

IVRPD and EAB Host Isla Vista Earth Day, Celebrate and Encourage Sustainability

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On warm, sunny, breezy April 22 in Anisq'Oyo Park, Isla Vista Recreation & Park District and the UC Santa Barbara Associated Students Environmental Affairs Board held the annual Isla Vista Earth Day, the inaugural event of the second-annual IVRPD Spring Concert Series. About three hundred people attended the event.

"I love Earth Day because I feel like it's a great way for the community to connect with one another," Fleurette Juda, Environmental Affairs Board (EAB) co-chair and an environmental studies and history of public policy and law double major at UCSB, said. "You get to learn about the earth, and you come out with a mindset of environmental protection."

According to Juda, planning for the event began in September 2022. EAB ordered the furniture, reached out to organizations to table, and set the activities.

One of these activities was a clothing swap. According to UCSB third-year history of public policy and law major and EAB Education Co-Chair Ava Thompson, EAB had collected around twenty pounds of clothing from UCSB dorms and Isla Vista households over the last several months, many new or only slightly worn. Twelve trash bags of clothing were ultimately given away over the event.

"We just want to show people that you don't have to buy a new outfit every week," Thompson said. "There's so much clothing out there that hasn't even been worn yet and that your friend might have or someone down the street might want to sell."

Another activity was the communal painting of a plywood mosaic. Attendees could grab a three-inch square piece of wood and paint a scene of nature to express their appreciation of the earth, according to UCSB second-year environmental studies major and EAB Advocacy Co-Chair Bianca Berron. The wood squares are in the process of being glued together and turned into a permanent display.

"Our community art piece [shows] how different people have different types of paradises and how we can protect it," she said.

Providing live entertainment throughout the day were the bands Dawn Patrol, Primarosa, Shark Exhibit, and Duende. Also present were tabling organizations like the Isla Vista Food Co-op, the Goleta Valley Library Bookvan, and the Sunrise Movement.

Sadie McDade, the marketing manager of the Isla Vista Food Co-op (IVFC), described "environmental stewardship" as one of the store's "strategic priorities." Available on the table were cinnamon, fruit, lavender oil, and other fragrant ingredients that visitors could use to build their own scent jar.

"Our goal is to share ways that people can be more sustainable when they shop for their groceries," she said, pointing to the IVFC's bulk department. "You can use jars and other reusable containers to shop. It's a little bit more environmentally friendly. It's a little bit more economically friendly, because you can just buy the amount that you need."

Kiara Pacheco, library assistant for the Goleta Valley Library, helped bring the library's Bookvan and its selection of books to the event.

"We bring books because we believe they open up discussions and they allow people to access more information," Pacheco said. "Sure, we have the Internet, but books are more tangible."

She also addressed the use of paper in books.

"Books do come from trees, but it's only minimal compared to other things like furniture," she said. "We also have e-books and audiobooks, which have zero impact on trees."

Representing the Santa Barbara chapter of the Sunrise Movement, a youth-based climate activism organization, was Technology Officer Luke Harris. He said that the organization has been protesting the installation of automatic shutoff valves on Plains All American Pipeline's Line 901, a petroleum pipeline near Refugio State Beach that—due to a leak in 2015—[spilled](#) more than one hundred thousand gallons of crude oil into the ocean. According to Harris, should automatic shutoff valves be installed, the company could restart the currently inactive pipeline without additional approval.

"We need to take better care of the earth," Harris said. "Spreading the word, getting people involved is all so important to be able to build a movement and enact real change at a local, national, global level."

Juda agreed on the event's effect in helping people become "better patrons" of the earth.

"We only have one planet," Juda said. "And we need to protect it."