



Watershed Brigade Milestone!
Over 50,000 Pounds of Trash!



Watershed Brigade Hits Major Milestone: 50,000 Pounds of Trash Removed from the Environment

We're celebrating a huge win for our environment! Channelkeeper's Watershed Brigade, a community cleanup program focused on tackling pollution and protecting water resources, is celebrating a major victory in its ongoing mission to keep our watersheds clean and healthy. The program has officially removed over 50,000 pounds of trash from local beaches, islands, neighborhoods, and creeks!

Since the Watershed Brigade's inception in 2020, Channelkeeper has empowered 2,067 community members across Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties to take direct action against pollution by cleaning up trash. We have achieved this milestone thanks to the cumulative effort of volunteers who have dedicated thousands of hours to protecting the health of local ecosystems.

Along our coast, pollution can affect tourism, biodiversity, and public health. The 50,763 pounds of trash collected by volunteers during 1,803 individual and group cleanups include thousands of plastic bottles, cigarette butts, lobster traps, food wrappers, tires, and other debris that would have otherwise harmed wildlife, contaminated waterways, and degraded public spaces.

The program combines volunteer action, education, and advocacy. At each

event, volunteers not only help clean up but also learn about the larger issues behind trash and marine debris, such as how pollution impacts wildlife, public health, and water quality.

If you would like to join our cleanup efforts, click [here](#) or follow [@Watershedbrigade](#) on Instagram.



Protecting the Channel and Gaviota Coast from Oil Development: Sacramento Update

Efforts to protect the Santa Barbara Channel and the Gaviota Coast from Sable Offshore's plan to restart oil production have primarily shifted to the courts. This month, Judge Geck of the Superior Court of the State of California will hold a critical hearing to decide whether to grant a preliminary injunction. Channelkeeper, Environmental Defense Center, and our fellow plaintiffs are seeking in our case against the Office of the State Fire Marshall over its decision to grant state waivers from anti-corrosion protections on onshore pipelines that would be used in Sable's restart project.

In the meantime, there are positive developments happening in the California legislature. AB 1448, sponsored by Assemblymember Gregg Hart (Santa Barbara), passed out of the California Assembly in early June. The bill, now being considered by the California Senate, would prohibit the State Lands Commission from approving any expansion in offshore drilling along California's coast, strengthen oversight on renewal, extensions, or modification of existing leases, and require Coastal Development Permits to be issued before a company or person could reactivate oil facilities that have been idle, inactive, or out of service for over three years.

SB 542, proposed by Senator Monique Limón (Goleta), would strengthen pipeline safety regulations and update oil spill contingency planning calculations for the

worst-case oil spills and financial assurances needed to respond to an oil spill, which are currently out of date. SB 542 passed the California Senate in early June and is now being considered by the State Assembly.

Channelkeeper is proud to support these two bills.



Proposed Changes to California's MPA Network Under Evaluation

This summer, the California Fish and Game Commission will continue to assess petitions for possible changes to the California Marine Protected Area (MPA) Network. These petitions for changes were submitted by community members, non-profit organizations, scientists, and fishermen at the end of 2023 and include several petitions for changes to MPAs in the Santa Barbara Channel.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife created an **MPA Petition StoryMap** that includes an **overview** of the evaluation process and timeline, up-to-date information about the individual petitions including a map, status updates, and instructions for how to engage and provide comments through the CA Fish and Game Commission as they consider the proposed evaluation framework and petitions.

At the **Fish & Game Commission's Marine Resource Committee meeting on July 16-17**, the committee will receive an update about the draft evaluation framework that the department will use to evaluate and develop recommendations for the MPA petitions. The evaluations and recommendations for the petitions are expected towards the end of 2025.

In other MPA news, **California's MPA network** was **officially accepted** into the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) **Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas**, an international certification that recognizes the most

successful examples of biodiversity conservation worldwide. California's system of MPAs is the first nature network in the world to receive this honor.



