



Our mission is to protect and restore the Santa Barbara Channel and its watersheds through science-based advocacy, education, field work and enforcement

Support Clean Water Today

Sewage Spills in Santa Barbara Decline



Last week, the Santa Barbara City Council received an update on the City's progress in reducing sewage spills, which declined from a high of 41 in 2009 to 7 in 2018, or by 83 percent thanks to improvements driven by a legal settlement with Channelkeeper. Channelkeeper filed suit against the City in 2011 for violations of the Clean Water Act related to its inordinately high rate of sewage spills, and we signed a settlement agreement in 2012 which required the City to significantly increase its level of effort and funding to repair and replace leaking sewer pipes and progressively reduce sewage spills. As a result, the City has invested an additional \$20 million since 2012 to improve its spill response and reporting protocols, enhance sewer pipe inspection and cleaning efforts, and repair or replace 38 miles of sewer pipe (equivalent to 15 percent of its entire 257 miles of sewer mains), including 10 miles of pipes that were identified as having a high risk of leaking to storm drains, creeks and the ocean. [Channelkeeper applauded the City's progress](#) in testimony before City Council last week, and urged them to continue the added investment and progress in reducing spills beyond 2020, when our settlement with the City terminates.

Setting Common Sense Limits on Fertilizer

Application for Farms

Fertilizer contains nitrogen that easily moves through the soil when it rains or crops are irrigated. When more fertilizer is applied than crops can utilize, the leftover nitrogen migrates through the soil and contaminates groundwater supplies and adjacent spring-fed streams, rivers, and wetlands.

Over-application of fertilizer is the biggest source of pollution to our groundwater supplies. According to the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, over half the nitrogen applied as fertilizer by farms ends up as waste discharged to the environment. Currently, farms discharge **ten times** more nitrogen on average than levels deemed protective of drinking water and the environment. To address this problem, the Regional Water Board is proposing, for the first time ever, to limit egregious over-application of fertilizer. Channelkeeper is working to promote the adoption of such limits, and we will be asking for community support later this summer when the Water Board releases a proposed update to its existing agricultural pollution regulations. Stay tuned for future action alerts so you can help us move the needle on this critically important water quality issue.



Support Rincon Beach Water Testing

We're all looking forward to some fun in the sun and waves this summer, but before you dive in, Channelkeeper wants you to know when the water is clean and safe to play in – and when it's not. That's why we're aiming to raise \$5,000 to support our Rincon Beach water quality sampling and reporting initiative

for the next year. Please [contribute today](#) and [help spread the word](#) so that you can get the skinny before you dip, because a day at the beach shouldn't make you sick!

Channelkeeper Comments on Exxon's Proposed Interim Oil Trucking Project

Santa Barbara County released a [Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report \(SEIR\)](#) to evaluate the impacts of trucking crude oil from ExxonMobil's Santa Ynez Unit facility in Las Flores Canyon while

the EIR for a new pipeline is developed to replace the one that ruptured and caused the Refugio Oil Spill in 2015. The proposed project would allow up to 70 trucks a day, 24-hours a day, seven days a week to transport crude oil from three offshore platforms to two processing facilities and could last for seven years, with the potential to be extended. Channelkeeper reviewed the SEIR and is preparing written comments outlining concerns related to extending the operational lifespan of the platforms, among others. The County is accepting public comments on the SEIR until June 4th, and the Planning Commission is expected to review the project in the fall.



Lands to Drilling and Fracking



The federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recently released a [Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement](#) (SEIR) that analyzes the impacts of opening more than [one million acres of federal](#) and private lands across nine counties in California from Monterey to Ventura, including several parcels between Lake Casitas and the Pacific Ocean. This action would end a five-year moratorium on leasing federal lands in California to

oil and gas developers. Channelkeeper is reviewing the SEIR and will submit comments by the June 10 deadline. Comments can be submitted through the [BLM website](#) or Los Padres Forest Watch's [on-line portal](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Stream Team

June 1



Stream Team is Channelkeeper's volunteer-based water quality monitoring program. Come join us to help monitor and protect our local waterways. Goleta Stream Team will meet on SATURDAY, June 1st at 10 am. Please RSVP via [email](#). For more information, visit our website, email us or call 805.563.3377 ext. 3.

West Beach Clean-Up

June 1



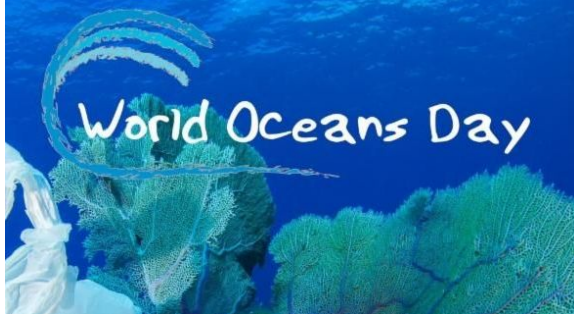
Channelkeeper invites you to join us for a for a beach clean-up to kick off the summer along with Hospitality Santa Barbara this Saturday, June 1st from 10 am-12 noon. Bring friends and family - it's kid-friendly! We will meet volunteers on the beach just off the bike path near the intersection of Bath and Cabrillo, on the harbor side at West Beach. Clean-up supplies will be provided, but we ask that volunteers help us generate less waste by bringing your own reusable gloves and a bucket if you have them. We hope to see you there!

World Oceans Day

June 8

CSTAR Survey

June 10



In 2008, the United Nations General Assembly designated June 8th as "World Oceans Day" to raise global awareness of the current challenges faced by the international community in connection with the oceans and to be part of the solution. This year's theme is focused on preventing plastic pollution and encouraging solutions for a healthy ocean. Celebrate by diving in and exploring one of the many [Marine Protected Areas](#) in the Santa Barbara Channel, visiting the Santa Barbara Sea Center for the [World Oceans Day Festival](#) on Saturday, June 8th, and making a pledge to use less single-use plastics.



We are looking for volunteers to join our Citizen Scientists for Tidepool Assemblage Research (CSTAR) project at Coal Oil Point! Help us collect data for federal agencies and research organizations to evaluate the health of rocky intertidal ecosystems, inform important coastal resource management decisions and climate change adaptation strategies, and help assess impacts from future oil spills. Check out our [website](#) for more information on the project, and [email](#) us to get involved!

Charity Tap at Third Window Brewing June



[Third Window Brewing Co.](#) is supporting Channelkeeper for the entire month of June! Third Window will donate \$1 to us for every pint of their Oatey McOatface Oatmeal Stout sold. Stop by the brewery in The Mill at 406 E Haley St #3 in Santa Barbara any time during the month of June to participate. Drinking handcrafted brew in support of clean water and a healthy ocean? We'll toast to that!

Ocean Jewel Santa Barbara Summer Benefit May 15 - July 15



[Ocean Jewel SB](#) will donate 15% of all jewelry sales from May 15-July 15 to support Channelkeeper's efforts to protect and restore the Santa Barbara Channel and its watersheds. This unique hand-crafted jewelry is designed to reflect the beauty of the Santa Barbara Channel. You can find Ocean Jewel SB on Saturdays at Paseo Nuevo in the Blissful Boutique Makers Market (located near the theater), as well as in the Goleta Valley Cottage Hospital gift shop, A-Frame Surf Shop, and The Beach House.

Become a Member!

Your support for Channelkeeper's



**JOIN THE CREW,
BECOME A
MEMBER!**

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**.

Santa Barbara Channelkeeper

