



Palos Verdes Peninsula Kelp Restoration - Partner Statements of Support -

"The California Science Center's Ecosystems exhibition and 188,000-gallon Kelp Forest teaches about the importance of protecting this spectacular ecosystem off our California coast. Kelp supports a tremendous diversity of life. We are pleased to be part of this project which will benefit the restoration of the kelp forest and help to preserve it for future generations."

**Jeffrey N. Rudolph, President
California Science Center**

"Our research describes a potential eightfold increase in the amount of urchin roe (gonad) available for fisherman in each area of barren that can be restored to kelp forest. Additionally, restoration can also benefit the ecosystem as a whole, because there should be more fish, algae and invertebrates in the restored kelp forests."

**Dr. Jeremy Claisse, Adjunct Assistant Professor
Vantuna Research Group, Occidental College**

"L.A. Waterkeeper has successfully restored kelp forests off of Malibu and Palos Verdes since 1997. Our staff and volunteers have witnessed the rapid recovery of important kelp forest habitat from restoration efforts, often leading to increased consumptive and non-consumptive economic uses such as fishing and tourism. This larger collaborative to restore kelp habitat is a significant opportunity to return Palos Verdes rocky reefs to a **more biodiverse and productive state.**"

Los Angeles Waterkeeper

"The Montrose Settlements Restoration Program is funding the Kelp Forest Restoration Project on the Palos Verdes Shelf because of the habitat benefits that the kelp forests provide to commercial and recreational fish species. We believe the timing of this project is excellent because of recent increases in kelp growth in Southern California in areas not affected by urchin barrens. Removing the urchins will break a cycle that has prevented recovery in the barrens and allow for the restoration of nearly 100 acres of kelp forest. The unique collaboration among state and federal agencies, local environmental non-profit



groups, academic researchers, and commercial fishers along with the proven techniques and current conditions for kelp recovery will all contribute to the success of this project.”

**David Witting, Fish Biologist
Montrose Settlements Restoration Program
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration**

“California’s sea urchin industry has a long history of being proactive in improving ocean health, and promoting a valuable, sustainable fishery. Without healthy kelp forests we have no high quality product to harvest. This project is a way to benefit the ocean as well as our fishery.”

**Bob Bertelli, Chairman
CA Sea Urchin Commission**

“Heal the Bay supports Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission’s kelp restoration project, as kelp forests provide shelter and food for over 1,000 plant and animal species in California. This restoration process is proven to help successfully transition stark urchin barrens to productive kelp forests. Healthy kelp forests are critical along our coast to buffer against the many ocean stressors. This habitat also provides important recreational value - many of Heal the Bay’s members, staff, and volunteers enjoy SCUBA diving, kayaking, and snorkeling in California’s vibrant kelp forests. Continued restoration efforts will help ensure that California’s kelp forests are sustained for future generations to enjoy.”

Heal the Bay

"Living on one of the richest kelp beds in Southern California, I started out as a self-taught spearfisherman, and have fallen in love with the sport. But it is the complex ecosystem in the kelp forests that have captured my passion. When I enter into a kelp barren while diving, it immediately feels unhealthy and sad. I truly hope this project will ensure healthy kelp beds so future generations can continue to harvest sustainable seafood for their families."

**Dylan A Bruno
Actor/Entrepreneur/Waterman**