



News Release

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Cuesta College and Morro Bay National Estuary Program Open Sediment Lab on Campus

A new partnership between Cuesta College and the Morro Bay National Estuary Program will bring a state of the art lab to the Morro Bay Watershed and Cuesta College this fall.

The new lab was made possible by the donation of space on the Cuesta Campus and equipment purchased with grant funding awarded to the Estuary Program's Volunteer Monitoring Program. The new sediment lab will facilitate expanded monitoring efforts and detailed measurements of suspended sediment in Chorro and Los Osos Creeks during rain storm events. Data obtained from these efforts will help characterize erosion rates in the Morro Bay watershed and the effects on the Estuary downstream. The data will also assist in evaluating the effectiveness of the many restoration efforts underway to reduce upstream erosion.

The sediment lab will open in January 2008 in the newly renovated physical sciences center in Building 2100. It will be operated by the Estuary Program's Volunteer Monitoring Program and will include student participation as well as community volunteers. Students enrolled in Oceanography 47 will be able to intern in the lab, and general oceanography and physical science students will be able to preview and utilize the data generated by the sediment lab.

The Morro Bay National Estuary Program is a local non-profit organization that works to protect the Morro Bay Estuary. Reducing upstream erosion to slow the rapid sedimentation of the estuary is one of the Estuary Program's priorities. For more information about the Morro Bay Estuary, visit www.mbnep.org.

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