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Support Clean Water Now!

September E-Newsletter 2017



THANK YOU for our new radar! #WECANSEA!



Two weeks ago, Channelkeeper asked you to help us raise \$5,000 so we could buy a new radar for our boat, the *R/V Channelkeeper*, and the response was overwhelming! Thanks to generous water lovers like you, **we raised \$2,500 in just two days (!)** and were able to leverage a \$2,500 matching challenge from an anonymous donor. Now we can safely resume our on-the-water pollution patrols, including pre-dawn cruise ship patrols, to keep watch and defend your right to clean water. We are incredibly grateful for this quick and enthusiastic outpouring of support from our community - many thanks to all who contributed!

Blue Resistance

One of President Trump's first major environmental actions was his issuance of an Executive Order to Review the 'Waters of the US' (WOTUS) Rule, which defines which waterways are covered by the Clean Water Act. In response, the US EPA and Army Corps of Engineers announced in July that they planned to rescind the Obama-era WOTUS definition and revert to the previous regulations while they rewrite the Rule,



undoubtedly in a way that will significantly reduce Clean Water Act protections for smaller waterways and wetlands. Fortunately, they've already received a flood of comments opposing this plan of action and, in response, recently announced that they would extend the comment deadline to

September 27th. Click [here](#) to learn more and submit comments.

Fortunately, California is pursuing a comprehensive strategy to respond to federal environmental rollbacks like this. For example, the State Water Board is currently soliciting comments on a policy to protect California's endangered wetlands, which provide critical water supply, water quality, and flood mitigation benefits. California has already lost more than 90% of its historic wetlands, and efforts like the WOTUS rollback put these valuable habitats at even greater risk. Channelkeeper is working with [California Coastkeeper Alliance](#) and other partners to prepare comments to ensure that the state exercises its authority and develops an effective and enforceable Wetlands Policy. That's why the wetlands policy, which would allow the Water Boards to use state law to protect California's wetlands even if federal Clean Water Act protections are reduced. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Protecting the Channel from Offshore Oil Leasing

The Trump administration is threatening to open our shores to new and expanded offshore oil development by initiating a new Five-Year Leasing Plan, despite the Obama Administration's



certification of the 2017-2022 plan after a multi-year public process. The entire Pacific Coast (including the Santa Barbara Channel) has been excluded from the five-year plans for the past 25 years, and California hasn't issued a new lease in State waters since the devastating 1969 oil spill. This new plan threatens the progress California has made to protect our coastal resources and to transition from dirty fossil fuels toward cleaner, renewable energy sources. Channelkeeper

has submitted comments urging that the Santa Barbara Channel remain excluded from the plan, and will continue to participate in the public review process as it moves forward. Click [here](#) for more information.



Want to Work for Clean Water?

Channelkeeper is seeking a bookkeeper and a Stream Team intern! The bookkeeper position is part-time (approximately 2-5 hours/week, very flexible schedule) and is responsible for

handling all accounting functions and ensuring accurate and complete financial records for the organization. We're also looking for a dedicated college student to serve as our Stream Team Intern. This paid internship provides an opportunity to lead teams of volunteers, gain hands-on water quality monitoring experience in the field and in the lab, and contribute to a program that has a significant positive impact on our local watersheds. The Intern will also assist with volunteer recruitment through outreach to students and other community groups. Click [here](#) for the full job announcements and application instructions (due by September 15, 2017).

Women in Conservation Panel August 30

Kira Redmond,
Channelkeeper's
Executive Director,

will be a panelist at the Women in Conservation event this Wednesday, August 30th from 6:30-8pm at the Third Window Brewing Co. (406 E. Haley Street in Santa Barbara). The event is part of the Force of Nature Women Speaker Series co-hosted by REI and OutdoorFest. Admission is free, must be 21+ years. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.



Stream Team September 10th

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, September 10th. Ventura Stream Team will not be meeting in September. For more information, visit our [website](#), [email us](#) or call 805.563.3377 ext. 5.



