



2024 Annual Report

Program Impacts



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Introduction

The past year has been one of remarkable progress, impactful partnerships, and renewed commitment to protecting the health of our Monterey Bay. At Save Our Shores, we are proud to share the impact our programs have made engaging communities in safeguarding our coastal spaces. From community science data collection, beach and river cleanups, and reducing barriers for local youth to experience our marine environment, our dedicated team, volunteers, and supporters have worked tirelessly to create lasting change.

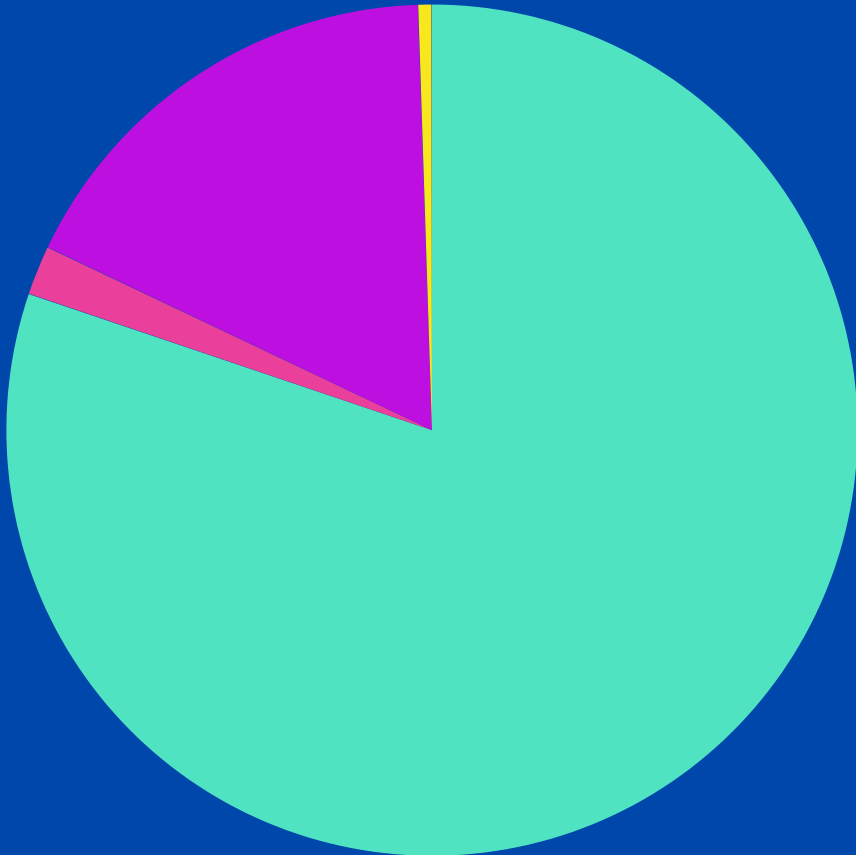


Volunteer Engagement



Volunteers donated 11,536.5 hours

Volunteer Hours by Program Type



Beach & River Cleanups



Key Findings



Volunteer Participation

4,679 community volunteers contributed 10,838 hours in cleanup efforts.



Trash Removal

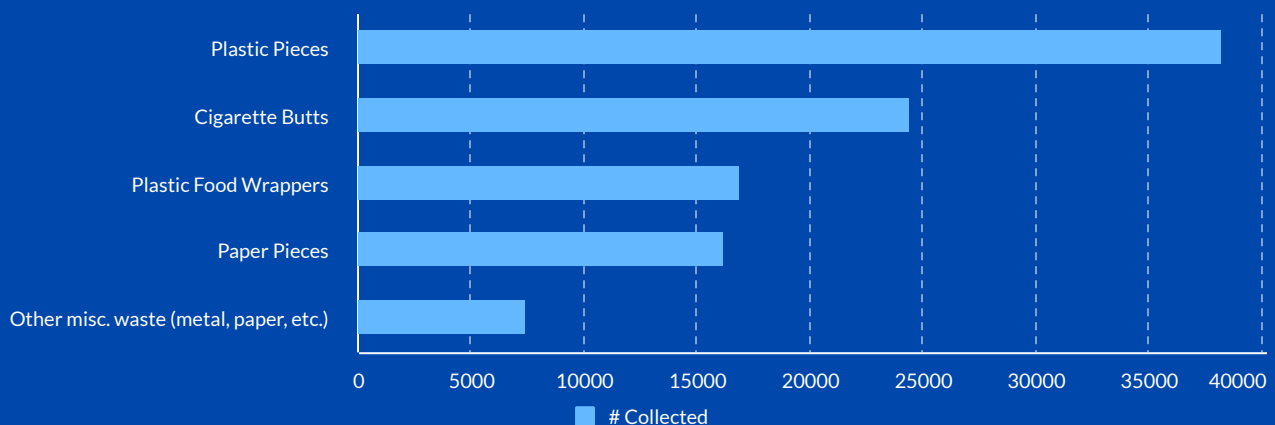
16,727.5 pounds of debris removed from the environment.
154,895 individual pieces of trash & recycling collected.

