by city departments. This newsletter reports on expenditures.

Monthly Meetings

We meet every month on the third Monday, except in January and February, when we meet on the third Tuesday because of federal holidays. Our next meetings are scheduled for October 21, November 18, and December 16. The meetings are held at the Cabrillo Marina Community Center, 2965 Via Cabrillo Marina, near the DoubleTree Hotel at the southern end of Via Cabrillo Marina.

Meeting Agendas

Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council meeting agendas are posted on our website, cspnc.org, and on the window at The Mailroom, 1840 South Gaffey Street, San Pedro, CA 90731.

For more information, please visit us online at cspnc.org.

CSPNC Committees

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Communications

Shannon Ross, Chair

Emergency Preparedness and Public Safety

Robert Gelfand, Chair

Homelessness

Kathleen Martin, Chair

Parks and Coastline

Noel Gould, Chair

Planning and Transportation

Robin Rudisill, Chair

Port

Louis Dominguez, Chair

Sustainability and Environment

Richard Havenick, Chair

Ad Hoc Committee on Sunken City

Noel Gould, Chair

Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council Receives EmpowerLA Award

Congratulations to the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council as recipients of a 2019 EmpowerLA Award on March 28, 2019. The award citation states:

The formation of the Council District 15 Working Group for Homelessness allowed Coastal San Pedro Homelessness Committee to leverage the voices of all of the Neighborhood Councils in support of Mayor Garcetti's A Bridge Home Project.

The group was instrumental in bringing the facts directly from the Councilman's Office and City on the issues and efforts being made to address homelessness to all of the Neighborhood Councils.

In May of 2018, Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council initiated—along with several other Neighborhood Councils in the Council District—the first districtwide Working Group on Homelessness to empower stakeholders to engage in this work directly and share information and resources to other stakeholders in a more timely and informed manner—seeking to advance the City's homeless initiatives in a hyper-local setting.

This group has been recognized by the Mayor's Office personally as the first group of this type in the City. Without hyperlocal, grassroots leadership and education, implementing solutions to alleviate and solve our homeless crisis has been near-impossible. This group is a model of effective collaboration. By leveraging the structures that already exist, it is seeking to help solve one of our City's most complex issues—starting in the community.



The Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council was nominated by Amber Sheikh-Ginsberg, recipient of the 2019 annual Pioneer Women of the Year Award, which honors leaders who champion gender equality in our city.

In 2018, she spearheaded the formation of a council district-wide, public-private coalition to support ending and alleviating homelessness in Council District 15.

EMPOWERLA Awards

The Board of Neighborhood Commissioners celebrates the achievements of Neighborhood Councils by presenting EmpowerLA Awards to those certified Neighborhood Councils that best achieve their mission to engage their local stakeholders with government and make their government more accountable and responsive to the needs of their communities.

The EmpowerLA Awards were created to highlight the highest ideals of inclusiveness, non-discrimination, transparency and independence for the Neighborhood Council system.

Through the EmpowerLA Awards, the Commission hopes to encourage Neighborhood Councils to be continually elevating the standards and best practices for community engagement, and improving their effectiveness for the coming decades.

