

# **Los Angeles Waterkeeper**

Santa Monica, California

## **Financial Statements and Independent Auditors' Report**

*For the Year Ended December 31, 2015*





**Los Angeles Waterkeeper  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2015**

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## **Independent Auditors' Report**

To the Board of Directors  
of the Los Angeles Waterkeeper  
Santa Monica, California

### **Report on the Financial Statements**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Los Angeles Waterkeeper (Organization), which comprises the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2015, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

### ***Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### ***Auditor's Responsibility***

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

To the Board of Directors  
of the Los Angeles Waterkeeper  
Santa Monica, California  
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***Opinion***

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Organization as of December 31, 2015, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

**Other Matters**

***Other Information***

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements taken as a whole. The accompanying Schedule of Functional Expenses on page 14 is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

*The PwC Group, LLP*

Santa Ana, California  
August 31, 2016

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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**Los Angeles Waterkeeper  
Statement of Financial Position  
December 31, 2015**

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**ASSETS**

**Current assets:**

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 754,526
Contributions receivable	15,000
Prepaid expense and deposits	<u>43,349</u>
<b>Total current assets</b>	<u>812,875</u>

**Non-current assets:**

Property and equipment, net (note 2)	<u>3,341</u>
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<u>3,341</u>
<b>Total assets</b>	<u><u>\$ 816,216</u></u>

**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

**Liabilities:**

Accounts and other payables	\$ 10,870
Accrued vacation payable	13,561
Deferred rent credit	<u>11,288</u>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<u>35,719</u>

**Net assets:**

Unrestricted	<u>780,497</u>
<b>Total net assets</b>	<u>780,497</u>
<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<u><u>\$ 816,216</u></u>

**Los Angeles Waterkeeper**  
**Statement of Activities**  
**For the Year Ended December 31, 2015**

**REVENUES:**

**Support and other revenue:**

**Contributions, gifts and grants:**

Direct public support	\$	39,454
Grant funding		443,966
Program revenue – case recovery		283,746
Fundraising – events, net (note 3)		251,451
In-kind		12,401
Interest earnings		236
Other revenue		37,865
		1,069,119
<b>Total support and other revenue</b>		1,069,119

**EXPENSES:**

**Program expenses:**

Advocacy/Litigation		422,708
Marine program		293,899
Watershed program		43,901
Education/Outreach		75,353
		835,861
<b>Total program expenses</b>		835,861

**Supporting services:**

Management and general		49,698
Fundraising		183,627
		233,325
<b>Total supporting services</b>		233,325

<b>Total expenses</b>		1,069,186
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<b>Change in net assets</b>		(67)
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**Net Assets:**

Beginning of year		780,564
		780,564
End of year		\$ 780,497

**Los Angeles Waterkeeper**  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
**For the Year Ended December 31, 2015**

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**CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:**

Change in net assets \$ (67)

**Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash (used in) operating activities:**

Depreciation 7,066

**Changes in assets and liabilities:**

Contributions receivable (15,000)

Prepaid expense and deposits (1,112)

Accounts and other payables (4,907)

Accrued vacation payable 2,364

Deferred rent credit 11,288

**Net cash (used in) operating activities** (368)

**Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents** (368)

**CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS:**

Beginning of year 754,894

End of year \$ 754,526

**Los Angeles Waterkeeper**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)**  
**For the Year Ended December 31, 2015**

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**Note 1 – Reporting Entity and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

Los Angeles Waterkeeper (Organization) is a California nonprofit public benefit organization dedicated to the protection and preservation of swimmable, fishable and drinkable waters of the inland and coastal regions throughout Los Angeles County.

Founded in 1993, the Organization's mission is to protect and restore the Santa Monica Bay, San Pedro Bay, and adjacent waters through enforcement, fieldwork, and community action. In June 2012, the Santa Monica Baykeeper changed its name to the Los Angeles Waterkeeper. The new name better reflects the mission to protect and restore all waterways in Los Angeles County and will better enable the Organization to reach supporters and constituents throughout the region.

The Organization maintains a full-time staff of skilled environmental scientists, attorneys and educators, who preside over three major programs: Advocacy/Litigation, Marine, and Watershed. All of these programs also conduct public outreach and education as follows:

***Advocacy/Litigation*** – Advocacy has been at the core of the Organization's work since its founding. This work consists of both promoting progressive regulation by various local, state, and federal agencies in addition to enforcing current laws. Enforcement of the Clean Water Act and related environmental laws is the Organization's chief pursuit.

