



September 2016 E-Newsletter

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**We're Social!**



**Did You Know?**

**CA Coastal Cleanup Day is Saturday, September 17th**

After you finish your swim or paddle at Channelkeeper's [Aquathon](#), you can head to pretty much any beach in Santa Barbara County to join in a [Coastal Cleanup Day](#) event. Beach clean-ups will

**ACTION ALERT! Support SB 900 to Repair Leaking Legacy Oil Wells**



As many locals know, the Central 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 had reached 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 the Summerland area. The Becker Well, located in the surf zone on Summerland Beach, is the worst offender.

Fortunately, thanks to advocacy by Channelkeeper, other environmental groups, concerned citizens, and elected officials, the State Lands Commission (SLC) is now investigating the Becker Well and designing a plan to properly re-cap it, and funds for this important work have been included in the State budget. State Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson (D-Santa Barbara) has also championed legislation - Senate Bill 900 - to help monitor and properly cap the 200+ legacy wells along the California coast. SB 900 has passed through the Legislature and is now headed to the Governor's desk. Please click [here](#) to email Gov. Brown and urge him to sign SB 900 into law.

**Seafaris: Getting Kids Out on the Water**

Check out this short [video](#) about Channelkeeper's

take place from 9 am-12 noon. Clean-up supplies will be provided, but please bring your own gloves and buckets if you have them. Cheers to clean beaches!



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



Seafari Program, which fosters ocean awareness and stewardship by providing a unique opportunity for underserved youth to get out on the water to experience the marine environment firsthand. Channelkeeper offers free "Seafari" experiential education cruises that enable kids to explore a kelp forest through our use of a SCUBA diver-operated camera that provides live-feed video of the underwater world to a monitor on the boat. Our staff scientist on deck educates the kids about the extraordinary biodiversity of the Santa Barbara Channel, the biggest threats to its health, efforts underway to monitor, protect and restore it, and what kids can do to prevent pollution. Visit our [website](#) to learn more or to let us know of a group that would benefit from a Seafari trip.

### Vote YES ON 67 to Uphold Statewide Plastic Bag Ban on Election Day!



Single-use plastic bags pollute the ocean, harm marine life, and are a major source of unsightly litter that costs taxpayers millions of dollars a year to clean up. That's why 150 California municipalities have banned plastic grocery bags, and why state legislators enacted a statewide plastic bag ban in 2014. However, thanks to big spending by out-of-state

plastic bag manufacturers, there is a referendum to overturn the statewide ban on this November's ballot. That referendum - Proposition 67 - will be the last item on a very long list of initiatives to be decided by voters. Channelkeeper is working with a statewide coalition to rally support for Prop 67. So on November 8th, please cast your vote for a cleaner coast by voting YES on 67! If you'd like to receive updates on this issue, please sign up [here](#).

### Wanted! Used Beer & Wine Barrels

Through our Rein the Rain Project, Channelkeeper is partnering with local vintners and brewers to convert used wine and beer aging barrels into

rain barrels and distributing them to community members who want to conserve water. As California thirsts through the fifth year of a historic drought, tools like rain barrels promote water reuse while also reducing stormwater runoff, our number one source of water pollution. Many thanks to our first barrel donors, [Figueroa Mountain Brewery](#) and [Buttonwood Winery](#)! To all winemakers and brewers in the Santa Barbara area, please consider donating your used barrels. To water-conscious citizens who want a rain barrel, we currently have a waiting list but will have more available later this year, so [email](#) us to reserve yours today!



## SBCK on TV!

Check out Channelkeeper Executive Director Kira Redmond's [TV interview](#) on TVSB's "The 805 Focus" and learn more about Channelkeeper's work on the drought, desalination, youth education, marine protected areas and more!



## Channelkeeper Internship Program



Through our internship program, Channelkeeper provides mentorship and professional development opportunities for local students, while also benefiting greatly from the hard work they do on our behalf. We recently welcomed our newest intern, UCSB Bren School student Jael Martinez! Hailing from Quito, Ecuador, Jael's work has focused on reaching out to the local Hispanic community to find out more about what sustainability, water conservation, and other environmental issues mean to them. She has translated existing Channelkeeper outreach materials, and researched and developed new ways for us to connect with our Hispanic community. By convening focus groups and giving presentations to Hispanic employees of UCSB's Residential & Community Living, Jael has not only educated them on some of Channelkeeper's key issues, including plastic bags, water conservation, and urban runoff, but she has also worked to find out how Channelkeeper can be more successful in connecting with and serving our Hispanic community.

## Santa Barbara AQUATHON Saturday, September 17th

It's less than two weeks until Channelkeeper's first ever [Santa Barbara AQUATHON](#) on Saturday, September 17th from 8 am-1 pm at Leadbetter Beach! [Register now](#) to compete or just have fun in the Swimathon, SUPathon, or kids Surfathon. Join us for this fun event to bring together our ocean-loving community to celebrate clean water. See you there!



## Ocean Fest at the REEF, Campus Point September 24th, 10 am-3pm



Calling all ocean enthusiasts! Join Channelkeeper at UCSB's Campus Point -- in the Campus Point Marine Protected Area (MPA) -- for a day of ocean celebration, with activities and

adventures for all ages. At this family-friendly event you can interact with intertidal creatures at the Research Experience and Education Facility (REEF), explore the Campus Point MPA by SUP and kayak, and learn why MPAs provide such amazing recreational opportunities. All activities are free! For those coming by car, parking is \$4 for the day. Please park at Lot 10 by Elings Hall. There will be a shuttle from Lot 10 to Campus Point and back. Be sure to bring your swimsuit to jump in and explore the Campus Point MPA, and stop by the Channelkeeper table for a chance to win a year-long [Adventure Pass](#)!

## MPA Watch Volunteer Training Workshop October 5th

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. The data we



collect provides important information to

understand how people are using MPAs and helps inform MPA management. Becoming an MPA Watch volunteer is easy and fun. Save the date for the next volunteer training workshop on Wednesday, October 5th at 6:30pm at UCSB in 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!

## Stream Team September 10th & 11th October 8th & 9th



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, September 10th and Saturday, October 8th, and Goleta Stream Team will meet at 10am on Sunday, September 11th and Sunday, October 9th. 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](#).