Governing Board Members

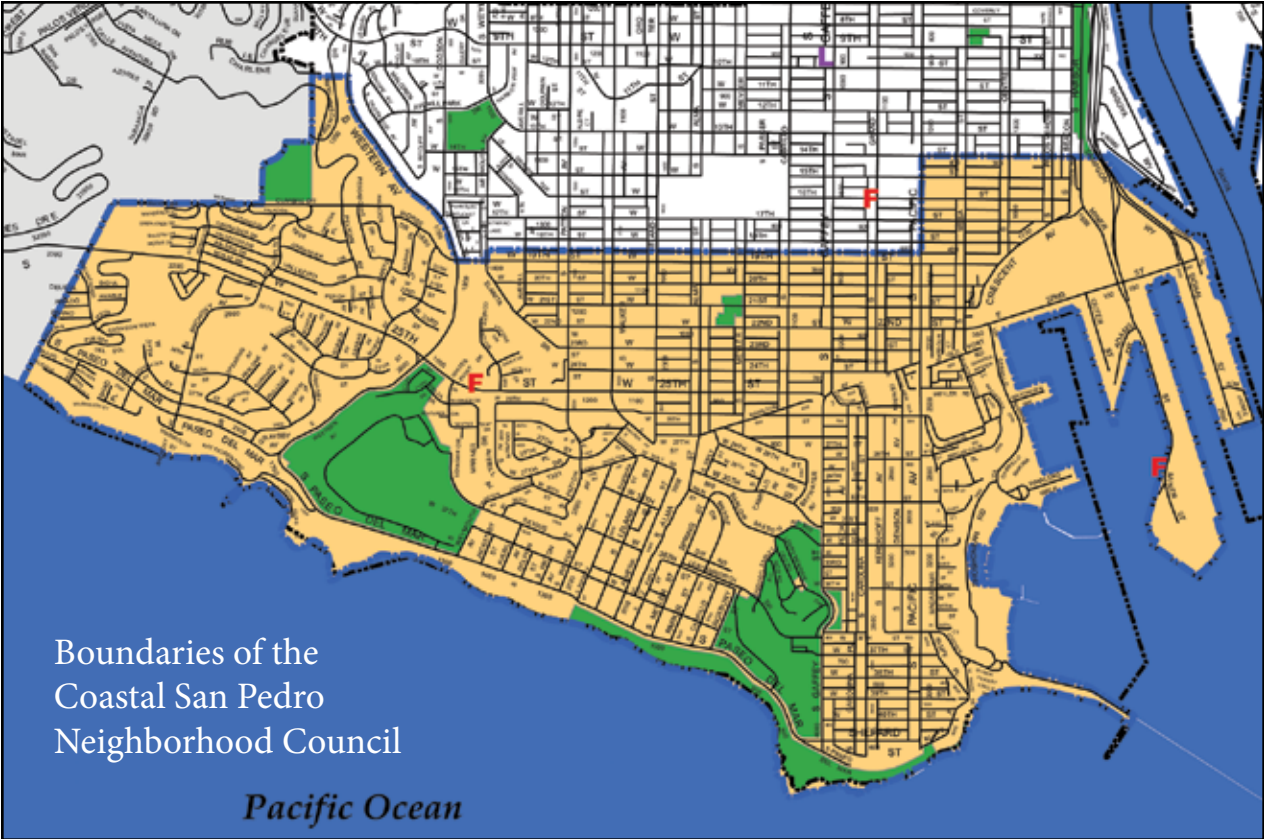
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Los Angeles Maritime Museum Opens Exhibit Featuring Sub *USS Los Angeles*

Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council is a Sponsor

The Los Angeles Maritime Museum, located in the historic ferry building at the foot of Sixth Street in San Pedro, recently opened its newest exhibit. Featuring recreations of eating and sleeping accommodations on the nuclear submarine, which entered service in 1976, visitors are given a glimpse of what life on the 362-foot vessel was like.

In addition to the artifacts donated by the U.S. Navy, reader boards offer illustrations and video of the sub's history. Also in the museum's Navy Hall, you will find a model of the World War II-era heavy cruiser *U.S.S. Los Angeles*.

The museum, which draws about 50,000 visi-

tors a year, also offers exhibits focusing on the maritime history of San Pedro and Wilmington, including the fishing and canning industry based on Terminal Island. There is an area for children to learn about the port and its many activities.

The museum is open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (last entry at 4:30), Tuesday through Sunday. Due to construction along the waterfront, the museum will be closing temporarily sometime after the first of the year.

For more information, visit lamaritimemuseum.org



The newly-opened exhibit features artifacts from the eating and sleeping quarters aboard the U.S.S. Los Angeles. The submarine was commissioned in 1976 and ended its U.S. Navy service in 2010.



