



2025

ANNUAL REPORT

Our mission is to inspire stewardship of San Diego's native biodiversity through environmental education and conservation

Our vision is an engaged community, actively supporting conservation of San Diego's unique biodiversity.

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Institute

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Letter from Executive Director

Dear EDI Community,

As I reflect on everything we achieved together in 2025, I am filled with gratitude not only for what we accomplished but also for the incredible community that made it possible.

I have been fortunate to spend the past several years working alongside our dedicated staff, volunteers, partners, and community members. During that time, I have been continually reminded that conservation is not just about restoring habitats or protecting wildlife. It is about people. It is about creating opportunities for children to discover nature for the first time, for families to build lasting memories outdoors, and for community members to become active stewards of the places that make San Diego so special.

This year, thousands of students explored local parks, coastlines, forests, and wetlands through our environmental education programs. They investigated ecosystems, learned about native wildlife, and discovered that science is something they can experience firsthand, not just read about in a classroom. Families joined us on hikes, kayaking adventures, camping trips, and community events, building confidence outdoors and strengthening their connection to the natural world.

At the same time, our conservation work continued to restore and improve habitat for some of San Diego's most threatened species. Together, our staff and volunteers planted thousands of native plants, expanded monarch butterfly habitat throughout our communities, and continued our long-term efforts to restore coastal cactus scrub. One of the year's most rewarding moments was seeing Coastal Cactus Wrens successfully nesting in habitat restored by EDI. Moments like these give us hope and remind us that our work is making a difference.

These successes belong to all of us. They are the result of volunteers giving their time, donors investing in our mission, teachers inspiring their students, partners sharing their expertise, and community members choosing to care for the places we all call home.

As I step into my first year as Executive Director, I feel incredibly optimistic about what lies ahead. Together, we have the opportunity to inspire the next generation of environmental stewards while restoring the habitats and wildlife that make San Diego such a remarkable place to live.

Thank you for believing in our mission and for being part of this journey. Your generosity, dedication, and support make this work possible, and I look forward to continuing to build a healthier, more resilient future for both people and nature together.

With gratitude,

Ida Kaller-Vincent

Executive Director

Earth Discovery Institute



Volunteers contributed **980**
hours to habitat restoration
and biodiversity
conservation



EDI provided environmental
education to **2,219**
students



EDI staff, volunteers, and
students planted over **3,400**
native plants



Restoring El Monte

In spring of 2025, **for the very first time**, a breeding pair of **Coastal Cactus Wren successfully nested and raised chicks** in the restored habitat at El Monte. Then, in fall of 2025, four adult Coastal Cactus Wrens were observed! We are so thrilled with the positive impact our hard work has had on the Coastal Cactus Wren population as well as many other native species.

All of this would not be possible without your support. In 2025, **256 volunteers contributed 806 hours** watering, weeding, and planting out at El Monte. Together, we planted **2,753 native plants** to restore coastal cactus scrub habitat!

↑ **Native Vegetation**
Increased to 40.4%
2.5% in 2022

↓ **Non-Native Invasive Vegetation**
Decreased to 2%
40.9% in 2022

↑ **Bare Ground**
Increased to 43%
8% in 2022

Bare ground provides essential foraging habitat for the Coastal Cactus Wren





Monarchs + Milkweed

With the help of **58 volunteers** (with a combined total of **174 volunteer hours**), our Native Milkweed Farm in Lakeside, CA, has continued to thrive, and we added 6 more rows of Narrowleaf Milkweed! We also participate in the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project where we conduct weekly Monarch surveys at the farm during breeding season.

Funded by both our community* and the Malk Nature Fund, we created **754 square feet of Monarch Butterfly habitat** by installing **17 Monarch Butterfly Gardens** in residential yards throughout San Diego County!

