



April 2015 E-Newsletter

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We're Social!



The Mystery of Disappearing Flows in the Lower Ventura River

On March 5th, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper presented a summary of results from our Ventura River continuous monitoring program to the Ventura River Watershed Council. Our presentation included depictions of dissolved oxygen data collected by sensors deployed throughout the watershed in 2013 and 2014 as well as a time-lapse video of fluctuations in water levels in the lower river near Main Street.



Channelkeeper aligned the [time-lapse video](#) with an animation of water depth data. Both show daily mid-morning pulses in river flows followed by a period of declining flow levels each evening. On many days, the river went completely dry at that location. Channelkeeper indicated that on at least one occasion, the pulses in flow aligned with the timing of irrigation runoff observed at adjacent agricultural operations. Our data raise the question of how river flows at this location can be disappearing each evening even when the Ojai Valley Sanitary District Treatment Plant discharges a constant stream of treated effluent to the river just a few miles upstream. Channelkeeper is also sharing this information with nearby landowners and relevant agencies, and we will continue investigating to identify the source of the dewatering.

Supporting Biological Monitoring in MPAs

Last month Channelkeeper lent our support to local marine biologists working to optimize the efficiency and effectiveness of fish surveys conducted inside and outside of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Sara Rosenblatt, a student working at Dr. Jenn Caselle's Lab at UCSB's Marine Science Institute, is experimenting with the use of Baited Remote Underwater Video (BRUV). BRUVs are deployable camera systems that can be used to measure



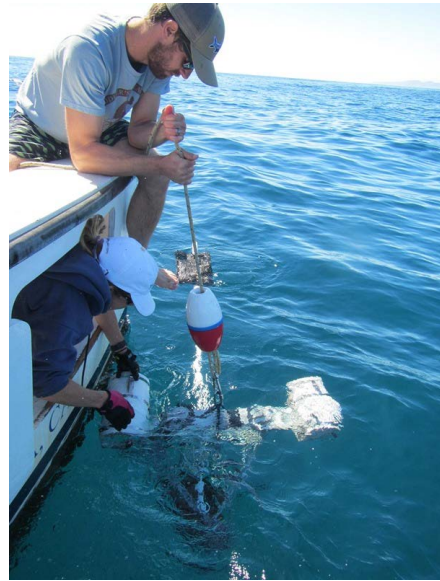
Did You Know?

Gov. Brown orders mandatory water reductions statewide

The Sierra Nevada snowpack this year showed the lowest water content on record: 6% of normal for April 1st (last winter's snowpack was 25% of normal). In response, today Gov. Brown ordered the first ever statewide mandatory water reductions. [Click here](#) to learn more.



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



not only the presence but also the size of marine life within their field of view. This technology has been used primarily in the tropics and deep water, but Rosenblatt's project seeks to identify whether BRUVs can also be used for biological monitoring in rocky reefs and kelp forests. If viable, BRUVs could potentially provide a more efficient method for researchers to conduct certain types of biological surveys. The experiment is expected to continue through the summer. Meanwhile, Channelkeeper and Dr. Caselle are exploring additional partnerships for biological monitoring in the Santa Barbara Channel. Stay tuned!

"Explore Your MPA" Brochure Now Available



Channelkeeper has been working to foster a new market for MPA-based ecotourism by partnering with local businesses to develop and promote recreational tours to local MPAs. We recently worked with eight local businesses to publish an "Explore Your MPA" brochure and plan to distribute it to more than 50 coastal hotels and tourist information centers from Goleta to Ventura. The brochure highlights dozens of opportunities offered by local eco-tourism businesses to kayak, dive, surf, or otherwise explore MPAs. You can also view this information, as well

as detailed MPA profiles and maps for public access, by visiting the ["Explore Your MPA"](#) page on our website.

Help Monitor our Marine Protected Areas! Next Training Workshop - April 9

Do you enjoy long walks on the beach and helping to promote ocean conservation? Channelkeeper is looking for dedicated volunteers to help us record and track human activities in and adjacent to Santa Barbara's MPAs through our MPA Watch program. The information we collect is helping government agencies and scientists interpret how successful our MPAs are at rebuilding fish

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populations, while also informing MPA management and enforcement. Becoming an MPA Watch volunteer is easy and fun. Save the date for the next volunteer training workshop on Thursday, April 9th at 6:30 pm at UCSB in Bren Hall Room 4016. Snacks and drinks will be provided! If you want to attend or learn more about MPA Watch, please [email](#) or call us at 805.563.3377 ext. 4. Every MPA Watch volunteer will receive a free Channelkeeper t-shirt, and volunteers that complete 10 surveys will receive an additional treat!

