



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

October 2016 E-Newsletter

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Channelkeeper Compels Clean-up of Industrial Stormwater Pollution at County Transfer Station

Channelkeeper is thrilled to announce that Santa Barbara County has signed an agreement with us to stop the discharge of polluted stormwater runoff from the County's South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station, a seven-acre waste and recycling facility located at 4430 Calle Real. The agreement



settles a lawsuit Channelkeeper filed against the County in late 2015 for violations of the California industrial stormwater permit and the federal Clean Water Act at the Transfer Station. The court-enforceable settlement agreement requires the County to implement a suite of Best Management Practices to prevent the exposure of pollution sources to stormwater and eliminate the discharge of polluted stormwater or meet water quality standards. This landmark agreement will result in cleaner water and healthier aquatic habitat in Atascadero Creek, as well as the Goleta Slough and Goleta Beach downstream. Click [here](#) for more information.

Protecting Endangered Species from Fracking



On August 10th, Channelkeeper and the Environmental Defense Center (EDC) sent a notice of intent to sue the federal government over its decision to approve the practices of fracking and acidizing from 23 offshore oil platforms in southern California, including in the Santa Barbara Channel. Our notice letter

alleges that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement violated the federal Endangered Species Act because they failed to consult with wildlife agencies regarding potential impacts of these "well stimulation techniques" on threatened and endangered species, including whales, sea otters, fur seals, sea turtles, marine and coastal birds, fish, and abalone. Click [here](#) to learn more.

We're Social!



Did You Know?

Cruise Control

Cruise ships have returned to Santa Barbara, and Channelkeeper is continuing our watchdog monitoring to ensure that they comply with Santa Barbara's 12-mile no-discharge zone. In a single day, just one of these floating cities can produce up to 30,000 gallons of sewage, 250,000 gallons of graywater (wastewater from galleys, showers, sinks and laundry), and 5,000 gallons of oily bilgewater.



State Regulators Refuse to Examine Six Years of Water Quality Information

No other organization has done as much to monitor the health of local streams and waterways as Santa Barbara Channelkeeper. We do so by fulfilling the role that



[Waterkeepers](#) serve across the country as citizen monitors working to protect our waters from pollution and degradation. Over the past 15 years, Channelkeeper has engaged more than 1,200 volunteers and collected 86,000 water quality measurements through our [Stream Team](#) and other monitoring programs. Our monitoring data has been used by the State to officially designate over a dozen water quality impairments in South Coast waterways. This designation is a critical step in the regulatory process required by the federal Clean Water Act to clean up impaired waterways. However, California's recent efforts to evaluate existing data to identify water quality impairments have fallen far short. The Clean Water Act requires states to perform this evaluation and update its list of impaired waterways every two years. The Central Coast region is already two years behind schedule AND refuses to utilize any new water quality data collected after 2010! Last month, Channelkeeper submitted [written comments](#), along with our last six years of Stream Team data, to the State Water Board. Our comments highlight deficiencies in their process and call on them to comply with the Clean Water Act by adequately assessing water quality using readily available, current data. Click [here](#) to find out how you can help us monitor water quality in local streams, learn about our Stream Team program and sign up to volunteer!

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, the plastics industry has spent more than \$6 million in an attempt to overturn California's plastic bag

ban by placing a referendum on the November ballot. Proposition 67 - a measure to uphold the ban on plastic grocery bags in California - will be the last item on a very long list of initiatives to be decided by voters. Please cast your vote for a cleaner coast by voting YES on 67!

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

Visit Website



A second bag measure was also placed on the ballot by out-of-state plastic bag manufacturers. Proposition 65 would direct money from the sale of paper bags, as required by the statewide plastic bag ban and many local bag bans already in place, to a vaguely defined environmental fund administered by the State. Prop 65 would do very little to help the environment and was placed on the ballot by the plastic bag industry to confuse voters. Vote NO on Prop 65! To learn more, click [here](#) and check out Channelkeeper and CEC on SB TV's The Next Step, where we talk about Props 67 and 65.

Getting Immersed in Marine Protection!



Channelkeeper made a big splash on September 11th by helping to bring more than 30 SCUBA divers to the Naples Marine Protected Area (MPA), one of our coastline's most magnificent underwater parks. The group tested out Channelkeeper's new [Naples Pinnacle Reef Dive Map](#), which helps divers access and navigate some of the MPA's most spectacular features. The trip also presented an opportunity for people to learn about and witness firsthand some of the ecosystem benefits that MPAs provide. Channelkeeper partners with local businesses like Truth Aquatics to promote recreational opportunities in MPAs. Click [here](#) to find out how you can explore the Channel's MPAs.

The 2016 Friendship Paddle

On September 24th, Channelkeeper was proud to offer boat support to the 2016 Friendship Paddle. The Friendship Paddle began in 2003 and organizes open-ocean paddle events to provide emotional and financial support to Santa Barbara County residents fighting life-threatening illnesses. This year's paddle took place to support and benefit Santa Barbara's Ethan Stewart. Nearly 120 paddlers crossed over 30 miles from Gaviota to Miramar Beach. The event raised nearly \$130,000 to support Stewart and his family in his ongoing battle with neuroendocrine cancer. Click [here](#) to contribute and learn more about The Friendship Paddle.



