



Support Clean Water Today



Photo by James "Bud" Bottoms, 1969

Remembering the 1969 Santa Barbara Oil Spill

Fifty years ago Monday was a critical turning point in history. On January 28, 1969, Platform A in the Santa Barbara Channel experienced an uncontrolled blowout which lasted for eight days and created a slick that covered over eight hundred square miles of ocean from the Channel Islands to the Mexican border. The blowout, which ultimately released more than three million gallons of oil over the course of several months and blackened beaches along forty miles of coastline, is cited by many as the catalyst for the birth of the modern environmental movement in the United States. In its wake, Earth Day and numerous environmental groups were born and a wave of environmental legislation was enacted. The State of California has not issued a new oil lease in State waters since the '69 spill. It was a game-changer. Now, a half-century later, we find ourselves at another critical turning point... Click [here](#) to read what our Executive Director, Kira Redmond, has to say about what we're facing and what we must do to rise to the occasion.

Santa Barbara to Expand Desalination Plant Without ANY Environmental Review or Upgrades



The Santa Barbara City Council voted unanimously yesterday to move forward with expanding its desalination plant by 60% in order to provide drinking water to Montecito. This expansion will result in a major increase in water bills, energy use and greenhouse gas emissions and will take a massive death toll on marine life. Channelkeeper testified before the Council, urging them to address these environmental impacts when they expand the plant by powering it with 100% renewable energy, upgrading its existing open ocean intakes to subsurface intakes, and conducting a full Environmental Impact Report to assess and appropriately mitigate the significant adverse environmental impacts that will result from the expansion. Unfortunately, however, the City made clear they do not intend to conduct any environmental review or to upgrade the plant's outmoded and extremely harmful open ocean intakes to subsurface intakes, which are considered "best available technology" today and are required by the State Water Board of all new and expanded desal plants in California. Channelkeeper will continue to educate and advocate the Council and the Montecito Water District about the impacts and feasibility of various desalination intake technologies, current laws that require environmental review and mandate the use of less environmentally harmful subsurface intakes, and available water supply alternatives to desal that actually benefit rather than harm the environment. Channelkeeper encourages you to learn more about this important issue by clicking [here](#), and to [contact your City Councilmembers](#) and urge them to address the environmental impacts of the desal plant.



Waterkeepers Sue EPA on Tap Water Safety

[Waterkeeper Alliance](#), [Waterkeepers Chesapeake](#), and [California Coastkeeper Alliance](#) filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today for failing to revise regulatory standards on certain

contaminants and develop new standards for emerging contaminants as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act. EPA's mandatory obligations under the Safe Drinking Water Act include identifying unregulated contaminants for monitoring and/or regulation, regulating those contaminants, and reviewing and revising existing drinking water regulations, all according to a timetable mandated by Congress. But EPA failed to perform these mandatory legal obligations and is unnecessarily putting people's health and lives at risk. Click [here](#) to learn more.

RECYCLE

PLASTIC BAGS & FILM PACKAGING

HERE

✓ **YES!**

CABLE WRAP
dry wipes
leverage cases

AIR FILLERS

RETAIL BAGS

DRY CLEAN BAGS

PRODUCE BAGS

BREAD BAGS

NEWSPAPER BAGS

✗ **NO**

frozen food bags
prewashed salad mix bags
degradable bags

**All items need to be
EMPTY, CLEAN & DRY**

Recycled plastic bags and wraps become durable home and garden products

PARTNERS / DROP OFF LOCATIONS



14 W Gutierrez Street



714 Bond Avenue



30 W Anapamu Street

Recycle Film Plastic!

