



## ***Monarch Services Staff to Participate in Coastal Cleanup Day***

### ***Environmental Crises Lead to Increased Violence***

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Date:** Saturday, Sept. 21, 2019  
**Time:** 9 a.m.-12 p.m.  
**Location:** Zmudowski State Beach, Moss Landing, CA

**Overview:** *Monarch Services* is joining [Save Our Shores](#) in the annual [Coastal Cleanup](#) this Saturday, Sept. 21 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Although working to combat climate change is important for a variety of reasons, *Monarch* considers this work especially vital when examining the intersection of climate change and increased rates of sexual and domestic violence.

Recently, the [California Partnership to End Domestic Violence](#) highlighted a 2016 [article](#) that drew connections between the climate crisis and increased violence. In the article, Paul Bancroft who works in violence prevention in California, argues that there are several factors contributing to higher rates of violence resulting from climate change. Following natural disasters, many community members are displaced and lacking resources. This can force survivors of violence to be in contact with their abuser. Additionally, when faced with a natural disaster, a community's resources become scarce, sometimes disabling advocacy organizations for trauma survivors to provide adequate aid.

To help combat climate change, *Monarch Services* employees will be cleaning up Zmudowski State Beach in Moss Landing in order to reduce the amount of consumer waste in the Monterey Bay.

#### **Participation:**

Volunteers are encouraged to [signup](#) to pick up waste from one of 50 locations in Santa Cruz and Monterey County to help preserve the Monterey Bay's vital ecosystems.

#### **Climate Crises and Violence Statistics:**

- It is estimated that as global warming persists, rates of violence will increase. [Journal of Environmental Economics and Management](#)
- During Hurricane Sandy, 12 domestic violence shelters were forced to close. *US Department of Health and Human Services*, [movetoendviolence.org](http://movetoendviolence.org)
- Reports of domestic violence incidents increased following Hurricane Harvey. Study by *Katy Christian Ministries' Crisis Center*, [chron.com](http://chron.com)
- In the initial months following the BP oil spill, southern Louisiana programs showed an increase in the number of crisis hotline calls and people needing shelter. *LCADV*, [The Atlantic](#)

#### **About Monarch Services:**

*Monarch Services* has a 40-year history in Santa Cruz County of providing advocacy and resources to community members affected by violence. Services include court accompaniments, restraining order assistance, counseling, emergency shelter, 24-hour crisis line, outreach, education and support groups. *Monarch Services* is the only rape crisis center in Santa Cruz County and includes an emergency response team. All services are available in Spanish and English and are free or low cost.