



FEDERAL AGENCY IDENTIFIES COMPLETE REMOVAL OF OFFSHORE INFRASTRUCTURE AS PREFERRED DECOMMISSIONING OPTION

The U.S. Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) filed an official [Record of Decision](#) on December 12th, identifying the complete removal of the oil and gas infrastructure on the Pacific Outer Continental Shelf off of California's coast as its preferred decommissioning option.

The agency's choice supports the complete removal and onshore disposal of infrastructure, such as platforms, pipelines, and other facilities located beyond three miles offshore of the southern California coast. This decision will govern twenty-three oil and gas platforms which were installed between 1967 and 1989 and will eventually be decommissioned.

The agency also committed to performing environmental analyses under the National Environmental Policy Act for each platform before decommissioning actions take place. This site-specific review will examine the impact on marine life, water quality, air quality, and other resources and identify measures to minimize harmful impacts.

The decision comes after a lengthy process. BSEE considered several decommissioning options including partial removal of infrastructure, different



CALIFORNIA ADOPTS DIRECT POTABLE REUSE REGULATIONS

In December, the California State Water Resources Control Board unanimously approved statewide regulations to govern direct potable reuse or the introduction of highly treated wastewater directly back into the water supply distribution system.

After a decade-long process, the [final version](#) of the regulations was approved after a panel of scientists and engineers [evaluated work](#) conducted by the California State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water and determined that the standards are protective of public health.

Currently, recycled water is injected into aquifers before being reintroduced into the water distribution system, a process called [indirect potable reuse](#). With the adoption of the new direct potable reuse standards, the state now has a more comprehensive suite of regulations that will help diversify and build greater drought-related resiliency of regional water supplies.

Next, the approved regulations will undergo a final review by the Office of Administrative Law before being implemented.

The [California Coastkeeper Alliance](#), a coalition of Waterkeeper groups of which Channelkeeper is a member, co-sponsored Assembly Bill 574 in 2017, requiring the State Water Board to adopt the direct potable reuse regulations by the end of 2023.



HELP WITH STORM RESPONSE EFFORTS

In recent weeks, winter storms have brought significant rainfall to our area. During rain events such as these, stormwater carries trash and debris from streets and sidewalks through the City of Santa Barbara's storm drain system to the ocean.

Channelkeeper's litter-fighting volunteer group, the Watershed Brigade, works to clean up beaches, creeks, and coastal areas before and after rain events, in addition to year-round trash cleanup efforts to prevent the flow of debris through the watershed.

Read more about these critical efforts on our blog and learn about how you can get involved.

[Read Blog](#)



SPECIAL THANKS TO KEN FALSTROM

Channelkeeper would like to express its profound gratitude to Ken Falstrom, a founding board member and indefatigable advocate for the environment. Ken will step away from the board in 2024, after more than twenty years of supporting the organization’s work to protect and restore the Santa Barbara Channel and its watersheds as a director. We are grateful beyond words for Ken’s insightful humanist perspective, his legal expertise, and his wry sense of humor.

“Ken’s contributions to Santa Barbara Channelkeeper are vast and consequential,” says executive director Ted Morton. “He is one of a handful of community supporters who established a solid foundation at Channelkeeper, shaped programs that helped secure clean water and habitat protections, and set us up for a bright future. We are grateful for Ken’s dedication to Channelkeeper.”



CHANNELKEEPER WELCOMES ANNIE LOVELL

Channelkeeper is thrilled to welcome Annie Lovell to the team as our new Development Director. Annie brings experience in fundraising, grant writing, and community building, along with a deep appreciation for the ocean and a background in environmental science.

Annie began her career as an environmental consultant, focusing on water resource management, and as a project coordinator for a small watershed management non-profit in Hawaii. She also worked in the international adventure travel industry before moving to Santa Barbara to pursue her master's degree in environmental science and management from the UCSB Bren School, specializing in Coastal Marine Resource Management.

We can't wait for each of you to meet Annie and thought that we would pique your curiosity with a short interview about her interests and experience.

[Read Interview](#)

22nd Annual Blue Water Ball

March 16, 2024

SAVE THE DATE FOR BLUE WATER BALL 2024

Mark your calendars! Channelkeeper's 22nd **Blue Water Ball** will take place on **Saturday, March 16, 2024**, at the **Cabrillo Pavilion**, and you won't want to miss it!