**7 of these gardens were funded by our Giving Tuesday campaign from 2024*





Collaborating with the Community

7

329

7

2

Community Events

Hikes, BioBlitzes,
& Workshops

Native Plants Sold

Annual Native Plant Sale

Tabled Events

Mt. Helix Nature Day,
California Native Plant
Society Sale, & more

Conferences

Monarch Summit
(Minneapolis, MN)
California Society for
Ecological Restoration
(Sacramento, CA)



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Learning in Nature

Over the course of **44 field trips**, we took **2,219 students** on outdoor adventures to learn, explore, and connect with nature.

During visits to the San Diego Bay National Wildlife

Refuge, Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, and other natural areas throughout San Diego County, students practiced identifying native plants and animals, learned about watersheds, got their creative juices flowing with nature

illustrations, restored habitats, learned about Kumeyaay history, and hiked many beautiful trails in San Diego's wild spaces!



"This is the best-est-est field trip ever!"

"I've never seen this many leaves in my whole life!"

"I never knew exploring nature could be so fun."

"If this is science, then I want to be a scientist!"

-4th graders from 2025
EDI programming



Fun for the Whole Family

We had **1,368 students and their loved ones** join us for **25 outdoor recreational excursions!** From kayaking and whale watching out on the water - to rock climbing and visiting the Safari Park - to exploring Cabrillo National Monument, the San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge, and Elfin Forest - plus beach trips, picnics, and camping, our programming provided ample opportunities for entire families to connect with nature in a medley of ways!





Bringing Nature to the Classroom

We delivered our Nature Science Program to **18 third grade classes!** This program consists of **9 weeks of lessons** where students had the chance to learn about San Diego's ecosystems, food webs, animal and plant adaptations, pollution solutions, climate care, science basics, and camping!



