



November eNewsletter

DROUGHT DECLARATION INTENSIFIES STATE-WIDE WATER CONSERVATION EFFORTS

In October, Governor Gavin Newsom declared a drought emergency for the entire state of California, extending the declaration already active in 50 counties. Under the proclamation, water suppliers are asked to prepare for the possibility of a dry year ahead.

The drought [declaration](#) authorizes California's water regulators to ban wasteful water use such as spraying down public sidewalks and directs the Office of Emergency Services to fund drinking water programs for public health and safety. The declaration also requires municipalities to implement their water shortage contingency plans.

As the state enters a potential third year of drought, the need to intensify water conservation efforts is clear. The declaration sets the stage for future water restrictions. For now, however, citizens are asked to voluntarily reduce their water usage by 15%. Water consumption patterns in our area appear to be moving in the right direction - Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties are using 5.2% and 3.1% less water than in August 2020 - but because of the severity of the drought conditions and projections for a warmer and dryer La Niña winter, our community

needs to do more to ensure that we make conservation a way of life.

Read our latest [blog post](#) to learn more about the declaration and what you can do to help conserve water.



EDUCATION



ADVOCACY



FIELD WORK



ENFORCEMENT



CALIFORNIA MARINE PROTECTED AREAS UNDERGO 10-YEAR REVIEW IN 2022

In 2012, California became an international leader in ocean protection by completing the US' first statewide network of marine protected areas (MPAs). A few of the local MPAs that make up the state network include Campus Point and Naples and several near the Channel Islands. Similar to parks on land that protect special habitats and wildlife from overdevelopment, MPAs are underwater parks that conserve California's stunning marine ecosystems for future generations to observe and enjoy.

Scientific studies, including ones conducted at our Channel Islands and along the Santa Barbara coastline, have shown that MPAs help restore depleted fish and wildlife populations. MPAs have been called "hope spots" because, worldwide,

they are restoring and maintaining the beauty and bounty of ocean life threatened by pollution, habitat destruction, and overfishing. In the face of climate change, MPAs are more important than ever.

The first [MPA Decadal Management Review](#) will take place in 2022 and all ocean users are invited to participate. It is critical that supporters of our MPA network make their voices heard in order to preserve protections offered by these areas. Stay tuned for upcoming opportunities to show your support for our MPAs.



OCTOBER TARBALL SURVEY MARKS THE 25TH DATA SET

Natural oil seepage has occurred in the Channel for millions of years and fluctuates greatly in volume from day to day and year to year due to both geologic factors and storms. As wind and waves break the oil slick into smaller patches, tarballs form and ultimately can end up beaches.

Channelkeeper performs quarterly surveys of tar presence on 14 local beaches between Gaviota and Emma Wood State Beach. In October, our team completed its 25th set of tarball surveys since 2015.

In each survey, we record the number of tarballs per square meter, as well as the size and characteristics (sticky or weathered) of each clump. The data that we collect helps establish a baseline of tarballs seen on our local beaches so that we can differentiate spilled oil from that of natural seeps in the future.



Volunteers remove trash from a dry Mission Creek on October 16th.



The same Mission Creek location during the rain event on October 25th.

WATERSHED BRIGADE CLEANS UP MISSION CREEK IN TIME FOR FIRST FLUSH

The first rain of the year is often called the “first flush” because it washes all the trash and contaminants including gasoline, lubricants, pesticides, fertilizers, sediment, and heavy metals that have accumulated on roadways and in neighborhoods throughout the dry months of the year through storm drains and into creeks, and ultimately into the ocean.

On October 25, the South Coast received its first significant rainfall of the year--approximately 0.71 inches in downtown Santa Barbara and as much as 4.59 inches on San Marcos Pass. Ventura County received from 0.5 to 2 inches.

In anticipation of the rain, the Watershed Brigade targeted local creeks for its monthly cleanup to help reduce the amount of trash flushed into the ocean. October’s dispersed event focused on Mission Creek. 27 Brigadiers conducted cleanups along 7 locations along Mission Creek, removing over 200 pounds of trash before the rain could sweep it downstream.

We hope you’ll join us for future pre- and post-rain event cleanups to help prevent trash from being washed out to the ocean. Join the [Watershed Brigade](#) to be part of this great effort!



FIND A LOBSTER TRAP ON THE BEACH? LET US KNOW!

Channelkeeper conducts group cleanups of abandoned lobster traps that wash up and concentrate on local beaches as marine debris. Since the reopening of the commercial lobster season on October 6, we have received reports of derelict gear appearing onshore and we expect that more traps will end up on local beaches before the season closes on March 16, 2022.

In an effort to reduce the number of lobster traps lost, in 2016, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) established a trap tag program and trap limits to help track gear. The attached lobster tags contain information that identifies the trap owner and the year the trap was set. With the help of volunteers, Channelkeeper monitors trap activity and alerts CDFW when gear washes ashore so that traps can be recovered by their owners and possibly reused.

If you see a trap onshore, please take a photo of the tag and send [Channelkeeper](#) detailed information about the location (beach name with latitude and longitude details). Our staff will report the tag to CDFW and track it to make sure it is removed from the beach.



EASTSIDE COMMUNITY CLEANUP WITH PATH

November 20

9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Join us on November 20th for an **in-person** cleanup around Santa Barbara's lower Eastside! This month, Channelkeeper's Watershed Brigade is partnering with PATH, an organization dedicated to helping those experiencing homelessness, to conduct an urban cleanup around Santa Barbara's Eastside neighborhood.

We'll meet at PATH's offices, 816 Cacique Street #3622, at 9:00 am and head out to 6 different locations around the Eastside to pick up trash and debris. Please sign up below so we know how many volunteers to expect.

[Sign Up](#)



GIVING TUESDAY
November 30th

Giving Tuesday, a global generosity movement, is just around the corner. This day of giving offers an opportunity to do good in your community by sharing your time, a donation, or the power of your voice to important causes.

We hope you'll consider supporting Santa Barbara Channelkeeper with a tax-deductible donation that will help us hold polluters accountable and protect our precious beaches, creeks, and coast for future generations.

DONATE



RAIN BARREL CONVERSION KITS FOR SALE

With the rainy season upon us and our fingers crossed for some much-needed winter rains this year, now is the perfect time to set up a rain barrel. Channelkeeper has several rain barrel conversion kits for rectangular downspouts for sale for \$30! These kits have all the parts needed to convert any barrel. You just need to provide the barrel.

Rain barrels are a great first step in water harvesting where rainwater is collected from the roof for reuse at a later time. Rain gardens that allow water to percolate into the soil, gray water systems that can reuse water for fruit trees, and larger rainwater collection systems like cisterns are other great ways that you can take action to conserve water.

[Contact us](#) today to purchase your rain barrel conversion kit!



JOIN OUR POD

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](#).



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



Santa Barbara
CHANNELKEEPER®



CONNECT WITH US

