



# THE TERN TIDE

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## 2016 Volunteer Recognition Celebration

By Shirley Dettloff

On Wednesday, November 16, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm, the board of the Amigos de Bolsa Chica will honor our 2016 volunteers who have led Bolsa Chica wetland docent tours, became Citizen Scientists with the FLOW program, presented the film Saving the Bolsa Chica Wetlands to civic organizations and schools, participated at booth events and who continue to work to ensure the sustainability of this important resource that Amigos de Bolsa Chica members worked so hard to save.

The event will take place at Don Ramon's Mexican Restaurant, corner of Golden West St. and Warner Avenue. This restaurant has been in Huntington Beach

for many years and many of us came to eat there year after year when we were much younger. I am sure that a taco or enchilada helped to energize us so that we could commit much of our life to the Bolsa Chica. It is fitting to have this event at Don Ramon's Mexican Restaurant as the Spanish era was a part of our history. The Bolsa Chica and the City of Huntington Beach were once a part of a very large Spanish Land Grant which stretched from the Santa Ana River to the San Gabriel River and from the ocean to the mountains. Our 2016 volunteers continue this same dedicated spirit and the board will recognize and honor their efforts. For more information call 714-847-8371 or email [shirleydettloff@socal.rr.com](mailto:shirleydettloff@socal.rr.com).

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### First Saturday of the Month Tour:

*Free tours on the first Saturday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.*

### Last Saturday of the Month Tour:

*FREE bird talk and nature walk at the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve. Led by Amigos docents. 9:00 am.*

**Carpooling is encouraged as parking at the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve is limited.**

# Fall has Sprung!

By Rachael Lloyd



Fall is spring in Southern California, at least as far as the native plants are concerned. Contrary to the famous lyrics from the 1972 hit song “It never rains in California” by Albert Hammond, it does in fact rain in California, albeit not a whole lot. Southern California has a Mediterranean climate typified by dry warm summers and mild winters. Under normal conditions the rains begin around November and last until April. On average the rains come intermittently, every 2 weeks or so, and most likely in the form of light showers. Average yearly rainfall is only 14 inches. Compare that to about 20 inches per year in San Francisco and the national average of around 40 inches. October signals a downturn in temperatures and the end of a six month long yearly summer drought. What all this means is that the natural growing season for Southern California’s native plants is actually during those 6 months of rain and cooler weather known elsewhere as fall and winter. And so November is spring for the native plants, prime time for planting. There will be 5 more months of mild weather ahead for the young plants to set roots and grow.

After a summer hiatus the coalition of volunteers that have worked to rejuvenate the Native Plant Garden surrounding the Bolsa Chica State Beach Headquarters building are looking forward to their fall planting. The Amigos sponsored Environmental Service Club for high schoolers will kick off its first meeting of the year on Saturday October 29, from 9:00 am to noon. The group will continue its efforts to propagate and plant native species sourced from the state beach and ecological reserve. Under the direction of State Parks Environmental Scientist Lana Nguyen and our propagation partners at Segerstrom High School and Coastline College plants are being readied for their first taste of beach life. Juvenile species with intriguing names like Beach Evening Primrose, Red Sand Verbena, Bladderpod and Lemonade Berry are among the species due to be installed. Look for signs of fresh greenery to be popping up in the garden soon.

The Environmental Service Club welcomes adult volunteers as well, and together the teens and adults are at the heart of efforts to maintain and improve the Native Plant Garden. Anyone 13 or older can come to the once a month Saturday meeting and join in for just that day or for all the scheduled Saturdays until June. Credit can be earned by high schoolers for their community service requirement toward high school



**Coast Goldenbush (*Isocoma menziesii*) is a common plant at lower elevations in the Bolsa Chica area.**  
*Photo by Rachael Lloyd*

graduation. Adults can accumulate hours toward becoming official State Parks volunteers and earn a free pass to California State Parks. As the reader might expect activities normally include garden tasks such as weeding, pruning, planting and spreading mulch. The surprise is that in addition to physical work each gathering will include a different learning event. Experienced guides will lead hikes in the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve to see native flora and fauna. There are over 200 bird species that use the reserve for resting and nesting throughout the year. We have an expert from the Cetacean Society coming to talk to us about marine mammals. During one session volunteers will be treated to views of live plankton floating in local saltwater samples under microscopes at the visitor center. Due to the tremendous learning activities that accompany our garden work there will never be one volunteer day like another. To see a schedule of the volunteer dates for 2016-2017 go to [www.amigosdebolsachica.org](http://www.amigosdebolsachica.org). Weather reference [www.weatherspark.com/averages/29963/Los-Angeles-California-United-States](http://www.weatherspark.com/averages/29963/Los-Angeles-California-United-States).



