

BEACH CLEAN-UP SUMMARY – APRIL 29, 2017

The Spring 2017 Beach Clean-Up was delayed a week because of bad weather. As a result, the number of volunteers was less than in the previous few years. We still had lots of people, lots of trash, and lots of fun.

Here are some highlights:

1. One hundred and sixty-four volunteers signed up, a 35% reduction from last spring. Most streets were accounted for, plus additional areas such as Excursion Park, Fish Alley, and Roberts Avenue. Sixty data cards were turned in.

2. More than 5,850 trash/debris items were reported, compared with more than 8,200 last spring. This decrease can be attributed to fewer areas being covered by fewer people this year, and it may even attest to a degree of increased cleanliness.

3. The most heavily reported items were:

- 793 Plastic Cigarette Filters/Butts
- 756 Plastic Food/Candy Wrappers
- 401 Plastic Caps/Lids
- 393 Plastic Bags
- 349 Plastic Pieces
- 328 Plastic Bottles

These six items accounted for more than 50% of the total items reported.

The general common denominator is the word "PLASTIC." If we add up all the plastic items on the data sheets, they represent 72% of the total - about 10% higher than in recent years.

4. Some of the more unusual items collected were:

-- a full jar of honey	-- a rubber snake
-- a rubber donut	-- a sword (presumably a toy)
-- a vodka bottle	-- shell casings
-- a dog collar	-- a set of headphones
-- underwear	-- a large plastic tub
-- a dollar bill	-- a shoe insert
-- a Christmas wreath	-- a watch

5. Written volunteer comments ranged from "Great community effort" and "Relatively cleaner than expected" to "People are careless."

Specifics included "A lot of balloon-strings; there was a lot of construction material; cigarette butts!; majority of trash was cigarette filters and food wrappers."

Most comments were on the positive side, including those about the clean-up program itself.

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SIC Environmental Commission