

Advocacy and Enforcement

- ☞ **Industrial Pollution:** Channelkeeper won a lawsuit against Santa Barbara County for discharging polluted stormwater runoff from the South Coast Recycling and Transfer Station, the facility with the highest number of violations of California's industrial stormwater permit on the Central Coast. As a result of our settlement, the County has eliminated the discharge of polluted runoff from the facility.
- ☞ **Oil Spills:** Channelkeeper played a lead role in the Refugio Oil Spill response and recovery, successfully advocating for new laws to improve oil spill prevention and response and stronger governmental oversight over pipelines, developing a new tar ball monitoring program to inform the identification and clean-up of future spills, creating an Oil Spill Resource Guide to help the public understand spill impacts and response, and helping spill response agencies address lessons learned to improve oil spill response moving forward.
- ☞ **Offshore Fracking:** Channelkeeper prevailed in a lawsuit against the federal government for failing to consult with wildlife agencies to assess and mitigate potential impacts on endangered species from fracking and acidizing on offshore oil platforms in the Santa Barbara Channel. The Court ordered a moratorium on any future permits until the formal consultation with wildlife agencies is complete.
- ☞ **Desalination:** Channelkeeper raised concerns about the recommissioning of Santa Barbara's mothballed desalination facility due to its significant financial and environmental costs, and we commissioned a study that demonstrates the feasibility of several cheaper and more environmentally friendly water supply alternatives, including recycled water, stormwater capture, and increased water use efficiency. We successfully compelled the City to study the feasibility of less environmentally harmful desalination intake systems as well as the alternative of using the plant to produce potable water from highly treated wastewater.
- ☞ **Single-Use Plastics:** Channelkeeper led the charge to reduce plastic pollution on the South Coast, successfully advocating several local municipalities to adopt ordinances banning plastic grocery bags (eliminating the use of more than 100 million plastic bags annually!), Styrofoam take-out containers, and plastic straws and stirrers.
- ☞ **Agricultural Pollution:** Channelkeeper and a coalition of environmental justice, conservation and fishing groups successfully challenged the Water Board's adoption of inadequate regulations to control water pollution from agriculture on California's Central Coast, setting a legal precedent for stronger rules to protect waterways and communities impacted by agricultural pollution across the entire state.
- ☞ **Sewage Spills:** Channelkeeper won a lawsuit against the City of Santa Barbara for failing to prevent sewage from spilling and leaking into storm drains that lead to creeks and beaches. Our settlement agreement required the City to spend nearly \$40 million over eight years to improve its sewer system maintenance, drastically reduce sewage spills, and double the number of sewer pipes it repairs and replaces, with a focus on those that have the highest risk of leaking into storm drains.
- ☞ **Oil Platform Discharges:** Channelkeeper and our partners won a lawsuit against EPA for its failure to issue sufficiently stringent discharge permits for oil platforms in the Santa Barbara Channel. EPA had to strengthen the permit to require platforms to meet state and federal water quality standards, submit to third-party monitoring, and analyze alternatives to discharging their wastewater into the ocean.
- ☞ **Ojai Quarry Stormwater Pollution:** Channelkeeper prevailed in a lawsuit that compelled the Ojai Quarry to implement a host of best management practices to reduce polluted runoff from its facility and prevent blockages to the migration of endangered steelhead in North Fork Matilija Creek and the Ventura River.
- ☞ **Ventura River Trash:** Channelkeeper leveraged our watchdog monitoring efforts, which exposed the staggering trash epidemic in the Ventura River Estuary, to convince public agencies to implement new regulations that drastically reduce trash dumping and require routine clean-ups and ongoing monitoring. The River is cleaner than it has been in decades as a result.
- ☞ **Santa Barbara Polo Club:** Channelkeeper sued the Santa Barbara Polo Club for illegally discharging water polluted with horse waste into storm drains that empty onto Padaro Beach. We prevailed, and the Club cleaned up its operation and stopped discharging to the beach.
- ☞ **Carpinteria Greenhouses:** Channelkeeper compiled evidence showing that greenhouses were unlawfully discharging tremendous volumes of nitrates into local creeks, groundwater and the Carpinteria Salt Marsh. At our insistence, the Water Board undertook a detailed inspection and demanded that greenhouse operators stop discharging and account for all wastewater they produce.
- ☞ **Contaminated Soil Clean-up in Carpinteria:** Channelkeeper bird-dogged the development of a clean-up plan for soils contaminated with toxic heavy metals, DDT and other pesticides at the Carpinteria Oil and Gas Processing Facility, and we successfully secured a more rigorous clean-up plan that required the removal of 30% more of the contamination than was originally proposed by the oil company. The clean-up levels that were ultimately required are more stringent than at any DDT waste-impacted site in the entire nation.

Water Quality Monitoring

- ☞ **Stream Team:** Channelkeeper has been conducting monthly water quality monitoring in the Ventura River watershed since 2000, in the Goleta Valley since 2002, and in the Carpinteria Valley since 2010. We've trained and engaged nearly 1,400 volunteers to help us gather document water quality at 45 sites in 24 streams. Our data is frequently used by researchers and a variety of government agencies to guide pollution prevention, enforcement and restoration efforts.