**During October–November as Coast Goldenbush comes to the end of its bloom season the yellow flowers turn into fuzzy seeds that float away on the ocean breezes.**  
*Photo by Rachael Lloyd*

# President's Tern

## Amigos Busy Summer Turns to a Busy Fall

By Jerry Donohue

Summer ended a month ago, though the occasional bursts of autumnal heat belie that fact. It again was a busy summer with a wide variety of Amigos activities that go beyond our usual monthly tours and weekly FLOW explorations. We were busy at Bolsa Chica State Beach exciting young people with the microscopic world of phytoplankton. We sponsored 9 sessions with Junior Rangers or Junior Lifeguards. Again this summer, we worked with State Beach staff for 6 days with the Summer Learning Institute, where young students from the Los Angeles School District spent 3 hours at the beach learning about diverse marine topics.

The film Saving the Bolsa Chica Wetlands has been shown to a variety of groups including the HB Rotary, Huntington Harbor Garden Club, Newport Bay Conservancy and REI stores in Huntington Beach and Tustin. Each showing was followed by a Q&A where audiences interacted with our panel and sometimes presented unique reminiscences of their own. We have at least 2 more showings currently on the calendar and expect presentations to continue throughout 2017.

We have begun the large task of archiving the 40 years of Amigos records currently in storage. This project will require a great amount of time and we will gratefully accept help of any kind as we move through this process. These files, shown in Saving the Bolsa Chica Wetlands, hold many surprises as some of this material has not seen the light of day in over 30 years.

14 FLOW citizen scientists were able to attend a workshop at the HAB Watch lab at USC in late September to talk with experts about our inclusion in this program as a regional site. The microscopes and equipment in the lab were impressive and our volunteers were captivated with the marvelous views achievable with high tech gear. Our current

participation with the California Department of Public Health will continue but networking with this new program will advance our learning curve.

Amigos volunteers also helped at Movie Night at Bolsa Chica State Beach, Science Night at Golden West College, REI workday at Newport Back Bay and Fluor Cares workday at BCER. We have established a wonderful working relationship with 4 schools this past year, all of whom participated in presenting or reviewing posters at the Bolsa Chica Science Symposium in April. Dr. Tanya Murray, Coastline Community College; Tom Pfeifer, Segerstrom High School; Daryth Morrissey, Vista View Middle School; Travis Garwick; Warner Middle School. All have expressed interest in continuing their collaboration with Amigos in the upcoming school year.

With the new school year, Rachael Lloyd, our garden specialist, already has an ambitious calendar to educate and challenge students outside the classroom. Come visit and work with students in the garden at the Visitor Center at Bolsa Chica State Beach some Saturday. Check our calendar page on [www.amigosdebolsachica.org](http://www.amigosdebolsachica.org) for dates.

Finally I would like to express my gratitude to the GSP students at Segerstrom High School for allowing me to accompany them on their Earthwatch trip to South Africa where we studied behavioral differences in horned and dehorned rhinos. These students spent more than 40 hours at Bolsa Chica doing a variety of sweat equity tasks that enabled them to go on this trip. The Kenneth Picerne Foundation funded this project and all of us, including teacher Tom Pfeifer, will have fond memories, not only of the rhinos, but the African students that we met and the dedication of the staff at the Mankwe Wildlife Reserve.

