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February 2015 E-Newsletter

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Santa Barbara Required to Study Subsurface Intake for Desal



After a lengthy public hearing last Thursday and Friday, Channelkeeper succeeded in convincing the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) to require the City of Santa Barbara to study the feasibility of a subsurface intake for its desalination plant. The City of Santa Barbara had asked the RWQCB to amend its permit to allow the City to operate its desalination plant with an open ocean intake. Channelkeeper has been lobbying the City to investigate the feasibility of drawing seawater into its desalination plant through a subsurface intake, which virtually eliminates the death of massive amounts of marine life caused by open ocean intakes. The State Water Board is on the verge of adopting a new policy which will require any new and expanded desalination facility in California to utilize a subsurface intake as the environmentally superior technology unless it is demonstrated to be infeasible.

At the urging of Channelkeeper and our environmental allies, the RWQCB required the City, through enforceable new conditions in the City's permit, to prepare and submit a work plan for a subsurface intake feasibility study to the RWQCB by August 31, 2015 and to complete the study and report back to the RWQCB at a public meeting no later than June 30, 2017. The RWQCB also added a binding condition for the City to pay \$500,000 for a coastal restoration project as mitigation for the marine life mortality to be caused by the City's use of its existing open ocean intake. We are thrilled that the City will now soon begin the feasibility study we've been asking for, and look forward to the findings and hopefully, a future transition to this less environmentally harmful intake technology if it's found feasible. Meanwhile, we'll keep doing our rain dance!

We're Social!



Did You Know?

We are still very much in a DROUGHT!

Despite the few rain storms that have hit the Santa Barbara County coastline this winter, Lake Cachuma - the main water supply for the SB area - is still only at 28% capacity and serious water conservation efforts must be continued. Commit to making changes that conserve water including updating to a more sustainable landscape, installing a greywater system, watering only when plants need water, fixing leaks, and replacing appliances with energy and water efficient models. Visit www.waterwisesb.org to learn more.



Save Water, Drink Beer! Free Public Event Sunday, Feb. 8 at 11am

In the current drought, everyone is doing their part to conserve water, and Channelkeeper and [FigMtnBrew](#) are teaming up to provide a cool tool to help people do just that. FigMtnBrew has generously donated several oak barrels used in the beer-making process to Channelkeeper, and Channelkeeper has purchased simple conversion kits, which we will distribute and demonstrate how to install at a free public event this Sunday, February 8 from 11am-12 noon at FigMtnBrew's Santa Barbara location in the Funk Zone (137 Anacapa St.). While all barrels donated by FigMtnBrew this time around are already reserved (Channelkeeper is selling them for \$100), the two groups plan to continue this partnership and distribute more barrels to interested citizens when FigMtnBrew has more used barrels to donate later this year. Regardless, anyone who wants to learn how to convert any kind of barrel into a rain barrel is welcome to attend the event. Please join us, and stay to enjoy a few beers after the event - FigMtnBrew will also donate a percentage of sales of their Paradise Road Pilsner sold on the day of the event to Channelkeeper!



Channelkeeper is Hiring!

Want to work for a great organization that makes a real difference in protecting the environment? Santa Barbara Channelkeeper is seeking a Communications and Administrative Coordinator to help us raise awareness about our organization and our issues through social media, earned media, our website, newsletters, media kits and other marketing and communications materials. Click [here](#) for the full job announcement.

Volunteers Needed! Snap the Shore, See the Future



King Tides will be hitting our shores again soon and Channelkeeper needs your help! From February 17-19, the southern California coast will see the highest tides of the year. To help document the potential impacts of rising sea levels, Channelkeeper and other groups throughout California are calling on citizens to take photos during particularly high tides - known as "king tides" - of areas known to flood and

erode, and areas where high water levels can be gauged against sea walls, jetties, bridge supports or dikes. This initiative, known as the California King Tides Project, is helping to identify and catalog coastal areas vulnerable to tidal inundation, and to promote awareness of the specific potential impacts of sea level rise on our region in an effort to support climate change mitigation and adaptation policies.

