

Get ready to clean up West County's shoreline

By Chris Treadway
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The office of Supervisor John Gioia annually sponsors a volunteer event at Shimada Friendship Park at Marina Bay in Richmond as part of the California Coastal Cleanup Day and treats those who come to lend a hand for the shoreline to a barbecue lunch.

At this year's event, from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, the post-cleanup meal will feature a healthy barbecue menu from Cindy Gershen of Sunrise Bistro in Walnut Creek.

This is the 19th year Gioia has hosted a work day at the Richmond location, one of several East Bay shoreline sites participating in the 25th annual California Coastal Cleanup.

Volunteers will meet at the park at the end of the Marina Bay Parkway and walk the Bay Trail and remove trash from the salt marsh, which is habitat for the endangered clapper rail. There are small beach areas on the shore suitable for younger volunteers.

An important component of the cleanup day, which is now an international event observed in more than 76 countries, is the tallying of the types and amounts of trash volunteers retrieve. The figures are entered into a database used to analyze and address trash in the world's oceans.

The Watershed Project is co-sponsoring cleanups at Shimada and three other local sites: Point Isabel Regional Shoreline at the end of Rydin Road off Central Avenue in Richmond; the Albany Bulb at the foot of Buchanan Street; and a stretch of Pinole Creek between Bear Creek Road and Castro Ranch Road in El Sobrante.

For more details on those events or to RSVP for groups of 10 or more, send an e-mail to volunteer@thewatershedproject.org.

In addition, there are cleanup events at several area parks: Eckley Pier, Bull Valley Staging Area, Carquinez Regional Shoreline on Carquinez Scenic Drive between Port Costa and Crockett; Lone Tree Point at the end of Pacific Avenue in Rodeo; Point Pinole Regional Shoreline at Giant Highway in Richmond; and Bayfront Park at the west end of Tennent Avenue in Pinole.

For more details on these events, call 510-544-2515.

Volunteers should wear sturdy shoes, a hat and sunscreen, and bring a water bottle and gloves if possible. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

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