



The Splash

Fall/Winter 2019-20

General Meetings:

Thursday, September 26;

Tuesday, November 19

6:30-8:00 PM

Sister Cities Gallery, City Hall

This Issue:

Sea Change: Taking on Plastics

By Sharon Gibbons, The Watershed Project

Upcoming Events

General Meetings—Sister Cities Gallery, City Hall 6:30-8:00PM

- Thursday, September 26 Garrett Leidy Updates regarding San Leandro Creek Fisheries Data
- Tuesday, November 19 SLzHS Druids Club's Native Garden Program

Creek Cleanup

- Saturday, September 21—Hegenberger Rd. Creek Access "Creek to Bay Day" 9:30 AM-12:30 PM

Fall Event— EBMUD/FSLC joint Walk

- Saturday, November 2 9:00-11:00AM King's Canyon Loop to Upper SL Reservoir

Go to FSLC.org for more information!

As we approach [International Coastal Cleanup Day on September 21](#), our local communities of the Bay Area are increasingly mindful of the need for a sea change in our daily consumption of plastics. Merriam-Webster defines "sea change" as "a marked change: a transformation." As we prepare to clean up our community shoreline parks and celebrate their natural beauty, we need to take a hard look at our consumer habits that are contributing to an environmental crisis. As consumers and community members, we need to make a sea change replacing single use plastics with green alternatives.

If it can't be reduced, reused, repaired, rebuilt, refurbished, refinished, resold, recycled, or composted, then it should be restricted, redesigned or removed from production. – **Pete Seeger, Folk Singer & Social Activist**

Here's an article from a recent Watershed Project Newsletter, an organization based in Richmond. A serious look at single use plastics and their consequences.

Please enjoy the article.

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In "The United States of Plastic," The Guardian describes how our

(Continued on pg. 2)

Officers and Board of Directors:

President Michael Gregory; *Vice President* Dave Owen, *Secretary* Jan Woycheshin, *Treasurer* Carol Bardoff, *Membership Coordinator* Claudia Taurean, *Member at Large* Mike Vukman
Watershed Awareness Coordinator/Newsletter Editor Susan Levenson

Friends of San Leandro Creek is a 105(c)(3) non-profit organization made up of citizens, students, and businesses dedicated to improving community understanding and awareness of San Leandro Creek and its watershed.

(Continued from pg. 1)

single use plastics are polluting poor countries. Meanwhile, the US seeks out countries to recycle our exported plastics since China stopped taking our plastic recycling shipments in 2017. The world's oceans have become a dumping ground for an estimated 17.6 billion pounds of our plastic annually, and plastic is pervasive in both wildlife and human environs planet-wide. "Time" author Markham Heid in his May 2019 article cites studies finding plastic in several brands of bottled water, and in more remote places such as groundwater aquifers, and airborne in the Pyrenees. His article is titled with a question: "Your Bottled Water Probably Has Plastic in It. Should You Worry?" As watershed stewards, we should worry and push to transform our old habits of consumer convenience.



"It's only one straw," said 8 billion people.
– Unknown

As consumers, we can use our buying power to support this sea change to not use single-use plastics in our many daily choices. Instead we can shop at stores that provide bulk items, frequent farmers markets for locally grown produce, and have a CSA box to receive weekly produce. Simple acts such as using a reusable water bottle and bringing a travel mug to the coffee shop help eliminate plastic. New businesses are experimenting with the circular economy, such as Fillgood in Albany, by providing a store where consumers can bring their own containers to fill up with household soaps and detergents. Demand has grown rapidly and they have expanded their store hours in addition to delivery service. People are looking for solutions and have found support from websites such as <https://myplasticfreelife.com/>. Changing our habits of consumption is a positive step we can take every day.

Modern society will find no solution to the ecological problem unless it takes a serious look at its lifestyle.
– Pope John Paul II

(Continued on pg. 3)

(Continued from pg. 2)

California lawmakers are also trying to work on solutions to the high cost we pay to clean up plastics and to make manufacturers accountable. The [California Circular Economy and Plastic Pollution Reduction Act](#), SB 54 and AB 1080, require reductions in single-use packaging and products sold or distributed in California by 75 percent by 2030. After 2030, these items must be reusable, recyclable or compostable. The bill also encourages in-state manufacturing of items using recycled material generated in California. Other bills include the California Recycling Market Development Act, AB 1583, to support the state's recycling structures and to prevent recycling from being exported. As community members and watershed stewards, we can support our lawmakers in their pioneering efforts to take responsibility for plastic recycling and cleaning up our global footprint. We can all do our parts to eliminate single-use plastics and model that behavior for others. To create a plastics sea change, each of us is vital.

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Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot,
nothing is going to get better. It's not.

– Dr. Seuss, *The Lorax*



We're on the web:
www.fslc.org



The *San Leandro Creek Watershed Awareness Program* is a comprehensive watershed education program funded by Alameda County Flood Control and Conservation District, with additional support from the City of San Leandro, implemented by Friends of San Leandro Creek. Thank you to the following for your continued support: Alameda County Public Works, The City of San Leandro, Robert and Lois C. Braddock Charitable Foundation, and FSLC Members and Volunteers like you.

Friends of San Leandro Creek Membership Application

Yes, I would like to become a member/renew my membership in the following category: (Please circle one)

- Student \$ 1
- Individual \$5
- Family \$15
- Non-Profit \$25
- Business \$100

Make checks and please remit to:

Friends of San Leandro
Creek
C/O RHSD
835 E. 14th St.
San Leandro, CA 94577

Friends of San Leandro Creek is a 501(c) (3) not for profit corporation. Your donations are tax deductible

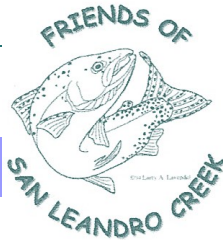
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Only Rain Down The Storm Drain!