Stream Team - April 11 & 12

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, April 11th and Goleta Stream Team will meet at 10am on Sunday, April 12th. For more information, visit our [website](#), [email](#) us or call 805.563.3377 ext. 5.



Water Security Symposium Sunday, April 19

Join us on Sunday, April 19th at 3 pm for the Carpinteria Water Security Symposium at the Plaza Playhouse Theater at 4916 Carpinteria Ave. The Symposium is sponsored by the Carpinteria Valley Association and Carpinteria Beautiful and will discuss Carpinteria's water security, both short term and long term. The event will begin with a screening of the documentary "[EYES ON THE SKY](#)," a 50-minute look at the present and the future of fresh water in western cities and farmlands. Film-maker Steve Nicolaides will introduce the film and lead a panel discussion afterward. Please visit the [Symposium's Facebook page](#) to learn more.



Celebrate the Earth at the SB Earth Day Festival April 18 & 19

STAND UP FOR CLIMATE



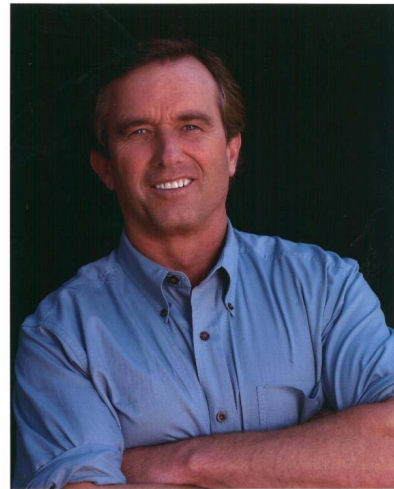
COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL
**EARTH DAY
FESTIVAL**

APRIL 18 & 19, 2015
ALAMEDA PARK, SANTA BARBARA
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SB-EARTHDAY.ORG

Celebrate the Earth at the Community Environmental Council's annual Santa Barbara Earth Day Festival, a two-day extravaganza on Saturday, April 18th from 11 am-7 pm and Sunday, April 19th from 11 am-6 pm at Alameda Park. Stop by Channelkeeper's booth to learn about and take action to support our current initiatives to protect and restore the Santa Barbara Channel and its watersheds. We hope to see you there!

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. to be Keynote Speaker at our Blue Water Ball Saturday, May 2nd

Channelkeeper is honored to present Robert F. Kennedy Jr. as the keynote speaker at our 15th Annual Blue Water Ball on Saturday, May 2nd at Deckers Outdoor Corp's LEED-certified headquarters in Goleta. A world-renowned defender of the environment, Mr. Kennedy was named one of Time magazine's "Heroes for the Planet" for his success in helping Riverkeeper lead the fight to restore the Hudson River. He is the founder and President of Waterkeeper Alliance, which has spawned a network of more than 240 local Waterkeeper organizations protecting two million square miles of rivers, lakes and coast across the globe.



Channelkeeper members will receive a mailed invitation to the event next week. Sponsorship opportunities are still available, and these key partners receive event tickets, advertising and the satisfaction that comes from contributing to a healthy ocean. For more information, to donate an auction item, or to reserve your tickets or table today (we WILL sell out!), [email](#) or call 805.563.3377 ext. 2.

Volunteers Needed for Harbor Clean-up Saturday, May 2nd

On Saturday, May 2nd from 8 am-12 noon, the Santa Barbara Waterfront Department will host its ninth annual "Operation Clean Sweep" clean-up of debris from the harbor seafloor. Please join Channelkeeper in volunteering your time to help with this important effort. Volunteers will

provide topside dock support collecting the sunken trash from the harbor bottom retrieved by divers. This year the clean-up will target the dock fingers "Q" through "S" in Marina One. The Waterfront Department will provide donuts, coffee and lunch. Please [email](#) or call us at 805.563.3377 ext. 4 if you would like to participate in this fun community clean-up.



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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