

# Our OCEAN FRIENDLY GARDENS at work

Six months and six gardens later, it's time to revisit our neighborhood Ocean Friendly Gardens! Many varieties of proteas, manzanitas and aloes are in bloom during these winter months and an abundance of precipitation has put the gardens to work capturing and reducing runoff and filtering pollutants before they enter our coastal waters. Have a look and stay tuned for more Ocean Friendly Gardens in the coming months!

*If you have a garden you would like featured, check out the Ocean Friendly Gardens criteria list at <http://www.surfrider.org>, then contact Robert Nieto at [robert@robertnietodesigns.com](mailto:robert@robertnietodesigns.com). For more info about the OFG program, contact [ofg@slo.surfrider.org](mailto:ofg@slo.surfrider.org).*



PHOTOS AND ARTICLE BY ROB NIETO

Rob lives on Indio Drive and, along with your Publisher, is an active supporter of The Surfrider Foundation, a grass-roots nonprofit environmental organization that works to protect and preserve the world's oceans, waves and beaches.



The Hurlbert's 250-gallon tank is filled to capacity after recent rains. The water, which used to run directly to the storm drain, is captured for slow release into this Indio Drive Ocean Friendly Garden.



102 Indio Drive is in full bloom in this photo taken in early February. Drought tolerant leucadendrons, succulents and rosemary give a lush look that belies their durability.



With no roof gutters or drains directing water to the street, winter rain is allowed to slowly make its way through the rolling contours of the Murray's garden on El Dorado. Beautiful blooms and textures take center stage where a lawn once was.



Healthy, biologically active soil allows water to infiltrate easily (less run-off) and yields happy plants and tasty veggies in the writer's Indio Drive Ocean Friendly Garden. Years of composting, mulching and conscientious stewardship are paying off.



Above: A 4-inch curb cut allows hundreds of gallons of water to be filtered through the adjacent planter bypassing an area drain that once took water from a downspout directly to the storm drain at the Canfield's Indio Drive OFG.

Left: The last drops of water from a recent winter storm trickle into the garden below. A series of these drains along the second story decking at Indio Drive's newest Ocean Friendly Garden allow hundreds of gallons of rainwater to be filtered through the soil reducing the amount of pollutants that accumulate on the deck above from entering the ocean through the storm drain.