



September eNewsletter

HISTORIC MILESTONE FOR THE VENTURA RIVER

Channelkeeper's advocacy for Ventura River reached an important milestone on August 5th, when the City of Ventura, for the first time in history, curtailed all pumping at its well field at Foster Park, specifically for the purpose of restoring flows to the parched river ecosystem. Flows rebounded within days.

The pause in pumping represents a significant achievement in Channelkeeper's ongoing efforts to protect the Ventura River from being overpumped and to provide a lifeline for the many species that rely on the river's water to survive.

After years of legal proceedings and negotiations, Channelkeeper and the City of Ventura reached a partial settlement agreement in 2019 that established a minimum river flow threshold that would trigger the cessation of pumping. This summer, when flows reached those benchmarked levels, the City stopped all pumping, marking a positive step forward for the health of the river, its ecosystems, and the surrounding community.

Channelkeeper's legal action is still pending as the City of Ventura carries out an adjudication involving all water rights holders in the watershed to allocate water supplies. Until the adjudication is finalized, we're pleased to share that Channelkeeper's settlement agreement will keep the Ventura River flowing.



EDUCATION



ADVOCACY



FIELD WORK



ENFORCEMENT



EXXONMOBILE'S OIL TRUCKING PROJECT HEADS TO THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

After a year-long delay, the County of Santa Barbara has released its [revised environmental study](#) of ExxonMobil's proposal to use 70 tanker trucks per day, 7 days a week, to transport oil from its three offshore platforms that have been shut in since the Plains All American Pipeline ruptured in 2015.

This project will be heard before the Santa Barbara Planning Commission on September 29 and October 1. The County's staff report and recommendations will be released on September 10th.

Channelkeeper submitted comments on the draft environmental document highlighting concerns with its failure to adequately address major issues including the restarting of aging platforms, and the revised final environmental document does not resolve these issues. We will be voicing our opposition to the project at the Planning Commission hearing at the end of the month and we urge you to do so as well. Stay tuned for talking points and ways to voice your opinion

about the dangerous impacts this project would have if approved.



UCSB STUDY SHOWS THAT MARINE PROTECTED AREAS ENHANCE LOBSTER FISHERIES

Marine Protected Areas, or MPAs, are underwater parks that provide safe havens for marine wildlife to reproduce, grow, and replenish. In 2012, California completed the nation's first statewide network of underwater parks in an effort to cultivate stronger and more resilient marine ecosystems.

For a recent [study](#), researchers from UCSB compared lobster populations and catch records from waters off the coast of Santa Barbara and Goleta. The data revealed that marine protected areas have benefitted the commercial spiny lobster fishery in our area.

These findings underscore the importance of Channelkeeper's work to build stewardship in support of MPAs and educate the public about the benefits of marine reserves.

Read our latest [blog post](#) about the effect of MPAs on local spiny lobster fisheries.

[Read Blog](#)



A SUMMER OF MARINE EXPLORATION WITH LOCAL STUDENTS

Channelkeeper was happy to resume some of our in-person education programs this summer and our team was thrilled to have youth from The Sea League and Santa Barbara School of Squash join us.

While out on a Seafari, a marine conservation education cruise aboard our research vessel, students cruised north from the Santa Barbara Harbor to Mohawk Reef, where Channelkeeper staff divers put on dive gear and descended into the kelp forest with a camera. Live-feed video, displayed on an onboard monitor, allowed students to see and experience the kelp forest beneath them. They learned about many creatures of the underwater world and what each of us can do to protect them. They also took plankton samples, pulled marine debris from the Channel (including several Mylar balloons), and took a pledge to do their very best to protect the ocean.



Photo: Amber McEldowney

TWO SUCCESSFUL SANTA CRUZ ISLAND MARINE DEBRIS CLEANUPS

In early August and September, Channelkeeper staff traveled to Santa Cruz Island with a team from NOAA Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, volunteers, and local commercial lobster fishermen to clean up marine debris.

In August, our joint effort removed 1,760 pounds of trash and marine debris from a 1.5 mile-long stretch of shoreline along Chinese Harbor on Santa Cruz Island. Most of the debris recovered consisted of buoys, rope, and miscellaneous plastics.

While we are still awaiting the total trash weight from the September cleanup, we anticipate similar results.

The effort is part of an ongoing initiative called Goal: Clean Seas Channel Islands, funded by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation. The Channelkeeper crew is honored to be part of this cleanup effort!



WATERSHED BRIGADE'S MICROTRASH CHALLENGE September 18th

We hope you'll join us for the Microtrash Challenge at West Beach on Saturday, September 18th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm!

For this Coastal Cleanup Day event, we'll meet in person to collect litter, paying special attention to pieces of microtrash. Any litter smaller than a golf ball can be considered microtrash, from tiny wrappers to water bottle caps, styrofoam bits, and discarded pieces of packaging and plastic.

Volunteers of all ages can join in the fun and there will be **Rori's Ice Cream** for 20 lucky participants! Visit the Watershed Brigade's [Microtrash Challenge](#) event page to find more information and please [sign up](#) below.

We encourage volunteers to bring their own gloves, buckets, kitchen strainers (for collecting microtrash), but we will also have cleanup supplies available at the event.

Don't forget to share your cleanup data using our convenient [Google Form](#) or on Channelkeeper's Watershed Brigade [FB Group Page](#).

[Sign Up](#)



CREEK WEEK
September 18-25th

Creek Week is an annual community event celebrating our local creeks and ocean, with many groups sponsoring events throughout the week to help build awareness and stewardship of the natural riparian treasures of the South Coast. Creek Week is hosted by the Santa Barbara City Creeks Division, Project Clean Water, and the cities of Carpinteria and Goleta.

The fun begins on Saturday, September 18th with Coastal Cleanup Day and there are opportunities throughout the week to join in restoration project tours, beach and creek cleanups, and much more! There's even a watershed tour on the Land Shark! With a week of outdoor events and virtual talks, there is something for everyone!

[Creek Week Schedule](#)



WORLD RIVERS DAY September 26

World Rivers Day provides an opportunity to celebrate our beloved waterways, recognize their value, and advance the stewardship of rivers. Rivers everywhere face an array of threats today and our very own Ventura River is in peril.

Channelkeeper advocates on the Ventura River's behalf to end over-pumping, restore flows, and ensure the river's health and ecological richness in the years ahead. Learn more about Channelkeeper's involvement in restoring flows to the Ventura River and how you can support these efforts.

[Learn More](#)



JOIN OUR TEAM!

Santa Barbara Channelkeeper is looking for a Development Director. This individual will serve as the organization's principal fundraising strategist and will be responsible for planning, managing, and implementing all fundraising programs, including the annual fund, major gifts, planned giving, fundraising events, institutional grants, and capital/special gifts campaigns. Candidates should be passionate about the mission and work of Santa Barbara Channelkeeper, enthusiastic about fundraising, and experienced in asking for financial support from a diversity of sources.

Find the full job description and application guidelines [here](#).



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.

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