



July 2016 E-Newsletter

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### We're Social!



### Did You Know?

#### Take the Pledge: Go Plastic Free this July

Refuse single-use plastic and be part of the solution to plastic pollution! You can sign up for a day, a week or the whole month and commit to refusing ALL single-use plastic, or try the TOP 4: plastic bags, water bottles, takeaway coffee cups and straws. Click [here](#) to sign up and learn more!

## What's Worth Protecting in the Santa Barbara Channel?

Our channel is home to some of the most beautiful marine habitats in the world, and Channelkeeper wants to make sure that you can experience them. We created a [Naples Reef Dive Map](#) so that you can explore the wonders of this incredible Marine Protected Area for yourself and understand how important and awesome these underwater ecosystems truly are. Check out our dive portal [here](#), and [sign our petition](#) to support California's MPAs.



## County Adopts Safe Drug Collection Program



On June 21st, Santa Barbara County became the first county in southern California to adopt an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) ordinance, which will provide a new

program for residents to safely dispose of their unused household medications at pharmacies. This ordinance, which Channelkeeper advocated in support for, will not only protect the health and safety of our community, but will also protect fish, our precious water supplies, and the environment.

Currently, about 1,800 pharmaceuticals are approved for prescription use in the US, and when improperly disposed of (i.e. flushed down the toilet), they can contaminate water supplies and cause harm to fish and the environment. Santa Barbara County Supervisor Doreen Farr led the charge to develop the county ordinance, which is modeled after Alameda County's drug buy-back ordinance, the first in the nation to require drug manufacturers to pay disposal costs for consumers' unused medications. Similar ordinances have since been implemented successfully in northern California and Washington, and now other southern California municipalities are considering adopting their own. This producer responsibility approach, where drug producers are responsible for the waste management of their products, is similar to successful mattress and paint disposal programs. The new disposal options are expected to be available in SB County in fall 2017.

## Beach Report Card Shows Excellent Dry Weather Water Quality at Area Beaches Last



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



## Year

According to [Heal the Bay's 2015 Beach Report Card](#), water quality at Santa Barbara and Ventura county beaches this past year was for the most part excellent. During summer dry weather, all 16 beaches monitored in Santa Barbara County received A grades. Santa Barbara's winter dry weather water quality was good, with 88% of monitored beaches receiving A or B grades. Water quality at Santa Barbara beaches during wet weather decreased, with 63% of the monitored locations received an A or B grade.

Six beaches scored lower than a "B" during wet weather - Hope Ranch (C), Arroyo Burro (F), East Beach at Mission Creek (F) and at Sycamore Creek (C), Hammond's Beach (C), and Carpinteria State Beach (C). Beach water quality at Ventura County beaches was also excellent this past year, with 100% of monitored beaches receiving an A grade during dry winter and summer weather. For wet weather, 83% of monitored locations received A or B grades.



## Vote to Uphold Statewide Plastic Bag Ban in November!

Single-use plastic bags are damaging to the environment and wildlife, expensive to clean up, and an easily preventable source of litter. This July would have been the one-year anniversary of California's statewide bag ban, but thanks to big spending by out-of-state plastic companies to fight the ban, its fate is up to California voters to decide. The bag ban, Proposition 67, will be the very last item on a very long list of initiatives on this November's ballot. This November, please remember to **cast your vote to uphold the statewide bag ban!**



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

call 805.563.3377 ext. 5.

## California Wine Festival July 14-16



Join Channelkeeper at the 13th Annual California Wine Festival, one of the largest outdoor wine festivals in the state! On Saturday, July 16th, Channelkeeper will be at the [Beachside Wine Festival](#) for a day of sun, sea, wine, food, and music. Hundreds of premium California wines will be served along with the best of the region's microbreweries, top local chefs, food purveyors and vendors of all things related to wine. Visit the Channelkeeper table for your **chance to win a magnum of Alta Maria Vineyards 2011 Santa Maria Valley Pinot Noir**. We hope to see you there!

## Celebrate Swimmable CA Day on July 25th



chance to be highlighted on our social media! Here's to clean, swimmable water!

Channelkeeper works to protect the Santa Barbara Channel and its watersheds so they're clean and safe for everyone to enjoy. In 2013, the California Legislature passed a resolution (coauthored by our local reps Senator Hannah Beth Jackson and Assemblymember Das Williams) to officially commemorate July 25th as "Swimmable California Day," recognizing Californians' right to waters that are clean and safe for swimming. Snap a photo of yourself enjoying your favorite waterway and either tag [@sbchannelkeeper](#) with the [#SwimmableCA](#) hashtag or [email](#) your photos directly to us for a

## Dive Trip with Truth Aquatics September 11th

Join [Truth Aquatics](#) and Santa

Barbara Channelkeeper on September 11th from 7am-4pm for a special limited-time discounted trip to the Naples Marine Protected Area (MPA).



Experience the breathtaking beauty of this stunning stretch of coastline as we cruise up from the Santa Barbara Harbor and anchor at Naples Reef, one of southern California's richest ocean areas. Dive in and experience the diversity of marine life that makes the Naples MPA so unique. To get a sneak peak of what you might see and to access our recently published [Naples Reef Dive Map](#), visit our [Naples Dive Portal](#).

To reserve your spot, call Truth Aquatics at 805-962-1127. The trip costs \$70 per person (includes meals and air fills); dive gear and snorkeling rentals are available for an additional fee.

**Save the Date!**  
**SB Aquathon - September 17th**



# AQUATHON

CHANNELKEEPER SWIM & PADDLE

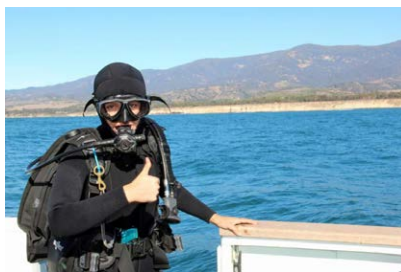


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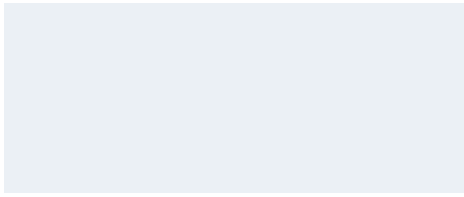
Save the date for Santa Barbara Channelkeeper's first annual SB Aquathon on September 17th at Leadbetter Beach from 8 am-12 noon! This multi-sport fundraiser will be a fun, family-friendly celebration of clean, swimmable water, and everyone is invited to dive in! The event will include a Surfathon for kids 14 years and under; a 500-meter and 1K Swimathon for serious swimmers, training triathletes, and recreational swimmers; and a SUP race from Leadbetter to Hendry's Beach. Registration is \$45 per person and includes a SB Aquathon t-shirt. Additional details on registration are forthcoming, but mark your calendars now!

**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](#).