



Environmental Field Studies Students Learn About Water Quality Monitoring Firsthand

As students across Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties head back to school this fall, Channelkeeper's education team is out in the field and in the classroom, delivering dynamic, hands-on environmental science experiences that inspire the next generation of environmental stewards.

This fall, students from Ventura High School's Environmental Field Studies class are stepping outside the classroom to investigate the health of the Ventura River watershed. Led by Channelkeeper's Penny Owens and Ventura High School environmental science teacher Jared McEntyre, these students are gaining practical skills and scientific knowledge that go far beyond the pages of a textbook.

Equipped with flowmeters, meter tape, and water quality meters, students measure stream flow, calibrate instruments, and deploy data loggers that record continuous data on dissolved oxygen and temperature. They test for a range of important parameters—pH, conductivity, turbidity, bacteria, and more—using industry-standard methods to collect, analyze, and interpret data. Their goal is to determine whether different sections of the Ventura River meet established water quality standards, and to understand how these findings reflect broader environmental trends.

This immersive experience is more than just a science lesson; it's a powerful investment in the future. By equipping students with knowledge of environmental systems and data-driven inquiry skills, Channelkeeper is helping to shape informed decision-makers, innovative problem-solvers, and passionate advocates for our planet.



Take Action: Provide Input on the Endangerment Finding

The Endangerment Finding is a science-based determination made by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2009 that greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide and methane endanger public health and welfare. It legally obligates the EPA, under the Clean Air Act, to regulate emissions from cars, power plants, and other major sources. This finding was based on extensive scientific research and public comment. It was also issued on the basis of the Supreme Court's historic 2007 ruling in *Massachusetts v. EPA*, which confirmed that greenhouse gases are pollutants covered by the Clean Air Act.

The Trump Administration is now proposing to revoke this finding and undercut the EPA's ability to regulate greenhouse gas emissions. Repealing the Endangerment Finding could jeopardize public health, increase the frequency and severity of extreme weather events, and undermine standards in place to better control heat-trapping emissions. It will set us back at a critical time to address the impacts of a changing climate.

Up until September 22, 2025, the EPA is gathering public comments on its proposal to repeal the 2009 Endangerment finding. Channelkeeper encourages you to take action to defend this cornerstone of climate regulation by submitting comments that express opposition to the repeal of the Endangerment finding. Tell the EPA to protect the Endangerment Finding and our future.



Our Toast to the Coast

On August 20th, we gathered with friends and supporters at Rincon Brewery's Santa Barbara location for Toast to the Coast, a fun and inspiring evening celebrating the community's commitment to protecting the health of the Santa Barbara Channel and its watersheds.

The energy was high as music by Xander Sack filled the courtyard and conversations flowed. Our shared mission to protect local waterways and habitats tied it all together. Events like this remind us that community is at the heart of environmental action, and we're so grateful to everyone who showed up to support.

Guests enjoyed a lively atmosphere, delicious appetizers and drinks, and a fun raffle! From eco-friendly gear to local goodies, the raffle was packed with items donated by [Patagonia](#), [Sharkbanz](#), [Avasol](#), [Revly Sport](#), [Waterlust](#), [Fleks Footwear](#), [Salty Gold Uni](#), and more.

We're especially grateful for our generous sponsors—[Sharkbanz](#), [Rincon Brewery](#), and [Trader Joe's](#)—for making this gathering possible, and to everyone who bought tickets, donated, or helped spread the word. Together, we raised critical funds to support our work and built deeper connections with the community that fuels our mission.

tgif!

September 12



WHAT | Live music, drinks, food, nonprofit partners & raffle
WHEN | September 12, 5:30-7:30 PM
WHERE | EDC Courtyard (906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara)
TICKETS | \$20 (includes 2 drinks)

TGIF Happy Hour at EDC
Friday, September 12
5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Join us on September 12, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm, for the Environmental Defense Center's TGIF Happy Hour. Channelkeeper will be there as an event sponsor along with California Trout, Community Environmental Council, and the U.S. Green Building Council - California. Enjoy live music, drinks, tacos from Pancho's Taco Truck, a raffle, and good company!

The celebration takes place at the EDC's Courtyard, 906 Garden Street, in Santa Barbara. Tickets cost \$20 and include two drinks. Sliding scale tickets are also available by calling 805.963.1622x104.

Click below to purchase your tickets.