***Marine Program*** – The Marine Program works to promote ecosystem health and resiliency of Los Angeles County's coastal waters through monitoring and research, hands-on restoration and education, with frequent outreach and advocacy work relating to the operations of the State Coastal Conservancy, State Lands Commission, Ocean Protection Council, California Coastal Commission, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, Los Angeles Long Beach Harbor Safety Committee, United States Coast Guard, California Department of Fish and Game, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Marine Sanctuaries, United States Mineral Management Service, and the California Oil Spill Prevention and Response Technical Advisory Committee.

***Watershed Program*** – The Watershed Program encompasses water quality monitoring, public education, and litigation support. The program is focused on identifying and addressing sources of pollution that impact the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers, Ballena Creek, and ultimately the Santa Monica and San Pedro Bays and the Pacific Ocean. Over its 15+ year history, the program has taken a holistic approach, conducting river and coastal restoration and monitoring projects that help to improve water quality and viable habitats in the watersheds of the Los Angeles Basin.

***Education/Outreach*** – Public outreach and education activities are designed to teach local residents and schoolchildren the value of coastal resources and what can be done to protect them. Protecting the natural resources that support communities is the responsibility of every resident and thus the Organization offers various programs that educate and involve residents, families, and students in conservation of coastal resources.

**Basis of Accounting**

The accompanying financial statements are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Under the accrual basis of accounting, revenue is recognized when earned and expenses are recorded as the liability when incurred.

**Los Angeles Waterkeeper**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)**  
**For the Year Ended December 31, 2015**

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**Note 1 – Reporting Entity and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)**

**Basis of Presentation**

The Organization follows the requirements of Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Accounting Standards Codification. This standard requires the Organization to report information regarding its financial position and change in net assets into the following three classes of net assets:

- *Unrestricted net assets* represent expendable funds available for operations, which are not restricted by donors or the donor-imposed restrictions have expired.
- *Temporarily restricted net assets* consist of contributed funds, subject to donor-imposed restrictions, contingent upon specific performance of a future event or a specific passage of time before the Organization may spend the funds.
- *Permanently restricted net assets* contain donor-imposed restrictions and stipulate that the resources be maintained permanently but permit the Organization to use or expend part or all of the income derived from the donated assets for either specified or unspecified purposes. There were no permanently restricted net assets at December 31, 2015.

**Contributions**

Contributions are recognized when the donor makes a promise to give to the Organization that is, in substance, unconditional. Contributions that are restricted by the donor are reported as increases in unrestricted net assets if the restrictions expire in the calendar year in which the contributions are recognized. All other donor-restricted contributions are reported as increases in temporarily or permanently restricted net assets depending on the nature of the restrictions. When a restriction expires, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets.

**Use of Estimates**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported changes in Organization net assets during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

**Cash and Cash Equivalents**

For the purpose of reporting cash flows, the Organization considers all highly liquid debt instruments, including money market funds, purchased with original maturities of three months or less to be cash equivalents. The carrying amount of cash and cash equivalents approximates fair value due to the short-term nature of these financial instruments.

**Concentration of Credit Risk**

Financial instruments potentially subjecting the Organization to concentration of credit risk consist of bank demand deposits in excess of Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (“FDIC”) insurance threshold of \$250,000. Cash and cash equivalent balances above \$250,000 are uninsured. The Organization maintains cash balances at one financial institution. The Organization has not experienced any losses in its accounts. The Organization believes it is not exposed to any significant credit risk on cash and cash equivalents.

**Prepaid Expenses and Deposits**

Certain payments to vendors reflect costs or deposits applicable to future accounting periods and are recorded as prepaid expenses or deposits.

**Los Angeles Waterkeeper**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)**  
**For the Year Ended December 31, 2015**

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**Note 1 – Reporting Entity and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)**

**Property and Equipment**

Property and equipment are recorded at cost if purchased or at fair market value at date of donation. Depreciation is provided using the straight-line method of depreciation over the estimated useful lives of the assets, ranging from three to five years. Property and equipment are capitalized if the cost or donated fair market value of an asset is greater than, or equal to \$5,000.

**Long-Lived Assets**

The Organization accounts for impairment and disposition of long-lived assets. Impairment losses are recognized for long-lived assets used in operations when indicators of impairment are present and the undiscounted future cash flows are not sufficient to recover the assets' carrying amount. There was no impairment of the value of such assets for the years ended December 31, 2015.

