



Protecting and restoring
the Santa Barbara Channel and its watersheds
through science based education, field work,
advocacy and enforcement



High Five!

Together we made a difference in 2020 — for the Earth, our community, and the many species that rely on clean water.

With your support, Channelkeeper achieved policy changes to better protect our waterways, we compelled polluters to clean up their acts, engaged hundreds of volunteers in our programs, and educated students and adults about important issues related to water.

We're proud of what we've accomplished...and honored to continue our work.

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THE CITY OF VENTURA HALTS PUMPING

For the first time in history, the City of Ventura recently shut down two of its wells at Foster Park to protect flows in the Ventura River! The action took place in accordance with Channelkeeper's settlement agreement with the City, which requires it to reduce and/or halt pumping altogether when river flows drop below certain thresholds. This agreement will remain in place until there is a final outcome to the City's adjudication of water rights in the Ventura River watershed. With any luck, winter rainfall will increase river flows in the near future, allowing the City to resume its desired pumping capacity, while maintaining a healthy and thriving ecosystem.

Reducing pumping protects this critical stretch of Ventura River habitat and supports recreational use and enjoyment of the river for the surrounding community. Not only does this affect endangered species habitat, but Foster Park is also heavily utilized by the local community as a primary access point for recreation and as an outdoor classroom for local educational programs. Unabated pumping at Foster Park, can (and has historically) resulted in complete dewatering of this river segment, which eliminates these beneficial uses of the river and negatively impacts downstream habitat as well.

Channelkeeper is grateful for the cooperation of City officials in monitoring river flows and implementing the terms of our agreement.



MARINE DEBRIS CLEANED-UP AT SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

Plastic debris is one of the most pervasive problems facing our world's oceans and the Santa Barbara Channel is unfortunately no exception, with several island beaches serving as catch basins for floating debris.

Over the summer Channelkeeper helped remove marine debris from Santa Cruz Island along with the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) and two local lobster fishermen.

This fall, Channelkeeper returned to the east end of Santa Cruz to continue the clean-up effort. We removed hundreds of pounds of plastic--everything from drink bottles, bottle caps, rope, shoes, and beach toys--along with other debris. Our crew also piled up lobster traps and trap pieces for future removal.

We are happy to share that we helped to repurpose old foam fishing buoys collected on the cleanup that will become artwork by a local artist, Sheryl Schroeder (@schroederville_art). Channelkeeper looks forward to continuing our work in the Channel to tackle our marine debris problem at future cleanup events.



SHARE YOUR VISION

The City of Santa Barbara is amid a year-long process of developing its water supply and management plan for the next 30 years. City Staff will be presenting the results of the [draft future portfolio analysis](#) to the City Council on December 8th from 2- 4 pm. The [meeting](#) is open to the public, so if you are interested in learning about the City's process for developing this plan and in providing feedback, tune into this meeting.

Channelkeeper is one of 30 community leaders participating in a stakeholder group convened to represent the diverse water needs and values of our community. We have been participating in the City's Water Vision process and we continue to urge the City to prioritize increased conservation and efficiency, stormwater capture and recycled water, and to consider desalination as a last resort after other less expensive and less environmentally harmful options are fully exhausted.



GRATITUDE FOR THE WATERSHED BRIGADE

We're so thankful for the 25 people who participated in our November Watershed Brigade Challenge! Collectively, these watershed warriors spent over 56 hours conducting 17 clean-ups throughout the month and removed well over **231 pounds** of litter and **71 bags** of trash!

The Brigade covered some serious territory in November and removed trash from the North Fork of Matilija Creek, the Santa Ynez River, the Rincon Parkway, Isla Vista beaches, Butterfly Beach, Pershing Park, the Milpas Roundabout, Douglas Family Preserve, Hendry's Beach, downtown City streets in Santa Barbara, and San Pedro Creek.

In addition to extending our sincere thanks to all of these folks who donated time to help clean-up our watershed, congratulations to Kari Deignan, the winner of our November **Brigade Challenge Raffle** prize: a \$75 REI gift card! Check out our [webpage](#) for more information and join our [Facebook](#) group for motivation and to connect with other Brigaders. Stay tuned for our January Brigade Challenge!



PARTNERS IN PLANNING

In November, the Goleta City Council unanimously adopted its first Creek and Watershed Management Plan. SBCK held a seat on the Technical Advisory Committee with 12 other agencies and organizations, which met several times over the past year to share expertise and information about the 12 creeks that run through the City.

The Creek and Watershed Management Plan provides detailed information about local creeks, including impairments and future programs and actions to address the impairments. As an organization that has conducted water quality monitoring in the Goleta Valley Watershed since 2002, we applaud this work and look forward to continuing to work with the City to help implement positive improvements in the watershed. Check out the [Creek and Watershed Management Plan](#) to learn more.



HOLIDAY WASTE

Did you know that between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, Americans' household waste increases by more than 25 percent? That extra waste amounts to 25 million tons of garbage, or an additional one million tons of trash a week to our landfills during this time period! But there are plenty of easy ways to cut down on holiday waste that can ease the strain on both your wallet and the environment. Reusing packing and shipping materials is a great first step; if every American family wrapped just 3 presents in re-used materials, it would save enough paper to cover 45,000 football fields. Other options include giving

personal treasures like a favorite book, plant, or antique, or choosing Energy Star energy-efficient lighting for decorations are just a few tips!

Also, be sure that you're [recycling properly](#) and only putting accepted items in the blue bin; all items must be clean, dry, and loose (not bagged). Acceptable items include clean and dry metal, #1 and #2 plastic (greater than 6"), and all clean paper and glass. You can also recycle your clean and dry film (stretchy) film plastic as part an independent recycling initiative spearheaded by Ablitt's Fine Cleaners and supported by Channelkeeper and CEC by signing up to [join the email list](#) for outdoor collection events at Ablitt's where you sort your own plastic or by contacting [Channelkeeper](#) to set up an appointment to sort your film plastic at Channelkeeper's office.



WAYS TO GIVE

Want to make a difference for the environment and your community this holiday season? Make a tax-deductible [contribution](#) to Santa Barbara Channelkeeper today and you'll be investing in clean beaches, healthy watersheds, and a more sustainable future. Donate in a loved one's name, contribute from your IRA, or gift with stock. And to maximize your contribution, check [here](#) to see if your company offers corporate matching. We're grateful for your generous support!

[DONATE TO CLEAN WATER WORK](#)

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](#).

Santa Barbara Channelkeeper