- ☞ **Montecito Debris Flows:** Channelkeeper responded to the January 2018 mudslides by sampling the mud dumped on local beaches, testing water quality at neighboring beaches, sharing our findings with the public and emergency response agencies, and ensuring that stockpiled debris was contained to prevent polluted runoff from contaminating creeks and the ocean.
- ☞ **Cruise Ships:** Channelkeeper responded to the drastic increase in cruise ship visits to Santa Barbara by launching an initiative to monitor cruise ships from our boat to keep watch and deter discharges of cruise ship waste into the Santa Barbara Channel.
- ☞ **Algae and Flow Monitoring:** Channelkeeper deploys digital sensors throughout the Ventura River watershed to monitor the impacts of excessive algae growth and pumping and diversions on water quality and flows. Our data is used to assess compliance with regulations that restrict nutrient pollution and has helped identify locations that are severely impacted by over-pumping and diversions.
- ☞ **Oil Field Stormwater Runoff:** After extensive monitoring of stormwater runoff in the Ventura River watershed, Channelkeeper compelled a major oil producer to implement best management practices to reduce erosion and stormwater pollution from its massive property.
- ☞ **Beach Water Quality Monitoring:** Channelkeeper preserved a critical public health service when we assumed the task of monitoring beach water quality after government funding was cut in 2008. We conducted weekly fecal bacteria sampling at 12 beaches throughout Santa Barbara County during the winter months and provided timely public notification of our results to help protect the health of ocean users.

Marine Habitat Protection and Restoration

- ☞ **Marine Protected Areas:** We played a lead role in the state's adoption of a network of marine protected areas (MPAs) along the southern California coast to ensure that sound science and conservation were prioritized in the final network of 36 MPAs that was adopted.
- ☞ **MPA Watch:** Channelkeeper developed an "MPA Watch" monitoring program that trains and engages volunteers to record and track human activities in and adjacent to MPAs off the Santa Barbara coast. The data we collect aids MPA compliance and enforcement and facilitates interpretation of biological MPA monitoring data, while also identifying social and economic benefits that result from MPAs (i.e. from increased recreation and tourism). Since 2011, we've trained 340 volunteers and collected 3,500 surveys, conducted an additional 200 MPA Watch surveys from our boat, and identified and reported 23 potential violations of illegal fishing in MPAs.
- ☞ **Marine Research:** Channelkeeper utilizes our boat to conduct a variety of monitoring and research in the Santa Barbara Channel, including ocean acidification research in partnership with UCSB, biotoxin sampling for the California Department of Public Health, radiation monitoring in partnership with Woods Hole Institute of Oceanography, subtidal fish surveys in partnership with UCSB, and more.
- ☞ **Eelgrass:** Channelkeeper successfully restored an historic eelgrass bed in Frenchy's Cove at Anacapa Island. The eelgrass has spread beyond its original extent and now provides habitat for several commercially and recreationally important fish species. We've conducted extensive habitat and fish surveys in eelgrass beds at the Channel Islands and along the mainland and created maps with the precise locations and extent of area eelgrass beds to help boaters avoid anchoring in and damaging this sensitive yet critical habitat.
- ☞ **Kelp:** Channelkeeper partnered with other southern California Waterkeepers on a Giant Kelp education, monitoring and restoration project. Volunteer divers assisted us with regular monitoring of the kelp forest ecosystem at Carpinteria Reef.
- ☞ **Clean-ups:** Channelkeeper engages volunteers in regular clean-ups of local beaches, creeks and harbors, preventing tons of trash from escaping to the Santa Barbara Channel.

Education and Outreach

- ☞ **MPA Stewardship:** Channelkeeper is fostering the long-term success and sustainability of MPAs through the development of innovative online media, videography, special events, and partnerships with businesses to create opportunities for people to explore and learn about MPAs in the Santa Barbara Channel. We're raising MPA awareness and stewardship among the public and businesses by helping them realize the recreational and economic benefits that MPAs provide.
- ☞ **Seafari Educational Cruises:** We offer free, on-the-water experiential education cruises on our boat to underserved youth to spread ocean awareness and stewardship. Passengers learn about the extraordinary biodiversity of the Santa Barbara Channel and its primary threats (and solutions to address them), and they get a "live" tour of a kelp forest through our use of a SCUBA diver-operated camera that provides a live feed of the underwater world to a monitor on the boat. We've provided this unique experience to 600 kids to date.
- ☞ **Marine Science Education Program:** Channelkeeper delivers an interactive marine science education curriculum to schools in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, teaching 16,000 students in 300+ classrooms about marine ecology and pollution prevention to date.
- ☞ **Watershed Education:** In partnership with local schools, the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Sea Grant and other community groups, Channelkeeper has delivered interactive watershed awareness curricula to 13,000 students, teaching them about the vital connections between human activities, creeks and watersheds, and water quality and marine life in the Santa Barbara Channel.
- ☞ **Student Art Show:** Since 2003, Channelkeeper has partnered with local art teachers and artists to host an annual ocean-themed Student Art Show, which educates, engages and inspires local youth to showcase the value of the marine environment through art.
- ☞ **Water Conservation:** Through our Rein the Rain Project, Channelkeeper is partnering with local vintners and brewers to convert barrels previously used to age wine and beer into rain barrels and distributing them to citizens who want to do more to conserve water.