**Deferred Rent Credit and Rent Expense**

For lease agreements that provide for escalating rent payments or free-rent occupancy periods, the Organization recognizes rent expense on a straight-line basis over the non-cancelable lease term and option renewal periods where failure to exercise such options would result in an economic penalty in such amount that renewal appears, at the inception of the lease, to be reasonably assured. The lease term commences on the date that the Organization takes possession of or controls the physical use of the property. Deferred rent credit is included as a liability on the statement of financial position.

**Grant and Contracts Receivable Recognition**

Grants and contracts are paid on a reimbursement basis, up to the maximum amounts allowed under the terms of the grant or contract. Periodic audits may be performed by the grantors, and certain costs may be questioned as not being reimbursable expenditures under the terms of the contracts. Such audits could lead to reimbursement to the grantors. The Organization's management believes disallowances, if any, will be immaterial.

**Contributed Goods and Services**

Contributions of donated noncash assets are recorded at fair value in the period received. Contributions of donated services are recognized if the services received (a) create or enhance long-lived assets, or (b) require specialized skills provided by individuals possessing those skills, and would typically need to be purchased if not provided by donation.

**Income Taxes**

As a publicly supported not-for-profit organization, the Organization is exempt from federal income taxes under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) and the corresponding provisions of Section 23701d of the California Revenue and Taxation Code. The Organization is not subject to income tax except for taxes on the receipt of income, if any, which is unrelated to the Organization's tax-exempt purpose. The Organization is not a private-foundation and qualifies for the charitable deduction under 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The Organization has applied the provisions of ASC Subtopic 740-10, *Income Taxes—Overall*, which prescribes a recognition threshold and measurement attribute for the financial statement recognition and measurement of a tax position taken or expected to be taken in a tax return, and provides guidance on recognition, classification, interest, and penalties, disclosure, and transition. Management of the Organization believes that no such uncertain tax positions exist as of December 31, 2014.

**Los Angeles Waterkeeper**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)**  
**For the Year Ended December 31, 2015**

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**Note 1 – Reporting Entity and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)**

**Functional Allocation of Expenses**

The costs of providing the Organization's programs and other activities have been presented in the schedule of functional expenses. During the year, such costs are accumulated into separate groupings as either direct or indirect. Indirect or shared costs are allocated among program and support services by a method that best measures the relative degree of benefit. The Organization uses proportional salary dollars to allocate indirect costs.

**Note 2 – Property and Equipment**

Property and equipment at December 31, 2015, were comprised of the following:

	<u>Balance</u> <u>January 1, 2015</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Deletions</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>December 31, 2015</u>
<b>Depreciable assets:</b>				
Boat	\$ 64,780	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 64,780
Equipment	57,049	-	(57,049)	-
Website	25,000	-	-	25,000
<b>Total depreciable assets</b>	<u>146,829</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(57,049)</u>	<u>89,780</u>
Accumulated depreciation	(136,422)	(7,066)	57,049	(86,439)
<b>Total property and equipment, net</b>	<u>\$ 10,407</u>	<u>\$ (7,066)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>\$ 3,341</u>

**Note 3 – Fundraising– Events**

The Organization holds an annual fundraising event to support the operations of the Organization. Fundraising event for the year ended December 31, 2015, was comprised of the following:

	<u>Making</u> <u>Waves</u>
Fundraising events proceeds	\$ 342,529
Costs of direct benefits to attendees	(91,078)
<b>Total fundraising – events, net</b>	<u>\$ 251,451</u>

**Los Angeles Waterkeeper**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)**  
**For the Year Ended December 31, 2015**

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**Note 4 – Operating Lease Agreement**

***Related Party Transaction***

In October 2014, the Organization entered into an office lease agreement with a company affiliated with a board member and paid a \$30,000 rent deposit, which is included in prepaid expense and deposits on the statement of financial position. The lease term ends on September 30, 2020. The Organization incurred \$107,262 for the year ended December 31, 2015 in rent expense. Minimum future rental payments under this non-cancelable operating lease are as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2016	\$ 102,364
2017	106,458
2018	110,716
2019	115,145
2020	59,283

**Note 5 – Public Support**

Volunteers from the community have donated significant amounts of their time in support of the Organization's programs. No amounts have been reflected in the financial statements for the contributed services since no objective basis is available to measure the value of such services.

**Note 6 – Risk Management**

***General Liability and Workers' Compensation***

The Organization is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts, theft of, damage to and destruction of assets, error and omissions, job-related illnesses or injuries to employees, and natural disasters for which the Organization carries commercial insurance. The Organization purchases commercial insurance to cover the risk of loss for property and business liability. There are no known claims or incidents that may result in the assertion of material claims arising from potential losses as of December 31, 2015.