Speak Up for Clean Air: EPA Proposes Dangerous Rollback of Climate Protections

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced plans to eliminate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions standards for fossil fuel-fired power plants—one of the largest sources of climate-warming pollution in the country. The agency is also gathering public comments on its plans.

This rollback threatens to unravel recently established limits and undermine progress under the Clean Air Act, the bedrock environmental law that has safeguarded public health and protected our atmosphere from harmful pollutants since 1970.

Under the new proposal, the EPA would issue a finding that greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel power plants do not "significantly contribute" to dangerous air pollution. This decision would effectively repeal all existing climate standards for these facilities, significantly diminishing efforts to address global warming and protect people who are vulnerable to air pollution.

With climate-driven wildfires, extreme heat, sea level rise, and worsening air quality already impacting communities across California and the country, this proposal moves us in the wrong direction at a time when strong climate leadership is urgently needed.

Channelkeeper will be weighing in to oppose these changes. Now is the time to raise your voice and demand that the EPA fulfill its mission to protect human

health and the environment. The EPA is accepting public comments through August 7 via the Federal Register. Submit your comment [here](#).

A colorful illustration for the Plastic-Free July 2025 campaign. At the top left, the text "Small steps, big difference." is written in a bold, teal font. To the right is the "PLASTIC FREE JULY" logo, featuring a stylized orange and green leaf icon. The central illustration shows four diverse people standing behind a stylized green and blue globe. From left to right: a woman in a pink shirt holding a mesh produce bag, a man in a green shirt and blue beanie holding a pink water bottle, a woman in a striped shirt holding a white sign, and an older man in a blue vest holding a coffee cup. The sign reads "This July, we are making a Plastic Free Pledge." with the website "PlasticFreeJuly.org" below it. In the bottom left corner is a circular logo for "2025 JOIN THE CHALLENGE" with "PLASTICFREEJULY.ORG" and "15 YEARS" around the perimeter. In the bottom right corner, the text "Join millions of people worldwide choosing to refuse single-use plastic." is followed by the website "PlasticFreeJuly.org".

**Small steps,
big difference.**

**PLASTIC
FREE JULY**

This July, we are
making a **Plastic
Free Pledge.**

PlasticFreeJuly.org

PLASTICFREEJULY.ORG
15 YEARS
2025
JOIN THE CHALLENGE

Join millions of people worldwide
choosing to refuse single-use plastic.

PlasticFreeJuly.org

Take the Plastic-Free July Challenge

Plastic-Free July is a global initiative that inspires each of us to create a future with cleaner communities and oceans by reducing our dependency on single-use plastics. The campaign challenges us to commit to one month of doing our best to avoid disposable plastic while providing information about plastic pollution and solutions. Since 2010, more than 100 million people in 190 countries have pledged to avoid single-use plastics during the month of July.

Please join Channelkeeper, the Community Environmental Council (CEC), and partners around the world in the challenge to 'Choose to Refuse' single-use

plastic this July. Post about your experiences on social media using the #PlasticFreeJuly hashtag and share your favorite plastic reduction ideas.

