MEDIA RELEASE

City of Santa Barbara and Santa Barbara Channelkeeper Extend Clean Water Enforcement Agreement

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January 23, 2017 (Santa Barbara, CA) - On Friday Santa Barbara Channelkeeper and the City of Santa Barbara announced their agreement to extend, for up to three years, a 2012 enforcement agreement to assure clean local waters by improving performance of Santa Barbara's wastewater collection system to prevent spills and protect water quality.   This extends the existing agreement and focuses the City's efforts to develop operational controls targeted at keeping roots from blocking sanitary sewers and causing sewage spills.

Mayor Helene Schneider stated, "This agreement with Channelkeeper demonstrates the City of Santa Barbara's continual commitment to protect our environment as a top priority – a commitment we have cherished for decades."

Channelkeeper's Executive Director Kira Redmond commented that, "We commend the City for committing to achieve reductions in sewage spills over the next three years, and we look forward to working with City staff towards cleaner beaches and creeks in Santa Barbara."

Public Works Director Rebecca Bjork added, "The City has invested heavily in improving the performance of the wastewater collection system to prevent spills over the past five years. We are committed to continuing to improve the system until spills are further reduced. Extension of the agreement with Channelkeeper underscores the City's commitment to continued improvement."

Santa Barbara's collection system includes 256 miles of pipes that convey wastewater to the City's El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant. Transporting the wastewater to the plant for treatment requires that the collection system pipes be well maintained so that they do not become blocked and spill sewage to the environment.

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