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Bring the Kids and Cameras and Tour the Cal Poly Pier in Avila Beach April 21

SAN LUIS OBISPO – The Cal Poly Pier in Avila Beach will be open to the public from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 21.

The event is free, and the community is invited to come learn more about marine research going on there. Bring the kids and enjoy special touch tanks full of marine creatures. Learn more about Cal Poly professors and students and their ongoing research into Morro Bay's ecosystem, sustaining local fisheries, and mapping ocean currents on the Central Coast.

The walk to the end of the pier is a little more than a half mile (1.2 miles round trip), so wear closed-toe walking shoes for safety and comfort. Parking near the Cal Poly Pier is very limited. Use of the public parking lots in Avila Beach is advised.

Tour displays at your own pace and ask questions of the Cal Poly faculty and students who are researching or working on:

- sustaining local fisheries
- mapping ocean currents along the shore
- effects of ultraviolet light on marine organisms
- Morro Bay ecosystem
- dangers and control of invasive species
- monitoring the varieties of intertidal life forms

You will be able to:

- handle live marine creatures in special "touch-tanks" suitable for children and adults
- watch robotic exploration of the sea bottom, with live video feed -- and operate a "remote" vehicle yourself
- experience the incredible world of microscopic plankton

· enjoy the unique view of spectacular San Luis Bay, and more.

Bring your camera to take photos, including creature close-ups. For more information, call: 805-756-6777.

Directions: From Avila Beach, walk west on Avila Beach Drive across the bridge toward Port San Luis to the Cal Poly Pier entrance gate.

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