



NEWS RELEASE

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SCIENTISTS HIKING CALIFORNIA COASTAL TRAIL ARRIVE AT SAN ELIJO LAGOON AUGUST 1
San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy To Host Seashore Tour for Public Walk with Scientist-Explorers

CARDIFF-BY-THE-SEA — Two young marine scientists who are walking and biking the entire 1,200-mile stretch of the California Coastal Trail—to raise public awareness about the trail while gathering data for an interactive app—will arrive at San Elijo Lagoon at **1:30 pm on Monday, August 1**. A public welcoming and naturalist-guided hike will begin at the mouth of San Elijo Lagoon, located at Cardiff State Beach.

Morgan Visalli and Jocelyn Enevoldsen are ambassadors for the California Coastal Trail Association (CCTA). The duo began May 1 to hike and bike the entire length of California’s spectacular 1,200-mile California Coastal Trail, gathering mapping data and collecting photos and videos for inclusion in a soon-to-be-released California Coastal Trail smartphone app under development by the California Coastal Conservancy with help from the CCTA.

“San Elijo Lagoon is their North County meet and greet destination,” said Doug Gibson, San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy Executive Director. “We encourage families to explore the coast with us. It’s all about ocean connections and access for everyone. Hikers will benefit with a deeper understanding of how this lagoon is connected to seashore life and clean coastal waters.”

According to Una Glass, the CCTA executive director, the trail is currently about two-thirds complete. In addition to gathering useful data about the trail, “the walk is intended to raise awareness and marshal support for completing the trail, granting uninterrupted public access along the entire coastal route,” said Glass.

“The dream for the California Coastal Trail is to connect trails and communities all along the California coastline, a profound vision we can only achieve together,” said Morgan Visalli.



The CCTA is a nonprofit alliance of the public, state and local government, NGOs, and businesses that love the coast and enthusiastically support completion of the Trail. “Our goal is to ensure the public knows about the California Coastal Trail and to provide resources for its enjoyment,” added Glass. “This journey will raise the trail’s public profile and build momentum for completing it.”

The idea for the trail originated with the Coastal Initiative, Proposition 20, passed by voters in 1972. Additional legislation designated the California Coastal Conservancy as the lead state agency in facilitating the trail’s completion. When completed, the trail will run unbroken from Oregon to Mexico, providing access to the coastline for everyone. It is managed by more than one hundred jurisdictions including city and county governments, state parks, ports, and land trusts. In addition to providing recreation and access to the coast, the trail is a tremendous economic asset, generating millions in revenue from tourism and outdoor recreation sectors.

San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy is a recipient of California Coastal Conservancy’s Explore the Coast grant, which fosters programs to get kids outside, and to build future stewards of our environment. The Coastal Conservancy is celebrating its 40th Anniversary this year.

Follow the “Mojo Coastwalkers” progress on their blog at www.Coastalk.org and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CaCoastalTrail/.

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About SELC

San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy is the nonprofit land trust for the 979-acre San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve. Its mission is to protect and restore the resources of the lagoon, its watershed, and related ecosystems for the benefit of current and future generations. Public walks and events, and more information about the conservancy and the reserve are online at www.sanelijo.org.

About CCTA

The California Coastal Trail Association is the only statewide nonprofit with a primary focus of supporting and promoting the California Coastal Trail. Headquartered in Sebastopol, California, the CCTA works to facilitate collaboration to complete, promote and steward this unparalleled public resource. More information is available at www.coastwalk.org.