



June 2015 E-Newsletter

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Toll of Refugio Oil Spill Continues to Rise

In the 15 days since the devastating Refugio oil spill cast a black pall over the Gaviota coast, the havoc it has wrought on our beaches, the ocean, wildlife and our community has continued to grow. The toll on wildlife has risen dramatically in recent days, with 145 oiled birds (58 alive, 87 dead) and 93 mammals (40 alive, 53 dead) being found to date. The number of fish and invertebrates affected is unknown but is undoubtedly far greater. The extent of fouled shoreline has grown to more than 40 miles, and tar balls have begun washing up on beaches as far south as Ventura, Los Angeles and even Orange counties. Refugio and El Capitan State Parks and 138 square miles of fishing grounds have been closed indefinitely, causing harm to our local economy. These impacts will likely continue to escalate in the coming days, weeks and months as the true scope of this terrible tragedy becomes more painfully clear.

Channelkeeper is working with our environmental partners, including the Environmental Defense Center and the California Coastkeeper Alliance, to investigate the circumstances behind the spill and to advocate for policy reforms to ensure that a disaster like this can't happen again. Channelkeeper is also coordinating with Unified Command and other scientists to augment official monitoring efforts in the near term, including of potential impacts to the Naples Marine Protected Area, and also hope to develop additional monitoring efforts to assess the impact of the spill over the longer term. In addition, we're compiling observations from community members, and have designed a [reporting form](#) for volunteers to fill out and submit, along with photos, if they spot oil on the beach or water. However, please do not attempt to clean up oil or tar balls from the beach or water or to rescue oiled wildlife. Use our [form](#), and call (800) 424-8802 or (805) 696-1188 to report tar balls or oil on beaches or the water, and call (877) 823-6926 to report oiled wildlife.

Finally, we're working to keep the public informed about the spill. Check our [website](#) often for regular updates, including a new [map](#) and [fact sheets about the spill](#) and about [Plains All American Pipeline's history of environmental violations](#), and please support Channelkeeper's spill response effort by making a [donation](#) to our Spill Watch Fund today.

Critical Victory in Santa Barbara Channelkeeper's Lawsuit to Restore Flows in the Ventura River

At a hearing in California Superior Court in San Francisco on April 23rd, Channelkeeper

Did You Know?

Take photos, but don't touch the goo!

Untrained volunteers should not attempt to clean up oil on the beach or to rescue oiled wildlife. Oil is toxic and spill response volunteers must be trained to handle hazardous materials and oiled wildlife.

Click [here](#) to submit your photos and observations to Channelkeeper today.



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



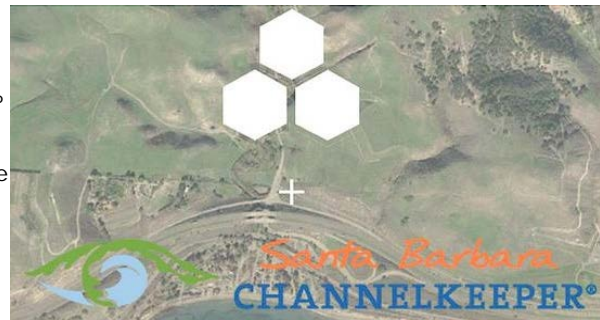
won the first critical victory in our lawsuit to restore flows in the Ventura River.

The City of Ventura pumps hundreds of millions of gallons of water from the Ventura River each year, even though the river has been designated by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) as impaired by excessive pumping and diversions. Studies commissioned by the City itself have concluded that the City's pumping has a significant negative impact on the river and endangered species like steelhead trout. Moreover, the SWRCB has a constitutional duty to prevent the unreasonable use of state waters. Despite this, the City has continued to pump, and the SWRCB has done nothing to stop it. This continued over-pumping has put the health of the river - and the life it sustains - in serious jeopardy.

