

November eNewsletter



Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors Votes to Take Action Denying the Transfer of ExxonMobil Permits to Sable Offshore Corporation

In a big step for our coast and community, on November 4, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors voted 4–1 to deny the transfer of owner, operator, and guarantor permits from ExxonMobil to Sable Offshore Corporation, a Texas-based company aggressively working to restart offshore oil drilling along the sensitive Gaviota Coast.

The Board of Supervisors held a public hearing on the permit transfer issue in February. At that hearing, the Board voted 2-2, which resulted in no action on the transfer. ExxonMobil and Sable then sued the County for their interpretation of the tie vote. As part of that legal action, in September, a federal judge ordered the County Board of Supervisors to reconsider the transfer at a public hearing within 60 days.

This time around, the Board reviewed eight additional months' worth of activities conducted by Sable when making its decision. During that period, several state agencies and public officials have weighed in to enforce environmental laws. Channelkeeper staff, supporters, colleagues, and concerned community members attended the November hearing to make public statements and urge the Board of Supervisors to deny the transfer. We expressed concerns about Sable's track record of legal violations that polluted waterways and harmed

habitats.

We, and many others, pointed out that the California Coastal Commission issued a record fine of \$18 million against Sable for unpermitted repair work that removed major vegetation and excavated substantial areas. In addition, we noted the California Attorney General has filed a legal action against Sable for allegedly violating California's Water Code and the Santa Barbara County District Attorney has brought a criminal complaint against Sable, alleging five felonies and 16 misdemeanors related to the company's pipeline repair work.

Most of the Supervisors cited these and other serious concerns about Sable's track record and ability to operate responsibly. Several raised significant concerns regarding Sable's financial capacity to respond to anticipated catastrophic spills from the aging infrastructure.

While this marks a major milestone, the process is not yet complete. The Board of Supervisors will reconvene on December 16 to consider and adopt the official findings for denial. Because County staff had initially recommended approval of the transfer, they will now need to revise their report so that it accurately reflects the Board's 4-1 decision.

In addition, Sable is working to secure project approvals from state agencies.

There's still substantial work ahead, but this outcome shows the strength, unity, and heart of our community. We would like to extend our appreciation to the Environmental Defense Center, who is legally representing Channelkeeper and other groups to defend our coast from this project. We also applaud the County Supervisors who stood up for our coastal environment by voting to deny the transfer.

This decision represents a significant accomplishment and a powerful reminder of what our community can achieve when we stand together to protect our coast and environment. Thank you to everyone who spoke, wrote, or showed up to make your voices heard. Your engagement made a difference.



**Maria Ygnacio Creek Cleanup
Collaboration with EDC
Saturday, November 15
9 am - 11:30 am**

**Maria Ignacio Creek Cleanup
Saturday, November 15
9:00 am to 11:30 am**

Join us for the Maria Ygnacio Creek Cleanup! This November, Channelkeeper is teaming up with the Environmental Defense Center for a community cleanup at Maria Ygnacio Creek. With the rainy season just around the corner, now's the perfect time to help prevent trash from being washed into the ocean.

Volunteers will meet at the corner of Ribera Drive and Matorral Way. We will work to remove litter and debris from the creek bed to help protect local wildlife and waterways. The terrain can be rocky and wet, so please wear sturdy shoes and clothes you don't mind getting dirty.

Channelkeeper will provide buckets, trash grabbers, and gloves. Just bring your energy and community spirit. You may also want to consider bringing a hat, sunscreen, and reusable water bottle.

Let's work together to keep our creeks and coast clean. We hope to see you there!

[Sign Up](#)



**Patagonia Salmon Run
Sunday, November 16
8:30 am to 10:30 am
210 W. Main St., Ventura**

The 29th Annual Salmon Run, hosted by Patagonia, will be held on Sunday, November 16, in Ventura. This longstanding community tradition continues to bring together runners, outdoor enthusiasts, and conservation supporters for a morning dedicated to fitness, sustainability, and environmental awareness.

