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Inland Empire Waterkeeper's Second Series of Crest to Coast Educates to Reduce Waterway Pollution

Crest to Coast Cleanup Volunteers Take Out the Trash But Not Before Evaluating It

Riverside, Calif.,-- Yesterday XX volunteers came out and cleaned up XX pounds of trash from the Chino/Mill Creek, a tributary to the Santa Ana River, and restored a small portion of the waterway for the plants, fish, and wildlife that inhabit the area. This was the second series of Crest to Coast waterway restoration events organized by Inland Empire Waterkeeper. Between yesterday's cleanup and the first clean up of the year, which successfully cleaned XX pounds of trash from a small portion of the Santa Ana River, the 2015 Crest to Coast series is predicted to exceed last year's series in amount of trash cleaned up and community members reached.

Waterkeeper and volunteers follow the California Regional Water Control Board's Rapid Trash Assessment protocol to provide information on:

- Trash accumulation rates
- The difference between sites with and without public access
- Clues about sources of litter

Implementing this procedure allows Waterkeeper to evaluate the types of litter found at restoration sites, begin management strategies and provide information to educate the community. Waterkeeper works with local companies on ways to reduce pollution and with schools to directly inform children on ways they can be better environmental stewards.

Last spring, the Crest to Coast cleanup series set the goal of restoring and preserving waterways of the Inland Empire. Over the course of six restoration events, nearly 15,000 pounds of waste and debris were removed along the Santa Ana Watershed. Items of removal included countless plastic bags, shopping carts, and articles of clothing that had accumulated overtime. At the beginning of most clean-up events, tributaries of the Santa Ana River appeared to be uninhabited by waterfowl and fish but by day's end, it was apparent wildlife had returned.

Waterkeeper invites members of the community to participate in this rewarding process of preserving the Inland Empire waterways at the next four cleanups that are on:

- May 16
- July 25
- September 19
- November 14

Through Crest to Coast and other programs, Waterkeeper hopes to continuously inspire the public to be environmentally conscious and significantly reduce the amount of litter along the watershed this year. This program is made possible by community volunteers and Crest to Coast sponsor Arrowhead Brand Mountain Spring Water.

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Established in 2005, Inland Empire Waterkeeper, a chapter organization of Orange County Coastkeeper, is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and enhancing water quality in the Upper Santa Ana River Watershed and other waterways of the Inland Empire through advocacy, education, research, restoration, and enforcement. For more information, visit www.iewaterkeeper.org or call 951-530-8823.