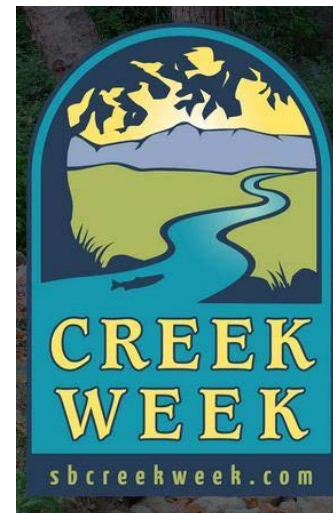
Coastal Cleanup Day September 16

Please join us for the 33rd annual Coastal Clean-up Day on Saturday, September 16th from 9 am-12 noon. Show your favorite beach some love by picking up trash and preventing it from polluting the ocean. Channelkeeper will lead a clean-up at West Beach (our adopted beach), or you can [choose from several other clean-ups being hosted the area](#). Please bring your own bucket

and gloves if you have them, but we will also have cleanup supplies if you don't.. Thanks for helping us keep our beaches and ocean clean!

Creek Week September 16-24

Creek Week is an annual community event celebrating our local creeks and ocean, with many groups sponsoring events throughout the week to help build awareness and stewardship of the natural riparian treasures of the South Coast. Creek Week, which is hosted by the Santa Barbara City Creeks Division, Project Clean Water and the cities of Carpinteria and Goleta, kicks off on Saturday, September 16th with Coastal Clean-up Day. Learn about efforts to restore the endangered steelhead trout in local creeks, participate in creek restoration projects, enjoy a cruise on the Landshark, or help with a pre-winter rains creek clean-up. With a week packed full of events, there is something for everyone! Click [here](#) for a full schedule.



Special Creek Week Wooden Rain Barrel Sale!

To help prepare our community for the upcoming rainy season, Channelkeeper is offering a Creek Week special on our beautiful oak rain barrels (repurposed from wine barrels!). For just \$75, you get a barrel and conversion kit (for rectangular downspouts) and will be ready to harvest the rain! This special runs through Creek Week, September 16-24, so [contact](#)

[us](#) today to reserve yours today.

Rachel Horn to Swim the Channel for Channelkeeper!



Local marathon swimmer [Rachel Horn](#) will be swimming 19 miles across the Santa Barbara Channel on September 19, 2017 in an effort to raise funds for Channelkeeper and our work to keep our local waters swimmable. Rachel will swim from Santa Cruz Island to Oxnard Beach, braving the cold water and 12 - 14 hour swim without a wetsuit. She will be accompanied by boats and a support team for her safety, and is aiming to raise \$10,000 to support Santa Barbara Channelkeeper's work. Watch the video on Rachel's swim and donate to her swim [here!](#)

Naples MPA Dive Trip September 24th



Join Channelkeeper and Truth Aquatics on a special limited-time discounted SCUBA diving trip to the Naples and Campus Point Marine Protected Areas

(MPAs) on September 24th (from 7 am-4 pm). Experience the breathtaking beauty of this stunning stretch of coastline as we cruise up from the Santa Barbara Harbor and anchor at Naples Reef.

This small offshore pinnacle reef provides impressively complex habitat and has some of the most diverse and productive sea life in all of Southern California. Our second dive will be at the Campus Point MPA just off of Coal Oil Point Reserve, which offers a great example of the benefits of MPA protection, with bountiful lobsters and magnificent schools of fish in a thriving kelp forest ecosystem. Dive in and experience the diversity of marine life that makes these MPAs so unique. Channelkeeper is sponsoring this excursion as part of our work to partner with and promote local businesses that provide opportunities to visit and learn about Santa Barbara's coastal MPAs. Check out [Channelkeeper's Naples Dive Portal](#), including dive maps and video. Our Campus Point MPA Dive Portal is coming soon!



2nd Annual Santa Barbara AQUATHON September 30th

Dive in to Channelkeeper's second annual [AQUATHON](#) on Saturday, September 30th at Leadbetter Beach! In collaboration with the [Waterkeeper Alliance SPLASH](#)

[event series](#), swim, SUP, surf is a fun, family-friendly celebration of the water that we love and protect. The event will include a Surfathon for kids 14 years and under; a 500-meter and 1K Swimathon for competitive or recreational swimmers; and a 5K SUPathon race around a charted course. We will also have ocean-loving booths, games and live music on shore. Registration is \$40 per adult, \$30 for youth (age 14 and under), and all participants receive a sweet AQUATHON t-shirt. Check-in begins at 8 am, water events run from 9 am-12 pm, and beach-side fun is non-stop from 8 am-1 pm. So [register here](#), start training, and get ready to dive in to Channelkeeper's [AQUATHON](#) ! We hope to see you there!

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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