



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



We Stand in Solidarity

Santa Barbara Channelkeeper stands in solidarity with Black, Indigenous, and People of Color who are routinely and disproportionately impacted every day by social, racial, and environmental injustice, and we unequivocally condemn the murder of George Floyd and countless other Black Americans. We strive to base our work and relationships on trust, respect, integrity, and justice and we believe that a world in which people and nature thrive alongside one another is impossible unless we are all free from violence and racism.

Santa Barbara Channelkeeper is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in our work. We wholeheartedly believe that there can be no meaningful environmental movement without racial justice. With the understanding that

pollution is disproportionately located in communities of color, we fight to defend every human being's right to clean water alongside those who bear the impacts of systemic racism.

The Channelkeeper team is working to deepen our understanding of racial discrimination to inform ourselves and our work and will do all we can to support justice and respect in our communities. We don't have all the answers, and we have a long way to go, but we're committed to do better. We hope you will commit with us to fight for a more just and equitable future for all. The first step is to end our silence.

We urge you to initiate thoughtful conversations with friends and loved ones about the realities of systemic racism, offer your support to those individuals and organizations working to fight it, and seek out more education about the legacy of race and discrimination in America. We offer the following resources and local actions for your consideration, as well as our profound gratitude for your solidarity.

Take Action

The Santa Barbara Chapter of **Black Lives Matter** has asked that our community show its support by emailing members of City and County agencies as well as Police and Sheriff's departments. Find addresses and messaging ideas [here](#).

Email to show your support for [Santa Barbara Standing Up for Racial Justice](#) and follow them on [Facebook](#).

Learn from these [Anti-Racism Resources](#), this [Resource Hub for Black History and Activism](#), and this aggregation of [Anti-Racism Resources for Allies](#).

Read "[White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack](#)" by Peggy McIntosh and [The 1619 Project](#), a multi-media collection of essays from *The New York Times Magazine*.

Watch [Why Whiteness Must Be Named](#), [How to Overcome Our Biases? Walk Boldly Toward Them](#), [The danger of silence](#), and [Courage is Contagious](#).



Thank You, Watershed Brigade!

The power of collective individual action was on display last Memorial Day weekend as the community responded to Channelkeeper's call to action to help keep our watersheds clean.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our beaches, creeks, and rivers are experiencing a huge increase in usage these days as popular places to enjoy nature and beat the heat while social distancing. Many of these outdoor spaces are sensitive habitats. Unfortunately, we have been seeing a marked increase in trash and litter in these fragile environments, so we put out a call for willing volunteers to safely help clean up our trails, creeks, and river access areas and to help spread awareness about the need to prevent littering.

At least 25 volunteers participated in clean-up and outreach events over the holiday weekend, while following social distancing guidelines. Volunteers removed over 20 large bags of garbage from local creeks, the Ventura River, and popular trails and swimming holes. Over 300 visitors were greeted kindly with a friendly reminder to pack out their litter and over 40 sets of bags and gloves were distributed as hikers and swimmers joined in the collective effort.

If you are interested in becoming a member of our Watershed Brigade for future clean-up efforts, contact Molly Troup at molly@sbck.org for more details.



Channelkeeper Flags Under-the-Radar Desal Deal

Last week, Channelkeeper noticed an item on the consent agenda for the Santa Barbara City Council's June 2nd meeting which would have serious implications for the future of our city and its long-term impact on the environment. The City was preparing to sign a contract with the State Department of Water Resources for a \$10 million grant for its desalination plant, which would have obligated the City to operate the plant at full capacity (3,125 acre-feet per year, about one-third of current City demand) for 36 out of the next 40 years, regardless of whether or not desalinated water is needed or makes economic sense.

The desal plant is the City's most expensive source of water supply, requires a huge amount of energy to operate, is equipped with outdated intakes that suck in and kill massive amounts of marine life, and is currently allowed to be used as a source of supply only under emergency drought conditions. Channelkeeper quickly drafted and emailed a letter to the City Council outlining our concerns with their making this colossal obligation without any public or environmental review.

The City subsequently pulled the item from the June 2nd meeting's consent agenda and has rescheduled it for a public hearing at the June 16th City Council meeting. Channelkeeper encourages you to learn more about the environmental and economic concerns surrounding Santa Barbara's desalination plant on our [website](#), to check out our [recent letter](#) and [blog](#), and to [voice your opinion](#) about this serious matter to City Council on or before their June 16th hearing. Thank you for your activism!



ACTION ALERT!

Help Us Protect Our Water Supplies From Agricultural Pollution!

Farming is an essential aspect of California's economy and way of life, but it's also the number one source of pollution to groundwater supplies and many of our rivers, streams, and wetlands. At this very moment, a new proposal (named Ag Order 4.0) is being developed to establish rules for Central Coast farmers to follow to address decades of agricultural pollution.

Channelkeeper is working with a coalition of environmental partners to weigh-in on and influence the direction of the Ag Order, and we're looking to you to help us support one of the most important pieces of the proposal.

[Follow this link](#) to show your support for setting common sense limits on fertilizer application on farms!

