



Marin County Leaders Join Global "Call to Action" for the Future Blue Economy Workforce - *Connecting local youth to sustainable ocean careers through 2026 Global Blue Job Shadow Day™*

MILL VALLEY, CA — February 10, 2026: Ross Valley Sanitation District (RVSD) was featured as a leader at the Global Blue Job Shadow Day. This high-impact global event connected Blue Economy leaders in the U.S. and Portugal and issued a strategic "Call to Action" to invest in the Blue Economy workforce.

"Programs like the Blue Job Shadow Day show what's possible when education, workforce, and public service align," said **Marin County Supervisor Stephanie Moulton-Peters**. "By building accessible pathways into the Blue Economy, we are delivering economic opportunity, environmental stewardship, and equity all at once. I am proud to see Marin leading by example in creating a future that sustains both our waters and our workforce".

Connecting the Dots: From Shore to Ocean

Marin's community leaders from **Canal Alliance, Spaulding Marine Center** and **Marin City** were pleased to discover that there are good paying blue jobs in Marin and the Bay Area. "Wastewater, stormwater and drinking water agencies need more workers," said RVSD General Manager, **Steve Moore**. "We have great careers to offer -and the skills our workers use to manage pipes and pumps are the same skills required in aquaculture, marine engineering, and blue technology."

Training the Next Generation

The impending "silver tsunami" of retirees in the water sector is a major concern for RVSD. Moore credits BAYWORK, the nonprofit consortium of 45 agencies, for its comprehensive workforce development. Manager **Laura Coombs** explains, "BAYWORK was crafted to address the growing need for training and workforce support. Our mission is to ensure the Bay Area has the skilled workforce necessary to manage our most precious resources. Through our 'Workshop on Wheels' and annual summits, we provide a blueprint for workforce development that connects new talent to seasoned professionals."

In 2025, the Marin County Board of Supervisors awarded the Stone Soup Leadership Institute support for its first Blue Job Shadow Day in partnership with the College of Marin (CoM). "You are so wise to cultivate partnerships with our local communities in Sausalito, Tiburon and the Romberg Center to explore the opportunities for a Blue Economy initiative," said Ms. Moulton-Peters. These communities are in the best position to identify specific current and new opportunities for the Blue Economy to manifest in Southern Marin."

This year's event responds to the College's students discovery that:

- 37% of California's water workforce is over 50, leading to a wave of retirements known as the "silver tsunami."
- 67% of California water agencies report difficulties in recruiting water and wastewater operators.

"As a community college, The College of Marin can prepare students for high-demand, stable careers that also help safeguard communities since these careers ensure clean waterways, regulatory compliance, and the responsible reuse of water resources," said Tiburon resident **Alexandra Loucks** who championed the Clean Water Management Pathway as the Institute's paid interns to research Blue Economy Pathways and make recommendations for how the College might expand its academic offerings to address the need for workforce development training.

A Global Exchange – Connecting the dots

This local effort recently gained international recognition at a high-impact global summit in Lisbon, Portugal, where maritime leaders issued a strategic "Call to Action" for the global workforce.

The Lisbon event featured **Portugal's Secretary of State for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, Salvador Malheiro**, who challenged leaders to prioritize the next generation to ensure a sustainable future for the ocean. "If we want a sustainable future, for our societies, for our economies and for the ocean, we must take seriously the voices of the new generations who are ready to make a difference."

"At a time when international collaboration matters more than ever, this event shows how the U.S. can learn from other Blue Economy leaders like Portugal so we can build bridges with business, education and government leaders to prepare our young people to become champions of the Blue Economy in their community and our world," says the event host Stone Soup Leadership Institute's Founding Director Marianne Larned.

Link to [photos](#)

For more information, visit: www.GlobalBlueJobShadowDay.org

The Institute's Blue Economy Initiative in Marin, CA [site](#)

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About the Stone Soup Leadership Institute

The Stone Soup Leadership Institute is a global non-profit organization in 1997. Its mission is to develop educational tools, training and initiatives that connect business, education, government leaders to empower their young people to become leaders of a more humanistic and sustainable world. The Stone Soup Model embraces the principles of Design Thinking, Systems Thinking and Healthy Communities to develop innovative initiatives to address complex issues in their communities.

The Global Blue Job Shadow Day™ bridges the gap between the business and education sectors to create custom workforce initiatives. Developed in the early 1990s with the **San Francisco Chamber of Commerce**, the model has since reached millions of students nationwide. Building on its work with Blue Economy leaders in Lusio-American communities—from Boston to San Francisco—the Institute recently evolved its programming from **Green Job Shadow Days** (2023–2024) to its current **Blue Job Shadow** focus.

Stone Soup Leadership Institute

www.StoneSoupLeadership.org

www.BlueEconomyGeneration.org