1932 SAN PEDRO? Sixth Street made up for the recent filming of HBO's Perry Mason miniseries.

What Are They Filming?

Have you ever seen a film crew working around town and wondered what they were shooting? San Pedro frequently stands in for many different locations in many different eras (sometimes even contemporary San Pedro).

If you're curious about what's being shot, you can sign up at FilmLA.com to get email notifications about film permits. The link is <https://www.filmla.com/communities/notification/>

To receive notifications for San Pedro, click on San Pedro Business District (downtown) and San Pedro South, which covers everything below 13th Street extending to Paseo del Mar, as well as Terminal Island.

Neighbors, Council Call for Bike Path and 22nd Street Park Area Next to Crescent Avenue to be Restored and Maintained

When the 22nd Street Park was completed by the Port of Los Angeles (POLA) in 2010, it was a welcome improvement to an area of San Pedro that had few green spaces for public use. As described on POLA's website, it was "Bounded by 22nd Street, Crescent Avenue and Miner Street..."

The area along the Crescent bike path on the bluff was landscaped by POLA. It was the pathway to coastal access for the surrounding neighborhoods, with stairs to the lower park area, and an integral part of the 22nd Street Park.

At the north and south ends of this area, and in portions of the slope below, landscaping was installed with a mixture of native and ornamental plants and irrigation systems.

Areas in between were surfaced with river rock and organic landscaping mulch. It was a welcoming area for San Pedro residents to use and to connect with the waterfront, with a wide vista of the main channel, marinas, and blue water.

If you have you driven by or walked through this area recently, along Crescent Avenue or the bike path, you have probably noticed the terrible conditions; both on the top of the bluff and in areas of the slope below. Virtually the entire area is overgrown with weeds, covering even the extensive areas of river rock. At present it is a public safety and fire hazard and presents an obstacle to community access from local neighborhoods.

What happened? The landscaping in this area was maintained by POLA for some years. But, over time less and less attention was given this area. In the last two or three years it seemed that, except for minimal attention given to the immediate vicinity of the bike path, all landscape maintenance by POLA gardeners on the top of the bluffs and on much of the slope below the bike path, had ceased.

Last year more residents began to complain to POLA about the apparent abandonment of this area. At one point, POLA took the position that the area between the bike path and Crescent Avenue was not within POLA's boundary, and therefore, not POLA's responsibility.

But there is some history here. Prior to the construction of the 22nd Street Park, there were many public meetings at which community

stakeholders, working with POLA, hammered out a consensus for development of a park from Miner and 22nd Street to Crescent Avenue.

POLA expended significant funds to develop this park (\$10.5 million) and the cost for landscaping and hardscape in the now neglected portion must have run into the six-figure range.

In March of this year, POLA indicated that since they constructed the project, it is their responsibility and POLA would maintain the area.

Unfortunately the lack of attention, exacerbated by drought over recent years resulted in many of the original plantings dying out completely, and the irrigation systems that had been installed at the north and south portions of the area were not maintained and allowed to deteriorate.

There is much to be done, but five months later, no action has been taken by POLA to clean up or restore the site.

In the past there have been efforts by volunteer groups to address the problem but volunteer efforts will likely not be sufficient to complete this task. Despite hard work by Clean San Pedro in late 2018 that cleared unwanted plants and weeds from most of the area, without follow-up by POLA, it again became an overgrown eyesore within a few months. Now, not only are weeds invading the unpaved portions of the site, but even the river rock paving is covered and numerous palms are taking root there.

At its August meeting, the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council adopted the following motion:

Resolved, the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council strongly urges that the Port of Los Angeles (POLA) act immediately to clear unwanted and invasive vegetation from this area and maintain this clearance with regularly scheduled maintenance; and

Further resolved, that the POLA should restore this portion of the 22nd Street Park in accordance with the original landscape design and where applicable, the community-vetted San Pedro Urban Greening Plan.

Crescent Avenue residents have suggested that the Port's Public Access Investment Plan could provide money to restore the blighted area, but the council has not considered that proposal.