Channelkeeper will be documenting the impacts of each king tide event on the ground and by boat, but we need your help! We hope to get shore-based photos of each beach for at least one day during each of the king tides. This [table](#) depicts the times and locations we need covered (green



Download the Waterkeeper Swim Guide app for real-time water quality data at local beaches



checkmarks indicate that those shifts have already been assigned). Photos at other beaches with infrastructure (seawalls, houses, buildings, pipes, etc.) are also appreciated. So get out your camera and [email](#) us if you are available to help document the tides during these times. Please [email](#) your photos to us and include your name and the date, time and location (latitude and longitude appreciated but not required) the photos were taken. If you have any questions, please [email](#) us or call 805.563.3377 ext. 5.

Check out this [article](#) on our King Tides monitoring by the Santa Barbara Independent.

Channelkeeper Student Art Show Opening Exhibit, Reception & Awards Ceremony March 5th



Channelkeeper is proud to host our 12th annual ocean-inspired Student Art Show, "What the Channel Means to Me." Please join us for the opening exhibit, public reception and awards ceremony on Thursday, March 5th (1st Thursday) from 5-8 pm at the Jodi House Gallery at 625 Chapala Street in Santa Barbara. The goal of the show, which is open to high school students from Carpinteria to Goleta, is to inspire local youth to create art that celebrates the natural beauty and diversity of the Santa Barbara Channel, and for their art to inspire others in our community. This year's show will be juried by Erika Carter, a local artist, and is sponsored by [Trillium Enterprises, Inc.](#) At the event, Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson will announce the winners, who will receive cash prizes that they can invest in their education. The entire show will remain on display at the Jodi House Gallery for two weeks following the opening, and the winning pieces will also be featured at Channelkeeper's Blue Water Ball on May 2nd.

Explore Your MPAs!

Take advantage of this beautiful weather and visit one of our local Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Use our new [MPA Profiles page](#) to find maps and information on recreational opportunities, public access, and special characteristics of several local MPAs. These unique areas provide a great environment for swimming, kayaking, diving, snorkeling and tidepooling! Explore on your own or contact one of the [local businesses](#) that offer trips to MPAs.



Help Close the Poop Loop!



PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG & TOSS IT IN THE TRASH.

The cities of Buellton, Carpinteria, Goleta, Guadalupe, Lompoc, Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, Solvang and the County of Santa Barbara's Project Clean Water are collaborating on a new pet waste campaign to **Close the Poop Loop**. The average dog produces 1/2 lb. of waste every day. In the City of Santa Barbara alone there are an estimated 22,500 dogs creating **over 5.5 TONS of poop every day!** When pet waste is left on the ground, it can quickly wash into storm

drains, creeks, and the ocean, polluting our water. No one wants to swim or surf in pet waste. Take the pledge to pick up after your furry friend every time at closethepooploop.org, and you'll receive a cute little keychain flashlight to help with scooping the poop on those night-time dog walks.

Stream Team - February 7 & 8

Stream Team is Channelkeeper's volunteer-based water quality monitoring program. Every month, volunteers join Channelkeeper staff to test for common water quality parameters at numerous sites in the Ventura River and Goleta Valley watersheds. Come join us to help protect our local waterways. Stream Team in Ventura will meet at 9am on Saturday, February 7th and Goleta Stream Team will meet at 10am on Sunday, February 8th. For more information, visit our [website](#), [email](#) or call 805.563.3377 ext. 5.



Save the Date for the 15th Annual Blue Water Ball - Saturday, May 2nd



Save the date! Channelkeeper's 15th annual Blue Water Ball fundraising gala is happening on Saturday, May 2nd at 5:30pm in the beautiful rotunda at Deckers' LEED-certified headquarters. This inspiring event will feature a gourmet dinner, fine local wines, live music, an awesome auction, and a celebration of Channelkeeper's recent victories for clean water. To reserve your seats today or become a sponsor, auction

donor or volunteer, please contact Morgan at 805.563.3377 x2 or morgan@sbck.org. We look forward to seeing you there!

Become a Channelkeeper Member!

Your support for Channelkeeper's efforts is needed now more than ever. Become a member of the Channelkeeper crew today with your tax-deductible donation. You'll be investing in clean water and healthy communities along the Santa Barbara Channel today and for future generations. With your membership, you will receive our regular newsletters, news updates and action alerts, invitations to special Channelkeeper events and fun volunteer opportunities, and a free Channelkeeper sticker. All new donors contributing \$50 or more can also receive a Channelkeeper t-shirt, and for donations of \$250 or more, bi-annual issues of *Waterkeeper* magazine. Sign up today by calling 805.563.3377 ext. 2, [emailing](#) us, or clicking [here](#).



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