[Tickets](#)

Santa Barbara's Hidden
Offshore Oil Health Threat

THE COST OF
SILENCE



**Special Screening and
Community Forum**

September 14th, Marjorie Luke Theatre
Santa Barbara, CA



More Info:
EngageForSolutions.com/tcos

***The Cost of Silence: West Coast Premiere Screening & Community Action
Forum***

**Sunday, September 14
3:00 pm to 6:30 pm
Marjorie Luke Theatre**

Join us for the first West Coast showing of *The Cost of Silence*, a film about the public impacts of offshore oil spills directed by Mark Manning, a former oil field diver with 20 years of oil industry experience, and a community forum on the urgent threat posed by new offshore oil drilling in the Santa Barbara Channel. The

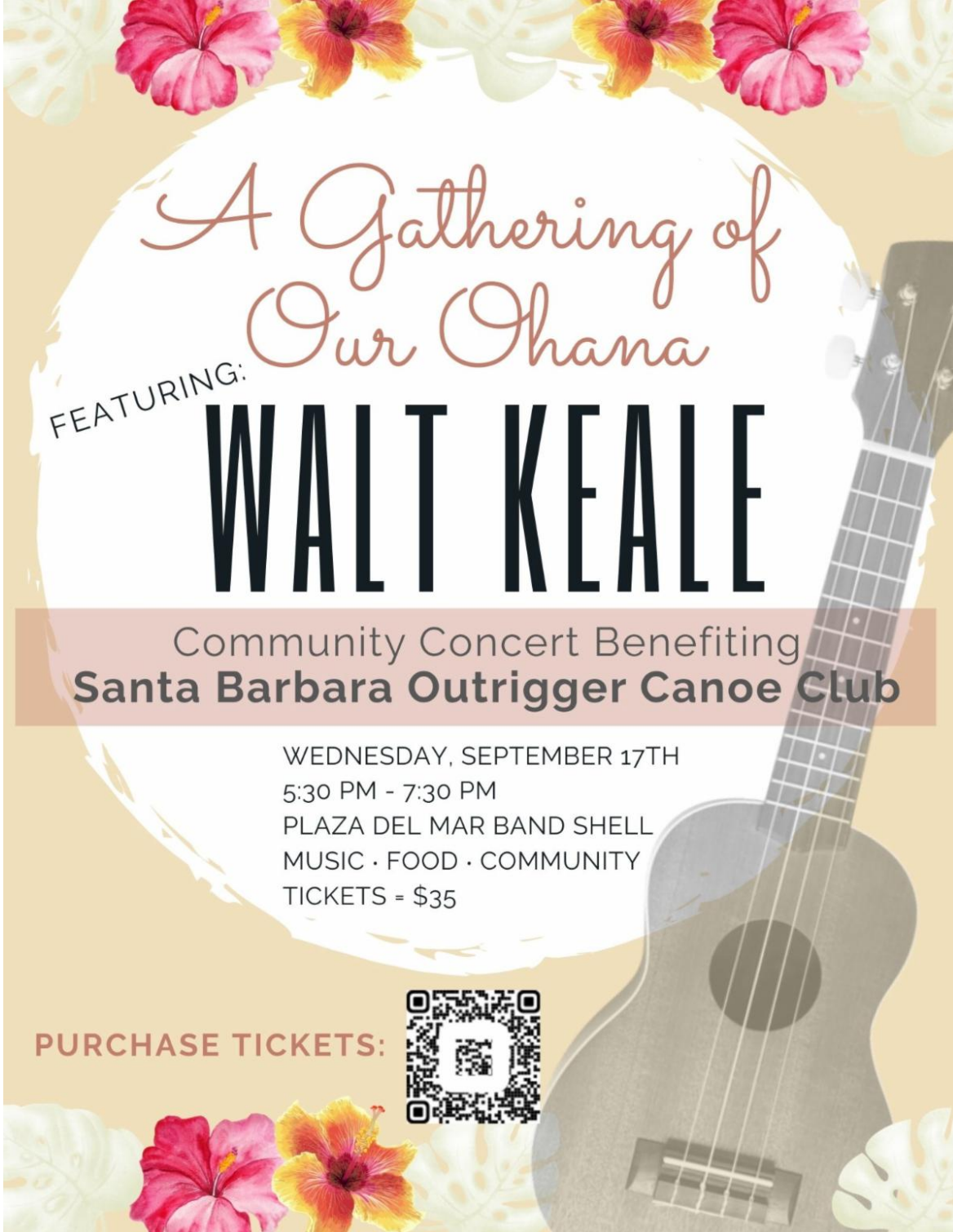
Marjorie Luke Theatre is putting on this event as part of its Green Film Series.

The film exposes how the government and industry concealed the toxic aftermath of the 2010 BP Deep Horizon Oil Spill that sickened tens of thousands of people with oil and toxic dispersants.

Following the screening, the filmmakers will be part of a community forum on the ongoing Santa Barbara offshore oil fight. The event will also debut a first-of-its-kind action platform empowering Santa Barbara audiences to engage directly in the issue.

Reserve your seat today and join us for this critical community conversation about protecting our coast and communities. Tickets are available for \$12.51.