At the April 23rd hearing, the Court overruled the SWRCB's and City's objections to our lawsuit and affirmed that the SWRCB has a mandatory duty to prevent unreasonable use of state waters. Channelkeeper's lawsuit, which seeks to compel the SWRCB to conduct a "Reasonable Use Analysis" of the City's use of the Ventura River, can now move forward. Our hope is that such an analysis will ultimately require the City to better balance the various demands for water with the health and vitality of the Ventura River and lead to more sustainable and integrated management of its water resources.

Channel Islands Surfboards Donating E-commerce Profits to SBCK! June 2-9

Our awesome friends at [Channel Islands Surfboards](#) are donating 100% of the profits from their e-commerce business during the week of June 2-9 to support Channelkeeper's work on the Refugio oil spill response effort!



Help us protect and restore the Santa Barbara Channel by shopping [online](#) at SB's favorite surf company today!

Chris Potter Art Show to Benefit Channelkeeper Thursday, June 4th

Please join us on Thursday, June 4th from 5-8 pm at Distinctive Framing (1333 State Street in Santa

Barbara) for an Art Show to benefit Santa Barbara Channelkeeper featuring renowned local artist Chris Potter's paintings of Gaviota and Santa Barbara Cityscapes. Chris Potter is a long-time Channelkeeper supporter and will be donating 20% of all proceeds from art sold at this event and the following week to support Channelkeeper's work in responding to the Refugio oil spill. Visit [Chris Potter Art](#) to learn more and explore his incredible art.



World Oceans Day Festival Saturday, June 6th

Join Channelkeeper in recognizing the importance of our oceans and sea life by celebrating World Oceans Day at the Sea Center this Saturday, June 6th from 10am-3pm. The theme of this year's World Oceans Day is "Healthy Oceans, Healthy Planet." Learn all about fascinating sea creatures and the unique marine habitats that exist right off our coast. Channelkeeper and other organizations committed to protecting our marine resources will be on hand to provide information about easy and effective ways you can help safeguard our oceans for future generations. We hope to see you there!

Stream Team June 13 & 14



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, June 13th, and Goleta

Stream Team will meet at 10am on Sunday, June 14th. For more information, visit our website, email us or call 805.563.3377 ext. 5.

Vita Travel Store Anniversary Party to Benefit SBCK Thursday, June 25th

Join us at Vita Travel Store's one-year Anniversary VIP Party on Thursday, June 25th from 5-8pm at 12 W. Anapamu St. in Santa Barbara. Enjoy wine and appetizers, learn about their Members Only travel club and trip planner, and get entered for a chance to win free travel gear by supporting Santa Barbara Channelkeeper. Call 805.854.4004 or click [here](#) to RSVP today!



15th Annual Blue Water Ball a Smashing Success!

Channelkeeper's 15th annual Blue Water Ball fundraising gala was our most successful ever, raising nearly \$140,000 for our work to protect and restore the Santa Barbara Channel and its watersheds! At the event, which took place on May 2nd at Deckers LEED-certified headquarters in Goleta, our 225 guests celebrated Channelkeeper's recent victories for clean water, shopped at our extensive silent auction, savored delicious local food and wines, and delighted in the beautiful sterling silver charm necklaces donated by [Waxing Poetic](#).



The highlight of the evening was an incredibly inspiring keynote address by Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., who recounted the fascinating history of the Waterkeeper movement which took root in the Hudson River and has grown into a powerful force for clean water that spans six continents. He highlighted the fundamental importance of a clean environment to the health and prosperity of our communities, and extolled the 250+ Waterkeepers across the globe that are fighting on the front lines - and winning - to protect their communities' right to clean water.

Channelkeeper would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Angel Martinez, Chairman and CEO of Deckers, for hosting us and so eloquently introducing RFK, Jr., to John Palminteri, our animated and entertaining Master of Ceremonies, and to all our gracious guests, sponsors, auction donors, and volunteers who made this such a successful and memorable celebration!

Click [here](#) for photos from the event!

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