



CHANNELKEEPER AND HEAL THE OCEAN PARTNER TO PROTECT LOCAL CREEKS AFTER THE ALISAL FIRE

In the months since the Alisal Fire burned nearly 17,000 acres on the Gaviota Coast, protecting local waterways from erosion and fire-related contaminants has become increasingly important—especially during the winter storm season.

In an effort to prevent post-fire-related pollution, Channelkeeper and Heal the Ocean have collaborated to install stormwater control measures around burned structures to keep sediment, ash, and toxic materials from entering Refugio Creek, the water supply, and the ocean.

This partnership is part of a larger community aid effort spearheaded by the Santa Barbara Bucket Brigade to expedite post-fire recovery. By sharing expertise, resources, and project responsibilities, this collaboration aims to help provide necessary aid and address post-fire recovery effectively and quickly.

Just before December storms brought more than eight and a half inches of rain, the Santa Barbara Bucket Brigade contacted property owners, Heal the Ocean provided funding for materials, and Channelkeeper's six-person staff dug trenches and worked to install forty-five straw wattles, long tubes of compressed straw, at

ten locations to contain fire-related pollutants.

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EDUCATION



ADVOCACY



FIELD WORK



ENFORCEMENT



CHANNELKEEPER SUPPORTS THE PROPOSED CHUMASH HERITAGE NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

The Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary is currently being considered for designation by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The nominated area stretches along 156 miles of coastline connecting the boundaries of Monterey Bay and Channel Islands national marine sanctuaries. The Northern Chumash Tribal Council submitted the sanctuary nomination in July 2015, and NOAA is considering sanctuary designation to protect the region's important marine ecosystem, honor the cultural values of the local Indigenous communities, and protect a collection of historically significant shipwrecks and cultural sites.

Channelkeeper is pleased to support the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary as a means to further safeguard marine resources along the Central Coast. Our team will recommend that the proposed sanctuary boundary extends to the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, that sanctuary protections include prohibitions of offshore oil development and seismic testing, and that water quality protection areas be established to promote non-regulatory programs to address coastal pollution.

We also encourage you to participate in the designation process. As the first step in this process, NOAA has requested input on issues related to designating this area as a national marine sanctuary and will review written public comments submitted before January 31.

[Submit Comments](#)

