



## *March eNewsletter*

### **CHANNELKEEPER SUPPORTS STEELHEAD ENDANGERED SPECIES LISTING**

Southern California steelhead trout are an iconic species that once flourished in the streams and rivers connected to the Santa Barbara Channel. Steelhead remain sacred and culturally significant to indigenous communities in our region. In addition, just a few generations ago, abundant populations of steelhead in local streams were popular among recreational fishermen.

Steelhead are also considered a critical indicator species signaling the greater health of local watersheds. In 1997, Southern California steelhead were listed as an endangered species by the Federal Government. Since that time, the species has continued to decline. Today, it's rare to see steelhead in the wild.

Last month, Channelkeeper addressed the California Fish and Wildlife Commission to support a petition, submitted by our partners at California Trout, to list Southern California steelhead as an endangered species under the State's own Endangered Species Act. Listing is an appropriate acknowledgment of the dire risk of extinction this species faces and the reality that additional measures are needed to improve the condition of local watersheds to support recovery.

In light of recent attempts to dismantle federal environmental policies, a state

listing will provide some assurance of regulatory protection for the species to the benefit of watershed health as a whole.

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EDUCATION



ADVOCACY



FIELD WORK



ENFORCEMENT

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### SHARE YOUR CONCERNS ABOUT THE EXXON MOBIL TRUCKING PROJECT

On [March 8th](#), the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors will consider the Planning Commission's recommendation to deny [Exxon Mobil's proposal](#) to restart three aging offshore platforms and transport crude oil produced at the platforms by truck to Santa Maria and Kern County.

If the proposal is approved, up to 70 trucks a day would transport crude oil, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for up to seven years along coastal Highway 101 and narrow, winding Route 166. The Board of Supervisors hearing is the next major step in this project. The public can view the live stream [here](#).

Channelkeeper and other groups and community members are opposed to this project due to many concerns including the significant and unavoidable impacts on the environment and wildlife from oil spills and trucking hazards.

You can participate in two ways:

1. [Email the Board of Supervisors](#) before Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup> to voice your concern and urge them to deny the project;
  2. Speak up during the virtual Board of Supervisors hearing. View the [agenda](#) and register to speak via Zoom [here](#).
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### CHANNEL ISLAND CLEANUP SUCCESS!

Three Channelkeeper staff members recently joined the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, Island Packers, Channel Islands Adventure Company, United by Blue, and a corp of volunteers for a marine debris cleanup at the Channel Islands.

On the morning of our departure from the Ventura Harbor, we had strong Santa Ana winds blowing at our backs, which made for choppy seas on the crossing. Even with challenging conditions, our team was able to conduct cleanups at two locations—Chinese Harbor at Santa Cruz Island and Bat Ray Cove (called Trash Cove by some) at Anacapa Island.

The mighty, 26-person team picked up nearly 500 pounds of marine debris plastic from these two beach locations, filling two dumpsters upon return to the mainland. The Channelkeeper crew was honored to be part of this cleanup effort.

Another island cleanup date may be planned later this year. If you are an experienced ocean kayaker and strong swimmer and would be interested in participating in an island cleanup, [email us](#) to be notified regarding upcoming opportunities.



### **INTRODUCING OUR NEW BOARD PRESIDENT**

In November, Channelkeeper’s Board of Directors elected a new team of board officers, including Brad Newton as its new board president. Brad has served on the board since 2016, and his term as president began on January 1, 2022. Brad is replacing Mike Wondolowski, who served as board president for the past five years.

In his professional life, Brad specializes in geo-hydrology and has more than three decades of experience in environmental consulting.

Read more about Brad's interest in earth surface processes, his commitment to service, and his plans for supporting the exciting next phase of Channelkeeper's work on our blog.

[Blog](#)



## **THE WATERSHED BRIGADE AND VENTURA SURFRIDER PARTNER TO CLEAN UP SOUTH COAST BEACHES**

**March 12th**

**9:00 am to 11:00 am**

In an effort to clean up as much of our coastline as possible, this month, Channelkeeper's Watershed Brigade is joining forces with Ventura County Chapter Surfrider to remove trash from a 3-mile stretch of beach from the shores of La Conchita Beach south to Oil Piers Beach.

On March 12<sup>th</sup>, volunteers with Channelkeeper's Watershed Brigade will meet at La Conchita Beach at 9:00 am to clean the area from La Conchita Beach to Mussel Shoals. Volunteers with Ventura Surfrider will meet at Oil Piers Beach to remove trash from Oil Piers Beach north to Punta Gorda. By combining efforts, our organizations hope to cover more ground and have a greater positive impact on the coastal environment.

Join us! Meet at La Conchita Beach at 9:00 am with your water, hat, and litter-

picking gear. Find more information [here](#) and sign up below!

Sign up



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**19th Annual Student Art Show**  
**April 23rd**

Channelkeeper is pleased to host the 19th annual juried student art show again this year! High school students from across the South Coast will find creative ways to express what the Channel means to them through art.

This year's student reception and awards ceremony will take place as part of the Santa Barbara Earth Day Celebration, hosted by the Community Environmental Council, on April 23rd at the Arlington Theater.

We couldn't be more excited to host a show celebrating local students, their incredible art skills, and the natural beauty and biodiversity of the Santa Barbara Channel.

Please save the date for the show and award ceremony. We know you will be inspired by the incredible artwork created by local teens. Click [here](#) for more information or send us an [email](#).



## RAIN BARRELS AVAILABLE

This spring, don't miss the opportunity to capture free, clean rainwater to use for future outdoor watering by picking up one of our repurposed oak rain barrels.

Rain barrels promote water conservation and reduce stormwater runoff—a major source of water pollution. They are also a great first step into rainwater harvesting systems that can include larger collection systems with cisterns, installing rain gardens, and other water conservation tools like greywater systems for outdoor irrigation needs.

In recent years, local brewers and vintners have donated used barrels to help us spread these water-saving tools across our community. This year's barrels come to us from SAMsSARA Wine Co.

For a special price of \$50, you receive a rain barrel and a simple DIY kit to connect the barrel to your rectangular roof downspout. Limited supply available for pick

up.

Get your rain barrel today!

Rain Barrel Info

KEEPING WATCH FOR CLEAN WATER  
SINCE 1999



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