



Our mission is to protect and restore the Santa Barbara Channel and its watersheds through science-based advocacy, education, field work and enforcement

February 2016 E-Newsletter

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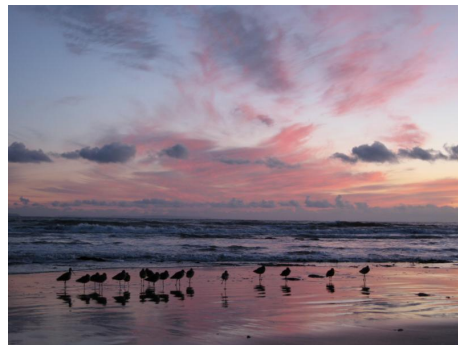
### We're on Social Media!



### Did You Know?

According to a recent [report](#) published by the World

## ACTION ALERT! Protect the California Coast from Special Interests



The California coast is iconic for its breathtaking scenic views, spectacular beaches and incredible recreational opportunities. The preservation and protection of this resource has been achieved thanks to the [California Coastal Act](#) and the [California Coastal Commission](#), whose mission is

to protect, conserve, restore, and enhance the environment of the California coastline.

Unfortunately, however, [California's coastal legacy is under attack](#). The Coastal Commission's independence and leadership as an agency is threatened from a behind-the-scenes effort to oust its Executive Director, Dr. Charles Lester. This attempted upheaval is a direct attack on the Coastal Act, designed to gain control over the Coastal Commission's independent staff and make the Commission more "developer-friendly."

On February 10th the Coastal Commission will hold a hearing in Morro Bay to decide whether to terminate Dr. Lester. In the face of intense pressure from developers to build on every remaining inch of our coast and passionate advocacy by environmentalists to protect and preserve the last remaining stretches of undeveloped coast, Dr. Lester has done a good job moving sound policy and bringing parties on both sides together to compromise. It is unclear what he had done to merit termination.

Join Channelkeeper and a broad coalition of coastal and environmental advocates working to prevent this coup by [telling the California Coastal Commission](#) that you support the Coastal Act and Executive Director Lester.

## "After the Spill" Speaker Series Next Session - February 10th

In an effort to help our community understand the response to the Plains All American oil spill, the impacts it has caused, and issues related to oil development and spill response in our region more broadly, Channelkeeper has organized a series of free public lectures featuring relevant government officials,

Economic Forum, the world's oceans may have more plastic debris than fish by the year 2050. Currently, 8 million tons of plastic end up in the ocean each year - the equivalent of a dump truck of plastic debris every minute.

At current rates, that will grow to two trucks a minute by 2030 and four a minute by 2050 - by which time, by weight, there will be as much plastic in the oceans as fish.



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



scientists and other experts. Our "After the Spill" speaker series is being co-hosted by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History and moderated by Karl Hutterer. The sessions will take place at Farrand Hall in the Museum of Natural History on Wednesdays from 6pm-8pm. Admission is free. Dates and topics are as follows:

- **February 10** - Oil Spill Preparedness: Santa Barbara's Oil Spill Response Plan and New Legislation to Improve Spill Prevention and Response
- **February 17** - Research and Monitoring Impacts from the Refugio Oil Spill
- **March 2** - Do Your Part: Volunteering During an Oil Spill
- **March 16** - The Truth about Seeps: Natural and Anthropogenic Sources of Oil in the Santa Barbara Channel
- **March 30** - Moving Beyond Oil: Sustainable Energy and Transportation in Santa Barbara County

Click [here](#) for more information about the series and the speakers to be featured at each session.

## Channelkeeper Advocates to Protect Our Coast from Dangerous Oil Trains



This week, Channelkeeper will join several other environmental groups, local governments, school districts, and emergency responders' unions to urge the San Luis Obispo (SLO) County Planning Commission to deny Phillips 66's proposal to expand oil train capacity at the Santa Maria Refinery. Our primary concern with the project is

additional five oil trains (80-100 rail cars each) per week that would travel along the coast, passing through or near residential areas, schools, endangered species habitat, public beaches, Marine Protected Areas, and tourist destinations, potentially impacting counties far beyond SLO. The Environmental Impact Report for the project reveals that the additional trains would significantly increase cancer risk, while an oil train accident along the line could result in catastrophic damage to sensitive habitats, tourism, and public health. A recent [report by Waterkeeper Alliance](#) found that rail car accidents have increased in recent years despite additional regulation and improved technology. The risks are simply too great to allow this project to move forward. Public testimony will be heard by the SLO Planning Commission this Thursday and Friday, February 4-5. More information on the hearing is available [here](#).

## Rein the Rain!

Even though the rains have finally returned, it's not too late to set up your outdoor space to capture the rain - more is coming! Rain barrels are a great tool to conserve water while also reducing stormwater runoff



- the number one source of water pollution in our area. Channelkeeper is thrilled to continue our partnership with [Figueria Mountain Brewery](#) to repurpose oak barrels used in the beer-making process and convert them into rain barrels. In the coming months, Channelkeeper will be reaching out to other local brewers and wine makers to secure more of these beautiful barrels, which we will have available for sale for \$100 later this year, so [email](#) us to reserve yours today!

## Stream Team February 6th & 7th



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.

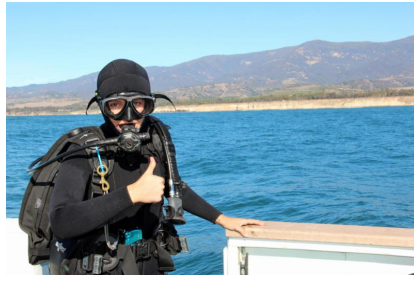
Come join us to help protect our local waterways. Stream Team in Ventura will meet at 9am on Saturday, February 6th, and Goleta Stream Team will meet at 10am on Sunday, February 7th. For more information, visit our [website](#), [email](#) us or call 805.563.3377 ext. 5.

## 16th Annual Blue Water Ball April 16, 2016



Save the date! Channelkeeper's 16th annual Blue Water Ball fundraising gala is set for Saturday, April 16th at 5:30pm in the beautiful rotunda at Deckers' LEED-certified headquarters. This fun event will feature a gourmet dinner, fine local wines, an awesome auction, an inspiring keynote speech by [Christian Beamish](#), and a celebration of Channelkeeper's recent victories for clean water. To reserve your seats today or become a sponsor, auction donor or volunteer, [email](#) or call us at 805.563.3377 x2. 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](#).