Teachers on the Estuary (TOTE) is back at the Tijuana River Reserve

For almost two years during the pandemic, the Tijuana River Reserve had to cancel their TOTE Trainings due to very low enrollment, even for 100% virtual trainings. To make up for missed trainings, the reserve provided three hybrid TOTE trainings from October 2021 to November 2022. Research and CTP staff, including the Margaret Davidson fellow Nancy Torres, participated in the trainings. The San Diego County Office of Education science coordinator helped with planning, production of virtual sessions, and developing the asynchronous portions. The in-person days covered Estuaries 101, data literacy, SWMP Scenarios, school program activities, and a reserve tour to Border Field State Park along the border. A total of 38 primarily middle and high school teachers attended the three trainings and 71% intended to incorporate the NERRS estuary education resources in their classrooms.

National City Library Patrons Visit Reserve on August 20th through Statewide Partnership

In 2022, a partnership was developed between the California State Library and California State Parks with the Office of the First Partner’s Outdoor Access for All initiative. From this, a California State Parks Free Library Pass was created. A Park Pass grant was then established to encourage library patrons to visit parks. At National City Public Library, about twenty minutes north of the Reserve, Senior Library Technician Tiffany Roberts was awarded one of the first grants. Tiffany contacted Education Coordinator and State Park Interpreter Anne Marie Tipton and requested for Reserve staff to provide a tour for 30-40 people. To provide a better experience for the tour, Anne Marie enlisted the help of two long-term Reserve docents. Together they provided a 1.5 hour tour with multiple stops discussing aspects of the Reserve for thirty-two attendees, including seven children and extended families. The grant also provided a nature backpack with outdoor exploration equipment. Anne Marie and the docents even showed the library patrons how to use the tools in the packs before and during the tour. Only one person had ever visited the Reserve before, so the docents were excited to work with this new group and it seemed like library patrons really enjoyed themselves.

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“Thank you for the meaningful experience. I appreciated the thoroughness of how all aspects of the topic and program was discussed over the 3-day training. Thank you for all you do. I look forward to attending more trainings.”

Tina
Chula Vista Middle School TOTE teacher

“The Teacher Leaders that will facilitate [our] community [of practice] all said that their learning experiences at the … Reserve were of high quality and something they recommend to their peers. … The Tijuana Estuary is known as one of the high impact science teacher education programs in our region.”

Alec Barron
Director of the San Diego Science Project

California’s Tijuana River Reserve is one of 30 sites in the National Estuarine Research Reserve System. Each site is a state federal partnership that combines research, monitoring, and education to advance the understanding and management of estuarine environments.
National Estuarine Research Reserve Education
Change on the Ground in 2022

Connects
People to Estuaries

1 million+ ACRES
of natural classrooms & living laboratories with
26 INTERPRETIVE CENTERS

Hello to the Connecticut Reserve, designated in 2022!

Prepares
the Next Generation

54,773 STUDENTS take learning out of the abstract & into the outdoors

4,347 TEACHERS are trained in the estuary & supported in the classroom

SKILLS BUILT
Observation
 Asking research questions
 Problem solving
 Data driven decision making

Estuary Science
Local Data
Lab Work
Field Investigation

Improves
the Environment

10,570 CITIZENS are trained & inspired to protect their coasts & estuaries

30 RESEARCH RESERVE EDUCATORS lead programs that foster coastal stewardship in communities in 25 states

Creating value through education
37,371 volunteer hours = $1,119,261*

*Value of a volunteer hour is calculated at $29.95 based on data from the Independent Sector.

coast.noaa.gov/estuaries