## Amigos de Bolsa Chica 2017 Docent Class

The next Docent Class will be held in early 2017. If you have an interest in taking the Amigos Docent Training Class to learn more about the Bolsa Chica and to then share your understanding with others on tours and at presentations contact the Amigos at **714 840-1575** or [info@amigosdebolsachica.org](mailto:info@amigosdebolsachica.org). The schedule for the class will be determined later this

year. The class runs for 6 weeks, one night a week from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

The subjects that will be covered include Birds, Endangered Species, Ecology, History and Restoration of the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve.

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# The Ebb and FLOW of Summer

By Gwen K. Noda

The ebb and flow of the ocean is what determines our meeting time for the FLOW (Follow to Learn about the Ocean and Wetlands) citizen science monitoring program each Friday. We collect water samples from the Bolsa Chica wetland footbridge and the tidal inlet to check the water chemistry and, barely keeping our curiosity in check until we can get a drop of water under the microscope, have a look at the phytoplankton community. Each week, we see some of the usual suspects, but sometimes we see an increase in their numbers and sometimes a decrease. This is a normal cycle that we see as the tiny planktonic animals eat up the algae and then die back, allowing the algae to flourish again. We are fascinated with their beauty and keep searching that tiny drop of water for those that can be harmful to human health as well as for anybody out of the ordinary. Those harmful algae are always there, but so far in only small (non-worrisome) quantities. Sometimes the tide brings us bigger critters, too. On my first trip out to the inlet, a large leopard shark and a sea turtle cruised past our plankton net!

Junior Rangers and Junior Lifeguards participated in the FLOW program in July and August. We had kids of various ages learn about the changes in our ocean along with us. Some weeks we had up to 10 rangers and up to 25 guards and some weeks we had none! Kudos to the three California State Park volunteers - Kayla, Jesus, and Kimberly from Daryth Morrissey's classes at Vista View - for all their help in set up and break down for these programs.

Working hard on recruitment in June and July brought an influx of new volunteers to our orientation and training session in August. Since then, we have had even more like-minded people find us and join us for FLOW. There are a lot of new, enthusiastic volunteers at the Visitors Center on Fridays - please come and meet them!

The FLOW program went on a field trip to the research lab of Dr. Dave Caron at the University of Southern California. The Caron Lab studies harmful algae and we wanted to see how they do that and what kinds of equipment they use. They have a citizen science program called HAB Watch (Harmful Algal Bloom Watch) to which, with just a couple of changes, we could be (and will be) contributing our FLOW



**FLOW volunteers visited Dr. David Caron and his lab to learn about the HAB Watch citizen science program**  
*Photo by Holly Rindge*

data. It was a great learning experience and a lot of fun. It was hard to say good-bye!

The Whale Tale grant from the California Coastal Commission has allowed us to buy some new equipment such as refractometers and some lightweight microscopes for students and we've been able to take in all of our older microscopes for a much needed "tune up". The grant has also allowed FLOW to hire a Curriculum Developer (Joana Tavares) and Program Manager (me!) for about a year. This has allowed me to spend some time behind the scenes tidying up dropbox files, re-writing the bus funding application, simplifying the volunteer state paperwork process, and helping to start a Program Manager handbook. The grant gives Joana a chance to develop the protocol and lesson plans for teachers to do phytoplankton growth experiments with their students in their classrooms.

The ebb and flow of the year continues as we're transitioning from summer programs to booking middle and high school and community college field trips. One last transition is that I was offered and have accepted a full time position working at the University of Southern California and as I transition out of the position, Joanne Park will be transitioning in! Welcome, Joanne!

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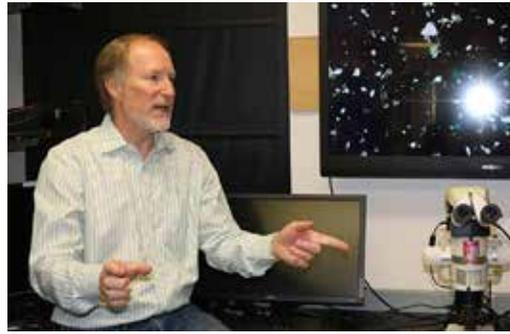


**FLOW members at USC in front of the Alan Hancock Foundation Building**  
*Photo by Holly Rindge*

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**Rosie and Chie trying out a scope that attaches to an iPhone**  
*Photo by Holly Rindge*



**Dr. David Caron of USC telling us about his lab's research**  
*Photo by Holly Rindge*



**Luma, a new FLOW volunteer, using one of the high powered microscopes to look at a phytoplankton sample**  
*Photo by Holly Rindge*

## Welcome Joanne Park, New FLOW Program Manager

*By Joana Tavares*

Our wonderful Program Manager, Gwen Noda has recently accepted a full time position at USC in a very exciting initiative called Center for Dark Energy Biosphere Investigations (C-DEBI, which “explores life beneath the seafloor.” How cool is that?).