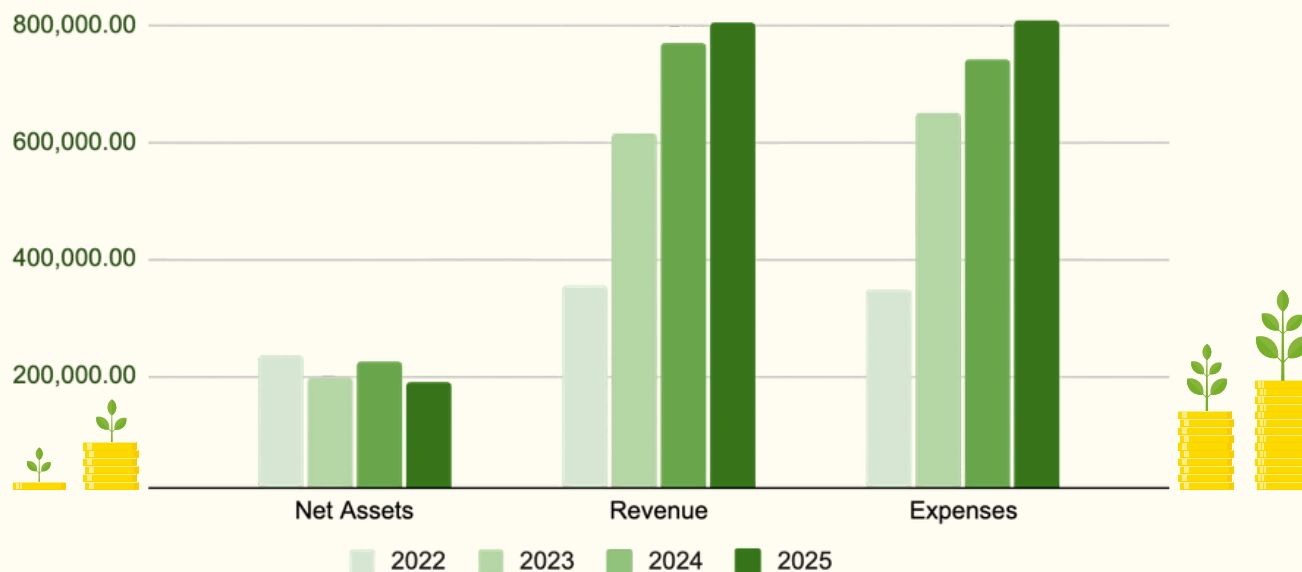


Friends by Nature

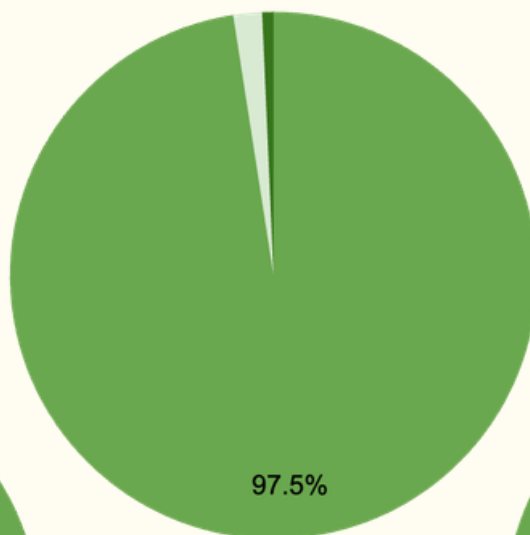
Through California Climate Action Corps, EDI hosted **3 California Climate Action Fellows** who spent 11 months becoming an integral part of the EDI team. These incredible fellows have helped us restore habitats, engage our community, install native plants, and spread the word about EDI's mission and vision. We are so grateful for these fellows-turned friends and their invaluable contributions to our programming!



2022 - 2025

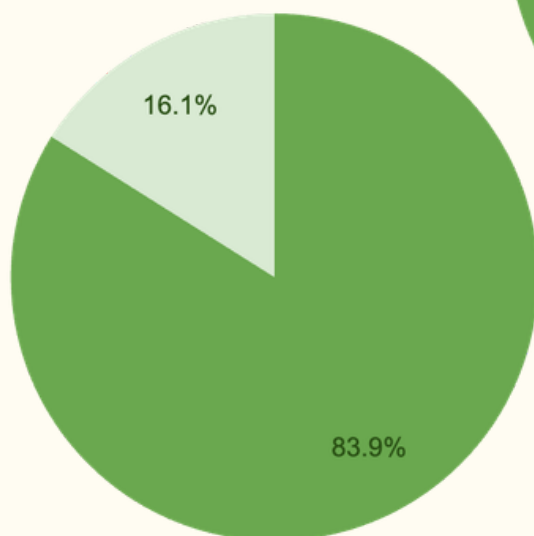


2025 Revenue



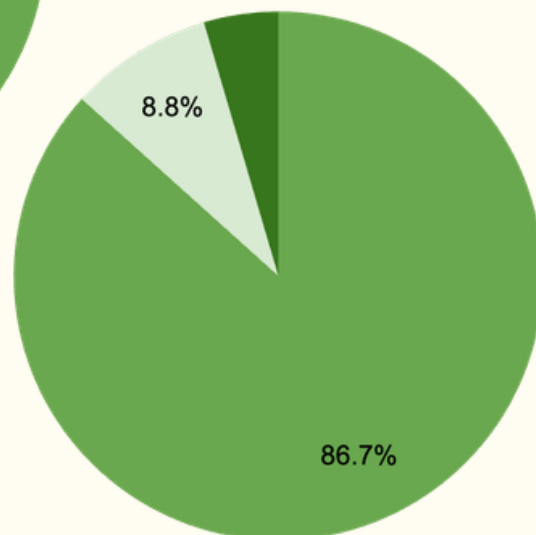
- Grants & Donations
- Fundraising & Memberships
- Other

2025 Net Assets



- Assets
- Liabilities

2025 Expenses



- Program Expenses
- Management & General
- Fundraising

PARTNERS

2025



120 North Park Dr.
El Cajon, CA 92021



earthdiscovery.org