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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **“OCEAN DAY” GATHERS THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN FOR BEACH CLEANUP City of Los Angeles Public Works Joins Malibu Foundation’s Environmental Education**



**PICTURED:** More than 2,400 children, organized by world-renowned aerial artist John Quigley, form a whale at Dockweiler State Beach in Playa Del Rey, California.

**PLAYA DEL REY, CA (May 23, 2007)** – The Department of Public Works Stormwater Program joined the Malibu Foundation for Environmental Education and the California Coastal Commission on Dockweiler State Beach with more than 2,400 children to participate in Ocean Day activities. Thirteen Los Angeles area schools brought children to the beach to pickup litter

**- MORE -**

**“OCEAN DAY” GATHERS THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN FOR BEACH CLEANUP**  
**City of Los Angeles Public Works Joins Malibu Foundation’s Environmental Education**  
**Page 2 of 3**



**Pictured:** Stephen Colletti, Actor; Esai Morales, Actor; Alexandra Paul, Actress; Leslie Morava, The Whaleman Foundation; Keep Los Angeles Beautiful Octopus Mascot; Michael Klubock, Director, Malibu Foundation; and Cynthia M. Ruiz, President, Board of Public Works.

and take part in the formation of a gray whale spouting trash in a symbolic message for cleaner oceans and to protect marine life.

“Elementary, middle and high school students en masse gained hands-on experience to help protect the ocean and marine life from urban litter that finds its way from city streets, miles away, to the ocean through city storm drains,” said Cynthia M. Ruiz, president for the Board of Public Works. “The Malibu Foundation and the California Coastal Commission are commended for continuing their commitment for environmental education to engage and teach students, parents, teachers and administrators about the far reaching consequences of litter and the universal benefits of litter prevention.”

The L.A. Stormwater Program, administered through the Department of Public Works Bureau of Sanitation, is the lead agency in the city committed to educating the public about the

- MORE -

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**City of Los Angeles Public Works Joins Malibu Foundation’s Environmental Education**  
**Page 3 of 3**

importance of keeping city streets and waterways like the Los Angeles River, free of litter and other pollutants.

Statewide, more the 6,500 students participated in seven cleanup activities along the California coast from San Diego to Humboldt County on Ocean Day. This year, counterparts in Mexico, British Columbia and Anchorage, Alaska joined the cleanup activities and whale formations to create a “human whale migration” to dramatize the plight of whales, marine life and the world’s oceans caused by litter and pollution.

About L.A. Stormwater

*Founded in 1990, the Watershed Protection Division is a part of the City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works. The Division is responsible for the development and implementation of stormwater pollution abatement projects within the City. The Stormwater Program has two major elements: Pollution Abatement and Flood Control. For more information, please visit [www.lastormwater.org](http://www.lastormwater.org).*

About Malibu Foundation

*Since 1994, the Malibu Foundation for Environmental Education has presented the Adopt-A-Beach School Assembly to over 460,000 children, and nearly 53,000 have participated in the annual clean up. Michael Klubock, Executive Director and Founder of the Malibu Foundation for Environmental Education, created this annual event in Los Angeles. For more information, visit [www.malibufoundation.org](http://www.malibufoundation.org).*

About Board of Public Works

*The five-commissioner Board of Public Works manages the Department of Public Works, the City’s third largest municipal division. The department oversees the construction, renovation, and operation of public projects such as municipal buildings, streets, bridges, street lights, water treatment plants, sewers and sidewalks, and provides essential public services like recycling and solid waste management. For more information, visit [www.lacity.org/bpw/](http://www.lacity.org/bpw/).*

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