



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

May 2016 E-Newsletter

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We're Social!



Did You Know?

Plastic Bag Bans Work!

16th Annual Blue Water Ball a Roaring Success!



Santa Barbara Channelkeeper's 16th Annual Blue Water Ball was our most successful ever, raising more than \$150,000 for our work to protect and restore the Santa Barbara Channel and its watersheds! [Click here for photos from the event.](#)

At the April 16th extravaganza at Deckers, 250 guests celebrated Channelkeeper's victories for clean water, while Billy Baldwin rocked as our Master of Ceremonies, and famed surfer and filmmaker Chris Malloy introduced our keynote speaker, Christian Beamish, acclaimed waterman, boat-builder, big wave surfer and author. Christian shared inspiring stories of his adventures and love of the sea, and offered a private coastal cruise in his hand-built boat, *The Cormorant*, to the highest bidder, raising \$10,000 for Channelkeeper. [Click here](#) to see a short video where Christian illustrates the importance of Channelkeeper's work.

Channelkeeper sincerely thanks all who attended, volunteered, and contributed to make this our best event ever! Thanks especially our Blue Water Ball sponsors: Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians Foundation, UCSB, La Arcada, MarBorg Industries, Patagonia, The Village Gardener, Alma Rosa Winery, Coastal Fund, Environment Now, Mattole Valley Naturals, Melville Winery, Mission Wealth Management, Montecito Bank & Trust, Randy & Roxanna Solakian, and Sustainable Vine.

Becker Well Re-Abandonment on Track



Efforts to properly cap the leaking Becker Well at Summerland Beach cleared a significant hurdle last week as a State Assembly budget subcommittee authorized \$900,000 over the

next two years to address the problem. While there are still several steps remaining before the final budget is approved, support letters from Channelkeeper's recent action alert helped demonstrate public

Santa Barbara's plastic bag ban has been in place for two years now, and the City recently reported that it has reduced the number of single-use bags distributed annually by 42 million (from 47 million to only 5 million)! The 119 local bag bans enacted across California to date are making a big difference for the health of our ocean, but imagine the impact a state-wide ban could make! This coming November, please to vote YES to uphold California's plastic bag ban!



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



support for the project.

While work on the Becker Well appears to be on track, there are still more than 200 legacy wells off our coast that could be leaking. See our [Action Alert](#) below to support legislation to address all legacy wells in California.

Action Alert: Support SB 900 to Cap Leaking Oil Wells

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 and other infrastructure had reached the end of their useful life, they were often abandoned with slapdash techniques. We have several of these poorly-abandoned "legacy wells" along our coast which leak significant volumes of oil, particularly in Summerland and Ellwood. Unfortunately the companies that owned these wells no longer exist, leaving the State of California with an expensive, oily problem.



Senate Bill (SB) 900, co-authored by Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson and Assemblymember Das Williams, aims to help California monitor and properly cap more than 200 legacy wells. Specifically, the bill provides funding and directs the State Lands Commission to inventory, survey, and monitor legacy wells and natural oil seeps, adequately cap any leaking wells, and remove remnants of old oil operations along the coastline. Voice your support for SB 900 through Channelkeeper's [Action Alert](#) today!

Volunteers Needed for Harbor Clean-up Saturday, May 7th

On Saturday, May 7th from 8 am-12 noon, the Santa Barbara Waterfront Department will host its tenth annual "Operation Clean Sweep" clean-up of debris from the harbor seafloor. Please join Channelkeeper in volunteering your time to help with this



important effort. Volunteers will provide topside dock support collecting the sunken trash from the harbor bottom retrieved by divers. This year the clean-up will target Marina 4, where the first harbor clean-up took place nine years ago. The Waterfront Department will provide donuts, coffee and lunch. Please [email](#) or call us at

805.563.3377 ext. 4 if you would like to participate in this fun community clean-up.

"One Year After the Refugio Oil Spill - Where Do We Stand Now?" UCSB Bren School Panel Wednesday, May 11th



Jenna Driscoll, Channelkeeper's Watershed and Marine Program Associate, will speak on a panel entitled "One Year after the Refugio Oil Spill - Where Do We Stand Now?" hosted by UCSB's Bren School. The panel will take place on

Wednesday, May 11th from 11:30-12:30 in Bren Hall Room 1414 at UCSB, and will address the status of response efforts and research to evaluate the impacts from the spill, as well as advocacy initiatives to improve oil spill prevention and response. Click [here](#) or more information.

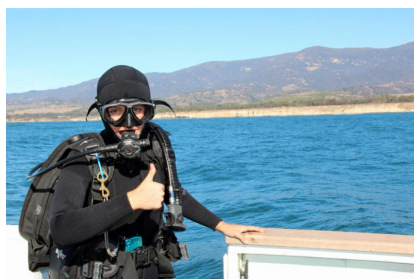
Stream Team May 14th & 15th



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, May 14th, and Goleta Stream Team will meet at 10am on Sunday, May 15th. For more information, visit our [website](#), [email](#) us or call 805.563.3377 ext. 5.

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](#).