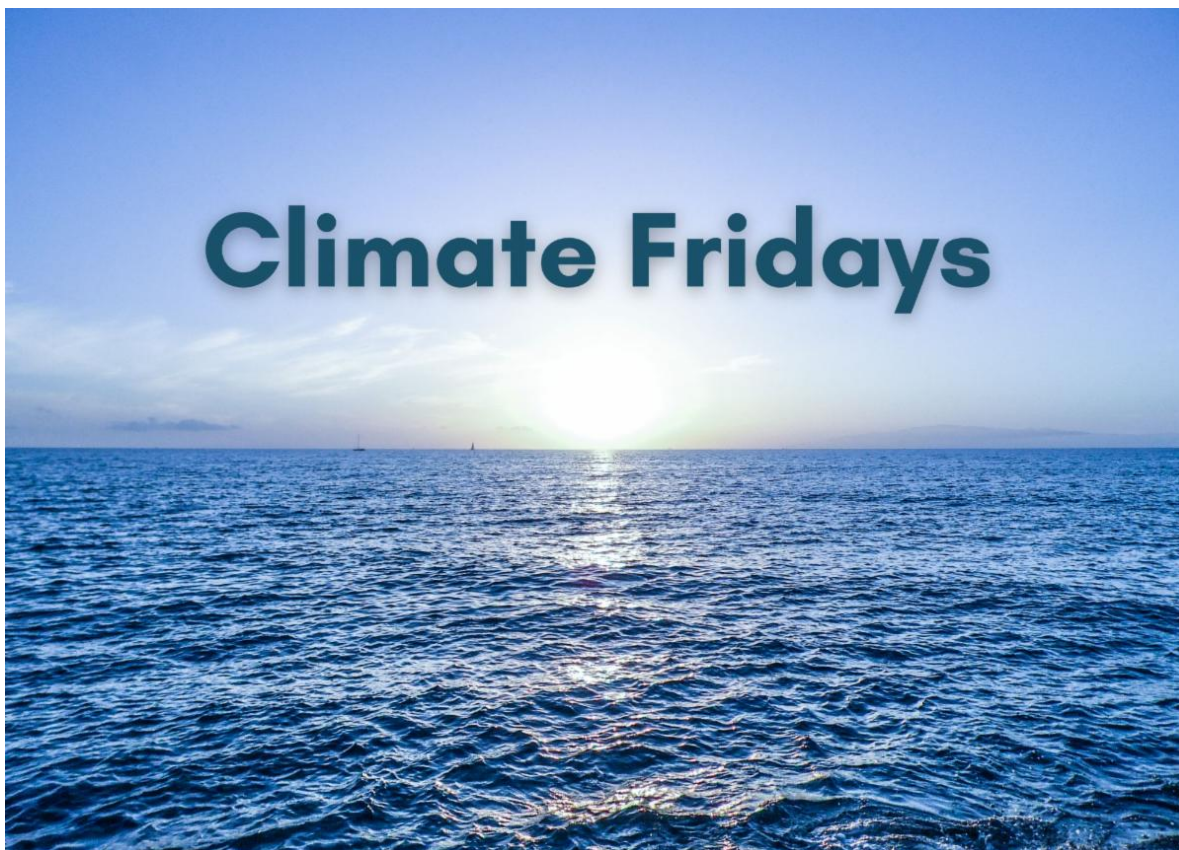
The challenge is simple, and you can choose from different levels of participation.

Here are three options to consider:

- Pick one disposable plastic item to avoid using for the month;
- Refuse the big 4: plastic bags, water bottles, takeaway coffee cups, and straws; or
- Commit to avoiding ALL single-use plastic.

Click below to take the pledge!

[Plastic-Free July Pledge](#)



Climate Fridays
Friday, July 11, 2025
3:30 - 5:00 p.m.
CEC's Environmental Hub
1219 State Street, Santa Barbara

Join climate activists, students, community partners, and friends to learn about regional climate change issues and how to take collective action to protect our planet. July's gathering will focus on plastic reduction and feature talks by CEC and Santa Barbara Channelkeeper.

These events, organized by the Community Environmental Council, the Society

of Fearless Grandmothers Santa Barbara, and the Santa Barbara Sierra Club, take place on the first Friday of each month.

Learn more and [register here](#).

SINGLE-USE PLANET

Santa Barbara Film Premiere & Panel Discussion

Thursday, July 17, 2025

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

CEC's Environmental Hub
1219 State St., Santa Barbara



Don't miss this powerful documentary exploring the political, economic, health, and environmental impacts of single-use plastics.



