

## February 2020 E-Newsletter



## Channelkeeper Turns 20!



**Get ready to celebrate!** Santa Barbara Channelkeeper is excited to commemorate our 20th Anniversary and 20 years of keeping watch for clean water throughout 2020 with a series of fun initiatives and events--and we invite you to join in the festivities!

**We're proud of what we've accomplished** in the past 20 years thanks to generous support from our community. Together we compelled numerous polluters to clean up their acts, effected countless policy changes to better protect our waterways, engaged 4,500 volunteers in our programs, and educated tens thousands of students and adults about water pollution and solutions in classrooms, in the field, and through a variety of creative media and public outreach campaigns.

By monitoring ecosystems and tracking pollution, informing our community and policymakers, advocating for sound water policies, and enforcing environmental laws,

Channelkeeper has made significant progress in protecting water quality in the Santa Barbara Channel and its watersheds.

**We look forward to the future.** We look forward to celebrating this important milestone with you and sharing our vision and plans to make even bigger waves to advance the health and sustainability of our beloved waterways in the future, so please stay tuned and stay engaged!

**Support Clean Water Today**

## Channelkeeper News

### City of Ventura Serves Notices of Adjudication

In January, the City of Ventura served water rights adjudication notice letters to thousands of residents in the Ventura River watershed. This action has caused consternation and confusion in the community, and Channelkeeper is eager to provide



background and clarification about our role in protecting the Ventura River from unsustainable pumping by the City of Ventura.

In 2014, Channelkeeper filed suit against the State Water Resources Control Board and the City of Ventura to specifically address the City's excessive pumping from its well field at Foster Park, which was consistently dewatering the river to the detriment of the Ventura River ecosystem. Channelkeeper's actions have been very specifically tailored to focus solely on the City of Ventura given its disproportionate impact on flows in the Ventura River, but the City chose to commence a watershed-wide adjudication to bring all other water right holders into our lawsuit against the City.

If you are interested in learning more about our lawsuit against the City of Ventura and our ongoing efforts to protect the Ventura River from over-pumping, visit our [Resurrect The River](#) web page to view informative videos, a letter from Santa Barbara Channelkeeper to water rights holders, and a timeline of related events. For additional questions, we invite you to contact Channelkeeper's Science and Policy Director, Ben Pitterle, at [ben@sbck.org](mailto:ben@sbck.org) or 805.563.3377.



## Expanded Beach Disposal and Dredging of Carpinteria Salt Marsh

In January, Channelkeeper reviewed and commented on a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) analyzing Santa Barbara County's plans to expand routine dredging and beach disposal activities at the Carpinteria Salt Marsh. The County's current Salt Marsh Enhancement Program includes periodic dredging of certain marsh channels for

flood control purposes. Historically, dredged material was disposed of in upland locations, but in the aftermath of the 2018 Montecito debris flows, the County began disposing dredged material by the truckload into the surf zone at Carpinteria Beach and via a slurry line at the mouth of the Salt Marsh. The County plans to revise its current program to make surf zone disposal a standard practice while also expanding the area within the marsh that they dredge.

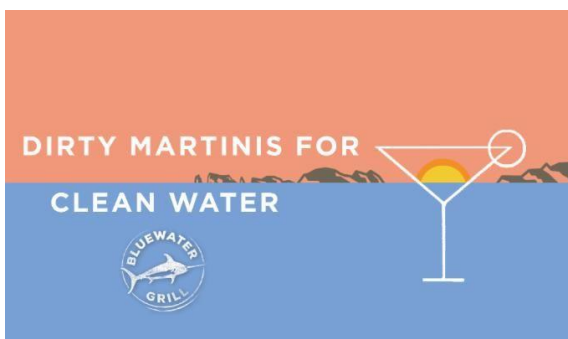
Dredged wetland sediments contain a significant amount of silt and organic matter that is considered by regulatory agencies as unsuitable for traditional beach nourishment. Channelkeeper's own monitoring data indicate that exceedances of fecal bacteria standards for ocean water quality can occur during disposal operations. Disposal operations also generate extended periods of turbidity (muddy water) that can impact marine and estuarine ecosystems.

Channelkeeper's comments on the EIR call on the County to produce monitoring data that validate its assertions that dredging and disposal activities will not significantly impair water quality. We also asked the County to outline specific mitigation actions that will mitigate water quality impacts in order to protect the Salt Marsh, Carpinteria Reef, and Carpinteria Beach.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Dirty Martinis  
for Clean Water**  
February 6

**King Tides**  
February 8 - 9



Please join Channelkeeper at the [Bluewater Grill](#) on Thursday, February 6th 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. Space is limited so get your [tickets](#) today and invite friends to join you in a toast to clean water!



If you missed catching the [King Tides](#) in January, you'll have one more chance to witness these extra-high tides this season. On February 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:18 am, and 9:02 am, respectively, head out to your favorite coastal spot to get some insight into what a 6.5' tide will look like. Observing these naturally occurring highest high tides provides a visualization of future sea levels and how it will impact our shoreline. Snap and share your photos on social media and tag #kingtides, @CaliforniaKingTidesProject, and @sbchannelkeeper!

## Channelkeeper Student Art Show March 5



Channelkeeper is thrilled to host our 17th 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 5th (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 6:30 pm.



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 5th - you won't want to miss this free opportunity to check out some incredible ocean-inspired art created by local teens!

## 20th Annual Blue Water Ball March 14



Please join us to celebrate Channelkeeper's 20 years of clean water and community impact at the 20th Annual Blue Water Ball, on Saturday, March 14, 2020 at Deckers' Headquarters in Goleta.

This year will be extra special as we bring together a community of surfers, sailors, scientists, and water-loving individuals to commemorate two decades of environmental impact and accomplishments.

We're pleased to announce that this year, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. will present the keynote address. Mr. Kennedy was with us at our inaugural Blue Water Ball in 2000, so we're thrilled to welcome him back to help us commemorate two decades of achievements for clean water on the South Coast. Mr. Kennedy is an environmental attorney, author, activist, clean technology entrepreneur, and radio host. He is the founder, Senior Attorney and President of Waterkeeper Alliance, one of the fastest-growing grassroots environmental movements in the world, with today more than 340 local Waterkeeper organizations protecting 2.7 million square miles of watersheds on six continents. Kennedy was named one of Time magazine's "Heroes for the Planet" for his success in helping Hudson Riverkeeper lead the fight to restore the Hudson River.

You won't want to miss this momentous celebration, so get your tickets [here](#) today, and stay tuned for other ways to join in the fun of Channelkeeper's year-long celebration of making

waves for two decades! Visit the [Blue Water Ball](#) website to learn more and to purchase your tickets or table today.

## Forces of Nature UCSB Arts & Lectures Series January to May



Channelkeeper is pleased to participate in an exciting UCSB Arts & Lecture series, [Forces of Nature](#), taking place from January through May 2020. *Forces of Nature* recognizes five decades of environmental activism, education, and research, building upon Santa Barbara's legacy as the birthplace of the modern environmental movement.

The series honors the 50th anniversary of the environmental movement by featuring "Forces of Nature" who are carrying us forward, taking action, and offering responses to the pressing environmental issues of today for a hopeful tomorrow. We hope you will join us at one of these amazing lectures.



### 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](#).

Santa Barbara Channelkeeper



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