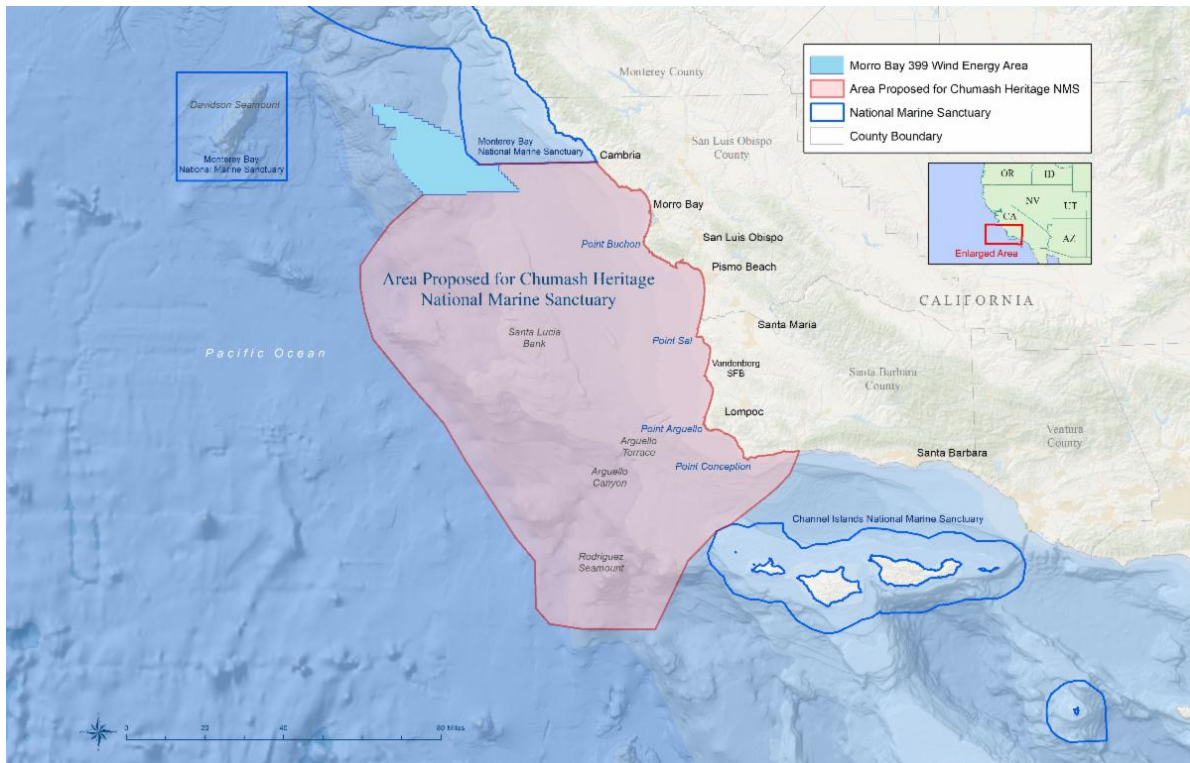




Photo: Capt. Daniel Bertucelli/SBCFD

SHARE YOUR INPUT ABOUT THE EXXON MOBIL TRUCKING PROPOSAL

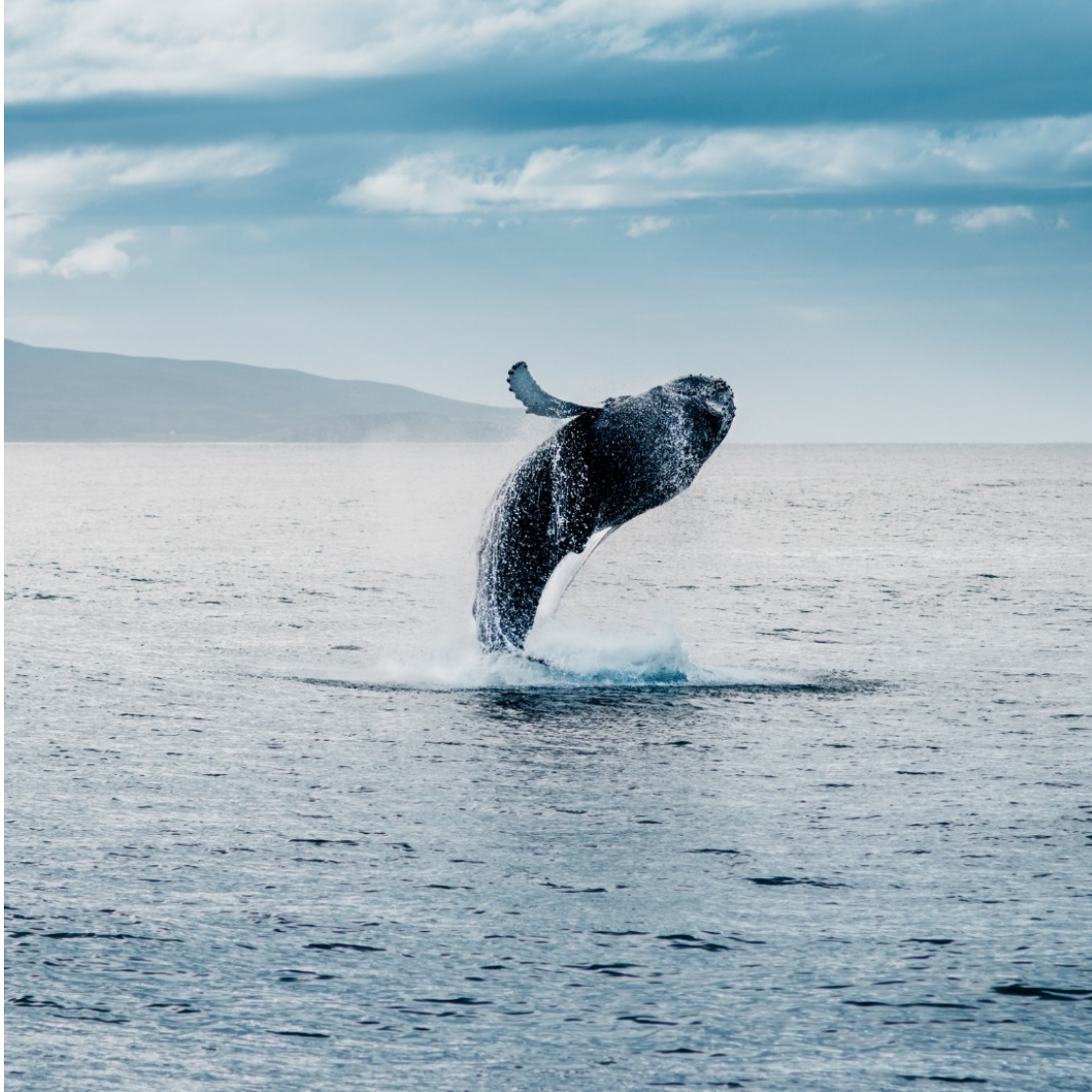
The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors will likely decide at a February 8th hearing to either approve or deny Exxon Mobil's proposal to restart three aging offshore platforms and truck crude oil produced at the platforms to Santa Maria and Kern County.

If approved, up to 70 trucks a day would transport crude oil, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for up to seven years. The Board of Supervisors hearing on February 8th is the next major step in this project.

In November, the County Planning Commission voted 3 to 2 to recommend the Board of Supervisors to deny the project. Channelkeeper and nearly 100 other community members and groups spoke in opposition to this project due to many concerns including the significant and unavoidable impacts from oil spills and concerns with trucking hazards.

As was demonstrated at the Planning Commission, it will be important for the community to voice its concerns about this project either by submitting a comment letter prior to the February 8th meeting or providing public testimony at the meeting.

Although details about the February 8th hearing have not yet been provided, the public can check [here](#) for meeting times and information.