Register now at
cec.pub/singleuse-planet

"Single-Use Planet" Santa Barbara Premiere and Panel Discussion
Thursday, July 17
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
CEC's Environmental Hub
1219 State Street, Santa Barbara

Don't miss the Santa Barbara premiere of "Single-Use Planet," a powerful documentary exploring the political, economic, health, and environmental impacts of single-use plastics. Inspired by jaw-dropping encounters with massive ocean

plastic gyres, director Steve Cowan exposes the full lifecycle of single-use plastics, from petrochemical plants to polluted coastlines. Following the film, CEC and Santa Barbara Channelkeeper staff will lead a panel discussion on local plastic pollution challenges and ongoing efforts to reduce single-use plastic distribution.

Learn more and [register here](#).



Celebrate Swimmable California Day and the Right to Clean, Swimmable Water
Friday, July 25

On July 25th, join us in celebrating Swimmable California Day, a day that recognizes our right to swim, fish, and play in waters that are clean and safe.

For over 50 years, the Clean Water Act has protected our nation's rivers, streams, and wetlands from harmful pollution. However, in 2023, the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Sackett v. EPA* dismantled long-standing federal protections, leaving countless waterways and the communities that depend on them vulnerable to pollution.

The California Coastkeeper Alliance, which Santa Barbara Channelkeeper is part of, is championing Senate Bill 601, The Right to Clean Water Act. This critical legislation, authored by Senator Allen of Los Angeles, would codify into California law the protections under the Clean Water Act that were undermined by the Sackett decision. The bill would maintain strong protections for California's streams, wetlands, and coastal waters.

We're making progress! The bill passed the Senate in June. On Tuesday, July 1st, Senate Bill 601 passed the Assembly Judiciary Committee. It will be

reviewed on July 15 by the Assembly Standing Committee on Environmental Safety & Toxic Materials.

The Right to Clean Water Act is a bold commitment to the health of California's people, wildlife, and economy. With federal rollbacks gaining momentum, it's more important than ever for our state to take the lead.

Celebrate by Cleaning Up Your Favorite Swimming Area!

In honor of Swimmable California Day, on Friday, July 25, we're inviting community members to celebrate by taking action:

- Visit your favorite swimming spot—a beach, lake, creek, or river.
- Bring a bag and gloves and conduct a DIY trash cleanup.
- Snap a photo of your efforts and share it on social media using the hashtags **#SwimmableCA** and **#ProtectCAWater** to inspire others and raise awareness.

We hope you'll get out and enjoy your favorite swimming hole, beach, or stream this month and take a moment to give back to the waters that give us so much.



City of Santa Barbara Waterfront Survey

The City of Santa Barbara's Waterfront Department is requesting input on the services it provides to our community. It is particularly interested in public perspectives related to the mix of coastal-dependent, coastal-related, and visitor-serving services it offers. The survey takes less than 10 minutes and must be completed by 5:00 pm on July 18, 2025. Click [here](#) to participate.

TOAST TO THE COAST '25

*Join us in raising a glass to
clean water and healthy habitats.*

Wednesday, August 20
5:30 to 7:30 pm
Rincon Brewery Santa Barbara

Toast to the Coast • Happy Hour Fundraiser
Wednesday, August 20th
5:30 to 7:30 pm

We're excited to gather with our community to raise a glass in support of clean water and healthy habitats on August 20, from 5:30 to 7:30! We hope you'll join us at Rincon Brewery's Santa Barbara location (205 Santa Barbara Street) to enjoy live music, refreshments, and a raffle with great prizes!

Tickets are on sale now! Pre-sale tickets (\$30) can be purchased now. You can also buy tickets at the door (\$35). Each ticket includes one drink (tap beer, house wine, or nonalcoholic beverage), appetizers, and one raffle ticket. Click below to purchase your tickets. Sliding scale tickets are available by contacting events@sbck.org.

We're grateful for support from our event sponsors Sharkbanz, Rincon Brewery, and Trader Joe's, as well as raffle prize donors Patagonia, Sharkbanz, Avasol, Revly Sport, Waterlust, Fleks Footwear, Salty Gold Uni, and more.

[Buy Tickets](#)



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**](#)

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