Welcome to Our New Board Members!

Channelkeeper is pleased to announce the addition of five outstanding individuals to our Board of Directors - Nancy Hussey, Hank Mitchel, Brad Newton, Jeff Phillips and Randy Solakian. Ms. Hussey is a Realtor with Coldwell Banker and currently sits on the Ethics Committee of the Santa Barbara Board of Realtors. Mr. Mitchel is retired and currently serves as a certified naturalist and docent with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Channel Islands National Park. Mr. Newton is a geologist and hydrologist and founder of Newton Geo-Hydrology Consulting Services, LLC, with particular applications in water resources management and water right analysis. Mr. Phillips is a senior fish and wildlife biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and currently serves as Conservation Banking Coordinator for the Service's Ventura field office. Mr. Solakian is a real estate agent at Coldwell Banker Previews in Montecito. We look forward to working with them and thank them - and all our existing and past Board members - for volunteering their time to serve and support our organization!

Pacific Regional Waterkeeper Retreat

Channelkeeper's Executive Director Kira Redmond joined other Waterkeepers from California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Hawai'i, Idaho and Colorado for a three-day retreat on Vashon Island, WA from September 21-23.

The Waterkeepers shared water watchdog successes and strategies and learned all about salmon restoration, impacts of polluted stormwater on salmon, and creative tactics and artful activism. Waterkeepers across the West - and around the globe - are doing incredible and inspiring work to



protect waterways and defend their communities' right to clean water, and we are proud to be among them!

Help Monitor our Marine Protected Areas 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. Our next volunteer training workshop is 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!

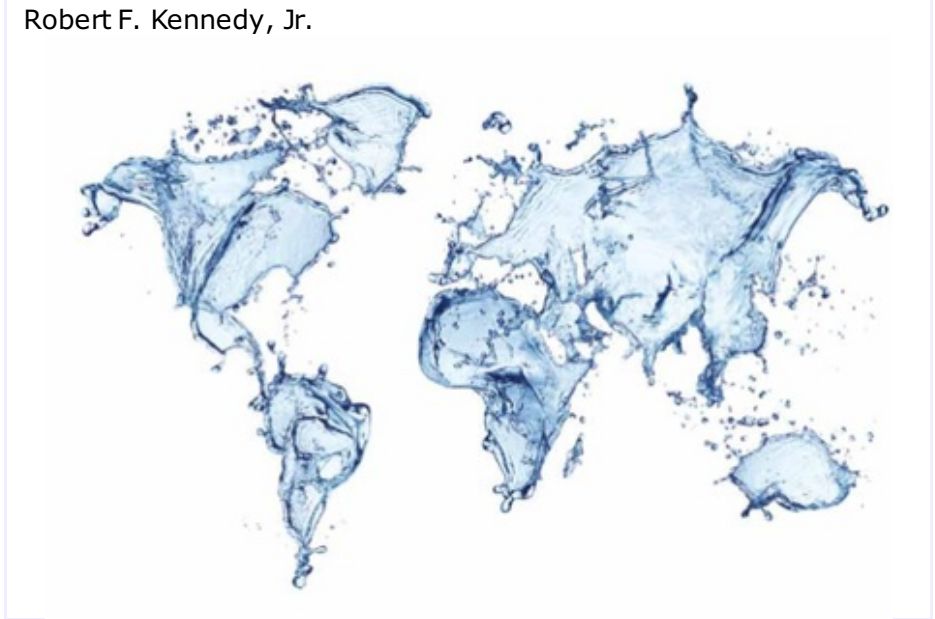
Santa Barbara Harbor & Seafood Festival Saturday, October 15th



When it comes to fresh seafood, you can't get it any fresher than right off the boat. On Saturday, October 15th from 10 am-5 pm, the annual Santa Barbara Harbor & Seafood Festival will lure seafood lovers of all ages to Santa Barbara's thriving Harbor for one of our community's most beloved and flavorful events. Come visit Channelkeeper at our booth on the pier!

Waterkeeper Magazine Hot off the Press!

The latest issue of [Waterkeeper Magazine](#) is now available! This edition features incredible stories from Waterkeepers around the world including the Hudson River, the Buffalo-Niagara watershed, Senegal, the Colorado River, the mighty Himalayas, and more. Opening the issue is a moving tribute to the late Long Island Soundkeeper Terry Backer by Waterkeeper Alliance President



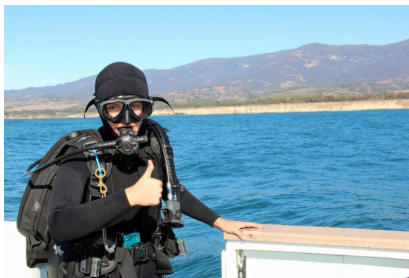
Stream Team October 8th & 9th



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, October 8th, and Goleta Stream Team will meet at 10am on 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](#).

