



Support Clean Water Today

Judge Denies Oil Company's Request to Frack at Platform Gilda



Last week, a federal judge issued an order declaring that the oil company DCOR, LLC cannot proceed with its two proposed permits to conduct fracking in the Santa Barbara Channel at Platform Gilda. In November 2018, the judge ruled in favor of Channelkeeper and the [Environmental Defense Center](#) on a lawsuit we filed challenging the federal government for approving the use of well stimulation treatments (WSTs), including fracking and acidizing, offshore of California before required environmental protection processes concluded. In his ruling, the judge prohibited the federal government from approving any new WST permits until those processes are complete. DCOR sought a special exception from the Court to proceed with fracking, alleging it would suffer financial harm from not being allowed to proceed with fracking from Platform Gilda. However, the Court denied DCOR's request and upheld its moratorium, ruling that the harm to threatened and endangered species from offshore fracking outweighs any monetary harm to the oil company. Click [here](#) to learn more.



Major Development in our Efforts to Keep the Ventura River Alive and Flowing

For the first time ever, State and local officials have come together to negotiate a binding agreement that will ensure enough water will be left in the Ventura River to sustain steelhead and other aquatic life.

This process is a direct result of Channelkeeper's 2014 lawsuit against the City of Ventura and State Water Board for failing to protect the river and its inhabitants from excessive pumping and water diversions. Channelkeeper has repeatedly called upon the City and State Water Board to engage in settlement discussions with us to develop reasonable limits on how much water the City extracts from the river through its wells at Foster Park in order to prevent dewatering of the river, and they finally agreed to a formal mediation process that includes other key water users in the watershed. The process commenced last month, and though the outcome is still uncertain, these negotiations present an unprecedented opportunity to secure binding commitments to keep the Ventura River alive until state agencies finalize standards that define how much water needs to be in the river to protect endangered steelhead and other wildlife. Our goal is to reach an agreement by summer's end. Click [here](#) to learn more about our work to #ResurrectTheRiver.

Protecting Groundwater from Agricultural Pollution

Conventional farming is a major source of pollution to rivers, wetlands, and groundwater supplies across the Central Coast, and Channelkeeper has worked for many years to compel the Regional Water Board to enact regulations that effectively address this chronic source of pollution. As a result, the Regional Board is currently developing stronger regulations,



including, for the very first time, establishing sorely needed limits on the amount of fertilizer that farms can apply to their crops. Records of fertilizer application from farms overlaying contaminated groundwater basins show that the vast majority of these farms egregiously over-apply fertilizer - far more than their crops can utilize. The Regional Board has issued findings that "groundwater nitrate (fertilizer) contamination is widespread and severe, and degradation is increasing in many areas." Channelkeeper is actively participating in the development of the updated ag pollution regulations, countering robust opposition from the agricultural industry, and will do all we can to ensure that fertilizer limits, along with other protective measures, are included in the final regulations to be adopted later this year. Click [here](#) to learn more and to sign our petition in support of fertilizer application limits.

Governor Issues Executive Order on Water Resilience

On April 29th, Governor Newsom released [Executive Order N-10-19](#), designed to increase California's water security by developing local water supplies that reduce communities' reliance on water from the Colorado River and Sacramento Delta. The Order directs state agencies to update their 2016 Water Action Plan, and heads of these agencies have asked our partners at California Coastkeeper Alliance (CCKA) to provide input on the new Plan before it is released to the public, which Channelkeeper and other local Waterkeeper organizations across the state will help develop. Click [here](#) for some background and commentary on the Order by CCKA Executive Director Sean Bothwell.



