

## COASTKEEPER'S BEACH CLEANUP DRAWS CROWD

By **BEAU NICOLETTE** / ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

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One California Assemblyman helped pick up trash, another was on hand to thank volunteers, and Huntington Beach Mayor Connie Boardman capped Orange County Coastkeeper's beach cleanup July 25 by speaking to the group on the importance of clean waterways.

The beach cleanup and bonfire at Bolsa Chica State Beach was held in celebration of the inaugural Swimmable California Day. With a widely supported bipartisan resolution passed by the state Legislature last month, July 25 was officially commemorated as a day to recognize Californians' right and need for clean, swimmable waterways.

"It is to bring to people's attention the importance of clean water for recreating and enjoying," Coastkeeper Executive Director Garry Brown said.

The 50 volunteers who attended the event picked up 60 pounds of trash and were rewarded with s'mores and hot dogs donated by local supermarkets.

Local Assemblymen Travis Allen and Allan Mansoor – two of the many co-authors of the resolution – attended the event and Allen even rolled up his sleeves to help while Mansoor thanked the group at the end of the day.

"Water quality and a clean environment is something that we have to keep after. We all enjoy our beaches in our community and we want to keep them clean for many generations to come," Mansoor said.

The first Swimmable California Day was marked by other events and cleanups up and down the California coast and included celebrations on the Kalamath and Santa Ana Rivers.

O.C. Coastkeeper was founded in 1999 with a focus on restoring and maintaining local watershed regions and marine habitats. Current Coastkeeper projects include a native plants garden at Santiago Canyon College, grass planting in Newport Back Bay and a project to revitalize local green abalone populations.

In addition to the many restoration and education projects the nonprofit spearheads, Brown said a future goal is to open the Santa Ana River for recreational purposes.

O.C. Coastkeeper holds monthly beach cleanups. More information can be found at [coastkeeper.org](http://coastkeeper.org).