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June 2017 E-Newsletter

Support Clean Water Now!

ACTION ALERT! Support Proper Abandonment of Leaking Oil Wells!

Public comments are now being accepted on the plan to remediate a long-polluting, improperly capped "legacy" oil well in the surf zone of Summerland Beach. The leaking Becker Well causes noxious odors, sheens on the water, and oil on the beach, negatively impacting recreation, public health, tourism, and wildlife. In August 2015, conditions had deteriorated so significantly that the [beach was closed](#) for four days in order to protect public health. Channelkeeper commends the State Lands Commission for pursuing this project and encourages the public to join us in reviewing and commenting on the [Draft Environmental Impact Report](#) and demonstrating support for adequately capping the notorious Becker Well. Comments are due by July 5th. In addition, funding to complete the project is currently included in Governor Brown's proposed 2017-18 budget, which will be finalized in June. Channelkeeper needs your help to ensure that this funding remains in the budget. Please click [here](#) to send an e-mail voicing your support to Governor Brown.



Photo: Nora McNeely Hurley

ACTION ALERT! Urge Your State Senator to Protect Californians' Health and Environment!

The new leadership in Washington DC is working to decimate critical federal environmental protections. But three groundbreaking bills (#PreserveCA SB 49, SB 50 and SB 51) now working their way through the California State Senate would maintain key federal environmental regulations as state law even if Congress allows Trump to dismantle them, safeguarding our air, water, wildlife and health regardless of what happens in DC.

- SB 49, the California Environmental and Worker Defense Act, would make

current federal clean air, clean water, worker safety, safe drinking water, and endangered species standards enforceable under state law if the federal government rolls back and weakens those standards.

- SB 50, the Public Lands Protection Act, is designed to protect lands in California from threats to sell off federal land in California to private parties for mining, oil drilling or other exploitive activities.
- SB 51, the Whistleblower and Public Data Protection Act, would shield federal employees such as engineers and scientists working for federal agencies in California from losing state professional licenses for bringing to light violations of law, unethical actions or dangers to public health and safety committed by their agencies or others.

Click [here](#) to urge your state senator to support Preserve California legislation today!



Mobilizing the *RV-Channelkeeper* to Monitor Harmful Algal Blooms in the Santa Barbara Channel

A recent harmful algal bloom is impacting wildlife in the Santa Barbara Channel, and Channelkeeper is teaming up with state, local, and federal entities to help monitor and research the event. The bloom is caused by a burst in growth of naturally occurring phytoplankton called *Pseudo-nitzschia australis*, which produces a biotoxin called domoic acid. The current bloom extends southward all the way to Baja California, and domoic acid poisoning has been identified as the cause of a recent spike in strandings and deaths of birds and marine mammals along

our coast. We coordinated with US Fish and Wildlife officials at the end of April to aid in a coast-wide mortality snapshot survey of sick or deceased birds and mammals. We're also supporting the California Department of Public Health and researchers at UCSB, UCSC, USC, and the Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS) in their work to monitor and model the extent of the bloom and toxicity event.

Pseudo-nitzschia do not always produce biotoxins, and researchers are working to better understand the conditions that trigger biotoxin production. Channelkeeper has augmented our existing phytoplankton sampling activities with several additional monitoring trips throughout the Santa Barbara Channel for this purpose. The ultimate goal of this work is to assist officials in predicting and responding to harmful algal blooms to minimize impacts to wildlife and affected communities.

**Screening of *The Boatmaker* and *Smog of the Sea*
May 31st**



Join Channelkeeper on Wednesday, May 31st, 7 pm at the Lobero Theatre for a showing of two films - *The Boatmaker*, the story of Santa Barbara architect Ken Minor who spent 25 years building a wooden sailboat, and *Smog of the Sea*, a chronicle of 5 Gyres' SEA Change Expedition through the

Sargasso Sea to research plastic pollution with an unusual crew led by marine scientist Marcus Eriksen, surfers Keith & Dan Malloy, musician Jack Johnson, spearfisher Kimi Werner, and body surfer Mark Cunningham.

Moderated by the Independent's Ethan Stewart, the evening will include a live performance by Peter Boles of an original song he wrote for *The Boatmaker*. Proceeds from this event will benefit Channelkeeper, the Community Environmental Council, and Explore Ecology. Tickets to a special VIP pre-screening reception with preferred seating are available for \$50. Reserved seat tickets are \$20. [Get your tickets here](#) today!

Riviera Towel Co. Channelkeeper Benefit Day June 1st

When you're out and about for *1st Thursday* on June 1st, swing by [Riviera Towel Company's](#) bright and beautiful shop at 727 De La Guerra Plaza from 5-8 pm for light snacks and beverages and get yourself ready for summer by buying some of their gorgeous Turkish towels, totes and robes - 20% of all sales that day will benefit Channelkeeper!



World Oceans Day Festival June 3rd

Join us in celebrating World Oceans Day at the Sea Center on Saturday, June 3rd from 10 am-4 pm. Enjoy a fun-filled day with activities, music, hands-on learning and much more! There will be fun for all ages and free admission to the Sea Center in honor of World Oceans Day. We hope to see you there!



Goleta Stream Team



June 4th

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 stream sites across the South Coast. Come join us to help protect our local

waterways. Goleta Stream Team will meet at 10 am on Sunday, June 4th. For more information, visit our website, [email](#) us or call 805.563.3377 ext. 5.

Win Jack Johnson Tickets!

Jack Johnson isn't just one of Santa Barbara's favorite artists, he is also an environmental champion who has given us an awesome opportunity to raise \$5,000 - if we can raise \$2,500, he will match it! Jack even gave us a couple of tickets to tempt you, so if you [donate](#) \$50 to Channelkeeper, you'll receive one entry in a drawing to win two tickets to his sold out July 18th show. Donate \$100 and you'll receive THREE entries in the drawing! Whatever you give, Jack will match it, doubling the impact of your donation. Donations must be received by July 10th to be entered in the drawing for the tickets. Winner will be notified on July 11th.



And, when you go to the show, be sure to stop by the Channelkeeper booth, where we can help you win a chance to watch the concert from the stage itself - Best Seats in the House!



Wine & Waves July 19th

Enjoy the summer beauty of downtown Santa Barbara after the 4th of July crowds leave and before the Fiesta revelers arrive - and support Channelkeeper at the same time! Join us on the patio of the Margerum Tasting Room (at 813 Anacapa Street) for good company, delightful bites, lively music and a special tasting of Margerum's celebrated wines on Wednesday, July 19th from 5-7 pm. Reservations are required; cost is \$25 per person and includes a tasting flight of three wines. Margerum will also donate 15% of all case sales (12 bottles or more) to Channelkeeper. Purchase tickets online [here](#) or [email](#) or call us at 805.563.3377 ext. 2 to reserve your spot today! Cheers!

Last Chance for Enticing



Experiences and Auction Items from the Blue Water Ball!

In case you missed Channelkeeper's 17th Annual Blue Water Ball or were too busy having a great time to shop at the auction, here's your final chance to secure a spot for some luxurious experiences or purchase some awesome items at unbeatable prices, including paintings by Jeremy Harper and Karen Bezuidenhout, Alma Rosa wine tasting with Richard & Thekla Sanford and a picnic from Industrial Eats, a Daniel Gibbings necklace, and more! Click [here](#) to buy today before they all sell out!



Become a 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](#).

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