This year's event will benefit South Coast Habitat Restoration, a Carpinteria-based nonprofit organization dedicated to environmental stewardship and habitat enhancement. South Coast Habitat Restoration plays a key role in fish restoration efforts for steelhead trout and is currently leading a fish passage improvement project to remove four migration barriers and install two new bridges in the Ventura River watershed.

The 29th Annual Salmon Run represents a meaningful opportunity to engage with the local community, support vital restoration work, and celebrate the connection between people and the natural environment. Channelkeeper will be there sharing information about our work. Stop by our table and say hello!

[Sign Up](#)

2ND ANNUAL
WHALE OF A
CELEBRATION



FRIDAY | NOVEMBER 21, 2025
WHALES, ALES & COCKTAILS @ CROWNE PLAZA, VENTURA



SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 23, 2025
WILDLIFE CRUISE @ ISLAND PACKERS

A Whale of a Celebration
Friday and Sunday, November 21 and 23
Ventura, California

The Santa Barbara Channel Whale Heritage Area is hosting “A Whale of a Celebration,” a weekend of educational and celebratory events honoring the second anniversary of the Channel’s designation as a Whale Heritage Area. This recognition highlights the region’s global importance as a sanctuary for whales, dolphins, and other marine life, as well as our ongoing commitment to conservation, research, and sustainable marine tourism.

The festivities will commence on Friday, November 21, 2025, at the Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach by IHG. The evening program will feature an engaging series of guest lectures and a premiere film screening:

- Alisa Schulman-Janiger, Lead Research Biologist with the California Killer Whale Project and Research Associate at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, will present recent findings on killer whale populations along the California coast.
- Jonathan Hoffman of the Santa Barbara Natural History Museum will share insights on a recently unearthed ancient whale fossil discovered in Goleta, offering a unique perspective on the region’s paleontological heritage.
- The evening will conclude with the debut of a new short film by local wildlife filmmaker Adam Ernster that showcases recent developments within the Santa Barbara Channel Whale Heritage Area and highlighting ongoing conservation initiatives.

The celebration will continue on Sunday, November 23, 2025, with a whale watching and wildlife cruise hosted by Island Packers from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Participants will have the opportunity to engage with marine scientists and local experts while observing the remarkable biodiversity of the Santa Barbara Channel firsthand.

This event offers an exceptional opportunity for community members, researchers, and

ocean enthusiasts to join together in celebrating the marine ecosystems that define our region. Tickets for the weekend's events are \$75 per person, with a portion of proceeds benefiting the Santa Barbara Channel Whale Heritage Area's education and outreach programs.

Tickets



Community Science Opportunity: Help Document King Tides this Winter

The term King Tide describes an especially high winter tide when the sun and the moon are at their closest to the Earth. 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 November 6, our beaches experienced extreme high and low tides. King Tides return on December 4, 5, and 6 and again on January 2 and 3, 2026.

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, envision 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 any of these dates to document the first of this winter's

King Tides. The highest tides will take place during the morning hours:

- Nov. 6, 2025 – high tide 9:00 AM / 7.05 ft
- Dec. 4, 2025 – high tide 7:58 AM / 7.18 ft
- Dec. 5, 2025 – high tide 8:43 AM / 7.23 ft.
- Dec. 6, 2025 – high tide 9:29 AM / 7.04 ft.
- Jan. 2, 2026 – high tide 7:49 AM / 7.03 ft.
- Jan. 3, 2026 – high tide 8:37 AM / 7.02 ft.
- Jan. 4, 2026 – high tide 9:24 AM / 6.79 ft.



Report Lobster Traps

Lobster Season is Here – Help Keep Our Beaches Clean

The California Spiny Lobster fishing season is underway! Storms and heavy surf can wash these traps ashore, where they pose risks to wildlife and beachgoers. If you spot one on the beach, snap a photo of the trap's tag, note the location, and report it online [here](#).

Each tag includes coded information that identifies the trap's owner and the year it was set. Channelkeeper will share your report with the Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife so the gear can be recovered and either responsibly disposed of or reused.

Report Traps



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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