Setting reasonable limits on fertilizer use is one of the most effective ways that our region can improve groundwater quality. Basically, we're asking state regulators to allow only as much fertilizer as crops can realistically use based on the best available farming knowledge. That's a win-win for both farming and the environment.

It may seem like common sense, but records show that the vast majority of farms

egregiously over-apply fertilizer. According to the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, over half the nitrogen applied as fertilizer ends up as harmful pollution to the environment. Currently, farms discharge nitrogen at levels ten times higher than levels that are safe for drinking water and protective of the environment. The Regional Board has issued findings that “groundwater nitrate (fertilizer) contamination is widespread and severe, and degradation is increasing in many areas.” Nitrates leaching from fields into aquifers have left over 100,000 square miles of groundwater contaminated with nitrates throughout California resulting in toxic drinking water supplies.

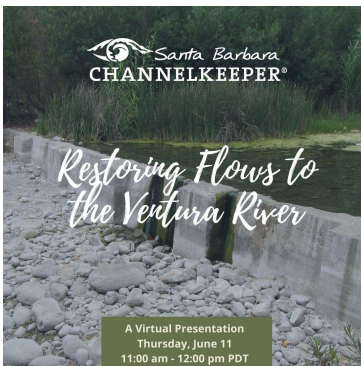
With your help, we can tackle this problem with a solution that meets the needs of our region’s farmers, the greater community, and the environment.

[Sign the Petition](#)



US EPA to Update Drinking Water Standards

Our friends at [Waterkeeper Alliance](#) and [California Coastkeeper Alliance](#) recently signed a [settlement agreement](#) with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requiring the agency to strengthen regulations to improve the safety of our drinking water nationwide. The settlement resolves a [lawsuit the groups filed in 2019](#) that asserted that EPA failed to update outdated standards on certain contaminants and develop new standards for emerging contaminants as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act. The settlement also establishes a timetable for regulating other existing and emerging contaminants. Channelkeeper is proud of our partners’ victory that will clean up our nation’s drinking water, which is unacceptably poor in many areas, particularly in underserved communities and communities of color.



Restoring Flows to the Ventura River Virtual Discussion

Channelkeeper is pleased to present a webinar outlining our work to restore flows to the Ventura River on **Thursday, June 11th from 11 am to 12 pm PDT**. Science and Policy Director Ben Pitterle will discuss Channelkeeper’s lawsuit to prevent the City of Ventura from pumping the river dry, as well as the organization’s role in the City-initiated adjudication of water rights in the Ventura River watershed. The webinar will also include a virtual tour of the Ventura River and time at the conclusion for a question and answer session. We hope you’ll join us for this informative virtual presentation. Please register in advance [here](#).

Balloon Responsibly This Graduation!

With graduation celebrations taking place in the coming weeks, we’d like to remind our



community to please balloon responsibly. Thousands of Mylar balloons blown from the mainland litter our ocean, where they can be mistaken as food by sea creatures or entangle wildlife. If you choose to use balloons, be sure to secure them well and toss the deflated remnants in the trash. Channelkeeper also invites you to find an eco-friendly

alternative [here](#) and to take the pledge to be Mylar-free at www.MylarMistake.com, a project of a local teen working to raise awareness about the impacts of Mylar balloons in the ocean and to promote sustainable alternatives. Congratulations, graduates!



Eco-Consciousness in Urban Landscapes Webinar

Join Santa Barbara Channelkeeper Board Member and Master Gardener Ken Falstrom from **10 am to 11 am PDT on June 24th** for an insightful webinar describing techniques we can

all use to manage environmentally sensitive gardens and landscapes through integrated pest management and soils improvements. In his webinar titled **“How to Reduce Negative Watershed and Water Quality Impacts in Urban Landscapes”** Ken will offer advice on strategies and solutions for keeping troublesome pests at bay and enriching our soils while minimizing unfavorable water and watershed quality consequences. Register [here](#).



Inspiring Generosity: Artist Donates 50% of June Profits

Shane Bowman is fascinated by fish. In 2019 the artist set out to create a new painting each week of a marine species endemic to California's coastal waters. To do so, he studied each species with a scientific eye and illustrated them with an artist's attention to color, shape, and texture. The result, **52 Weeks of Fish**, is a collection of paintings that balance careful scientific

observation and technical know-how with the unfathomable beauty of the world beneath the waves. Check them out [here](#). For the month of June, 50% of the proceeds from the sale of Shane's work will be donated to Santa Barbara Channelkeeper. We're grateful for his (and your) generous support.



Channelkeeper is pleased to support [World Surf League's 30x30 campaign](#), a global call to action to safeguard at least 30% of the world's ocean by 2030. Scientists agree that to prevent a mass extinction crisis we must conserve at least 30% of the planet's oceans by 2030. The UN will determine what percentage to preserve during the next UN Convention on Biological Diversity. It's critically important that these leaders hear our united voice to meet this 30% goal.

You can [sign](#) the petition to stand up for our future and the ocean and share the #WeAreOneOcean message with your community across your social media, email, or word of mouth. Help us spread the word about this important initiative!



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 emailing us or clicking here.

