



May E-Newsletter

SUSTAINING WILDLIFE IN THE VENTURA RIVER

Following a winter and spring with record-setting low rainfall for much of the South Coast, flows in the Ventura River will once again reach critical levels. Channelkeeper's interim settlement agreement with the City of Ventura may mean the difference between life and death for wildlife that depends on a flowing river for survival. Per our agreement, the City will begin shutting down its wells when flows reach critically low levels ensuring that some water remains in key sections of the river for as long as possible.

In the meantime, the City's adjudication of the watershed slowly moves forward. Channelkeeper is participating as a party in the adjudication to protect public trust resources. The City and other major pumpers in the watershed continue to advocate for the court to approve their proposed "Physical Solution" that would resolve the adjudication. The City's proposal, however, fails to address the very key issue at stake, which is to ensure that adequate flows are maintained in the river to protect endangered species and other wildlife and public trust resources.

While some parties look to rush the process, the long-term fate of the Ventura River is at stake, and it is critical that the outcome be based on credible science. To this end, the Department of Fish and Wildlife recently released its long-awaited [Draft Flow Recommendations for the Ventura River](#). The Flow Recommendations are based on a multi-year study intended to indicate how much water is needed to

maintain healthy aquatic habitat for endangered species and other wildlife.

Channelkeeper submitted [formal comments](#) on the Draft Recommendations, and we will continue to track the process to ensure that the final outcome is based on sound, credible science.



EDUCATION



ADVOCACY



FIELD WORK



ENFORCEMENT



AN EPIC MONTH FOR THE WATERSHED BRIGADE

This April the Watershed Brigade was out in full force conducting clean-ups in celebration of Earth Day! In fact, in April alone, **99 Watershed Brigade participants** conducted **39 clean-ups** from Gaviota to Ormond Beach, and along Highway 33 in Ojai. Brigadiers removed over **703 pounds of trash** from creeks, beaches, trails, and urban areas. Thanks to everyone who participated in our Monthly Challenge and our **Trails & Turnouts** weekend dispersed clean-up event! Two lucky Brigadiers received a \$100 gift card and a \$50 gift card to Santa Barbara Running Co.

The May [Monthly Challenge](#) is underway and we are giving away a \$100 and \$50 gift card to a local bike shop. Conduct a clean-up (or several!) and earn points towards entries into our end-of-the-month drawing. Additionally, points earned conducting cleanups can be redeemed for our cool new swag: organic cotton tees, stickers, and sweet clean-up kits.

Three companies joined the [Corporate Challenge](#) in April. We'd like to extend a big welcome to FastSpring, Rosewood Miramar, and UBS Financials! Don't forget to check out our [Facebook page](#) to join the conversation and find inspiration!



WATERSHED BRIGADE LOBSTER TRAP SURVEY **May 23-24**

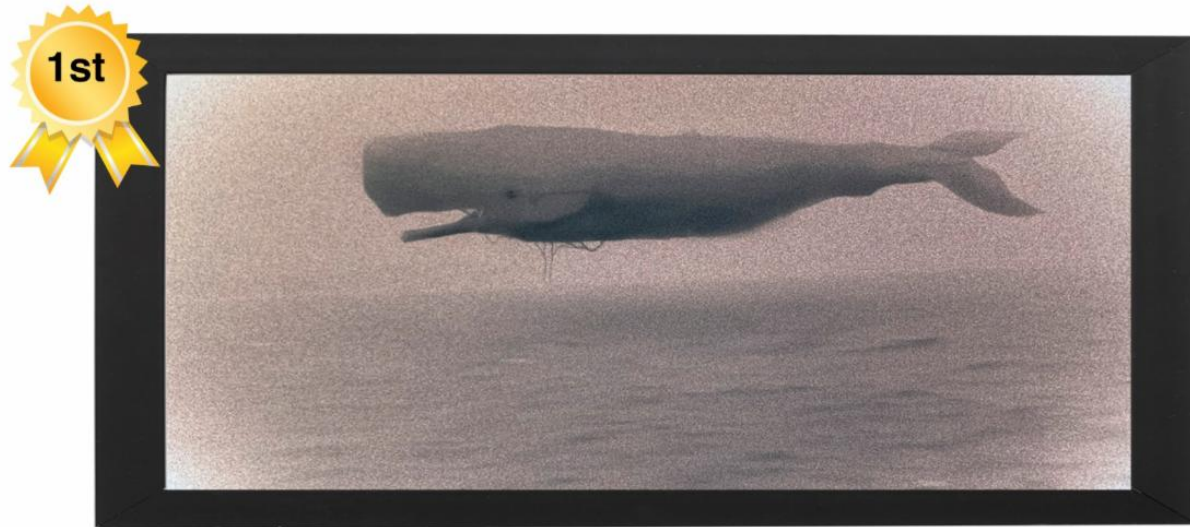
Derelict lobster traps are an environmental problem both globally and locally. Each winter, storms that bring heavy swells wash many lobster traps onto our coastline. Most of these traps are not recovered and persist on our local beaches as marine debris. As ghost traps drift, they can entangle marine organisms, release microplastics, and pose safety hazards to beachgoers. Ultimately, they wash up on beaches as pollution.

