



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

January 2016 E-Newsletter

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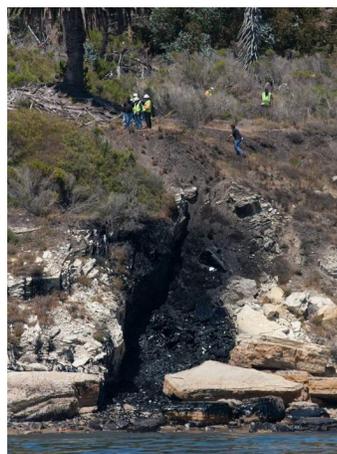
## Channelkeeper and EDC Sue Federal Government for Pipeline Information



On December 8, 2015, Channelkeeper and EDC filed two lawsuits against the federal government for refusing to disclose information about inspections and oversight of oil pipelines in southern California, including the Plains All American Pipeline 901, which spilled more than 140,000 gallons of crude oil onto the Gaviota coast on May 19, 2015. Shortly after the spill, Channelkeeper and EDC requested information from

the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement through the Freedom of Information Act, which requires federal agencies to provide requested information within 20 working days. To date, neither agency has provided any records in response. Our lawsuits aim to shed light on what went wrong on Line 901 and to increase the transparency of federal oversight over the many oil pipelines that criss-cross our region.

## "After the Spill" Speaker Series First Session on January 13th



Santa Barbara Channelkeeper and the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History are co-hosting a five-part speaker series that will address various topics related to the Plains All American oil spill and oil-related issues in our region more broadly. The spill provided a harsh reminder that oil exploration, production, and transport along our coast can have significant impacts on the environment, economy, and community. While federal, state, and local agencies, non-profits and scientists are working to ensure we are better prepared for future spills, it is important for our community to be informed, engaged, and empowered to participate in this process.

Join us on Wednesday, January 13, 2016 for the first session of the

## We're on Social Media!



### Did You Know?

For every inch of rain, approximately 600 gallons of rainwater will run off a small 1,000 square foot roof. That's a lot of water **that could be captured** and reused at a later time. Large cisterns are a great option for rainwater collection, and rain barrels are a great first step. The system in this photo is made up of three 265 gallon [Bushman Slimline](#) tanks. Photo credit: [Garden Solutions Landscaping](#).



series, which will feature Errin Briggs, Santa Barbara County Energy Specialist, moderated by Karl Hutterer. Mr. Briggs will provide an overview of current and proposed oil operations in Santa Barbara County and measures the County has taken to increase oversight and safety. Each session will take place at Farrand Hall at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History from 6pm-8pm. Admission is free.

Stay tuned for details about the rest of the series. For more information, please contact Jenna Driscoll at Santa Barbara Channelkeeper at [jennad@sbck.org](mailto:jennad@sbck.org) or 805.563.3377 ext. 5.

## Channelkeeper Aids in Lessons Learned Process After Refugio Oil Spill



During disasters like the Refugio Oil Spill, the community relies heavily on government emergency response agencies to contain and minimize impacts to the environment and public health. One of the most important activities that response agencies perform, once the immediate threat has passed, is to revisit and

evaluate their performance to learn from any challenges or mistakes that may have occurred. These "after action" discussions are known in the emergency management field as "hotwash" sessions. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Management are currently undertaking a series of hotwash sessions, and they are looking to key third party groups to provide useful feedback and suggestions.

Channelkeeper was heavily involved during and after the Refugio spill in helping to monitor impacts to the environment, coordinate volunteers, and disseminate information to the public. Our role gave us a unique perspective into the workings of the spill response and recovery effort, so we are participating in this hotwash process, working with agencies and other stakeholders to provide recommendations for ways to improve spill response in the future. Key changes to emergency response protocols will likely be made, both locally and statewide, as a result of this process.

## Channelkeeper Launches El Niño Web Portal



Channelkeeper's website is now your go-to source for information about El Niño. Our newly-launched [El Niño Portal](#) provides information on what El Niño is, how to prepare for storms, current news, surf reports, reservoir status, and links to live webcams, current rainfall,

and storm trackers. Click [here](#) to check it out!