Currently, Santa Barbara's waste collection service is unable to accept "film plastics," which include bubble wrap, plastic shopping bags and the plastic bags used for bread, produce and newspapers. But now, we have a solution! Channelkeeper is joining [Community Environmental Council \(CEC\)](#) in the effort spearheaded by [Ablitt's Fine Cleaners](#) to [keep film plastic out of the waste stream](#). Community members can drop off film plastics during business hours at Ablitt's (14 W. Gutierrez St.), the CEC office (26 W. Anapamu St., 2nd Floor), or the Channelkeeper office (714 Bond Ave). Click [here](#) to download a printable PDF of

Image courtesy of CEC

which film plastics you can and cannot recycle.

Stream Team February 2 & 3

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 monitor and protect our local waterways. Ventura Stream Team will meet on Saturday, February 2nd at 9am, and Goleta Stream Team will meet on Sunday, February 3rd at 10 am, RAIN OR SHINE!! Please RSVP via [email](#). For more information, visit our [website](#), [email](#) us or call 805.563.3377 ext. 3.



National Skip the Straw Day February 23

In honor of National Skip the Straw Day on Saturday, February 23, please join us in saying "no thanks" to plastic straws! Channelkeeper and our partners at [CEC](#) launched the [Skip the Straw SB](#) campaign last year on National Skip the Straw Day and worked with local students to conduct outreach to businesses asking them to provide straws only on request and consider switching to better alternatives like reusable or paper straws. Thanks to the students' leadership, the City of Santa Barbara adopted a plastic straw ban (which goes into effect on July 1, 2019), and we are working with Carpinteria and Goleta as well to encourage them to consider



similar action. If you find yourself in need of a straw, consider bringing and using your own reusable straw; there are many great alternatives available made from bamboo, glass, or metal which are easily washable. Please help protect marine life and keep our beaches clean by skipping the straw and other single-use plastics!



Dirty Martinis for Clean Water February 28

Please join us at [Bluewater Grill](#) on Thursday, February 28th from 5:30-8:30 pm for our Dirty Martinis for Clean Water event and mingle with like-minded ocean lovers while supporting Channelkeeper's clean water mission. Tickets are \$40 each and include two cocktails, appetizers, and a fabulous ocean view from the upstairs bar and balcony. **Space is limited,**

and last year's event sold out in FOUR days, so click [here](#) to get your tickets today!

Channelkeeper Student Art Show March 7



Channelkeeper is thrilled to host our 16th annual ocean-inspired Student Art Show, "What the Channel Means to Me." Please join us for the opening exhibit, public reception and awards ceremony on Thursday, March 7th (1st Thursday) from 5-8 pm at the Jodi House Gallery at 625 Chapala Street in Santa Barbara. The award ceremony, where the student winners will receive awards and Channelkeeper's cash prizes, will take place at 6:30pm. The goal of the show, which features artwork by high school students from across the South Coast, is to inspire local youth to create art that celebrates the natural beauty and biodiversity of the Santa Barbara Channel, and for their art to inspire others in our community. We hope to see you on March 7th - you won't want to miss this free opportunity to check out some incredible ocean-inspired art created by local teens!

Rick Ridgeway to Deliver Keynote Address at 19th Annual Blue Water Ball March 16



Please join us on Saturday, March 16, 2019 at Deckers' Headquarters in Goleta for Channelkeeper's biggest and most important fundraiser of the year, the Blue Water Ball. Help us raise critical funds to carry out our important work to protect and restore the Santa Barbara Channel while enjoying live music, fine local wines and beer, a gourmet dinner, dancing, and an extensive silent auction. This year's event will be MC'd by Andrew Firestone, and we have the honor of hosting Rick Ridgeway, renowned mountaineer, environmental champion, and VP of Public Engagement at Patagonia, as our keynote speaker. You won't want to miss the opportunity to be part of one of the most celebrated and fun events of the year! Visit our [Blue Water Ball website](#) to buy your tickets today! If you'd like to become a sponsor, auction donor or volunteer, [email](#) or call us at 805.563.3377 ext. 2. We look forward to seeing 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.1, [emailing](#) us, or clicking [here](#).

STAY CONNECTED