Channelkeeper is launching an initiative to remove derelict lobster traps from local beaches, but we need your help to identify their exact locations. Please join us for a beach survey event the weekend of May 22-23 and help us locate and map derelict traps on our beaches.

Volunteers can sign up for a stretch of beach and head out independently to look for and map the locations of derelict traps. Visit the [event web page](#) for more

info.

Derelict traps are heavy and cumbersome to haul away. Please note that Channelkeeper will target traps for cleanup during a future event using our research vessel, the *RV/Channelkeeper*. Our first step is to locate them all, and we need your help! However, we do not ask that you attempt to remove any traps at this time.



Sydney Long
Floating Sperm Whale
Santa Barbara High School

18th ANNUAL STUDENT ART SHOW

Channelkeeper was thrilled to host our 18th annual ocean-inspired Student Art Show, "What the Channel Means to Me" this year as part of the 2021 Virtual Santa Barbara Earth Day Festival Youth Leadership Day, hosted by the Community Environmental Council.

In case you missed the live stream, you can [view a recording](#) of the student reception and award ceremony including remarks from CA State Senator Monique Limón, and hear from some of the students themselves about what inspired their artwork celebrating what the Santa Barbara Channel means to them.

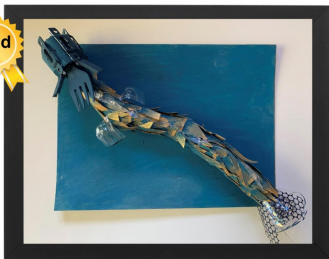
The goal of the show, which features artwork by high school students from across the South Coast, is to inspire local youth to create art that celebrates the Santa Barbara Channel, and for their art to inspire others in our community.

If you want more time with any one piece of artwork you can also view the [online gallery](#). The award-winning art is on display until May 9th in the State Street window of the Community Environmental Council's new office at 1219 State Street.

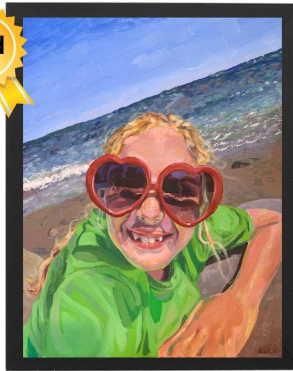
This year's show was juried by [Claudia Borfiga](#) and cash prizes were awarded to winning students thanks to the show's long-time sponsor, [Trillium Enterprise, Inc.](#)

Congratulations to all the student artists and a huge thank you to everyone who helped make the show happen this year especially the art teachers and the

Community Environmental Council for hosting us.



*Molly Grant
Plastic Sea Dragon
San Marcos High School*



*Gabriella Crisa
Feels Like Summer
San Marcos High School*



*Victoria Mejia Vega
Pollution Can Destroy
San Marcos High School*



CLEAN WATER FOR CALIFORNIA

In 1972 Congress passed the Clean Water Act, setting a goal to restore and maintain clean water in all of the nation's rivers, lakes, wetlands, and waterways by 1985. But today roughly 95% of all waterways in California are considered too polluted to safely swim, fish, and drink.

Our partners at California Coastkeeper Alliance and Assemblymember Robert Rivas recently introduced the [California Clean Water Act](#) (Assembly Bill 377) to put the state on track to eliminate impaired waterways and make all California waters drinkable, swimmable, and fishable by 2050.

