

**Whale Tail Grants Program**  
**California Coastal Commission**

**H2O Superheroes** is a new project for the Napa County Library. As part of our strategic plan, Napa County Library staff, over the course of one year, conducted several Community Conversations designed to learn what families throughout the Napa Valley want in a positive, forward-thinking way. Results were clear; residents would like to see a wider variety of family activities focused on local community involvement rather than events that target our temporary tourist populations.

In response to this expressed local need, the children's staff at the Napa County Library, in collaboration with local experts in the field of waterway protection, conceived of the **H2O Superheroes** project. The library will act as an umbrella agency to unite its existing clientele of Napa Valley families to local community partners with expertise in water science and education to learn about, serve and protect our waterways. This project will provide a variety of monthly activities and resources for all ages on the topics of ocean and coastal marine life, the connection between local waterway health and estuaries and ocean health, water conservation, restoration and stewardship. Programming will take advantage of the fact that all four libraries in the Napa County Library network are situated near creeks, rivers and wetlands that lead to the ocean.

This project addresses a community desire for activities that will have a positive local impact as well as fulfills an environmental need in our Napa Valley region. The **H2O Superheroes** project designates the Napa County Library children's department as a hub for educational activities, while at the same time facilitating and expanding the reach and scope of waterways activities offered by community partners within the Napa Valley in 2019 and 2020.

**The H2O Superheroes: Learn, serve and protect our Napa waterways**

**Goal 1: (LEARN) Teach Napa families the importance of our waterways and oceans.**

**Objective 1a:** Library will provide at least 1 educational program per month for 18 months. Programs will include the importance of our local waterways, and how they affect the greater marine and coastal ecosystems of the ocean.

**Objective 2a:** The library will collaborate with at least three community partners who are qualified to provide expert information on the topics of waterways and marine and coastal environments. Our partners will include but not be limited to: Napa County Resource Conservation District (RCD), Napa County Division of Environmental Health, and the Friends of the Napa River.

**Goal 2: (SERVE) Bring the Napa community together to become stewards of the Napa River and ocean.**

**Objective 2a:** Educational programs for children and their families will originate at 1 of our 4 Napa County Libraries in Napa, American Canyon, Calistoga and Yountville. Each library will take turns serving as the Napa Valley's community hub for our **H2O Superheroes** project. There is a local waterway within walking distance from each library location.

**Objective 2b:** This project will include at least 2 Napa River Clean-up events led and organized by the Library's community partner RCD.

**Objective 2c:** Families can learn, experience nature, and peacefully explore the Napa River by partaking in at least 2 educational walks to learn about the Napa River and how it connects to the ocean.

**Goal 3: (PROTECT) Provide resources that support waterways and ocean education.**

**Objective 3a:** The Napa County Library will enhance their marine and coastal biomes children's book collections in English and Spanish. At least 5% of the funds received from the Whales Tales grant will be put toward this collection.

**Objective 3b:** At least 5 clean-up kits will be purchased and made available for library card holders to check-out year round as part of Napa County Library's Library of Things. The clean-up kits will include the following items: a bucket, a litter-grabber, a pair of biodegradable gloves, and a pictorial directory showing what types of litter may be recycled or composted.

**Objective 3c:** At least 3 additional birding kits will be purchased to supplement our existing collection. These birding kits will continue to be made available at all 4 library locations. The birding kits include: two sets of binoculars, a book about birds (which include local wetland birds), a belt bag, checklists and pencils.