Gwen has been with us since May of this year and accomplished an impressive amount of goals during this brief period of time. Thank you Gwen! We will miss you a lot but are so very happy for you and your venture into the deep ocean.

As you all can probably imagine, I was very worried about what would happen to us without Gwen to manage FLOW and keep us moving forward (think “unable-to-sleep worried”), but then a stroke of luck. It turns out that super qualified and talented ocean and environmental education hero, Joanne Park, is available to replace Gwen and to become our new Program Manager.

We have known Joanne for years: I met her when she was working for California Department of Fish & Wildlife at the Back Bay Science Center, running several components of their education program there (including their plankton monitoring program!). Joanne is currently working towards her Master's degree in Science Education at Cal State Long Beach, and also works as a Science Instructor at the Ocean Institute in Dana Point. Her resume is impressive and includes environmental education projects with a number of organizations: Crystal Cove Alliance, Aquarium of the Pacific, Laguna Canyon Foundation, Pacific Marine

Mammal Center. I am so relieved and excited about the fact that Joanne has accepted the job and that she is able to hit the ground running.

Gwen and Joanne will be working collaboratively during the next couple of weeks to ensure a smooth transition. Fortunately, we have a very clear set of goals for this position (established by the Whale Tail Grant timeline). Also, Gwen has kept detailed notes of what she's done and most importantly how she's done it, so I am confident we will be able to continue building on what we do, i.e. monitoring the plankton and water quality at the Bolsa Chica, learning together about the importance of aquatic ecosystems and sharing our knowledge and passion with the community.

In the next few months we will be hosting a number of talks and community outreach events at the Bolsa Chica and we would love to have you over as either presenters or as audience members. These will be free, open to the public events, and will focus mostly on science and environmental conservation. We are open to suggestions about topics and themes to explore (you can email me directly at [jtavarereager@gmail.com](mailto:jtavarereager@gmail.com) if you have any recommendations).

To get notified about upcoming presentations, like us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/amigosdebolsachica](http://www.facebook.com/amigosdebolsachica) or sign up for our e-newsletter by sending an email to [info@amigosdebolsachica.org](mailto:info@amigosdebolsachica.org). Hope to see you at the Bolsa Chica next Friday! (and/or on following Fridays... see our schedule online at [www.amigosdebolsachica.org/pdf/amigos\\_calendar.pdf](http://www.amigosdebolsachica.org/pdf/amigos_calendar.pdf))



# The Tidal Inlet 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

By Shirley Dettloff

On August 24 at 11:00 am, over 100 people joined with the Amigos de Bolsa Chica and the California State Lands Commission to celebrate the ten year anniversary of the opening of the tidal inlet. August 24, 2006 had been the day when ocean waters flowed directly into the Bolsa Chica for the first time in 107 years! Many of those in attendance had been at the opening ten years ago to witness the bulldozers pushing the sand berm away from the newly constructed ocean entrance which allowed the tides to return the wetlands.

Opening the ceremony was Huntington Beach Mayor Jim Katapodis who is a member of the Amigos' Board of Directors. Jennifer Lucchesi, Executive Officer for the State Lands Commission, and project manager Wendy Hall also spoke. The State Lands Commission was also represented by Jim Trout who had been with the project from the very beginning. He had stood with Amigos on that bridge 10 years ago. Kelly M. O'Reilly, the California Fish and Wildlife manager of the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, addressed the audience as well. Amigos de Bolsa Chica was represented by Shirley Dettloff, a founding member and the current Secretary, along with current President, Jerry Donohue. Many Amigos members were in the audience and it was very meaningful to not only recall that day ten years ago, but the decades of work it took to accomplish the goal of seeing the return of ocean water which assured the restoration of Bolsa Chica.