Blue Water Ball is Channelkeeper's biggest event of the year, raising critical funds that make it possible for us to protect the splendor of the Channel, our beaches, creeks, and coast.

We hope you'll join us to connect with the Channelkeeper community and celebrate the impressive environmental impact we are making together and discover more about our future work.

Keep an eye out for event updates and ticket sales info!

Styrofoam Cleanup

Hendry's Beach

January 7

1:00 to 3:00 pm



STYROFOAM CLEANUP

JANUARY 7

1 pm to 3 pm

The Watershed Brigade is hosting an important cleanup event at Hendry's Beach on January 7th. We have received reports of large amounts of styrofoam located in the area between Hendry's Beach and Hope Ranch Beach. Styrofoam is not biodegradable and instead breaks down into microplastics which can be ingested by marine life. These microplastics can leach toxins into the environment, be mistaken as food by wildlife, and bioaccumulate in the marine food web.

Volunteers will meet at Hendry's Beach at 1 pm on January 7th. Channelkeeper will provide cleaning supplies including strainers to sift the sand for these microplastics. If you're unable to participate in the event, we encourage volunteers to go out on their own or with friends to clean up this area.

We hope you will join us! Sign up below.

[Sign Up](#)



Channelkeeper Board Walk

January 11

Rincon Beach Park

CHANNELKEEPER'S JANUARY BOARD WALK

January 11

Rincon Beach Park

Our January Board Walk will be a tidepooling excursion at Rincon Beach Park. We plan to meet at the picnic tables next to the parking lot on the northwest side of Rincon Point at 3:30 pm. Join us to learn about intertidal habitats and how our local marine life adapts to this dynamic environment. This short hike will be led by board member Sarah Sikich, who will share information about our local coastal environment.

The walk includes a steep beach access stairway and uneven sandy and cobble terrain. It is of slight to moderate difficulty. Participants should wear sturdy shoes or rubber boots that can get wet, and bring a hat, jacket, water, and sunscreen.

We look forward to seeing you on Thursday, January 11th at 3:30 pm. We'll wrap up around 5 pm, so everyone can enjoy the fabulous sunset view that Rincon Beach offers over the Santa Barbara Channel.



California King Tides Project

January 11 and February 9

COMMUNITY SCIENCE OPPORTUNITY Help Document King Tides January 11 and February 9

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. On January 11th, our beaches will experience extreme high and low tides, and King Tides return on February 9th.

You can take part in an exciting community science initiative by taking photos of beaches at high tide during King Tide events 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 January 11th and February 9th to document this winter's King Tides. The highest tides will take place during the morning hours:

