



Happy New Year!

We're energized to make a difference in 2021 —
for the Earth, our community, and the many species that rely on clean
water.

Channelkeeper is diving into 2021 ready to fight pollution, achieve
policy changes to better protect our waterways, and engage and
educate students and adults about important issues related to water.

We're grateful for your support and more excited than ever to
advance our 2021 initiatives to:

- monitor waterways to identify and eliminate pollution sources,
- use innovative technologies to monitor water quality and aquatic habitats,
- build a community coalition to tackle the epidemic of litter plaguing local waterways,
- monitor Marine Protected Areas,

- reduce plastic pollution,
- foster environmental literacy and stewardship in the next generation,
- fight against increased oil production off our coast,
- protect waterways from over-pumping
- champion sustainable water supplies,
- prevent agricultural contamination of water resources,
- hold polluters and our government accountable for environmental compliance.



EDUCATION



ADVOCACY



FIELD WORK



ENFORCEMENT



We Love Science!

Channelkeeper's science-based approach helps us protect and restore the Santa Barbara Channel and its watersheds. Our team regularly collects data related to the composition, quality, and availability of our water resources. We use this data to measure critical threats facing our waters, to support decision-makers in their efforts to protect local waterways and to raise community awareness and involvement in protecting our water resources.

Read our January blog post, [Science Supports our Clean Water Work](#), to learn more about how collecting data and tracking quantitative measurements has helped our team champion stronger policies that better protect our water

resources, clean up pollution hot spots, educate our community, and stop illegal discharges into the Santa Barbara Channel and its tributaries.



Watershed Brigade: 2021

In May of last year, we asked our community to join the Watershed Brigade to help us pick up trash discarded in our open spaces, trails, beaches, and swimming holes as more people sought refuge in the outdoors due to the pandemic and the response has been incredible!

In the past 7 months, 88 people have joined the Watershed Brigade and collectively spent 184 hours conducting 52 clean-ups at 40 different locations! These efforts have removed over 165 bags of trash and 462 pounds of trash from our watersheds. THANK YOU, Brigaders!

In an abundance of caution, however, we have decided to pause the January

Brigade Challenge while COVID-19-related hospitalization rates are high on the South Coast. But never fear, Brigaders! We will freeze your existing points and count them toward the next challenge. Volunteer safety is our highest priority. Brigade participants are welcome to continue conducting independent clean-ups with an extra focus on safety. Then share your data -- we'd love to hear from you.

We will resume bimonthly Brigade Challenges once it's safe to do so.

Check our [website](#) or the Watershed Brigade [Facebook group](#) to stay up to date on Brigade Challenge status, litter removal hotspots, and future initiatives. We have a lot of exciting plans for 2021!



A New 30-Year Water Supply Plan Underway in the City of Santa Barbara

The City of Santa Barbara is moving forward with developing its water supply and management plan for the next 30 years. In November and December, the City's water supply staff shared the results of the technical analyses of the city's current water supplies, future demands, future risks, and potential future water supply portfolios. Details of these analyses can be found in [drafts technical memorandums](#) on the City's website.

City staff shared presentations of these results with the Water Commission, the Stakeholder Group (which Channelkeeper participates in), and the City Council. Central to the analyses and discussion on future water supply scenarios is the role of the desalination plant. While we continue to review the analyses conducted, we remain steadfast in strongly advocating for maximizing conservation and the use of recycled water before expanding the use of the desalination plant. The next steps in this process include the finalization of the future portfolio plan at the Water Commission meeting on January 21 from 9-11 and then the City Council meeting on February 2nd.



Ablitt's Film Plastic Collection is Temporarily Suspended Due to Stay-at-Home Orders

Lightweight polyethylene packaging, also known as film plastic, is everywhere. It's used for all kinds of plastic bags, product wrappers, and dry cleaning. Many recyclers don't accept film plastics because the material tends to jam up sorting conveyor belts at recycling facilities and often loses its value when it's contaminated or torn in the recycling bin.

Santa Barbara has a vibrant community film plastics collection program created by Ablitt's Fine Cleaners, with support from Channelkeeper and the Community Environmental Council as additional drop off locations. Community members sign up to attend a collection event at Ablitt's or make appointments at SBCK or CEC and sort their own film plastic with a trained volunteer or staff person taking home any plastic waste that is not accepted.

Due to the stay-at-home orders, film plastic collection is temporarily suspended. We greatly appreciate everyone's efforts to divert this plastic from the landfill and ask that folks hold on to their plastic for now until it is safe to resume collection. We are so impressed with the success of the new process and how much less contamination there is- thanks to all who help make this opportunity available to our community from Ablitt's who runs the program to all the wonderful volunteers helping communities members sort plastic. In 2020, approximately 9,000 pounds of film plastic was diverted from the landfill. Click [here](#) to join the Ablitt's email list to stay up to date about collection events.



Underwater Parks Day January 16

Underwater Parks Day is an annual festival celebrating marine protected areas (MPAs), the underwater parks that help preserve the biodiversity and abundance of ocean life. Join us this year for a series of virtual events hosted on Zoom. Enjoy fascinating films, activities, underwater experiences, and art projects. To attend any or all of the

free events, you only need one Zoom link, which will let you hop on and off from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. [Click here to register.](#)

Channelkeeper will be leading a lunchtime virtual dive from **12:30 pm to 1:30 pm** through local underwater marine parks. Grab a takeout meal from certified ocean-friendly restaurant, Rincon Brewery, and explore these extraordinary marine environments without even getting wet. Together we'll discover the beauty and importance of these areas and learn how we can protect them for generations to

come. [Click here for more info.](#)

Register for additional Underwater Parks Day activities at sbnature.org/tickets by January 9 for local shipping or January 14 for local pick-up of supplies.



**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](#).

BECOME A MEMBER

KEEPING WATCH FOR CLEAN WATER
SINCE 1991



Santa Barbara
CHANNELKEEPER®



CONNECT WITH US