Has restoration been successful? A resounding yes as was described when Kelly O'Reilly addressed the audience. Since restoration began in 2004, hundreds of acres of wetlands have been restored, including 181 acres of muted tidal basins and the 42 acre pocket

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The purpose of the Docent Class is to train individuals to lead tours and in turn teach others about the importance of wetlands and excite the public to become more active in their local community with environmental education and preservation needs. The members of the public who attend tours are elementary, high school and college students; girl and boy scouts; community groups; and a variety of visitors from the United States and other countries.

The cost of the class is the Amigos Membership plus \$50 which includes a Docent Training Manual and a Docent Photo Binder. The classes will take place at



**Mayor of Huntington Beach, Jim Katapodis, giving a speech at the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**  
*Photo by Jim Robins*

marsh.

There has been a significant increase in the wetland's biodiversity with more and more birds returning to Bolsa Chica as well as a dramatic increase in the number of fish seen in the deep water habitat. The area which was once the second largest oil field in the State of California has been transformed into a critical habitat for birds and marine life.

Is the work finished? No! Since standing on the bridge on the morning of August 24, 2006 the Amigos continue working to ensure that restoration is successful. Almost 400 acres of wetland in areas of active oil operations still need to be restored, and we must make sure that the tidal inlet continues to function and the restored wetlands are maintained in the best possible ways. Our job as Amigos is not done! We must work to ensure sustainability for the wetlands and we must commit to this goal!



**Terry Jorris, Jerry Donohue, Tom Livengood, Shirley Dettloff and Thomas Wong.**  
*Photo by Jim Robins*

Bolsa Chica State Beach Visitor Center on Pacific Coast Highway between Warner Avenue and Seapoint Street. The entrance is across the street from the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve on the ocean side of the street.

Amigos de Bolsa Chica has a free Public Tour the first Saturday of each month starting at 9:00am at the south parking lot of the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve on Pacific Coast Highway between Warner and Seapoint across the street from the entrance to the Bolsa Chica State Beach. You are encouraged to attend the tour for an overview of the classes.

# Amigos de Bolsa Chica's 40 Years of Commitment and Success, a Historical Series



## Part 7 The Restoration

By Shirley Dettloff

After years of lobbying, testifying, writing letters, and giving money, the goal was getting closer. Once the State Lands Commission had agreed to the acquisition of the 880 acres of Bolsa Chica lowlands, Signal would approve the sale of its property to the state, the oil operators would agree to the cleanup of the oil field, and the ports would provide the funding for both the purchase and the restoration project. The restoration of the Bolsa Chica wetland was finally at hand.

Now the real work of designing a functioning wetland, cleaning up an oilfield, removing oil wells and getting all of the permits needed to accomplish the work had begun. After more than six years of work by all of the agencies whose responsibilities were to design the restoration project, a groundbreaking ceremony was held on October 8, 2004. Representatives of all of the federal and state agencies in the Steering Committee (NOAA and the National Marine Fisheries, the Department of the Interior, California Department of Resources, State Lands Commission, and the US Army Corps of Engineers) were present, along with the Lieutenant Governor Cruz Bustamonte. The guests of honor were the Amigos de Bolsa Chica. Amigos de Bolsa Chica was credited by the Steering Committee for saving the wetlands, supporting the restoration project, and staying the course for over thirty years. After the ceremony, the Amigos hosted a luncheon attended by over 300 people who had been involved in the struggle to preserve and restore the Bolsa Chica wetlands. In his speech, the Lt. Governor praised the efforts of the Amigos.

The next celebration was the morning of August 24, 2006, the final moments of the restoration project. A few dozen Amigos stood on the newly constructed bridge on Pacific Coast Highway and watched as bulldozers removed a sand berm allowing the ocean to flow into parts of the Bolsa Chica that had not felt tidal fluctuation in 107 years. Over a hundred people were present in the predawn hours that morning, and the Amigos celebrated the culmination of 30 years of fighting for the preservation and restoration of the Bolsa Chica with a champagne toast.

