



May eNewsletter

Court Upholds Injunction Against Sable Pipeline Restart

On April 17, Santa Barbara County Superior Court Judge Donna Geck determined that Sable Offshore Inc.'s controversial oil pipeline cannot resume operations without complying with state laws and court orders, marking a significant development in the ongoing legal battle.

The Court rejected Sable's argument that an order issued by the U.S. Secretary of Energy under the Defense Production Act allowed it to bypass state regulations and a federal court order that in 2020 settled claims for the 2015 All Plains Pipeline spill that originated near Refugio State Beach. That 2020 court order gives the State the authority to approve the restart of that pipeline.

Judge Geck also declined to lift an injunction that blocks Sable from restarting its pipeline along the Gaviota Coast. The company has resumed operations despite the injunction, prompting further legal scrutiny.

Sable has aggressively sought to restart the pipeline system and offshore oil drilling despite ongoing legal challenges, including a lawsuit over safety waivers granted by the California Office of the State Fire Marshal.

The April 17 decision reinforces that the company must secure proper permits and adhere to safety and environmental regulations before resuming operations. The

court also scheduled a hearing for May 22 to determine whether Sable has violated the injunction by restarting the pipeline.

Sable's risky plans and past actions are subject to several legal actions brought by a number of entities, including the California Coastal Commission, the Santa Barbara County District Attorney, and California State Parks. Environmental Defense Center is representing Channelkeeper, Get Oil Out!, Santa Barbara County Action Network and Sierra Club in three of these legal actions. We are grateful for their determination and legal expertise in the fight to protect our coast.



Watershed Brigade Volunteers and Commercial Fishermen Team Up To Remove Lobster Traps from Black Rock Beach

On Saturday, April 11, fourteen Channelkeeper volunteers joined forces with members of the Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara to remove roughly twenty-six lobster traps that had washed ashore near Blackrock Beach, just east of Goleta Beach.

This is the sixth year of an annual shoreline cleanup collaboration for Channelkeeper and the Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara. Over the years, we have removed approximately 230 lobster traps from local beaches.

During the event, volunteers worked together to dig out buried traps and transport them across the beach to collection points. From there, the traps were loaded onto kayaks and ferried through the surf to the fishing vessel F/V *Mysteri*. The team didn't stop at lobster traps—they also removed other debris, including metal fencing, parts of a shopping cart, and plastic tubing. Fisherman Adrian Stimson and crew members Nate Starkey and Alex Vand transported the debris to Santa Barbara Harbor for proper disposal.

Together, volunteers and fishermen demonstrated how cooperation can tackle persistent environmental challenges, helping keep Santa Barbara's coastline cleaner, healthier, and safer.



Participate in the City of Santa Barbara's Waterfront Planning

Help shape the future of Santa Barbara's waterfront area by participating in the City of Santa Barbara's 30-Year Waterfront Adaptation Planning efforts.

As our coast faces habitat loss and increasing risks from flooding, sea level rise, and erosion, the City is exploring and establishing actions to protect the waterfront area, from Leadbetter Beach to East Beach, from these hazards.

Channelkeeper is working to ensure that the Waterfront Adaptation Plan prioritizes nature-based solutions that protect and restore naturally occurring coastal habitats, such as sand dunes and beaches, and support public access, recreation, and water quality. We encourage you to participate in the upcoming opportunities to share your thoughts about the importance of integrating nature-based solutions, habitat protection, and recreational opportunities as key elements in the City's plan.

The City is currently collecting input through a brief online survey, open through May 18. Your insights on early options will let the City know what is important to you and help inform the Waterfront Adaptation Plan, anticipated to be completed in 2027. We hope you will echo our leading recommendations to integrate nature-based solutions into the City's plan.

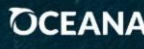
Community voices are essential to ensuring that future plans reflect our community's priorities and protect the places and ecosystems that we all value.

Paddle Out To Protect Our Coast

Stop New Offshore Drilling

**Sunday May 17th at 8:30AM
Refugio State Beach**

Paddle Out
Community Gathering &
Chumash Welcome
Free Breakfast
Free Parking Available



**Paddle Out to Protect Our Coast
Sunday, May 17
Refugio State Beach
8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.**

Join us for a paddle out on Sunday, May 17th, at Refugio State Beach to commemorate the 11th anniversary of the Plains All American pipeline spill at Refugio Beach. Channelkeeper and other environmental organizations are planning this event to remind the community and government officials about the risks of expanding offshore drilling off California's coast, including Sable's project to use the Las Flores pipeline system that caused the devastating 140,000 gallon oil spill in 2015.

The event begins with breakfast burritos and coffee at 8:30 a.m. At 9:00 a.m., participants will paddle out 100-200 yards from shore and form a circle at 9:30 a.m. All types of human-powered paddlecraft are welcome, and anyone can participate on the beach with homemade signs. Community members are encouraged to bring a filled water bottle and a coffee mug in addition to paddle equipment.

The event is hosted by Surfrider Foundation, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper, Environmental Defense Center, Fearless Grandmothers, Get Oil Out, Oceana, Sierra Club, and UCSB Environmental Affairs Board.

Please register if you plan to attend. [Click here](#) register in advance to sign the waiver and expedite the check-in onsite. Consider carpooling since there is

limited free parking. Free parking instructions will be included in the registration confirmation email.

[Sign Up](#)



Help Channelkeeper Become an Envirotoken Recipient

Channelkeeper has an opportunity to become a recipient of Lazy Acres' Envirotokens program and we are asking for your vote. Please support Channelkeeper as one of the Santa Barbara store's six selected non-profit groups for the upcoming year by visiting lazyacres.com/vote.

The Lazy Acres Envirotokens program aims to reward customers who make the sustainable choice to reuse bags and keep single-use items out of local landfills. When customers shop at Lazy Acres and bring their own reusable bags, Lazy Acres provides a 10¢ Envirotoken per bag. The customer then pays it forward to one of six local nonprofits chosen by the community.

Channelkeeper has been so fortunate to be a recipient in the past, and we hope to return to the program starting this summer. Voting is open April 22 through June 2, 2026, and community members can vote once a day everyday. Your vote today can help us protect clean water!

[Vote Here](#)



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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