



Santa Barbara
CHANNELKEEPER®

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Ultra-High Tides Illustrate Vulnerability of Santa Barbara's Shoreline *Volunteer photographers needed to demonstrate potential impacts of sea level rise*

Santa Barbara, CA - Next Monday (December 30, 2013), some of the year's highest tides will lash California's coastal and bay shorelines, providing a glimpse of what the state can expect as sea levels rise in the coming years. These "king tides" – a term used to describe the highest winter tides – will be captured by citizen imagery through the California King Tides Initiative.

The Initiative, now in its fourth season, encourages the public to view and photograph ultra-high tides and add to a growing collection at flickr.com/groups/cakingtides. Initiative organizers aim to help the public envision how California may be affected by sea level rise. The National Academy of Sciences projects that sea levels will rise by as much as 12 inches by 2050.

"Many of our beaches, trails, wetlands, roadways, and critical infrastructure become flooded during king tides, illustrating the severity and scope of potential sea level rise impacts. Significant economic impacts underscore the need to start planning for sea level rise in California now," says Susan Hansch, Chief Deputy Director at the California Coastal Commission, an Initiative organizer.

Santa Barbara Channelkeeper, a local environmental organization, along with the California Coastkeeper Alliance, other environmental groups and government agencies throughout California, are asking the public to help illustrate the potential impacts of rising sea levels by photographing this week's king tides at areas along our coast that are especially vulnerable to high sea levels.

Areas already known to flood and areas where high water levels can be gauged against sea walls, jetties, bridge supports or dikes are of particular interest. Locally, these areas potentially vulnerable to high tides include (but are not limited to) Isla Vista beaches, Goleta Beach County Park, Leadbetter Beach, Butterfly Beach, Miramar Beach, Padaro Lane, Carpinteria Salt Marsh, Hobson State Beach, Faria, and Emma Wood State Beach.

"The King Tides Initiative is a fun way to engage the community in an effort to raise awareness about the very real threat of sea level rise," says Ben Pitterle, Watershed and Marine Program Director for Santa Barbara Channelkeeper. "The goal of the Initiative is not only to catalog areas prone to tidal inundation, but also to help communities and policy makers visualize projected

flooding and motivate them to protect private properties, infrastructure, and the environment through long-range planning.”

King tides are expected from December 30 –January 2nd and again from January 29 – 31st. Citizens are invited to get out their cameras and capture images of the particularly high tide on January 1st around 8:40 am. Participants can submit photos to www.flickr.com/groups/cakingtides and are encouraged to contact Jenna Driscoll at Santa Barbara Channelkeeper (jennad@sbck.org; (805) 563-3377 ext. 5) who is coordinating local volunteers for the event.

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