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May 2017 E-Newsletter

## Support Clean Water Now!

### 17th Annual Blue Water Ball a Roaring Success!

Santa Barbara Channelkeeper's 17th Annual Blue Water Ball was a fun, festive fete AND a roaring success, raising more than \$156,000 for our work to protect and restore the Santa Barbara Channel and its watersheds! Click [here](#) to check out photos from the best party of the year!



At the Earth Day extravaganza at Deckers, 230 revelers sipped fine local wines, shopped at our awesome auction, savored a fresh gourmet dinner, and celebrated Channelkeeper's victories for clean water. Our masterful co-Masters of Ceremony Jon Macks and Ryland King entertained and rallied the crowd while Sara Aminzadeh, Executive Director of [California Coastkeeper Alliance](#), inspired and awed the audience as our keynote speaker. Click [here](#) for a video of Sara's rousing speech.

Channelkeeper sincerely thanks all who attended, volunteered, and contributed to make this our best gala ever!

#### Special thanks to our generous Blue Water Ball sponsors:

Hank Mitchel, UCSB, Patagonia, Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians Foundation, MarBorg Industries, Randy & Deanna Solakian, Santa Barbara City College Foundation, Mission Wealth Management, Montecito Bank & Trust, The Village Gardener, and Environment Now.

#### EXTRA EXTRA!

There are a select few auction items and shindigs from the Blue Water Ball that are still available! Stay tuned for a follow-up email this Saturday with details on how you take advantage of a second chance at some great items and experiences for unbeatable prices!

## VICTORY! Platform Holly to be Decommissioned!



Late last month, Venoco declared bankruptcy for the second time in the past year. With this announcement, Venoco also returned the leases associated with Platform Holly and the Ellwood Beach piers to the State to be incorporated into the California Coastal Sanctuary. This transfer **permanently ends oil and gas operations at these facilities.**

Channelkeeper and our environmental allies have worked hard over the past several years to oppose Venoco's efforts to expand oil development at Platform Holly and in the sensitive shoreline of the Ellwood Mesa. This huge victory protects our coast from risky operations at aging facilities and shuts down oil

operations within State waters in the Santa Barbara Channel. Channelkeeper will work with the State Lands Commission and our partners to ensure the facilities are decommissioned in the most environmentally sound way. For more information on the decommissioning process, please click [here](#).

## Trump



## Administration Threatens to Expand Offshore Oil Development

Less than a month after the announcement that Platform Holly will be decommissioned in California State waters, the Trump administration issued an Executive Order directing the Interior Department to review the current schedule for offshore drilling lease sales, potentially opening the door to new oil and gas drilling off California's coast. The Pacific Coast has been excluded from potential new leasing under the Outer Continental Shelf 5-year Federal Leasing Programs since 1992, and no new federal leases have been issued in more than 30 years. Channelkeeper, the [California Coastkeeper Alliance](#), and the [Blue Business Council](#) banded together to send a [clear message to the administration](#) that expanded oil development off our coast threatens our economy, natural resources, and public health and that we stand united against any attempts to open our coast to more offshore drilling. Check out [this LA Times article](#) for more information about what's at stake, and stay tuned for ways to make your voice heard to protect our coast.

## Channelkeeper Challenges Another Weak Central Coast Ag Order



On April 7th, Channelkeeper and our allies petitioned the State Water Resources Control Board to review the "new" set of agricultural pollution regulations (a.k.a. "Ag Order") adopted

by the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board on March 8, 2017. The new Ag Order is essentially unchanged from the one it replaced, which our coalition also challenged in 2013 as illegal and inadequate to arrest the continued degradation of the region's waters caused by agriculture. The Court ruled in our favor in 2015 and ordered the Water Board to create stronger regulations to better protect surface and ground water from agricultural pollution, but the Water Board and ag industry intervenors appealed that ruling, and their appeal remains pending. Channelkeeper and our coalition partners - Monterey Coastkeeper, the Environmental Justice Coalition for Water, California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, Pacific Coast Federation of Fisherman's Association, and Institute for Fisheries Resources - will continue to stand up for stringent requirements to protect water quality, public health and aquatic life from agricultural pollution - one of the biggest and most harmful sources of water pollution on the Central Coast.

## Volunteers Needed for Harbor Clean-up Saturday, May 6th

On Saturday, May 6th from 8 am-12 noon, the Santa Barbara Waterfront Department will host its eleventh annual "Operation Clean Sweep" clean-up of debris from the harbor seafloor. Please join Channelkeeper in volunteering your time to help with this important effort.

Volunteers will provide topside dock support collecting the sunken trash from the harbor bottom retrieved by divers. The Waterfront Department will provide donuts, coffee and lunch. Please [email](#) or call us at 805.563.3377 ext. 4 if you would like to participate in this fun community clean-up.



## Stream Team May 6th & 7th

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. Ventura Stream Team will meet at 9

am on Saturday, May 6th. Goleta Stream Team will meet at 10 am on Sunday, May 7th. For more information, visit our website, email us or call 805.563.3377 ext. 5.

## Women and the Environment Conference Thursday, May 18th

Channelkeeper's Executive Director Kira Redmond will speak on a panel on Conserving our Oceans and Coastlines at the Women and Environment Conference on May 18th in Santa Barbara. This dynamic event, brought to you by Pacific Standard, will gather changemakers, lawmakers, movement makers, and business leaders who are actively implementing climate change and sustainability solutions throughout the tri-counties region and beyond.



## Santa Ynez Valley Earth Day May 21st

Come celebrate the 15th Annual Santa Ynez Valley Earth Day on May 21st from 12 noon until 5 pm at River View Park in Buellton, hosted by the Santa Ynez Valley Botanic Garden. Click [here](#) for more information. Stop by the Channelkeeper table to chat with

Executive Director Kira Redmond about our clean water work!



## 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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