Channelkeeper is pleased to support AB 377 and is happy to announce that in April, AB 377 passed the Assembly Committee on Environmental Safety & Toxic Materials with a vote of 5-3.

If signed into law, AB 377, will change the way the State and Regional Water Boards enforce compliance with water quality standards and ensure that waterways are taken off the impaired list over time by:

- Requiring development of a plan to bring impaired waterways into compliance with water quality standards by 2050.
- Changing Water Board enforcement procedures, requiring them to spend more time and effort enforcing against the worst polluters instead of ignoring violations.
- Directing a larger portion of existing Water Board financial resources toward cleaning up impaired waterways, without imposing any new fees or costs.

The bill will require the State and Regional Water Boards to close permit loopholes, ensure that all dischargers are in compliance with water quality standards, and direct a larger proportion of existing funding toward cleaning up impaired waterways. The effects of this bill will be especially significant in underserved communities, where water is disproportionately likely to be polluted or even undrinkable. Learn more about this policy by reading our latest blog post [here](#).



ASK LEGISLATORS TO SUPPORT THE BREAK FREE FROM PLASTIC POLLUTION ACT OF 2021

Approximately 11 million metric tons of plastic waste escapes into the ocean from coastal nations every year. Here in the United States we generate the most plastic

waste per capita of any country in the world and much of that waste makes its way into the environment.

The Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act (BFFPPA) recognizes that we cannot recycle our way out of this problem and provides a comprehensive approach to reduce plastic pollution, including source reductions for single-use plastic items, producer responsibility requirements, and targets for collection, reuse and recycling, and more. [Take action now](#) and ask your federal legislators to support the BFFPPA!

Break Free From Plastic



MPA WATCH VOLUNTEER VIRTUAL TRAINING WORKSHOP May 13th at 5:30 pm

Channelkeeper is looking for dedicated volunteers to help us record and track human activities in and adjacent to Santa Barbara's Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) through our MPA Watch program.

We currently monitor the MPAs at Campus Point in Goleta and Naples and Kashtayit MPAs on the Gaviota Coast. The data we collect provides important information to understand how people are using MPAs and also helps inform MPA management.

Becoming an MPA Watch volunteer is easy and fun (and follows social distancing guidelines)! Our next volunteer training workshop will take place virtually on **Thursday, May 13th from 5:30-6:30 pm**. Click [here to RSVP](#) or email penny@sbck.org with any questions regarding the online training.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SANTA BARBARA HARBOR CLEAN-UP Sunday, May 16th

On Sunday, May 16th, from 8 am to 12 noon, the Santa Barbara Waterfront Department will host its annual "Operation Clean Sweep" clean-up of debris from the harbor seafloor. Please join Channelkeeper in volunteering to help with this important effort. Volunteers will provide topside dock support collecting the sunken trash from the harbor bottom retrieved by divers. This year the clean-up will target the City Pier, Fish Float North, and the Urchin Dock. This year's event will also include a beach clean at West Beach and a large item trash collection for slip owners in the harbor. The Waterfront Department generously provides donuts, coffee, and lunch to volunteers. Please [email us](#) if you would like to volunteer.



BLUE WATER BALL

For over 20 years, Springtime for Channelkeeper has been synonymous with the Blue Water Ball. Each year our crew looks forward to gathering with our ocean-loving community to share in the year's successes and provide updates on our current work to protect the Santa Barbara Channel and its watersheds. This year's 2021 Blue Water Ball schedule has been modified due to continued COVID-related circumstances. Please stay tuned for updates. We will have early Fall dates set soon. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact our Development Director, Debra McCarty at debra@sbck.org.

We are so grateful for our community of supporters and allies and wish you good health, safety, and peace during these trying times.



**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](#). Become a member today!

BECOME A MEMBER



Including Santa Barbara Channelkeeper in your estate planning will provide the funds needed to protect water quality, fight pollution, and educate our community about the Santa Barbara Channel and its watersheds for years to come. Contact Development Director Debra McCarty to learn more.

KEEPING WATCH FOR CLEAN WATER
SINCE 1999



Santa Barbara
CHANNELKEEPER®



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