

**S.L. Gimbel Foundation Final Report
Due May 15, 2018**

**The Community Foundation
3700 Sixth Street, Suite 200
Riverside, CA 92501
Attention: Ms. Celia Cudiamat**

1. Organization name: Ocean Institute
2. Grant # 20170151
3. Grant period: April 15, 2017 through April 15, 2018
4. Location of services: Dana Point, CA
5. Name and title of person completing evaluation: Jane Birmingham, Grant Manager
6. Phone: 949-496-2274 x 415
7. Email: jbirmingham@ocean-institute.org
8. Total number of clients served through this grant funding: 197 fifth graders
9. Describe key outcomes:

The Watershed Program created nearly 2,000 action-oriented environmental stewards through hands-on, science-based programming on watersheds and the ocean.

The Watershed Program engaged underserved fifth graders to encourage them to take ownership of their ocean and use their newly-informed behavior in their community watershed that affects the ocean.

This first-time ocean experience immersed students in science, increasing their confidence with complex science content leading to improved test scores and possible continuing study as they advance in school. Students were introduced to America's science pipeline.

Twenty-six schools participated this year. Students mastered presentation skills and gained confidence from their presentations at Watershed's Kids' Conference.

As a result of this field experience in science, students took pride in demonstrating their new understanding by raising community awareness of the urgent need to improve the health of marine, coastal, and land environments.

10. Describe any challenges: There were none.

11. How did we overcome them? Does not apply.

12. Describe unintended positive outcomes:

As the Watershed Program has developed into a signature program of the Ocean Institute, its culminating Kids' Conference has become an excellent opportunity for our senior management to showcase the Ocean Institute's mission to prospective partners, Board members, and donors who may want to know more about us. We are so proud of what the fifth graders accomplish and seeing them present high-level scientific findings as ten-year-olds is extremely impressive.

13. Briefly describe the impact of this grant on the Ocean Institute and its community:

In the short-term, the grant gives the Watershed Program a major boost in its reach throughout Southern California. In our large community, the program garners positive publicity that reflects well on how the Ocean Institute is working to fulfill its mission. In the longer term, more students from underserved schools have been able to excel academically and realize that science could be their way to a successful career and life. The entire regional environment benefits from residents making informed choices to protect the health of critically-important ecosystems.

14. Provide a narrative on how the funds were used:

The grant was used for an essential component of the Watershed Program: ocean research cruises on the *R/V Sea Explorer*. The cost is \$1,000 per cruise. Line-item expenses are:

- Fuel for the vessel
- Wages for the Captain, Tech Staff, Instructors, and Floating Lab Specialists
- Insurance
- Maintenance
- Depreciation

15. Please relate a success story:

The enclosed letter is one of many that students write to let the Ocean Institute know how they benefitted from the experience. This letter captures the student's excitement at becoming a scientist and we hope she continues to be involved in science along her academic path.

Dear Ocean Institute,

Plop, there goes the tablet into the 5m test tubes.

This was one of my favorite parts of the hole experience because I get to get in a group with my closest friends and doing some science! I wanted to thank you for putting together the kids conference. Me and my class learned a lot about the watershed how it drains from a higher elevation into a larger body of H₂O. I learned so much about how to save our water, by using reusable items like containers instead of zip lock bags. The presentations that I listened to were amazing. I learned about acid rain and that crickets can live in toxic water. I also learned how to use technology in way different ways so thank you so very much!

Sincerely,