BEFORE AND AFTER: View looking southwest showing the state of the area adjacent to Crescent Avenue in 2009 (top) and now.



Another view which illustrates the lack of maintenance of this public property. The overgrown vegetation clearly presents a fire hazard.

CSPNC Neighborhood Purpose Grants Fund Community Programs, Activities

Each year, the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council provides funding for a variety of community organizations. Here are reports from some of those organizations.



Earth Day at the White Point Nature Preserve

In 2019, the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council provided a grant to the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy to help operate the White Point Nature Education Center and Preserve.

Open three days per week, the nature center welcomes children and adults to more than 15 programs per month and enjoys visits from more than 1,000 visitors who step inside the nature center.

In addition, thousands of trail users visit the White Point Nature Preserve to hike and enjoy nature and beautiful views of the coast and hills. Make it a resolution to come visit in 2019!

The CSPNC grant to the Conservancy helped to provide over 2,500 new plants for the 102-acre White Point Nature Preserve. The most visible day for plant installation was this year's EARTH DAY.

Nearly 200 community volunteers participated in a hugely successful EARTH DAY celebration on April 20, collectively providing 567 hours of volunteer work to plant 165 native riparian trees, wildflowers and shrubs – all in one day.

During EARTH DAY, volunteers also watered 1,200 thirsty California native plants, processed thousands of seeds for the Native Plant Nursery to be used in restoration projects and joined an LA City Ranger-led nature walk to hear stories about the Preserve's past and special details about the native plants and the local wildlife that need them to survive. The total plant palette provided through the grant started with planting in February 2019 so the plants would benefit from the winter rain.

The Conservancy invites all community members to visit the nature center for an overview of the area's history, to enjoy multi-media exhibits on the culture and geology of the land and to tour the surrounding demonstration garden with close-up descriptions of the native plants.

On Saturdays, you may also find Tony Baker, a native plant expert, guiding the work of two apprentices and seven volunteer interns who have career plans to work with native plants and conservation. In addition, school outings are provided to third-graders from all area schools and nearby Title I schools to the Preserve and its nature center.

According to Conservancy Board President Allen Franz, "The White Point Nature Education Center and Preserve truly serves as an important inspiration to many young people and provides meaningful volunteer opportunities for the young and young-at-heart alike."

Would you like to find out about becoming a volunteer docent at the nature center? Being a docent is a great way to share your love of nature. Contact Volunteer Program Manager Brittany Goldsmith at bgoldsmith@pvplc.org or (310) 541-7613, ext. 215 (Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) Visit us online to check out our many upcoming activities at www.pvplc.org – we look forward to hearing from you.

The Conservancy is grateful to the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council for supporting the 102-acre Preserve with this generous grant. This support plays an important role in helping the Conservancy to preserve and restore these rare coastal lands and connect people to nature through our educational activities and volunteer opportunities.

CSPNC Grant to Support San Pedro Waterfront Arts District Film Series

In order to make the arts more accessible to everyone, we believe an important part of our mission is promulgating public art and educating members of our creative community. To that end, the Arts District decided to make meaningful education experiences readily available, such as the recently concluded arts appreciation series, Cuatro@Cabrillo with arts scholar Gregorio Luke.

The Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council provided a grant to the San Pedro Waterfront Arts District this year to support this program, held at the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium.

On June 18, in Machine Studio on Sixth Street in San Pedro, the Arts District in collaboration with Community Art Machine (communityartmachine.com) and Sirens Java and Tea, launched a novel community mural project, called "Adventures in Public Art."



Mural on the wall of Sirens Java and Tea.

The six-week workshop was designed to give the participants a common foundation in the elements of art; color theory, principals of design, analysis of art elements and the creation of art works reflecting complex ideas and expressive content.

We are thrilled to be given the use of the wall on the new Sirens. In week three, the class met with owner Yolanda Regalado to see the still under-construction coffee shop, hear her story and tour the 80- by 16-foot wall on the parking lot side of her property.

