

# SAVE CUESTA INLET!



SaveCuestaInlet.org  
Newsletter Sept '22

@savecuestainlet



Big updates!  
We are now officially a non-profit and your donations by check, card, PayPal or Zelle are tax deductible!\* In the first 24 hours of fundraising, we saw \$20k pour in from the community. Thank you so much. Please spread the news and help us drive those generous pledges as we are hopeful to raise enough to enter escrow as soon as possible! Read on for more ways to help including fundraising, donating art, and buying fun gift coupons for dinner... Everything helps us reach our goal. Thank you, neighbors.

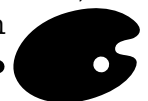
### Volunteer Grant Writers

A group of volunteer grant writers are actively seeking grants and other funding resources in cooperation with the steering committee. These funds may or may not be applicable toward purchase, but could help support the ongoing care and maintenance of Cuesta Inlet, including making this beautiful space accessible to all by meeting ADA standards, or fortifying how waste is managed, including dog bags. We're so grateful and excited that these awesome grant wizards are on the team and helping strengthen our community cause!

### Save the date!

### FUNDRAISER NOVEMBER 5 & 6

- Plein air artists will be painting down at the Inlet Nov 5,
- and their works will be up for silent auction at the
- Community Center Nov 6 with 50% of proceeds going to
- Save Cuesta Inlet. Join us for a day of creativity Nov 5 and
- an evening of wine and cheese, music & community Nov 6.
- More info, including how to participate as an artist, will be
- posted to our site and social soon



We'll be at the Los Osos Octoberfest Oct 30 with merch and info. And, as always, you can find us at the Baywood Farmer's Market every Monday. Volunteers always welcome! [tinyurl.com/cuestav](http://tinyurl.com/cuestav)



100 Beerwood vouchers  
\$100 for dinner + drinks  
100% of voucher sales  
go to Save Cuesta Inlet

A generous community member is offering 100 vouchers at \$100 for 2 entrees and 2 drinks at Beerwood, with 100% donated to Save Cuesta Inlet. If all vouchers are purchased, another 100 will become available. A potential \$20k donation! Available at Beerwood starting October 1 — act fast + eat up!



Do you have ideas for fundraising or driving awareness for Save Cuesta Inlet? Can we address your service group, church or other gathering or community? Are you a local business owner who can help us share information by posting our newsletter or postcards in your hotel, shop or restaurant? We would love to connect!  
[savecuestainlet@gmail.com](mailto:savecuestainlet@gmail.com)



All of us are important in this effort: full and part time community members, owners and renters, visitors, drifters, and long distance admirers. Please share information about this cause, how to donate and help, and where and when we're holding events with everyone you think might hold Cuesta Inlet as dearly as all of us do. Thank you so much for helping Save Cuesta Inlet!

\*501(c)(3) certification can be found on our site. Please consult with a professional if you have questions about deductibility. If we are unable to enter escrow, donations in excess of expenses will be prorated and refunded, or can be reallocated to your choice of several local non-profits. We will develop those options more if needed. Fingers crossed we won't need to! Thank you for donating!

# SAVE CUESTA INLET!

≡ Your special names for Cuesta inlet ≡

(Rick's) Penny Bay ♥

Boat Garden

Fluff Forest

Kayak Cove

MAGIC FOREST

Please spread the word for those who are not on social media or our newsletter so we can all reach a broader community of locals and enthusiasts. Teachers and students can share with classrooms! Businesses can share with customers! And please share with your neighbors.

## Pets

### of Cuesta

#### Inlet Calendar Submissions

Does your pet have what it takes to Miss July?? Submit photos of your beloved four-leg creature at Cuesta Inlet on land or sea to [savcuestainlet@gmail.com](mailto:savcuestainlet@gmail.com) by Sept 30. 12 hot shots will star in a calendar benefiting this fund. You can also have your pet's birthday or adoption date printed on that date for \$10! And see more Cuesta Inlet pet photos on our social media...

## Endangered Plant Profile:

### Sea Lavender

by George Pilling



My wife, Carol, is a Sweet Springs Preserve ambassador, which means she walks the preserve's paths, greeting visitors and reminding them to stay on the trails. Even when brides-to-be are being photographed standing in a clump of poison oak, she has to tell them not to go there. So, when offered an opportunity to help the Morro Bay National Estuary Program (MBNEP) look for an invasive European sea lavender (*Limonium duriusculum*) that could threaten the native sea lavender (*L. caifornicum*) that is common here — and go legally off-trail — I jumped at it. My wife and grandchildren came down and waved at me while I was there tromping in illegal places.

On my adventure, I met Carolyn Geraghty, Restoration Program Manager with the MBNEP, and John Sayers, a botanist with California State Parks in Morro Bay, at the beach access spot on Mitchell and Doris, just north of Cuesta Inlet. We walked along the

beach, first north to Sweet Springs, then south to the inlet, keeping an eye out for the native sea lavender — and hoping not to find its invasive European twin that often grows with it.

Native sea lavender is a beautiful little plant with light purple blossom clusters that stick up a few inches above the ground in June and July. It has 2-4 inch long leaves that radiate out from the base and stick up along the flower stems. It grows in or near the "wrack line," the thread around the bay where dried eelgrass settles during high tide. The eelgrass leaves naturally die and break off, are carried to the shore by currents and then settle, making a unique mini-ecosystem. Thick mats can smother plants like pickleweed (*Salicornia virginica*), making a spot where seeds can sprout. Thinner mats of dried eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) shelter plants that are sprouting. All decaying stems provide nourishment, recycling sea floor nutrients onto the land. Sea Lavender benefits greatly from the shelter and nutrients.

Non-native sea lavender is also common in California. Some species are

sold as nursery plants and in seed mixes. The one that is a problem on the Central Coast is *L. duriusculum*, a plant native to Europe. It grows in the same places as the native sea lavender, often right next to it. Its blossoms are a little darker and more pronounced and its leaves are quite different — they are small and rounded, radiating out from the base of the flower stalk. It has virtually taken over the native plants around Carpenteria, but is not as much of a problem here — we did not find any sprouting up in or nearby Cuesta Inlet, but Carolyn and other scientists are keeping an eye out. Seeds are spread by animals, including people and birds, so continued monitoring is needed.

We can all help keep invasives out of natural areas by planting only native plants around our homes. We can support the work of the Morro Bay National Estuary Program by donating time and money at [mbnep.org](http://mbnep.org), where you can also find more info about these plants. They also have a wonderful little museum on the Embarcadero in Morro Bay — a great place to take yourself and your kids and learn about our beautiful bay.