



September 2015 E-Newsletter

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We're on Social Media!



Major Victory to Curb Ag Pollution!



Photo Credit: Monterey Coastkeeper

For more than a decade, Channelkeeper has fought to protect local waterways from agricultural pollution. We scored a big win in this David and Goliath battle last month when the State Superior Court ruled in our favor on a lawsuit Channelkeeper and our partners filed in 2013 challenging the adequacy of regulations adopted by the State Water Board to control polluted discharges from irrigated agricultural lands on

California's Central Coast. The Court's ruling agreed with our arguments that the Central Coast "Ag Order" fails to comply with State law and is not in the public interest because it will not lead to quantifiable improvements in water quality or even arrest the continued degradation of the region's waters caused by agriculture. **This is a major victory which will set the bar for how agricultural pollution is regulated throughout California.** The Court ordered the State Water Board to create new rules to better protect surface and ground water from agricultural pollution. Channelkeeper will play a lead role in that process to ensure that the new rules address the concerns laid out in our lawsuit and will lead to real and verifiable improvements for waters impacted by agricultural discharges in our region.

Another Critical Win in Our Lawsuit to Restore Flows in the Ventura River



Channelkeeper scored another big victory in our ground-breaking lawsuit to restore flows to the Ventura River on August 26th.

The City of Ventura pumps hundreds of millions of gallons of water from the river each year, often completely dewatering parts of the river during critical dry weather periods and causing harm to habitat, endangered species, water quality, and recreation.

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has officially designated the Ventura River as impaired by excessive pumping and diversions, and it has a constitutional duty to prevent the unreasonable use of the state's waters. Despite this, the City continues to pump, and the SWRCB has done nothing, putting the health of the river in serious jeopardy.



Did You Know?

While winter rains from an increasingly likely El Niño will bring much-needed relief from the drought, it will also send polluted stormwater runoff into creeks and beaches. You can help reduce pollution AND conserve water by capturing the rain. Get ready by installing a rain barrel on your property today! Click [here](#) to learn more.



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

As a result, Channelkeeper filed a lawsuit last September seeking to compel the SWRCB to analyze the reasonableness of the City's use of the Ventura River. At our first hearing in April, the California Superior Court overruled the City's and SWRCB's objections and affirmed that the SWRCB has a mandatory duty to prevent unreasonable use of state waters. In response, the City attempted to bog down our case by filing cross-complaints against every other water right holder in the watershed, arguing that everyone's uses must be considered together. At our second hearing on August 26th, the Court again sided with Channelkeeper by forcing the City to drop its cross-complaints. Our hope is that the SWRCB will now agree to analyze the City's use of the river, and that ultimately that analysis will force the City to better balance its pumping to meet residential and municipal demand with the need to preserve in-stream flows for nature, fish and recreation.

ACTION ALERT! Support Oil Spill Prevention Legislation



Photo Credit: Patagonia

As part of work to support the response to the Plains All American Oil Spill, Channelkeeper has been supporting a package of bills introduced by our local reps, State Senator Hannah Beth Jackson and Assemblymember Das Williams, to better protect our ocean and coast from future oil spills. On August 22nd, Channelkeeper participated in [#CrudeAwakening](#), a paddle to Platform Holly organized by [Patagonia](#) and [Surfrider](#) to raise awareness and rally support for this legislation. The bills - SB788, SB414, SB295 and AB864 - have been making their way through various committees. Unfortunately, SB788 - which would have closed the loophole in the California

Coastal Sanctuary Act to prevent new offshore drilling in Tranquillon Ridge - died in the Assembly Appropriations Committee last week due to heavy opposition by the oil industry, but the other three bills passed out of committee and are headed to the floor, and we **NEED YOUR HELP** to get them passed! Please call or email [your elected officials](#) and urge them to support SB414 (Jackson) (improved oil spill response resources), SB295 (Jackson) (improved pipeline safety and inspection rules), and AB864 (Williams) (use of best achievable technology in oil pipelines along environmentally and ecologically sensitive coastal areas). Click [here](#) for more information and a sample email. Thank you for your activism!