The past years had always been exciting, and the future will still need a strong commitment to guarantee that the restoration functions as designed and that we will have fully functioning wetlands for future generations. The Amigos continue conducting tours, have strong educational programs, provide information to the Steering Committee, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and other agencies as needed. We also want to ensure a responsible restoration of the Bolsa Chica mesa, and we support the work being done by the Bolsa Chica Land Trust. As part of our mission we feel that a permanent Interpretive Center must be built and to that end we will work with the Bolsa Chica Conservancy to make sure that this is accomplished.

It had all started before 1976 when a group of people in Huntington Beach, unknown to one another, got together to save what they believed was an invaluable natural resource right in their own community. Because of this small group

of dedicated individuals much was achieved. These were not professionals, but people who came from every walk of life: students, housewives, teachers, engineers, lawyers who devoted their lives to save a wetland for future generations. I am truly convinced that this would not have happened if our "Band of Amigos" had not persevered, given up much in their personal lives, and never stopped believing that what they were doing was a "noble purpose." They gathered by the hundreds at Bolsa Chica State Beach and stood together in opposition to a navigable ocean entrance that would allow hundreds of boats into a marina. They attended literally hundreds of meetings at all levels of government. They have given tours of the wetlands to thousands of children, visitors and students. They spent countless hours lobbying in the County and in Sacramento. They gave their time and their money. And most important, they went up against a powerful corporation, the State Legislature, the County Board of Supervisors, local officials and won one of the most celebrated environmental fights ever seen in California. Some stood up for what they believed was right and sacrificed their own personal goals. Many had never been involved in such an endeavor, had never heard the term "environmentalist" but thought that the wetlands they saw along the coast in Huntington Beach was worth their time and their efforts.

For many Amigos, this was a journey that began over 40 years ago; most of their adult lives had been involved with this monumental effort. Not one of those original "Band" of Amigos could have known that their lives would never be the same or that they would devote so many years to seeing success when the Bolsa Chica was at last saved and restored. It was through the efforts of so many that so much was achieved; a legacy was achieved and it is now our responsibility to make sure that this legacy survives for generations. Everyone who was involved should be proud of what they accomplished and remember the letters they wrote, tours they led, the testimony they gave, the money they gave, the meetings they attended, the trips to Sacramento and Washington D.C.

The Amigos have continued to educate and to meet with anyone who we felt could influence the decisions on the future of the wetland. The strength of the Amigos de Bolsa Chica has always been its members and the dedicated work of their Board of Directors. Even today the board is strong and continues to live up to its Mission Statement to save, restore and maintain the Bolsa Chica Wetlands, as well as to educate the public on the importance of wetlands.

Through the efforts of these dedicated volunteers who persevered year after year sometimes under criticism, when a battle was lost, when they thought that they could not give one more hour to the cause, or conduct one more tour or attend one more meeting they continued on and it was these ordinary people who did extraordinary things that SAVED THE BOLSA CHICA! Future generations will be indebted to the work that Amigos de Bolsa Chica did to protect the future.



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## AMIGOS DE BOLSA CHICA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I support the specific and primary purpose of Amigos de Bolsa Chica, which is to advocate the preservation, restoration and maintenance of the Bolsa Chica, to encourage the public acquisition of all the wetlands and sufficient surrounding open space to create a viable ecosystem, and to provide education about the importance of wetlands.

### ANNUAL DUES

- \$ 10 Student
- \$ 25 Individual
- \$ 40 Family
- \$100 Sustaining
- \$1000 Life Member

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Additional Contribution:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Fund operational expenses    \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Fund education projects    \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total enclosed

### Please check if you are interested in volunteering for:

Education outreach \_\_ Grantwriting \_\_ Social media \_\_ Wetlands cleanup \_\_ Leading tours \_\_ Fundraising \_\_

All contributions to Amigos de Bolsa Chica are tax-deductible as allowed by law under IRS Code Section 501(c)3.  
No goods or services were provided in consideration of this gift.

Return application to: Amigos de Bolsa Chica, P.O. Box 1563, Huntington Beach, CA 92647