



December eNewsletter

COMMUNITY VOICES CONCERNS OVER THE CITY'S CRUISE SHIP PROGRAM

The community turned out in force at the Santa Barbara Harbor Commission's December 1st Cruise Ship Subcommittee meeting to express their concerns regarding the City's cruise ship program. By a show of hands, all but a few of the more than seventy participants expressed support for reforms to improve the program's alignment with the community's environmental goals. Public comments were also overwhelmingly in favor of program reform.

The 2.5-hour-long discussion ranged from the economics of the cruise ship program to environmental and social impacts and included an air emissions report from Timothy Mitro, Air Quality Engineer from the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District.

In a comparison of local cruise ship emissions to passenger vehicle emissions, Mitro explained that a cruise ship carrying 3,575 visitors produces approximately 150 times more nitrogen oxide pollution than the same number of visitors arriving by car from Los Angeles (in 1,788 vehicles, assuming two visitors per vehicle). With regard to greenhouse gas emissions, cruise ships emit approximately 2.2 times more carbon dioxide emissions than the equivalent trip by passenger car.

Channelkeeper's Ben Pitterle addressed the Harbor Commission and explained

that, despite existing regulations, significant amounts of pollution are discharged from cruise ships to the Santa Barbara Channel and more broadly to our oceans and atmosphere.

The subcommittee members plan to review the public input from the session and reconvene to discuss any changes that could be made to the cruise ship programs. There will be additional hearings to allow for more public input on the program. Channelkeeper is currently drafting specific policy recommendations, for consideration by the City, that would strictly limit cruise ship visitation based on ship technologies, practices, and compliance history.

If you would like to stay updated on future opportunities to support this cause, email cruiseship@sbck.org to join our rapidly growing list of supporters.



CHANNELKEEPER PARTICIPATES IN PFAS RESEARCH

Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, are found in hundreds of everyday products from non-stick cooking pans to water-resistant clothing. They are also toxic—known to cause cancer, liver and kidney disease, and other health issues—and biopersistent, or able to remain in organisms indefinitely without breaking down.

Because of their widespread use, release, and disposal over decades, PFAS are found virtually everywhere, including in waterways throughout the United States.

Last summer, 113 Waterkeeper groups from around the nation tested primary waterways in their jurisdictions. Each collected water samples from two locations, one upstream and one downstream of a potential source of PFAS contamination. At least one PFAS compound was detected in 95 of the 114

(83%) waterways sampled.

Channelkeeper participated in the study by collecting and submitting water samples from the Ventura River, both upstream and downstream of the Ojai Valley Sanitation District's Treatment facility, which discharges effluent into the river just south of Foster Park. Our samples revealed PFAS in both locations, with higher concentrations below the wastewater treatment facility.

Read more on [Channelkeeper's blog](#).



HELP DOCUMENT KING TIDES DECEMBER 23 and 24

The term King Tide describes an especially high winter tide when the sun, the Earth, and the moon line up. Each winter, high tide events provide us with a great opportunity to understand how sea level rise will impact California's 1,100 miles of coastline. During the third week of December, our beaches experience extreme high and low tides, and King Tides return in late January.

You can take part in an exciting community science initiative! On December 23 and 24, take photos of beaches at high tide and share them with the California King Tides Project, an initiative led by the California Coastal Commission.

The [California King Tides Project](#) engages the public to help visualize future sea levels by observing the high tides of today and how those tides interact with our coastal infrastructure, recreation areas, and ecosystems. Photos and observations by community scientists help document current flood risk in coastal areas, visualize the impacts of future sea level rise in a community, validate climate change models by comparing predictions with the high-tide reality, and serve as a living record of change for future generations.

Head to the beach on December 23 and 24 to document this winter's King Tides. The highest tides will take place during the morning hours:

- December 23, 2022 - high 8:31 AM / 6.99 ft.
- December 24, 2022 - high 9:18 AM / 6.96 ft.

Click [here](#) to participate.



CHANNELKEEPER'S WATERSHED BRIGADE AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE CENTER CLEANUP LOCAL CREEKS

In November, Channelkeeper's Watershed Brigade joined forces with the Environmental Defense Center (EDC) to remove trash from Atascadero Creek in Santa Barbara County and San Jose Creek in the City of Goleta. Working together on this community event allowed us to clean up a large area prior to the arrival of early December rains.

A record number of 44 volunteers came out and made this collaborative cleanup a smashing success. Collectively, volunteers removed 2,630 pounds of trash from stretches of these two creeks, picking up lots of common items like wrappers, drink bottles, cans, and bags in addition to some large items such as shopping carts, bicycle frames, tires, and discarded clothing.

Channelkeeper was honored to contribute to this effort and looks forward to more collaborative cleanups in the future. We'd like to thank all of the volunteers who helped make this cleanup so successful.



JOIN THE SOLSTICE SEA STAR SEARCH
December 20th through 23rd

This winter, researchers from the California Academy of Sciences are documenting the presence of sea stars along the California coast. They have invited the public to help locate and photograph all species of sea stars, although they are particularly interested in finding Sunflower Sea Stars (*Pycnopodia helianthoides*).

This is a fun opportunity to explore tidepools and contribute to an important community science initiative. December's evening low tides are the perfect time to take a long walk and search for sea stars.

To participate:

- Head out to the tidepools during the **lowest low tide** on December 20th-23rd.
 - Document any sea stars seen on **iNaturalist**.
 - If a Sunflower Star is spotted send the iNaturalist observation link to: **solsticeseastarsearch@gmail.com** and report it **[here](#)**.
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HELP US MAKE MEANINGFUL CHANGE

As 2022 comes to a close we hope that you'll consider supporting Channelkeeper with a tax-deductible donation. Help us protect this special place, including our precious beaches, creeks, coast, and offshore waters for future generations. You can make a difference for the environment by supporting Channelkeeper today.

Your Gift Will Help Channelkeeper:

- Monitor local waterways to track down and eliminate pollution sources;
- Convince the City of Santa Barbara to reassess and reduce the number of cruise ship arrivals to meet community environmental priorities;
- Remove thousands of pounds of trash, marine debris, and abandoned fishing gear from our waterways and coastline;
- Revive the Ventura River by working to secure a lasting agreement so that the river's flow in its lower reaches supports fish, wildlife, and our community's access to nature;
- Secure stronger water quality rules to prevent agricultural pollution; and
- Educate local students about the environment.

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