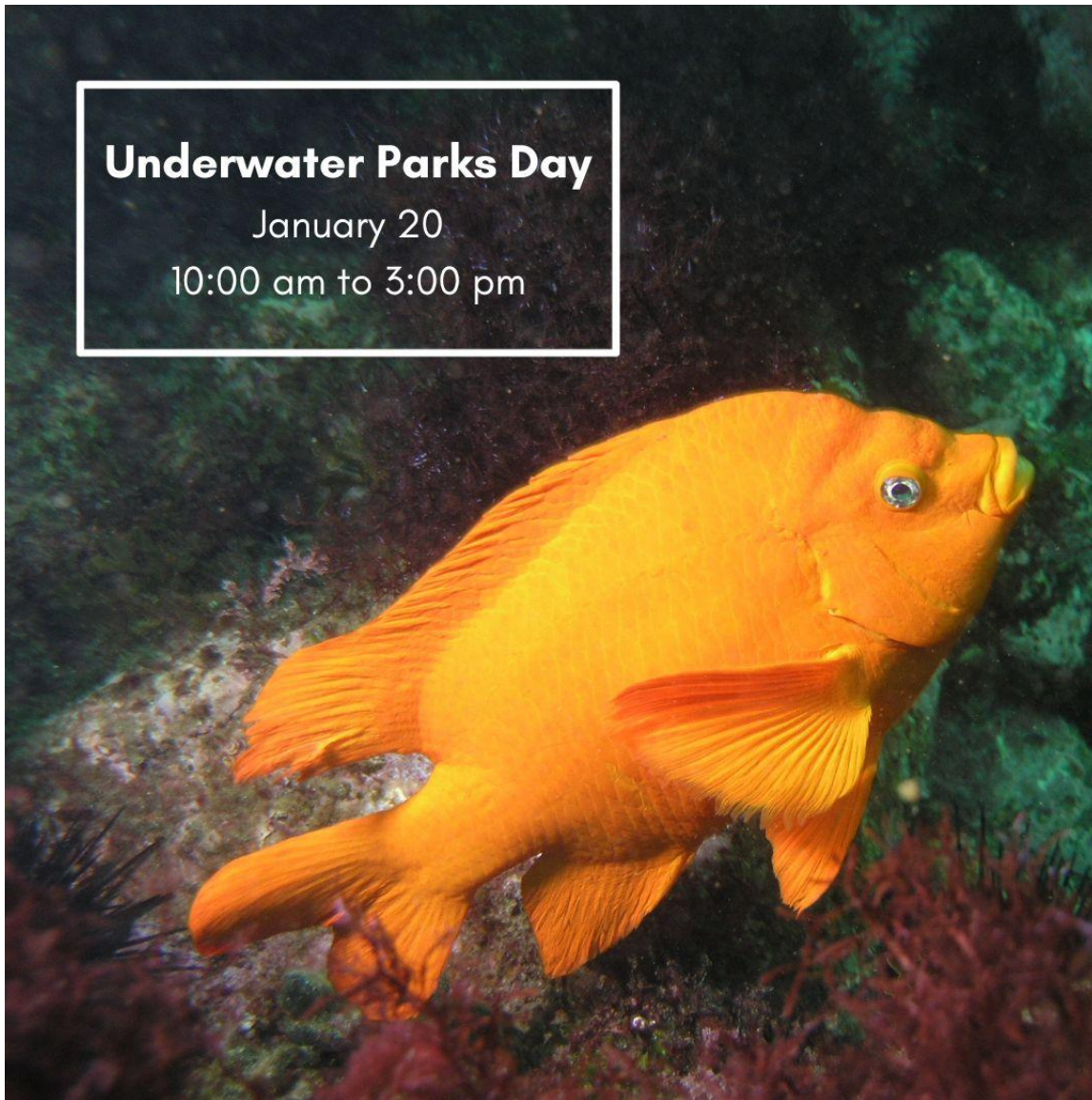
- January 11, 2024 - high 8:30 AM / 6.7 ft.
- February 9, 2024 - high 8:30 AM / 6.6 ft.

[Participate](#)

Underwater Parks Day

January 20

10:00 am to 3:00 pm



UNDERWATER PARKS DAY

January 20

10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Celebrate Underwater Parks Day on Saturday, January 20, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm with free admission to the Sea Center on Stearns Wharf, thanks to support from The Moeller Lab at UC Santa Barbara.

Meet scientists from the lab and learn about their research. Enjoy the Sea Center's interactive exhibits, storytime, and activities with festival partners like Channelkeeper! Our team will be there to share information about the Santa Barbara Channel, Marine Protected Areas, and marine ecosystems.

Underwater Parks Day celebrates Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), or “underwater parks,” that preserve the biodiversity and abundance of ocean life in our coastal waters. Some of the most nutrient-rich waters on the planet are located in the Santa Barbara and Channel Islands region. These waters support abundant marine life found in kelp forests, tide pools, and rocky intertidal reef habitats. Several MPAs restrict or limit fishing and other human uses to promote stable species populations, healthy habitats, and water quality.

[More Info](#)

MPA Watch Virtual Training

Thursday, January 18
5:30 to 6:30 pm



BECOME AN MPA WATCH VOLUNTEER Virtual Training on January 18 5:30 to 6:30 pm

Channelkeeper's MPA Watch program conducts surveys of human use activities in our local marine protected areas (MPAs) at Campus Point MPA (IV/Goleta), Naples MPA, and Kashtayit MPA (Gaviota State Beach). The data collected helps to inform MPA monitoring and enforcement efforts. Surveys involve walking a designated transect along the beach at the MPAs mentioned above and recording all human use activities observed on the beach or just offshore. Volunteers are asked to conduct just three surveys per month.

The volunteer training workshop will take place virtually on Thursday, January 18th, from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Following the online workshop, there will be several opportunities to join a one-hour field training session at Campus Point in the Campus Point MPA. Click below to sign up for the volunteer training workshop.

[Sign Up](#)



SUPPORT CLEAN WATER

Want to make a difference for the environment and your community? Making a tax-deductible contribution to Santa Barbara Channelkeeper today is an investment in clean beaches, healthy watersheds, and a more sustainable future. Thank you for your support!

[Donate](#)

KEEPING WATCH FOR CLEAN WATER
SINCE 1999



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