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**Water: Take 1**  
**Online Short Film Contest**  
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Dear Customers:

The day after Labor Day, when we celebrate all the hard work Americans have done and continue to complete to make this country great, Ventura Water received a special gift of hard work from more than 600 California Lutheran University first-year students.

These volunteers worked diligently for two hours pulling up ice plant around the wildlife ponds at the Wastewater Reclamation Facility, located at the Ventura Harbor, and re-seeding those same areas with native plants. The effort was a part of the City of Ventura's Volunteer Ventura program and the fifth annual "You Got Served" service-learning project. This project introduces CLU freshman and transfer students to CLU's commitment to service and connects them to their local community.

Why take the time to remove ice plant? Well, this vegetation's native home is South Africa. That's where it lives in balance with the ecosystem. Baboons, antelope and other animals native to South Africa eat

## Water Take 1 Online Short Film Contest Names 10 Finalists

Ten finalists have been selected for the Water Take 1 online short film contest, from 35 films submitted. Contestants are vying for a \$1,500 Grand Jury Prize to be awarded during a public ceremony hosted by Brooks Institute, 5301 N. Ventura Ave. in Ventura, beginning at 6 p.m. on Nov. 8.

### The 10 finalists are:

1. "A Salton Soul," directed by Mike Agnew, Greg Balkin and Tim Kressin  
Produced by Sally Rubin  
Cast: June Eilers  
Synopsis: The decay and life of the Salton Sea, told through the memories of June Eiler.
2. "Drop Drop," directed by Daniel Yonathan and Celeste Barbosa  
Written by Daniel Yonathan

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Produced by Daniel Yonathan and Avery Kentis  
Cast: Juan Carasco, Jacob Yung, Daniel Yonathan  
Synopsis: The message: avoiding an issue doesn't fix it.

3. "Ocean Friendly Gardens," directed by Rich Reid  
Produced by the Surfrider Foundation, Ventura Chapter  
Cast: Dan Long, Cynthia Hartley  
Synopsis: Ocean Friendly Gardens is a community of volunteers converting lawns into water-capturing and pollution-filtering gardens that prevent runoff to our rivers and oceans.
4. "Storms End," directed by Aaron Schmidt  
Produced by Eddie Rabun and Aaron Schmidt  
Cast: Matt Schutte, Chris Charney  
Synopsis: This is a film for those who embrace the ocean as a refuge for adventure, inspiration or solace away from modern society.
5. "The Forgotten Cycle," produced and directed by Sahana Singh  
Synopsis: The Forgotten Cycle tells the story of mismanagement of the water cycle in a blue planet sustained by water. Problems of over-use, pollution and leakage of water are highlighted. A paradigm shift in thinking is advocated.
6. "The Journey of Water," produced, written and directed by Alex Uvari  
Cast: Diane Beeler, Alex Uvari  
Synopsis: This film explores ways to preserve water and conserve it for future use.
7. "The Sea," written and directed by Caryn Sandoval  
Produced by Brendan Cleak, Caryn Sandoval  
Cast: Caryn Sandoval  
Synopsis: A young woman learns to adapt to the fundamental motions of life.
8. "Water," directed by Peter Jansen  
Written by Erico Mukunza  
Produced by Slumtalenttrust  
Cast: T-S-I  
Synopsis: Water is an essential need for life. This composition communicates to us against wasting this imperative resource.
9. "Water," directed by Ramesh S.  
Written by Sujeenthan  
Produced by Sebasan Jey  
Cast: Kande, Nimalan  
Synopsis: "Water" addresses the potential water shortage in the future and why we shouldn't waste the water today.
10. "We Are H2O," directed by Michael Carroll  
Written and produced by Patrick Saldaa  
Synopsis: An enlightening swim.

"The contest is a creative way to draw attention to the serious issues of water shortages and aging infrastructure," said Ventura Mayor Mike Tracy.

"We're extremely pleased that the content of many of the short films entered reinforces and embraces the value of water," added Ventura Water General Manager Shana Epstein.

Between March and Sept. 4, filmmakers from across the globe were invited to submit films of five minutes or less that address the topic of water to [water-take1.com](http://water-take1.com). Genres included drama, documentary, comedy, animation, Sci-fi and experimental.

