



LOS ANGELES
WATERKEEPER®

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**Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi Explores the South Bay's Marine Protected Areas
with Los Angeles Waterkeeper**

July 31, 2014 (Los Angeles, CA) — Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi joined Los Angeles Waterkeeper yesterday morning on the organization's Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Watch Boat Trip to experience, first hand, the MPAs located off the coast of Palos Verdes and see how they are being monitored by LA Waterkeeper.

"The protection of our coast and ocean is a priority for the South Bay," said Assemblymember Muratsuchi. "I'm glad groups like the LA Waterkeeper have stepped in to monitor our coast and Marine Protected Areas. I will continue to fight to protect to our coastal resources."

Assemblymember Muratsuchi is a strong advocate of water protection and preservation, and has introduced bills to stop oil drilling in Hermosa Beach and encourage taxpayers to make a donation to the preservation of California's coast when filing their taxes. Protecting the coast is top priority for the Assemblymember, which includes the preservation of the Santa Monica Bay's Marine Protected Areas.

"Los Angeles Waterkeeper is very thankful for Assemblymember Muratsuchi's leadership," said Liz Crosson, Executive Director of Los Angeles Waterkeeper. "It is essential that we have the support of our community leaders in order to protect, defend and restore LA County's waterways and oceans."

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are areas of the ocean where consumptive human activities such as fishing are limited or restricted in order to protect and conserve marine life. LA Waterkeeper's MPA Watch volunteer program conducts regular, on the water outreach and education trips to monitor human uses of the Santa Monica Bay water in and around the restricted fishing areas. Volunteers are trained on-board the Waterkeeper boat to crew the trips, collect data, and educate the fishing community about the MPAs located off the coast of Palos Verdes and Malibu.

"Hands on experience, on the water and inside Marine Protected Areas, helps connect people to our marine environment and increases awareness of the need for setting aside special habitats as MPAs," said Michael Quill, Community Programs Manager and Captain of the Waterkeeper boat for LA Waterkeeper. "Having our community leaders and elected officials participate in our MPA Watch boat trips builds stewardship and helps LA Waterkeeper spread the word about the importance of MPAs and where Marine Protected Areas are located locally, and throughout the state of California."

For further information, please contact Rachel Stich at (310) 394-6162 x108.

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ABOUT LOS ANGELES WATERKEEPER

Founded in 1993, LA Waterkeeper's mission is to protect and restore Santa Monica Bay, San Pedro Bay, and adjacent waters through enforcement, fieldwork, and community action. We work to achieve this goal through litigation and regulatory programs that ensure water quality protections in waterways throughout L.A. County. LA Waterkeeper's Litigation & Advocacy, Marine, and Water Quality teams conduct interconnected projects that serve this mission.