Court Ruling Forces Trump Administration to Shelve Offshore Drilling Expansion

The Trump Administration is likely putting its efforts to expand offshore drilling on hold after a court ruling last month which found President Trump's revocation of an existing ban on oil and gas drilling in the Arctic and Atlantic oceans was illegal. The court issued its ruling in response to a lawsuit filed by environmental groups challenging Trump's April 2017 order revoking former President Obama's permanent withdrawal of 3.8 million acres in the Atlantic Ocean and 120 million acres

in the Arctic Ocean from development. While the court order only applies to the Arctic and Atlantic, Trump's new Interior Secretary David Bernhardt (a former oil lobbyist) has stated that the Administration's plans to re-open most of the nation's offshore waters to new oil and gas leasing have been paused pending the outcome of legal appeals on the court's ruling. Last year Channelkeeper submitted comments opposing the Trump Administration's draft National Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Leasing Program for 2019-2024, which proposed to open up more than 90% of the total OCS for potential new oil and gas exploration, and we're thrilled to see this ill-conceived proposal sidelined.

Spring 2019 Newsletter is here!

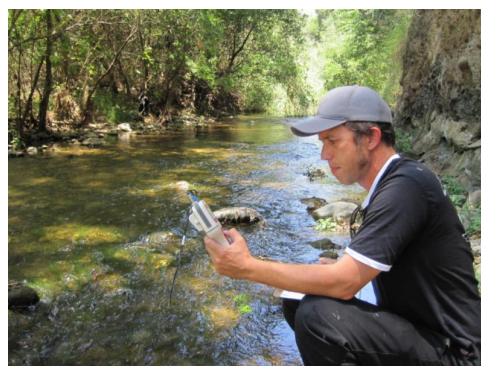
Hot off the press! Click [here](#) to read all about our recent victories on securing policies to reduce single-use plastic, restoring flow to the Ventura River, monitoring mud dumping on local beaches,



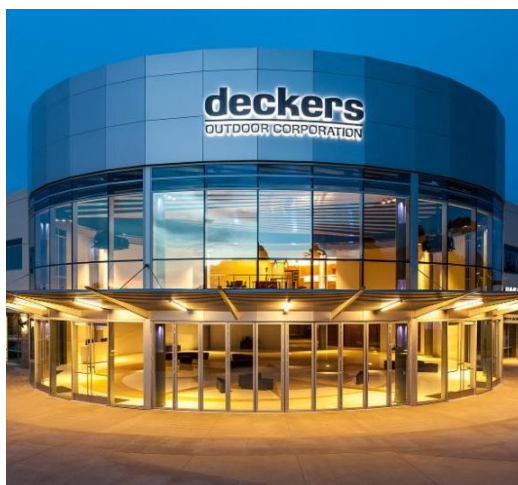
and more. Click [here](#) to receive our bi-annual newsletters by mail.

Stream Team May 4 & 5

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 May 4th at 9 am and Goleta Stream Team will meet on Sunday, May 5th at 10 am. Please RSVP via [email](#). For more information, visit our [website](#), [email](#) us or call 805.563.3377 ext. 3.



Deckers Shopping Day May 11

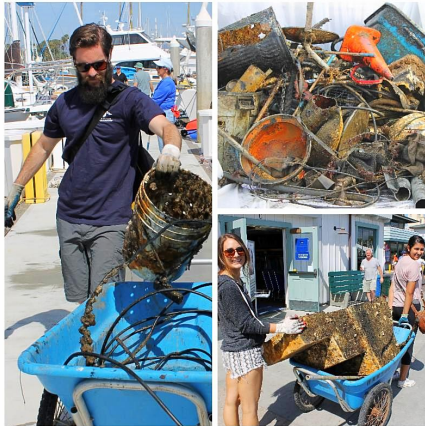


Just in time to get that perfect Mother's Day gift! Shop at Deckers Brand's Showcase in Goleta on Saturday, May 11th and 40% of all sales on that day will be donated to Channelkeeper! Thanks to you and to Deckers for supporting clean water!

Ocean Jewel Santa Barbara Summer Benefit May 15 - July 15

Ocean-inspired jewelry also makes a great Mother's Day gift! Janey Cinzori of

[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.



Santa Barbara Harbor Clean-Up May 18

On Saturday, May 18th from 8 am-12 noon, the Santa Barbara Waterfront Department will host its thirteenth 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 to collect the sunken trash retrieved by divers from the harbor bottom. This year the clean-up will target the City Pier, Fish Float North and the Urchin Dock. 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.



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](#).

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