This gift to San Pedro was made possible by the generous donations from Phillips 66 Refinery, the Office of Supervisor Don Knabe and the last of the funds granted by the Community Redevelopment Agency.

The mission of the San Pedro Waterfront Arts District (sanpedrowaterfrontartsdistrict.com) is to promote San Pedro's authentic arts, culture and entertainment identity through advocacy, marketing and education activities.

San Pedro is home to over 90 visual artists, as well as three performing arts venues, art galleries and restaurants. The Arts District is anchored by the Warner Grand Theatre, a 1,500-seat historic art deco movie palace, the Little Fish Theatre, presenting repertory theater in a converted garage, the Grand Annex (a project of the Grand Vision Foundation), and the Loft Studios, a three-story warehouse with a concentration of fine artists.

The Arts District's streets are lined with artists' live/workspaces and each month they open their doors to the FirstThursday ArtWalk, in operation since 1997. In 2017, San Pedro was designated as one of 14 California Cultural Districts by the Sacramento based California Arts Council.

The San Pedro Waterfront Arts District believes that public art is a vital way to make art accessible and commissioned professional artists to paint 25 DOT utility boxes throughout San Pedro, along with two wall murals in the downtown core.

In June 2019, the Arts District launched Adventures in Public Art—a six-week mural workshop program, designed to engage participants in public art projects, become more astute arts enthusiasts and to foster a sense of community ownership and inclusion.



Bird LA Day Supported by Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council

Living in the coastal town of San Pedro, pelicans, gulls, and other seabirds are a common sight. Unfortunately, all of these species face challenges as issues of plastic pollution, contamination, and human/wildlife conflict increase. Thankfully, we have a wildlife rehabilitation and response center located right here in San Pedro.

International Bird Rescue's Los Angeles Wildlife Center, located at 3601 South Gaffey Street in San Pedro, cares for approximately 1,500 birds a year. Our facility is designed for aquatic bird rescue, rehabilitation and oil spill response. The Center takes patients from as far north as Santa Barbara, and sometimes beyond, and operates 365 days a year.

International Bird Rescue was founded by Registered Nurse Alice Berkner in 1971 after 800,000 gallons of crude oil spilled into the San Francisco Bay. Alice and a group of concerned neighbors jumped into action and rescued as many contaminated birds as they could. Now, staff and volunteers work with tenacity alongside clients, partners, and the public to find solutions. Today, we research best practices at our crisis response hospitals at the San Francisco Bay-Delta, Los Angeles, and Alaska locations, and share them worldwide. Our mission is to inspire people to act toward balance with the natural world by rescuing waterbirds in crisis. We dream of a world in which every person, every day, takes action to protect the natural home of wildlife and ourselves.

We were thrilled to host our family-friendly annual open house during Bird LA Day on May 4th. Bird LA Day celebrates Los Angeles' amazing biodiversity and includes free bird and nature-themed events that are held throughout the region. Five local, four statewide, and one international organization partnered with us to provide activities and educational information to educate people of all ages about ways to enjoy birds and wildlife while also to reducing our collective human impact. Our non-profit partners included Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy, Ánimo Leadership Charter High School, Angels Gate Cultural Center, Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, El Dorado Nature Center, California Audubon, Tree Care for Birds and Other Wildlife, Office of Spill Prevention and Response, the Oiled Wildlife Care Network, and 5 Gyres. We were delighted to see so many community members join us for the event and we welcomed representatives from Councilman Joe Buscaino and from Congresswoman Nanette Diaz Barragán at the event.

Thank you to the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council for the support of International Bird Rescue's 2019 Bird LA Day activities! Your support allowed us to purchase banners, directional signage for guests and participants, and supported our free art activity for children at the event.

As a nonprofit organization, we rely on support from the public in order to care for our unique patients. If you would like to support International Bird Rescue, please consider donating at Bird-Rescue.org or volunteering at our San Pedro center.