CALIFORNIA MARINE PROTECTED AREAS UNDERGO 10-YEAR REVIEW IN 2022

This year, California's Marine Protected Area (MPA) Network will mark the 10th anniversary of its completion and will undergo the first MPA Decadal Management Review. This process will result in a report reviewing the past ten years of MPA management, evaluating the performance of the MPA management in meeting the goals of the Marine Life Protection Act, and making recommendations for future adaptive management actions.

This January, Channelkeeper, as part of the statewide network of MPA Watch programs, is submitting ten years' worth of MPA Watch data about how humans are using our MPAs and the areas adjacent to them. Channelkeeper's MPA Watch data was collected by staff and dedicated volunteers at the region's coastal MPAs including Campus Point, Naples, and Kashtayit MPAs, and by boat surveys along the coast and at Anacapa, Santa Cruz, and Santa Rosa Islands.

As part of the review process, a series of public meetings were hosted this fall and there will be several more opportunities for community engagement over the next year and a half. 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.



NOAH AND RAMON WANG WIN CONGRESSIONAL AWARD FOR THEIR WATERSHED BRIGADE WEB APP

Twin brothers Noah and Ramon Wang are Santa Barbara High School seniors who joined the Watershed Brigade over the summer to fulfill required community service hours. However, the brothers went above and beyond to log an impressive 280 hours, walk 264 miles, and remove over 1,000 pounds of trash from the community. With school back in session, the Wang brothers continued their work with the Watershed Brigade by creating an outstanding web app that displays the program's impact via interactive maps and scoreboards and provides a clever trash hotspot reporting feature.

The Wang brothers submitted their web app to the Congressional App Challenge and won for their district! Channelkeeper was honored to attend their Zoom meeting in which Congressman Salud Carbajal presented their award. Congratulations to Noah and Ramon for their excellent work and achievement!

We invite you to explore the map to see all the locations that have been cleaned up by Watershed Brigade volunteers or report a trash hotspot by toggling on "Report Trash." Check out the monthly and yearly scoreboards to see the points earned by Watershed Participants in the current Monthly Challenge or cumulatively since the program's inception.

[Explore Web App](#)



WATERSHED BRIGADE VOLUNTEERS STABILIZE HILLSIDES BEFORE WINTER RAINS

This December, as winter storms approached, Watershed Brigade volunteers sprung into action to protect a sensitive creek habitat on the Gaviota Coast.

The Alisal Fire not only burned thousands of acres in October, but fire prevention measures left many hillsides vulnerable to erosion. Containment lines were bulldozed across the Harris Family Farm, resulting in several bare slopes above Las Zorillas Creek.

In order to prevent sediment from flowing into the creek and the ocean, about 30 Watershed Brigade volunteers came together on December 18th to help stabilize the hillside by installing organic straw wattles, spreading a native seed mix to restore vegetation, and covering the slopes with straw.

Our crew completed an impressive amount of work in just a few hours. Thank you to all the volunteers who came out for this great workday! We checked in after the rains and the Harris family let us know that the erosion control measures held up well during the storms. We'd also like to thank Jessie Zamichow for photographing our efforts!

Make sure to check out our [Facebook Group](#) and [Instagram pages](#) to be inspired by what the Watershed Brigade is accomplishing and check out our [event page](#) to join our next volunteer effort!



FILM PLASTIC COLLECTION IN 2021 - A SUCCESS!

Thanks to Ablitt's Fine Cleaners the Santa Barbara community diverted almost 15,000 pounds of film plastic from landfills in 2021! This accomplishment is all the more impressive considering the lightweight nature of the material. Channelkeeper extends our gratitude to Ablitt's Fine Cleaners for providing this opportunity, to all the wonderful volunteers that help sort plastic, and to all the community members who collect their film plastic.

For those new to the project, lightweight polyethylene packaging, also known as film plastic, is everywhere. It's used for all kinds of plastic bags, product wrappers, and dry cleaning. Most 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. Ablitt's participates in a film plastic collection program sponsored by Trex, a company that uses the film plastic to make composite decking material for outdoor furniture and other items.

Community members sign up to attend a collection event at Ablitt's (Tuesdays from 2:00 to 3:00 pm and Saturdays from 10:30 to 11:30 am) or make appointments at Channelkeeper or the Community Environmental Council and sort their own film plastic with a trained volunteer or staff person.

Click [here](#) to join the Ablitt's email list to stay up to date about collection events or click [here](#) to set up an appointment to sort your film plastic at Channelkeeper's office.



MPA WATCH VOLUNTEER VIRTUAL TRAINING WORKSHOP January 27th 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.

Volunteers 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 helps inform MPA management. Channelkeeper's MPA Watch data are also being submitted to the state as part of the first MPA Decadal Management Review taking place in 2022.

Becoming an MPA Watch volunteer is easy and fun! Our next volunteer training

workshop will take place virtually on Thursday, January 27th from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Email penny@sbck.org to RSVP. The virtual training workshop will be followed by a one-hour outdoor field training session at Campus Point MPA at a future time.

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