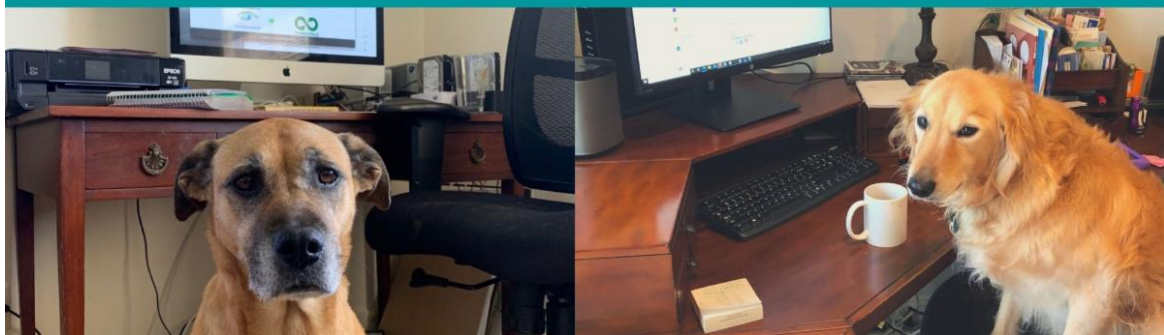




## WORK IN THE TIME OF COVID-19



We sure miss being able to see and interact with our fellow staff members, donors, volunteers, and partners in person, but the Channelkeeper crew is getting the hang of using all kinds of online tools to continue our work and maintain team communication remotely, while also enjoying some perks of working from home, including the companionship and entertainment we get from our furry friends!

## NEWS

### **ACTION ALERT!**

#### **Tell EPA: Now is Not the Time to Suspend Enforcement**

On March 26th, the US EPA [announced a sweeping suspension](#) of environmental protection laws and regulations due to the current COVID-19

crisis. Please join us and Waterkeeper Alliance in [signing this petition](#) telling EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler that it is unacceptable for EPA to suspend enforcement of laws that protect clean air and water. And If you think this couldn't happen in California, think again! Various industries are already putting pressure on the California Water Boards to loosen regulatory requirements during the COVID-19 crisis. [California Cannot Afford to Suspend Clean Water Laws!](#) Thankfully, our partners at [California Coastkeeper Alliance](#) are pushing back against polluters to protect our streams and drinking water supplies by urging Governor Newsom not to follow the feds' lead. Click [here](#) to learn more.

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## 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, greater community, and the environment. [Sign the petition](#) today!

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## Take Action for the Environment While Social Distancing

As our community navigates these uncertain times, Channelkeeper is continuing our work to protect the health of our environment and our community by advocating for clean water, combating pollution, monitoring water quality, and advancing climate-smart water supply strategies for the South Coast—all while practicing social distancing. And you can too.

The weeks ahead may be challenging, but they may also provide opportunities to observe nature closely and notice the miracles amid the mundane. We encourage you to take time to connect with your waterways and take positive actions to protect them. We’ve put together a list of [easy ways](#) for to do just that while also observing social distancing and keeping yourself and others safe. Check it out [here](#), and let us know if you have other ideas!

## EVENTS





## Support Channelkeeper While You Walk the Talk in New SeaVees Shoes!

Despite these challenging times, our friends at [SeaVees](#) are continuing to support non-profits who are committed to preserving the health and safety of our planet. In honor of the 50th anniversary of Earth Month, SeaVees is hosting a month-long campaign to support their favorite environmental causes by donating \$5 of every sale throughout April to Channelkeeper or two other 1% For The Planet partners! So walk the talk by getting some stylin' new SeaVees kicks and supporting Channelkeeper's clean water work at the same time! Visit [SeaVees' Earth Month page](#) today, put a pair (or several pairs!) of shoes in your cart, and select Channelkeeper as your recipient of choice when you check out. Many thanks to you and to SeaVees for continuing to support earth-friendly causes like ours!

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## 20th Annual Blue Water Ball September 12



While we were devastated to have to postpone our 20<sup>th</sup> Annual [Blue Water Ball](#) just two days before our originally scheduled date of March 14<sup>th</sup>, Channelkeeper is pleased to announce that we've rescheduled the event for Saturday, September 12, 2020 at Deckers, so please mark your calendars!

The [Blue Water Ball](#) is Channelkeeper's most important event of the year, raising critical unrestricted funds that enable us to protect our precious beaches, creeks, and coast and defend your right to clean water. This year's Blue Water Ball will be extra special as we celebrate our 20th anniversary, and we're thrilled that Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. is confirmed to join and inspire us as our keynote speaker.

Come September, we'll likely all need an occasion for celebration, community and fun, so we really look forward to bringing our wonderful family of supporters together to celebrate the incredible environmental impact we've made together over the past two decades. All tickets and sponsorships for our originally scheduled date will be honored, but we still have a limited number of tickets available, so please visit our [Blue Water Ball](#) website to get yours today!

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## 17th Annual Student Art Show



1st Place Winner: Argo by Claire Whicker

The 17th Annual Student Art Show was a great success! Channelkeeper was thrilled to host our 17th annual ocean-themed juried student art show, "What the Channel Means to Me" in early March. The goal of the show, which is open to high school students from Carpinteria to Goleta, 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.

Art students from Bishop Diego, Dos Pueblos, San Marcos, and Santa Barbara High Schools submitted more than 300 works of art to vie for the chance to be featured in this year's show. Our juror, local artist and long-time Channelkeeper supporter Jeremy Harper, selected 67 awe-inspiring pieces to be in the show, as well as the first, second, third places winners, an environmental ethic award, a juror's choice award, and three honorable mentions. We celebrated the students and their incredible artwork at a public exhibit, reception and awards ceremony on March 5<sup>th</sup> at the Jodi House Gallery, where Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson joined us to present the winners with cash prizes made possible by Trillium Enterprises and the City of Goleta Community Grants Program. Click [here](#) to view photos of our awards ceremony and the incredible student artwork created for this year's show.

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## Support Clean Water Today

We know these are uncharted waters we're all struggling to navigate right now, and the future is uncertain and scary. But one thing is certain – our environment, and our waterways in particular, continue to face enormous threats, which in turn threaten the health of our communities, particularly our most vulnerable and disadvantaged communities. Meanwhile, the federal government has decided to turn a blind eye to pollution by suspending enforcement of critical environmental laws.

While we continue to adapt our processes to the challenging circumstances at hand, Channelkeeper remains firmly committed to defending your right to clean water and doing all we can to protect our most valuable natural resource – water. We, like you and the rest of our great community – are nimble, responsive, and resilient, and we are here for you. But we need you too. We need your continued support to carry on our important work. If you are able, please consider making a tax-deductible [contribution](#) to Santa Barbara Channelkeeper today. And if you're not able right now, we understand and are here for you just the same! Thank you, take care, and be well!

Support Clean Water Now



Santa Barbara Channelkeeper