## Rein the Rain!



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



Happy El Niño! There is still time to act to reduce stormwater runoff - the number one source of water pollution in our area - by keeping rainwater on your property. Redirect it, slow it down, capture it, and let it soak into the soil in a rain garden, removing pollutants in the process. Installing rain barrels and cisterns is another great way to reduce runoff while also conserving water. Channelkeeper is thrilled to continue our partnership with [Figueroa 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 vintners to secure more of these beautiful oak barrels, which we will have available for sale for \$100 later this year, so [email](#) us to reserve yours today!

## Help Monitor our Marine Protected Areas! Next Training Workshop: January 13th



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 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) through our *MPA Watch* program. *MPA Watch* volunteers observe and collect unbiased data on coastal and marine resource use, which provides important information to understand how people are using MPAs and to help inform MPA

management. Becoming an *MPA Watch* volunteer is easy and fun. Save the date for the next volunteer training workshop on Wednesday, January 13th at 6:30pm at UCSB in the 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 exciting treat!

## Celebrate our MPAs at Underwater Parks Day Saturday, January 16th

January 16th is Underwater Parks Day - a day dedicated to educating the public about Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and California's landmark initiative to establish a network of MPAs along its entire coast. Please join us in celebrating our local MPAs at the



Sea Center's Underwater Parks Day Festival on Saturday, January 16th from 10 am-3 pm. There will be special programming for kids including hands-on activities and marine science investigations. Stop by Channelkeeper's table to learn more about MPAs and how you can help

monitor and promote them.

## Refugio Oil Spill Natural Resource Damage Assessment Public Meeting - January 20th

State and federal natural resource trustee agencies are conducting a Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) to assess the injuries to the environment and its public uses caused by the Refugio Oil Spill. The NRDA process will also identify how to restore and compensate for the harm, and the damages that should be paid by



Plains All American to fund restoration projects. The trustee agencies will host a public meeting on Wednesday, January 20th from 7-8:30 pm in the Faulkner Gallery at the Santa Barbara Public Library (40 E. Anapamu Street). The meeting will answer questions about the NRDA process, present preliminary results of assessment studies, and solicit suggestions for restoration projects to compensate for the injuries caused by the spill.

## Technical Advisory Panel Meeting on Subsurface Desalination Intake and Potable Reuse Feasibility Studies January 27th

Last summer, the City of Santa Barbara created a Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) to oversee studies to assess the feasibility of subsurface intakes and potable reuse (advanced treatment of wastewater to drinking water standards) as alternatives to the screened open ocean intake the City currently intends to use for its desalination plant. Subsurface intakes are known to virtually eliminate the death of massive numbers of marine organisms caused by open ocean intakes, and these studies are being done as a direct result of Channelkeeper's advocacy.

At the first meeting of the TAP in August 2015, the City's consultant presented draft work plans for the studies and took comments from the TAP and the public, including Channelkeeper. Final versions of the work plans which incorporated that feedback were subsequently created and are available [here](#). The next meeting of the TAP will take place on Wednesday, January 27th from 9:30 am-12 noon at Santa Barbara City Hall (735 Anacapa Street). Information will be presented on the conceptual design and initial technical screening analysis of subsurface desalination intake options, as well as preliminary information regarding regulatory and permitting requirements for potable reuse alternatives. Please join Channelkeeper at the meeting to provide feedback on the studies and show your support for these more environmentally friendly alternatives to the existing open ocean desalination intake. For more information, click [here](#).

## Stream Team January 9th & 10th

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, January

9th, and Goleta Stream Team will meet at 10am on Sunday, January 10th. For more information, visit our [website](#), [email](#) us or call 805.563.3377 ext. 5.

## Resolve to Be (and Give) Green in 2016!



Kick off the new year with a resolution to be green in 2016, then give some green to Channelkeeper! In return, Channelkeeper resolves to keep watch for clean water in 2016. Your contribution will ensure that Channelkeeper has the resources we need to defend your interest in clean water and a healthy coast this year and beyond.

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to make an investment in clean beaches, healthy watersheds and the future vitality of the Santa Barbara Channel by making a tax-deductible donation to Santa Barbara Channelkeeper today. Thank you for your support and Happy New Year!