



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

March 2016 E-Newsletter

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We're Social!



Did You Know?

ACTION ALERT! Support Funding to Repair Leaking Summerland Oil Well



As many locals know, our coast was home to one of the largest oil booms in our nation's history beginning in the late 1800s. Back then, once oil wells were no longer productive, they were often

abandoned with slapsdash techniques. We have several of these poorly-abandoned "legacy wells" along our coast which still leak significant volumes of oil, particularly in the Summerland area. The Becker Well, located in the surf zone on Summerland Beach, is the worst offender, often causing noxious odors, sheens on the water, and oil on the beach.

Fortunately, thanks to advocacy by Channelkeeper and other environmental groups, concerned citizens, and elected officials, the State Lands Commission is now investigating the Becker Well and designing a plan to properly re-cap it, and has put forward a proposal to fund this important work as part of the draft state budget. We need your help to make sure these funds remain in the final budget so that the Becker Well can be properly sealed. Please click [here](#) to send a message to the State Budget Committee voicing your support for this funding to remain in the budget so we can rid Summerland Beach of this toxic threat to public health and the environment.

City of Ventura Opts to Fight Analysis of Water Use



On February 22nd, the City of Ventura decided to spend an additional \$978,000 to further oppose an analysis of its use of water from the Ventura River by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). In 2014, Channelkeeper filed a lawsuit seeking to compel the SWRCB to conduct an analysis of the City's use of the river

On March 22nd, Santa Barbara County's plastic bag ban will go into effect at large grocery stores and pharmacies in unincorporated areas of the county. Once the county's bag ban is fully in place at both large and small grocery stores and pharmacies this September, it will reduce the use of plastic bags by 60 million per year. Three cheers for fewer plastic bag making their way into our creeks and ocean!



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



to assess compliance with state law prohibiting the unreasonable use of water. The City currently pumps hundreds of millions of gallons of water from the Ventura 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.

Channelkeeper appeared at the City Council hearing to clarify the narrow intent of our lawsuit - to obtain a reasonable use analysis by the SWRCB, not a court order altering the City's water right - and to ask the City to work cooperatively with us to protect the river and its water supply. The Council cut us off after three minutes and did not permit us to finish our testimony and, despite support for our position from several other speakers, they voted unanimously without any discussion to spend another \$978,000 to fight a scientific analysis of the City's use of the Ventura River. For a summary of our lawsuit and answers to frequently asked questions, click [here](#).

Learn How to Volunteer During an Oil Spill Tonight, March 2nd

Please join us tonight, Wednesday, March 2nd from 6-8pm at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History (Farrand Hall) for the fourth session of our "After the Spill" speaker series. Our panelists - Cindy Murphy from the CA Department of



Fish and Wildlife's Office of Spill Prevention and Response, Yoli McGlinchey from the Santa Barbara County Fire Department, and Elaine Ibarra from the Santa Barbara Wildlife Care Network - will discuss training opportunities for people who are interested in volunteering during an oil spill and other emergency situations. Admission is free. The six-part series, which Channelkeeper is co-hosting with the Natural History Museum, addresses how Santa Barbara County is moving forward after the Plains All American Oil Spill and various other issues related to oil development in our region. For details about the rest of the series or for more information, click [here](#) or [email](#) or call Jenna Driscoll at 805.563.3377 x 5.

Channelkeeper Student Art Show Opening Exhibit, Reception & Awards Ceremony This Thursday, March 3rd

Channelkeeper is proud to host our 13th annual ocean-inspired Student Art Show, "What the Channel Means to Me." Please join us for the opening exhibit, public reception and awards ceremony



this Thursday, March 3rd (1st Thursday) from 5-8 pm at the Jodi House Gallery at 625 Chapala Street in Santa Barbara. The goal of the show, which is open to high school students from Carpinteria to Goleta, is to inspire local youth to create art that celebrates the natural beauty and biodiversity of the Santa Barbara Channel, and for their art to inspire others in our community. This year's show was juried by Westmont College Professor Emeritus Tony Askew and is sponsored by [Montecito Rotary Club Foundation](#) and [Trillium Enterprises, Inc.](#) The awards ceremony will take place at 6:30 pm, when State Senator Hannah Beth Jackson will announce the winners and present them with cash prizes that they can invest in their education. The entire show will remain on display at the Jodi House Gallery for two weeks following the opening, and the winning pieces will also be featured at Channelkeeper's Blue Water Ball on April 16th.

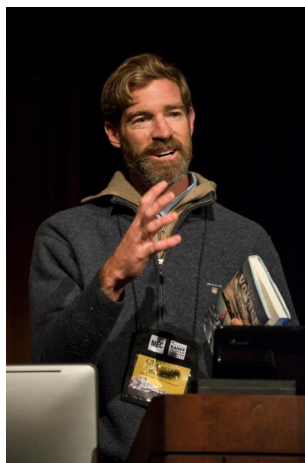
Stream Team March 5th & 6th



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, March 5th, and Goleta Stream Team will meet at 10am on Sunday, March 6th. For more information, visit our [website](#), [email](#) us or call 805.563.3377 ext. 5.

16th Annual Blue Water Ball April 16th



Please join us for Channelkeeper's 16th annual Blue Water Ball fundraising gala on Saturday, April 16th at 5:00pm in the beautiful rotunda at Deckers' LEED-certified headquarters. This fun event, to be presided over by Master of Ceremonies Billy Baldwin, will begin with fine local wines, appetizers and a tempting silent auction, followed by a gourmet dinner and an inspiring keynote speech by acclaimed waterman and author Christian Beamish. We'll end the night with dancing as we celebrate Channelkeeper's recent victories for clean water. To reserve your tickets or table today or become a sponsor, auction donor or volunteer, [email](#) or call us at

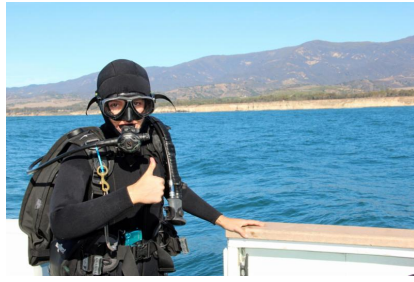
805.563.3377 ext. 2. We look forward to seeing you there!

Spring 2016 Newsletter Now Online!

Channelkeeper's [Spring 2016 newsletter](#) is now available on our [website](#)! Read all about our work to address the oil spill, promote water conservation, control agricultural pollution, ban the bag, and

other exciting news. [Email](#) us if you'd like to receive a hard copy in the future. Happy reading!

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](#).