Jurors who will pick the Grand Jury Prize winner and the Best Student Short Film are professionals from the environmental and entertainment industries. The winner of the Best Student Short Film Award will receive a one-year subscription to Lynda.com, professional consult-

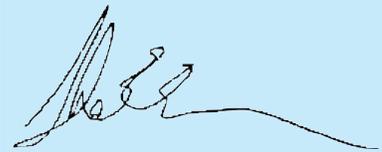
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the fruit of the ice plant so it does not become invasive as it has in Southern California.

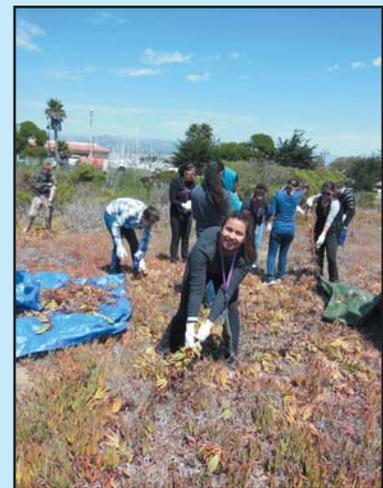
Ice plant served as erosion control for public right-of-ways in California, but because none of its natural predators exist here, it is taking over areas that would be better served if the natural habitat were to thrive. Since the wildlife ponds are on the migratory path for a number of birds, it's best to foster a native habitat and re-establish the native vegetation.

This project could not have been completed without the tremendous leadership of Community Partnerships and the Recreation and Parks Department, as well as the volunteers from CLU and Ventura's city leaders. Ventura Water thanks everyone for all their hard work.

Sincerely,



Shana Epstein, General Manager



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ing services from Never Without a Picture and a \$200 Patagonia gift card.

Votes will be accepted at [watertake1.com](http://watertake1.com) until Oct. 4 for the Audience Choice Award. The Audience Choice winner will receive a Canon EO7D Digital SLR camera. Viewers must watch the entire film before casting their vote. Only one vote per computer is counted. Sharing links to the films across social media formats is encouraged.

For the contest, Ventura Water partners with Limoneira's Limco Del Mar, Patagonia and iThentic in an effort to enhance the value of water.

The Nov. 8 Awards Ceremony is open to the public. RSVP instructions will be announced shortly at [facebook.com/watertake1](https://www.facebook.com/watertake1). Also please visit [watertake1.com](http://watertake1.com).

## Learn to Plant an Ocean Friendly Garden

We invite you to join the Surfrider Foundation, the City of Ventura and the Ventura Fire Department to learn how your front yard can clean storm water runoff and help protect our rivers, oceans and beaches.

- **What:** Ocean Friendly Garden installation at Fire Station 3, 5838 Telegraph Road in Ventura.
- **When:** Saturday, Oct. 27 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **How: Register with Volunteer Ventura** online or call 805-652-4501 to RSVP.



While there are many lovely "water-wise" gardens in Ventura, an Ocean

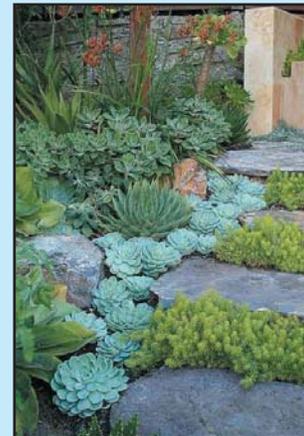
Friendly Garden goes one step further. These gardens conserve water by using plants adapted to the local climate; they conserve habitat by including species that increase habitat value for local critters; and they reduce green waste generation.

Ocean friendly gardens also contain an element of permeability, which is the broken hardscape and soil covered with natural mulch, allowing rainwater to infiltrate into the ground and not evaporate, thereby, recharging groundwater supplies and rebuilding the soil in the garden.

Finally, these special gardens contain an element of retention. They act like sponges that take runoff from roofs and hardscapes like driveways and walkways and direct it into the garden. All of these features create ocean friendly gardens that we would like to promote in Ventura County.



### Ocean Friendly Garden Installation at Fire Station 3



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