Oil Closes Summerland Beach

On August 21st, the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department closed Summerland Beach due to "strong petroleum odors along with significant amounts of oil in the water and oil on the beach." Although official reports have not yet confirmed the source, it is likely the oil is leaking from a poorly abandoned well, known as the Becker Well, located in the surf zone at Summerland Beach. This well is one of several legacy wells in the area that were improperly capped after the oil boom in the early 1900s.



Photo Credit: John Palminteri, KEYT

Earlier that week, Channelkeeper joined other environmental advocates to urge the State Lands Commission (SLC) to address the Becker Well since

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conditions have worsened significantly in recent months. While the SLC did vote to proceed with an investigation, conditions had gotten so bad that the Public Health Department closed the beach to protect public health. The beach was re-opened on August 24th but a warning remains in place as oil and tar are still present in the water and on the beach. With local and state agencies now paying attention to this problem, Channelkeeper hopes meaningful action will be taken to address the leaking Becker Well as well as other poorly abandoned legacy wells off our coast.

We're in the Running (and Swimming & Cycling) for \$25,000!

Santa Barbara Channelkeeper is honored to be one of five non-profit organizations selected by Montecito Bank & Trust to vie for the privilege of becoming the beneficiary of the 2016 Santa Barbara Triathlon. The lucky winner will be the recipient of all donations raised by the athletes and the public, a goal set at \$25,000! Please click [here](#) to vote for Channelkeeper before the September 30th deadline. You do NOT have to live in the Santa Barbara area to vote, but you may only vote once, so please forward this to everyone you know who cares about clean water and ask them to vote for us too!



\$25,000 would make a huge impact on Channelkeeper's ability to keep watch for clean water in the Santa Barbara Channel and its watersheds - and you can help with one quick [click](#)! Thank you!

SBCK's Ben Pitterle Appointed to Sanctuary Advisory Council



Channelkeeper is thrilled to announce that Ben Pitterle, our Watershed and Marine Program Director, has been appointed as the Non-Consumptive Recreation representative on the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council! Ben brings a wealth of experience to this position as an avid ocean recreationist and the leader of Channelkeeper's pioneering work to promote eco-tourism in the marine protected areas (MPAs) in the Santa Barbara Channel. His two-year term will begin at the September 18th meeting of the Council. Congratulations Ben!

Channelkeeper to Sponsor EDC TGIF September 11th



Channelkeeper is pleased to be co-sponsoring EDC's TGIF on Friday, September 11th, along with the Santa Barbara Bicycle Coalition, Law Office of Marc Chytilo, and Ventura Network Los Padres Chapter Sierra Club. Get your weekend off to a great start by networking and celebrating with other environmentally-minded folks from our community. The party starts at 5:30 pm in the EDC Courtyard (906 Garden Street) - be there or be square!

Coastal Clean-up Day - September 19th!



Please join us for this year's annual Coastal Clean-up Day on Saturday, September 19th from 9 am-12 noon. Show your favorite beach some love by picking up trash and preventing it from polluting the ocean. Channelkeeper will lead a clean-up at West Beach (our adopted beach), or you can choose from several other clean-ups being hosted [throughout California](#). Please bring your own bucket and gloves if you have them; we'll provide clean-up supplies.

Thanks for helping us keep our beaches and ocean clean!

