

**4/10/18 AGENDA, ITEM 2i - SPONSORSHIP DONATION TO GRADES OF GREEN
SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMARY OF PROGRAM BENEFITS TO HERMOSA BEACH
SUBMITTED BY GRADES OF GREEN ON 4/10/18**

Grades of Green has supported the Hermosa community since our organization's beginnings in 2008. For the past decade, Grades of Green has helped inspire and empower Hermosa schools and students to care for all areas of the environment by implementing our website eco-activities with the guidance of Grades of Green Advisors. We have helped students create two beautification projects including the installation of 100 trees on the Hermosa Beach Greenbelt, prepared students to speak in front of City Council to pass a polystyrene ban, involved and educated hundreds of Hermosa Beach students and numerous Hermosa Beach businesses on the importance of waste reduction, and distributed rain barrels to Hermosa Beach and South Bay residents. We currently have parent-led Grades of Green programs at Hermosa Valley and Hermosa View. This year, Grades of Green has also helped Our Lady of Guadalupe in Hermosa Beach reduce their lunchtime waste by 63%, which will divert an estimated 9,000 pounds of trash from landfills throughout each schoolyear. These initiatives are outlined in more detail below. With the City's support, Grades of Green can continue to help your students create environmental change within the community.

- This year, Our Lady of Guadalupe competed against 19 other schools in the 2017-18 Trash Free Lunch Challenge and came in as a finalist. Their program was led by a Grades of Green Youth Corps Eco-leadership student, Dede, along with the school's Grades of Green Team. Together, the students determined their ideal waste sorting station setup and have used it to reduce their lunchtime waste by 63%, diverting an estimated 9,000 pounds of trash from landfills per schoolyear. They have also implemented other Grades of Green Activities such as Campus Composting, Trash Free Lunches, Waste Audit, and In-Class Recycling. Dede has been publicly recognized and presented with the Student Educator of the Month award by the Lakers and City of Hope.
- Since 2008, Hermosa View and Hermosa Valley have been implementing parent-led Grades of Green programs on campus focused on waste reduction and waste education.
- In 2010, Hermosa Valley student and Youth Corps Eco-Leader created the Strand's first native plant garden on 22nd and The Strand to beautify the city in an environmentally responsible way. The plant garden still exists today.
- In 2011, a Hermosa Valley student and Youth Corps Eco-Leader spoke to the Hermosa Beach City Council to advocate for the polystyrene ban that was later passed in 2012.
- In 2013, 4th and 2nd grade Youth Corps Eco-Leadership students who attended Hermosa Valley School advocated for recycled paper trays to be used on campus instead of foam trays. This led to a switch to recycled paper trays on Fridays for the school year.
- In 2014, 350 students participated in the Grades of Green Hermosa Beach Anti-Litter Art Contest. 10 finalists were chosen and were able to display their artwork on 44/45 Hermosa Beach business windows which helped to raise community-wide awareness about the need to reduce waste and protect the environment. Youth Corps eco-leaders

and Hermosa Beach residents, along with the Hermosa Beach Green Task Force, also recommended the pay-as-you-throw system that year.

- In 2015, a Youth Corps student was able to distribute 200 rain barrels to Hermosa Beach and South Bay residents. For every barrel passed out, the West Basin Water District donated \$5. All the donated funds went to environmental programs in Hermosa Beach such as Trash Free Lunch Education, tree plantings, and more.
- In 2016, two Youth Corps Eco-Leadership student who attended Hermosa Valley got their 6th grade class to plant 100 trees along the Hermosa Beach Greenbelt which still stands and is enjoyed by many today.
- During the 2016-2017 school year, a Youth Corps Eco-Leader and Hermosa Beach resident helped install a native garden on her campus at Manhattan Beach Middle School with the intent of using it for educational purposes and to attract pollinators. This year, she plans on setting up a maintenance system for her garden to ensure it stays healthy.