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## **Re-think Art Work Brings Attention to Global Marine Debris Crisis**

Santa Monica High Schools students unveil enormous  
art installation made of over 35,000 bottle caps on 3<sup>rd</sup> St Promenade

Today, Santa Monica High School students from Team Marine unveiled their long awaited “RE-think” art work on the Santa Monica Promenade near Arizona and 3<sup>rd</sup> St. The installation, made up of more than 35 thousand bottle caps, brings attention to the Global Marine Debris Crisis.

The dramatic, multi-colored piece is 23 feet long by 7 feet high and includes the word “RE-think” in order to inspire viewers to rethink their addiction to single-use plastic packaging and products. In addition to the bold blue word, there are numerous marine animals including a crab, dolphin, sea turtle, clownfish, sheephead, and sea jellies. All of the marine animals are made of bottle caps.

Team Marine’s Ariel Yakura said, “We need to RE-think our daily lives and the products we consume so that we may mend our throw away society. Recycling can only take us so far. Mechanical fixes can only take us so far. Only a cultural and societal fix can truly solve the problem.”

The magnitude of the marine debris crisis is enormous as some of the most remote places on earth are strewn with plastic trash. Plastic bottle caps are rarely recycled and are seldom made of easily recyclable material. Californians use more than 19 billion plastic bags annually. Styrofoam packaging and cigarette butts are the two most frequently found items at local beach clean ups. Most single use plastic packaging is used for a time span of minutes, yet it remains in the marine environment for over a thousand years without degrading.

The solutions to the marine debris crisis are simple. Getting manufacturers to leash the lid on drink bottles should be as easy as eliminating aluminum can pop tops back in the seventies. Changing purchasing behavior, cleaning up litter, and recycling are all things we can do to stop the crisis.

“Solving the marine debris crisis is easy, but we all have to do our part. We need to change our consumer behavior by saying no to plastic bags, bringing reusable bags, using stainless steel bottles, using Tupperware instead of Ziplocs, and only buying drinks with leashed lids”, said Zack Gold of Team Marine.

The RE-think installation will be displayed at numerous locations over the next several months.