



Heal the Bay



Heal the Bay is fighting for the future of our coastline in the face of unprecedented fires.

In the wake of the devastating 2025 Los Angeles fires, Heal the Bay leapt into action to support our L.A. communities and protect the health of Angelenos and the watershed we all call home.

These megafires were unlike anything we've seen before, and their effects on our coastal waters and marine life will be equally unprecedented. Heal the Bay is stepping up to lead efforts to collect important data, ensuring we have the necessary information to protect public health and understand the long-term impacts on local ecosystems. The data we collect now will be used to protect those impacted by the fires and the future communities that will continue to experience the devastating impacts of climate change.

Heal the Bay remains committed to helping the people, ecosystems, and coastal waters impacted by the fires and ensuring we build L.A. back stronger and more resilient.

Rebuilding With Resilience

COLLABORATION IS KEY FOR

RESTORATION

HEAL THE BAY IS PART OF A TASK FORCE THAT INCLUDES STATE, COUNTY, AND LOCAL AGENCIES WORKING TO PROTECT AND RESTORE LA'S BEACHES.

HEAL THE BAY IS LEADING EFFORTS TO REBUILD WITH

RESILIENCE

LA COUNTY SUPERVISOR, LINDSEY HORVATH, APPOINTED HEAL THE BAY CEO TRACY QUINN TO THE LA COUNTY BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON CLIMATE ACTION AND FIRE SAFE RECOVERY.

From Ash to Action

In the first week of the Palisades Fire, our Science & Policy team mobilized to warn the general public about water quality issues caused by toxic runoff from burn areas.

Three days after the Palisades Fire, Heal the Bay was the only nonprofit invited to the First Responders Briefing at the Incident Command Center in Malibu.

Just after containment began, our scientists were on site to observe the damage to the coastline and work with local officials to provide quick, accurate updates in a sea of misinformation.

Heal the Bay's CEO, Tracy Quinn, advised the City of Los Angeles to identify safe methods for the public to remove ash left by the fires from their properties and coordinated with the city to reduce runoff impacts from the subsequent rains.

Our Water Quality Team began testing the water in and out of the burn zones along Santa Monica Bay impacted by the Palisades Fire for bacteria, turbidity, heavy metals, mercury, and forever chemicals left by the L.A. fires. Additionally, we were invited to join the SCCRWP task force, which unites academics, NGOs, and government agencies to evaluate the impact of post-fire pollutants on local waterways.





Protecting Public Health

Heal the Bay conducted water quality testing along our beaches, gathering crucial data on the impacts of the recent fires on our beloved coastal waters. In collaboration with California State University, Northridge, we also ventured into sand testing, adding another vital dimension to our research. Heal the Bay will continue collaborating with academic institutions, government agencies, and nonprofits that have collected key environmental data to identify gaps, assess results, and determine steps for protecting our coastal waters and ecosystems.

Heal the Bay is dedicated to advocating for transparency and using science-based data to inform policy decisions. We will continue to publish data on water quality and sand contamination to keep the public informed and to help people understand the risks of recreating at our beaches.

Caring for our Ecosystems

In the aftermath of the fires, our Aquarium Animal Care Team took in 160 federally endangered Tidewater Gobies that were rescued from contaminated waters in Topanga Creek. Following this urgent response, we received approval from the US Fish and Wildlife Service to launch a captive breeding program aimed at ensuring the survival of this vital species. Heal the Bay is honored to be one of only two locations authorized to carry out this important work.

Supporting our Community

The Heal the Bay Aquarium offered free Science Camp to all L.A. children affected by the fire, allowing parents to navigate the challenges of displacement while their children were safe, entertained, and engaged with our educators.

Fighting for Our Coast

In January 2025, the US EPA set up the Palisades Fire hazardous material staging area close to Topanga Creek and Topanga Lagoon. Immediately following this news, Heal the Bay expressed significant concerns with the use of this site due to its ecological and cultural significance.

Heal the Bay was then invited by Supervisor Lindsey Horvath to join FEMA and the EPA for a thorough site tour. Following the visit, we presented a set of recommendations aimed at enhancing protective measures to prevent contaminants from escaping the site and causing additional environmental harm.

Shortly thereafter, the EPA announced that it would implement additional pollution mitigation measures at Topanga Creek and continue these best management practices as they expanded operations to the Will Rogers State Beach parking lot.

We will continue to hold government agencies and local decision-makers accountable to ensure the protection of the environment, ecosystems, and affected communities.



Thank you to our partners and first responders.

LAFD, LAFD Lifeguards, UCLA, USC, CSUN, Councilmember Traci Park, Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, RWQCB, SCCWRP, and more.

Support our coastline

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