[Tickets](#)



**Santa Barbara Outrigger Canoe Club Benefit Concert Wednesday,
September 17
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Historic Plaza Del Mar Band Shell at Pershing Park**

Santa Barbara Outrigger Canoe Club (SBOCC) is hosting a community concert featuring cultural bridge builder and ukulele musician Walt Keale, benefitting SBOCC, with a portion of the proceeds supporting Santa Barbara Channelkeeper.

Community members are invited to bring beach chairs and/or blankets, and those purchasing food are encouraged to bring their own plates and utensils.

Pre-sale discounts are available through Friday, September 7th.

- Pre-sale tickets with Hawaiian-style dinner and non alcoholic beverages cost \$35.
- Pre-sale concert-only tickets cost \$25.
- Tickets at the door: \$30 (do not include food or drink)
- Kids under 12 are free

For more information, contact sboutriggercc@gmail.com.



Coastal Cleanup Day Microtrash Challenge
Saturday, September 20
9:00 am to 12:30 pm
West Beach

Get ready to roll up your sleeves and make a difference! Channelkeeper is once again proud to be the site captain at West Beach for this year's Coastal Cleanup Day. Join us as we team up with volunteers from across the community to help protect our coastline and local wildlife.

Coastal Cleanup Day is a global volunteer effort to clean up beaches and waterways. It is held annually in over 100 countries, and it brings together hundreds of thousands of volunteers to remove trash, raise awareness about pollution, identify its sources, and inspire behavior change.

This year, we're putting a special focus on microtrash—those tiny but troublesome pieces of litter smaller than a golf ball. From plastic bottle caps and snack wrappers to styrofoam bits and packaging fragments, microtrash might be small, but it poses a big threat to marine life and can even enter the food chain.

Using kitchen strainers, we'll be sifting through the sand to remove microtrash and leave West Beach cleaner and safer for all. Cleanup supplies will be provided, but participants are also encouraged to bring their own kitchen

strainers for microtrash collecting.

This is a fun and impactful activity for volunteers of all ages—a great way to get outside, connect with your community, and take action for the environment. We hope you'll join us!

There will be free parking from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm at all City of Santa Barbara lots with a Coastal Cleanup Day voucher, available from the site captain on the morning of the event.

[Sign Up](#)



Celebrate Creek Week!
September 20 to 27

Creek Week is an annual community event celebrating our local creeks and ocean, with many groups sponsoring events throughout the week to help build awareness and stewardship of the natural riparian treasures of the South Coast. Creek Week is coordinated by the City of Santa Barbara Creeks Division, County of Santa Barbara Project Clean Water, the City of Carpinteria, the City of Goleta, the University of California, Santa Barbara, and Explore Ecology. The fun begins on Saturday, September 20. There are opportunities throughout the week to join in restoration project tours, beach and creek cleanups, and much more! Click below to check out the full schedule of events!

[Creek Week Events](#)



Honoring World Rivers Day September 28

Each year, World Rivers Day offers an opportunity to celebrate our cherished waterways, reflect on their immense value, and recommit to protecting them. Today, rivers around the globe, including our own Ventura River, face growing threats from habitat loss, pollution, and climate change.

For over two decades, Channelkeeper has led efforts to safeguard the Ventura River, advocating for sustainable water use in an effort to support healthy ecosystems. In recent years, we've focused on halting excessive water withdrawals at Foster Park, particularly during dry summer months when the river is most vulnerable, to help preserve vital habitats for fish and wildlife and allow community members to continue enjoying the river's natural beauty and restorative benefits.

Healthy waterways like the Ventura River offer more than just ecological value; they help recharge our groundwater supplies, connect us to nature, and sustain vibrant communities. Protecting them ensures that these special places will continue to thrive for generations to come.



Girls in Ocean Science September 27 and 28

There's a saying that if you see it, you can be it. That's the power of representation to expand young people's perceptions of what they can achieve. Channelkeeper is honored to participate this month in the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum's Girls in Ocean Science Conference.

The conference connects female ocean experts and scientists with young women interested in exploring ocean science-based fields of study and careers. Open to both middle school and high school students on two different days, the conference brings together learning and mentorship as participants spend the day conducting research in labs and at sea aboard a local vessel. Channelkeeper staff will share their experiences with marine science and technology while helping young women consider potential career paths in ocean science.

We believe that connecting students with powerful women in this field will inspire the next generation of female scientists and empower them to solve some of the environment's most pressing issues.

Conference Dates:

Saturday, September 27, from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm, one session, for Middle School students (6th-8th grades).

Sunday, September 28, two sessions, students will select one from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm or 12:45 pm to 4:45 pm for High School (9th-12th grades).

The conference fee is \$30. Conference scholarships are also available. Advance registration is recommended as space is limited.

[Learn More](#)



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!

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KEEPING WATCH FOR CLEAN WATER
SINCE 1999



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