**Note 7 – Commitment and Contingencies**

***Grants and Contracts***

The Organization has grants and contracts with government agencies that may be subject to an audit. No provision has been made for any liabilities that may arise from such audits since the amounts, if any, cannot be determined. Management believes that any liability which may result from these audits would not be material.

***Litigation***

In the ordinary course of operations, the Organization is subject to claims and litigation from outside parties. After consultation with legal counsel, the Organization believes the ultimate outcome of such matters, if any, will not materially affect its financial condition.

**Los Angeles Waterkeeper**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements (Continued)**  
**For the Year Ended December 31, 2015**

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**Note 8 – Subsequent Events**

Subsequent events are events or transactions that occur after the statement of financial position date but before financial statements are available to be issued. The Organization has evaluated subsequent events through August 31, 2016, which is the date the financial statements are available to be issued.

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## **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

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**Los Angeles Waterkeeper  
Schedule of Functional Expenses  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2015**

Expense category	Program Services				
	Advocacy/ Litigation	Marine Program	Watershed Program	Education/ Outreach	Total Program Services
Salaries and wages	\$ 163,997	\$ 115,575	\$ 18,774	\$ 22,739	\$ 321,085
Payroll taxes	14,161	12,153	-	2,757	29,071
Employee benefits	2,087	12,672	3,061	4,649	22,469
Payroll service fee	550	550	550	-	1,650
Workers compensation	1,538	5,280	1,537	-	8,355
<b>Total salaries and benefits</b>	<b>182,333</b>	<b>146,230</b>	<b>23,922</b>	<b>30,145</b>	<b>382,630</b>
Accounting	7,660	7,660	7,660	-	22,980
Boat	-	84,818	-	-	84,818
Case recovery	164,527	-	-	-	164,527
Communications	3,102	1,569	210	272	5,153
Conferences and seminars	1,715	349	169	729	2,962
Dues and subscriptions	1,954	1,262	53	42	3,311
Events	-	-	-	22,955	22,955
Inkind	-	700	-	3,397	4,097
Insurance	2,133	1,403	281	225	4,042
Other	1,547	2,511	150	1,412	5,620
Professional fees	1,326	5,946	1,326	5,128	13,726
Rent	40,318	26,693	5,731	4,192	76,934
Supplies and equipment	16,093	14,758	4,399	6,856	42,106
<b>Total other expenses</b>	<b>240,375</b>	<b>147,669</b>	<b>19,979</b>	<b>45,208</b>	<b>453,231</b>
<b>Total program services</b>	<b>\$ 422,708</b>	<b>\$ 293,899</b>	<b>\$ 43,901</b>	<b>\$ 75,353</b>	<b>\$ 835,861</b>
	<b>Supporting Services</b>				
Expense category	Management and General	Fund - Raising	Total Supporting Services	Total	
Salaries and wages	\$ 15,785	\$ 107,698	\$ 123,483	\$ 444,568	
Payroll taxes	1,668	8,959	10,627	39,698	
Employee benefits	892	-	892	23,361	
Payroll service fee	550	549	1,099	2,749	
Workers compensation	1,126	1,543	2,669	11,024	
<b>Total salaries and benefits</b>	<b>20,021</b>	<b>118,749</b>	<b>138,770</b>	<b>521,400</b>	
Accounting	7,660	7,660	15,320	38,300	
Boat	-	-	-	84,818	
Case recovery	-	-	-	164,527	
Communications	142	1,501	1,643	6,796	
Conferences and seminars	589	320	909	3,871	
Dues and subscriptions	42	252	294	3,605	
Events	-	-	-	22,955	
Inkind	3,776	4,528	8,304	12,401	
Insurance	224	1,347	1,571	5,613	
Other	2,652	4,613	7,265	12,885	
Professional fees	1,376	1,326	2,702	16,428	
Rent	4,683	25,645	30,328	107,262	
Supplies and equipment	1,467	17,686	19,153	61,259	
<b>Total other expenses</b>	<b>22,611</b>	<b>64,878</b>	<b>87,489</b>	<b>540,720</b>	
Depreciation	7,066	-	7,066	7,066	
<b>Total supporting services</b>	<b>\$ 49,698</b>	<b>\$ 183,627</b>	<b>\$ 233,325</b>	<b>\$ 1,069,186</b>	