



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

June 2016 E-Newsletter

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We're Social!



Did You Know?

June 8 is World Oceans Day!
In 2008, the United Nations General Assembly designated June 8th as "World Oceans Day" to raise global awareness of the

Another Major Victory in the Fight Against Agricultural Pollution

Channelkeeper scored a major victory on May 19th when the Los Angeles Regional Water Board updated its regulations to curb pollution from agriculture in LA and Ventura counties. The new "Ag Order" contains some of the strongest protections for streams, rivers and wetlands in the entire state. Channelkeeper was a lead environmental advocate in this process, successfully securing key new provisions including:



- date-certain timelines for compliance with water quality standards for farmers;
- enforceable water quality limits for farm discharges;
- individual farm monitoring to verify compliance with water quality standards; and
- well testing requirements to protect rural farm workers from drinking contaminated water.

These provisions do more to protect surface waters from agricultural pollution than those currently in place in any other region in California. While this is a giant step forward, protections for groundwater from ag pollution in LA and Ventura counties remain relatively weak. Channelkeeper will continue to work on further strengthening ag pollution regulations as they evolve in our region and others throughout California.

One Year After the Refugio Oil Spill

A lot has happened in the past few weeks as the one-year anniversary of the Refugio Oil Spill came and went. The federal Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) issued its [Failure Investigation Report](#) summarizing its findings about what caused the spill - namely, Plains All American Pipeline's failure to protect against, detect and mitigate severe external corrosion of the pipeline and to detect and respond to the rupture in a timely manner.

On May 17th, the Santa Barbara County

current challenges faced by the international community in connection with the oceans and to be part of the solution. Celebrate by diving in and exploring one of the many [Marine Protected Areas](#) in the Santa Barbara Channel!



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

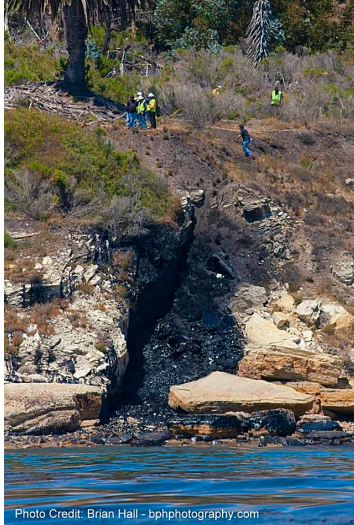


Photo Credit: Brian Hall - bphphotography.com

District Attorney announced that Plains was indicted by a grand jury on 46 criminal charges - including 4 felony charges. Channelkeeper applauded the indictment as sending a strong message to Plains and other oil operators in our region that they will be held accountable for spills and the damage they cause to our environment and economy.

Channelkeeper spoke at a press conference on the spill anniversary to highlight our ongoing work related to the spill, including:

- our ongoing lawsuit with EDC to obtain information from PHMSA about inspections and oversight of the pipeline that ruptured;
- participating in meetings of the LA/Long Beach Area Committee to ensure that lessons learned from the spill are incorporated into our region's oil spill contingency plan;
- collecting standardized data on tar ball coverage, size, and characteristics on 16 beaches from Ventura to Gaviota on a quarterly basis in order to establish a baseline of what constitutes "normal" tar ball coverage on South Coast beaches from natural seeps, which will help inform the identification and clean-up of future spills;
- tracking and weighing in on the Natural Resource Damage Assessment process to support appropriate funding and projects to restore the damage caused by the spill;
- supporting Senator Hannah Beth Jackson's SB 900 to cap leaking legacy wells along our coast;
- opposing the Phillips 66 Oil Train proposal;
- tracking Venoco's oil proposals at Ellwood and Carpinteria; and
- KEEPING WATCH to protect our precious coast from spills.

Obviously, none of this work was planned, but Channelkeeper is committed to helping our environment and community recover from the spill and to do all we can prevent a similar tragedy from happening again. Please [donate](#) to Channelkeeper today to support this important ongoing work, and thanks to those who already have!

Surf & Swim Safely - Use Swim Guide!



With the summer beach season upon us, stay in the know about water quality conditions at local beaches and throughout the nation with the free [Waterkeeper Swim Guide App](#)! This app provides up-to-date information about water quality conditions at more than 400 California beaches, coves, rivers, parks, piers and creeks. Swim Guide also helps users get directions to nearby beaches, view photos,

learn what beaches are good for children and more. Users can also report pollution immediately to the nearest local Waterkeeper. [Download the app](#) today and surf and swim safely this summer!

10th Annual Operation Clean Sweep a Success!

Channelkeeper teamed up with partners from the Channel Islands National

Marine Sanctuary, Santa Barbara Surfrider, the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum, harbor dive businesses and volunteers from the local boating community to clean up the Santa Barbara Harbor as part of the Santa Barbara Waterfront Department's 10th annual "Operation Clean Sweep" on May 7th. More than 45 dock volunteers and divers



removed 1.5 tons of garbage from the seafloor below Marina 4, including barrels, pipes, chairs, buckets, liquor bottles, milk crates, and a full-size porcelain toilet. This year's clean-up brought the 10-year total of junk removed from the bottom of the Santa Barbara Harbor to 17.5 tons (35,400 pounds)!

Stream Team June 4th & 5th



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 4th, and Goleta Stream Team will meet at 10am on Sunday, June 5th. For more information, visit our [website](#), [email](#) us or call 805.563.3377 ext. 5.

Channelkeeper to benefit from The Mattson 2 concert on June 16th



Join us on June 16th for [The Cabin by the Sea series](#) at [SOhO](#) to see identical twin jazz-rock duo [The Mattson 2](#) and support Channelkeeper. Half of the proceeds from the show will be donated to Channelkeeper and our mission to keep watch for clean water. Come enjoy some great music and support a worthy cause at the same time!

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](#).