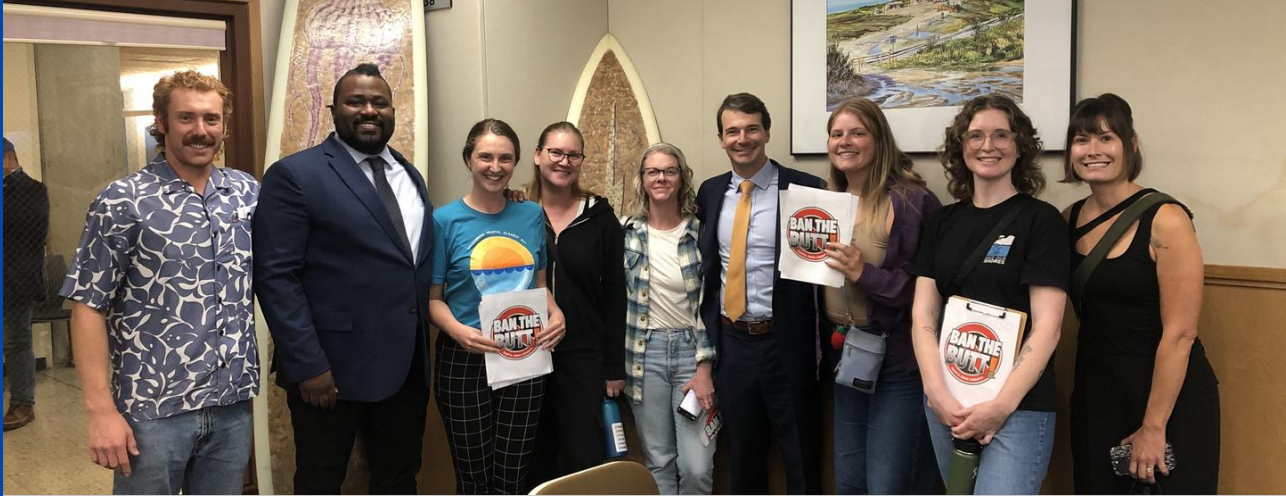


Community Impact

170 cleanups conducted at beaches, rivers, and other inland sites around the Monterey Bay.

Top 5 Trash Items Collected in 2024





Advocacy & Outreach



Ban the (Cigarette) Butt Success!

Save Our Shores, in collaboration with a local coalition, successfully advocated for the Ban the Butt initiative in Santa Cruz County. Save Our Shores' community science cleanup data was a major contributing factor to the success of this campaign. Cigarette filters, often the most common waste item in our cleanups, are made from harmful materials like microplastics, lead, and arsenic.

After a powerful outreach and advocacy campaign with broad community support, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors unanimously passed the historic ordinance banning the sale of single-use cigarette filters in unincorporated areas. Santa Cruz County became the first in the nation to pass such an ordinance, and we hope it inspires other city jurisdictions and counties to follow suit.



Education Programs



Engaging Youth in Marine Science and Conservation

Save Our Shores education staff engaged:

1,631 youth



102

youth participated in the Junior Sanctuary Stewards after school program across 4 cohorts



2,279

youth engagements



25 Schools

in 13 school districts engaged



Summary

As we reflect on these accomplishments, we remain deeply inspired by the collective action driving our mission forward. Together, we are building a future where our ocean thrives for generations to come.