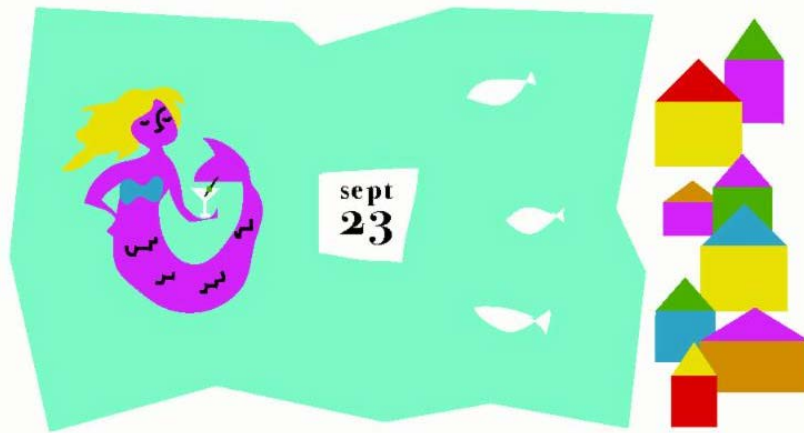
Creek Week is September 19th - 27th



Creek Week is an annual community event celebrating our local creeks and ocean, with many groups sponsoring events throughout the week to help build awareness and stewardship of the natural riparian treasures of the South Coast. Creek Week, which is hosted by the Santa Barbara City Creeks Division, Project Clean Water and the cities of Carpinteria and Goleta, kicks off on Saturday, September 19th with Coastal Clean-up Day. Learn about efforts to restore the endangered steelhead trout in

local creeks, participate in creek restoration projects, enjoy a bird walk, or help with a pre-winter rains creek clean-up. With a week packed full of events, there is something for everyone! Click [here](#) for a full schedule of events.

Dirty Martinis for Clean Water September 23rd



You won't want to miss this fun, fresh Funk Zone party at Reds Bar! Join us on Wednesday, September 23rd from 5:30-8:30 pm for specially-priced martinis, food from [Mony's Taqueria](#), music by DJ Darla Bea and a Jeremy Harper art show and sale to support Channelkeeper's work to keep watch for clean water and a healthy coast. Tickets are \$25 and include appetizers, entertainment and an entry into our Dirty Martini Drawing featuring local goods from Cutler's Artisan Spirits, Still and Santa Barbara Olive Company. This groovy Funk Zone happening is open to the public, so invite your friends to join you in a toast to clean water! Pay at the door or click [here](#) to reserve your spot in advance. For more information, contact Morgan at 805.563.3377 x2 or morgan@sbck.org. We hope to see you there!

Discounted Dive Trip to Naples MPA September 26th

Join Santa Barbara Channelkeeper and Captain Ron with Ocean Sports Private Charters on September 26th for a special 6-pak SCUBA trip to the Naples Marine Protected Area (MPA). For the discounted price of \$450, you and five friends can experience the breathtaking beauty of Naples Reef on a $\frac{3}{4}$ day trip aboard the 42' *Miss Devin*.

Naples Reef, off Santa Barbara's Gaviota Coast, provides impressively complex habitat and has some of the most diverse and productive sea life in all of California. To get a sneak peak of what you might see, check out the [recent video from our dive at Naples on May 19th](#). Divers on this trip - which is partly sponsored by Channelkeeper - will also be featured in materials we're putting together to promote eco-tourism in our local MPAs. To book the trip, contact Caption Ron at 805.736.3186. Rental dive gear is also available.



Stream Team September 12 - 13

In light of the Labor Day holiday, our September Stream Team will meet on Saturday, September 12 in Ventura at 9am and on Sunday,



September 13 in Goleta at 10am. 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. For more information, visit our [website](#), [email](#) us or call 805.563.3377 ext. 5.

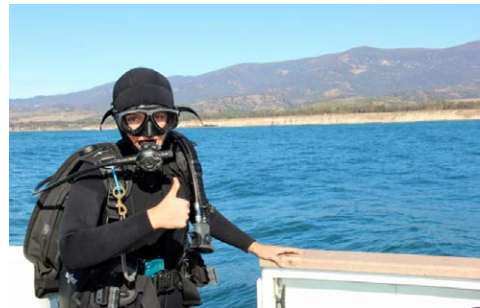
Shop and Earn \$ for Channelkeeper

Through Ralphs' Community Contribution Program, you can support Channelkeeper every time you shop for groceries! Simply register your Ralphs card on-line, and Ralphs will donate a portion of your grocery purchases to Channelkeeper. Even if you're already registered, you must re-register on or after September 1, 2015. Simply click [here](#), follow the simple instructions and select Santa Barbara Channelkeeper as your beneficiary of choice. You can also support Channelkeeper while shopping on Amazon using Amazon Smile. Start at [this link](#) and 0.5% of your purchase will go to Channelkeeper. Thanks for your support!



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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