



August eNewsletter

A PLACE WORTH PROTECTING

On July 9, I left Arlington, Virginia for a week-long drive across the US. My destination: Santa Barbara, to join Santa Barbara Channelkeeper as the new Executive Director. Along the way, I met many kind and engaging people. I was awe-struck by the magnificent beauty of our country, including West Virginia's Appalachian Mountains, Kansas' grasslands, Colorado's Rockies and rivers, and Utah's rock formations.

Arriving in Santa Barbara was the highlight of the journey. The first few weeks at the helm of Channelkeeper reinforced these initial beliefs. Every day, I'm amazed at the natural beauty of the ocean, islands, beaches, creeks, and mountains. I love anticipating when the early morning marine layer will lift to reveal clear skies, and then the vivid, peaceful sunsets to close the day. And, the warm welcome I have received from staff and supporters throughout the community has been tremendous.

With all the positive sights and signals around us, it might be easy to dismiss the significant, existing and emerging threats to the water quality and supply, habitats, wildlife, and communities of the Channel and its watersheds. Fortunately, Channelkeeper has been diligently and successfully working for 20

years through advocacy, citizen science, public education and engagement, and when necessary, enforcement actions to protect and restore this remarkable, unique place. I look forward to working with the Channelkeeper team and South Coast community to build on this impressive record of accomplishments and ensure a bright future for generations who do and will call this area home.

Ted Morton
Executive Director



EDUCATION



ADVOCACY



FIELD WORK



ENFORCEMENT



IS IT SAFE TO SWIM AT EAST BEACH?

East Beach at Mission Creek was recently recognized as a “beach bummer” for its levels of fecal indicator bacterial pollution. In fact, it was assigned a D letter grade classification and placed among the ranks of beaches like LA County’s Topanga Beach and the Tijuana Slough National Wildlife Refuge. So, what does this mean?

It's complicated, Channelkeeper's Science and Policy Director, Ben Pitterle wrote in a recent OpEd, "[About East Beach](#)," published in The Santa Barbara Independent. In the article, he outlines important aspects of monitoring and measuring fecal coliform levels at beaches and in water systems, and explains that although more work needs to be done to improve water quality in Santa Barbara, the recent D grade at East Beach doesn't necessarily mean that we shouldn't swim there. We should consider a few factors such as recent rain events before deciding to dive in.

[Read the Article](#)



AUGUST FOCUS: WATER QUALITY

August is a great time to take a moment to consider the value of our water resources and what each of us can do to protect them.

National Water Quality Month was created in 2005 by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and backed by the United Nations in an effort to promote awareness around how to conserve our natural water sources. The month-long initiative aims to inspire conversations and learning about what each of us can do in our own households and communities to ensure that we all have access to safe, clean drinking water for generations to come.

Protecting water quality in the Santa Barbara Channel is at the core of Channelkeeper's work to ensure that our community has access to clean, drinkable, swimmable, fishable water. To that effect, Channelkeeper monitors and advocates to protect water quality in the Santa Barbara Channel and surrounding watersheds.

Our team gathers and shares water quality data to help decision-makers protect and restore local waterways and to foster wider community awareness and involvement in protecting water quality. We collect plankton samples to monitor harmful algal blooms and conduct turbidity monitoring in Goleta Bay to assess the

impacts of mud dumping on Goleta Beach. We respond to citizen complaints of pollution and investigate discharges of polluted water to storm drains, creeks, and beaches.

And you can help us keep local waters clean! Report possible sources of pollution by taking photos and videos and sharing them with us. Volunteer with the Watershed Brigade to remove litter from beaches, creeks, rivers, trails, and urban areas or join Channelkeeper's Stream Team once in-person events resume to help monitor waterways.

Volunteer Opportunities



PLANNING FOR A FUTURE WITH POTABLE REUSE WATER

The City of Santa Barbara enjoys a diverse water supply portfolio, which helps to buffer against water supply threats. However, even with a diverse supply, the City's recent technical evaluation determined that it will likely need new water supplies in the future due to anticipated threats, such as prolonged drought due to climate change.

Potable reuse, the process of using advanced-treated wastewater for drinking water, is identified in the City's Long-Term Water Supply Plan as a feasible new water source to incorporate into the City's supplies.

Potable reuse water projects in the State of California currently supply over 200 million gallons of drinking water a day. These projects meet the existing regulations of **indirect potable reuse**, which means that treated wastewater is injected into groundwater basins for a minimum of two months before it is processed through advanced treatment systems.

The draft regulations for **direct potable reuse**, the type of potable reuse that the

City of Santa Barbara anticipates implementing, which does not require a two-month-long holding time, have just been released and are now being reviewed and evaluated by an expert panel to determine whether or not the regulation as proposed is protective of public health. In accordance with AB 574, the regulation must be completed by December 2023.

Channelkeeper believes recycling wastewater for reuse as potable water is critical to a sustainable water future for our region. Although the regulations are a couple of years away and the implementation of these complex projects can take 10-15 years, we applaud the City for including potable reuse in their planning so that it can become a reality within the next twenty years.



THE WATERSHED BRIGADE CELEBRATES PLOGGUST!
Dispersed Cleanup Event
August 21-22

Plogging, a combination of jogging or walking and picking up litter, is a fun way to be active and stay fit while cleaning up the community. The term actually comes from the Swedish verbs *plocka upp* (pick up) and *jogga* (jog). This August, members of the Watershed Brigade will lace up our sneakers and *plogga* our way to a cleaner environment. We hope you'll join the fun!

On August 21-22, we plan to spread out across the South Coast for a dispersed plogging event. We'll clear litter from as many different coastal pathways as possible. Sign up for your favorite bike path or coastal trail [here](#) and be sure to let us know how much time you spent and how much trash you collect using our convenient [Google Form](#) or Channelkeeper's Watershed Brigade [FB Group Page](#)



MPA WATCH VOLUNTEER VIRTUAL TRAINING WORKSHOP
August 19th 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, August 19th from 5:30-6:30 pm**. Click [here to RSVP](#) or email penny@sbck.org with any questions regarding the online training.



**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 us](#) to learn more.

KEEPING WATCH FOR CLEAN WATER
SINCE 1999



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