



Partners in Action: A Collective Effort to Tackle Marine Debris at the Channel Islands

Protecting the Channel Islands takes teamwork. On Monday, September 21, twenty volunteers joined conservation organizations, local businesses, fishermen, and federal partner agencies to remove approximately 470 pounds of marine debris from Chinese Harbor on the northside of Santa Cruz Island and Driftwood Cove on Anacapa Island.

The collaborative cleanup included representatives from Channelkeeper, Island Packers, Santa Barbara Adventure Company, Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara, the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, Channel Islands National Park Service, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Marine Debris Program.

The team spent the day clearing the remote shorelines of trash and fishing and boating gear. Among the items collected were plastic bags and containers, balls, shoes, a weather balloon, pieces of Styrofoam, tangled ropes, Mylar balloons, and scrap metal. Because the site is accessible only by water, volunteers used kayaks and a skiff to ferry debris from shore before loading it onto boats for transport to the mainland and proper disposal.

The event is part of a National Marine Sanctuary Foundation initiative focused on removing marine debris from eight marine sanctuaries across California, Washington, the Great Lakes, Massachusetts, and the Gulf of Mexico. The project is supported by a 2023 award from the NOAA Marine Debris Program.

We would like to extend our deepest thanks to all of the volunteers and partnering organizations, government agencies, and businesses! Thank you!

[Read SB Independent Article](#)



Celebrating Catherine Breed's 900-Mile Swim Along the California Coast

What an inspiring evening on the Santa Barbara waterfront! A heartfelt thank you to Catherine Breed for bringing Swim California to Santa Barbara and for using her incredible journey along the California coast to elevate conversations about the people, organizations, and communities working to protect the ocean.

Catherine, thank you for inspiring us and for shining a light on environmental issues along the California coast and for creating opportunities to learn from and support local organizations like Santa Barbara Channelkeeper.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History Sea Center for providing the beautiful space to celebrate Catherine and City Harbor Commissioner Suzanne Cohen for officially welcoming her, as well as the Santa Barbara Yacht Club and other local businesses and organizations for all that they did to give Catherine and her crew a warm welcome and pleasant stay in Santa Barbara.

It was terrific to see how many people came to the event to support and be inspired by Catherine's swim and Channelkeeper's work. Here's to clean water,

healthy habitats, abundant wildlife, and thriving communities.

Over the weekend, Channelkeeper's Penny Owens taught a plankton lab as part of the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum's Girls in Ocean Science Conference aboard the Condor Express and 52 middle school and junior high school girls were able to see Catherine in action during her swim along the coast and cheer her on!

[Read SB Independent Article](#)



Weigh In on BeachSMART: Help Shape the Future of Our Coast

Twelve local beaches are being considered as potential “sediment receiver sites” as part of an Alternatives and Feasibility Study for the County’s **Beach Sediment Management Resilience Tactics (BeachSMART) Project**. Now, the County is turning to the community for input—and we encourage you to participate.

The beaches under consideration include Arroyo Burro, Butterfly, Carpinteria State Beach, East Beach, Goleta Beach, Haskell’s, Hope Ranch, Leadbetter, Miramar, Refugio State Park, Summerland, and portions of the Gaviota Coast.

The study is exploring a wide range of approaches to managing sediment at these beaches and along local creeks. Options being evaluated include placing sediment directly on beaches or in the surf zone using heavy machinery, bluff-top placement, winter berms, cobble groins, and “speed bumps” in the surf zone. The County is also considering instream sediment placement at several local creeks. These strategies could have different implications for our beaches, coastal habitats, recreation, and communities. That’s why public input is critical.

After reviewing the draft study, Channelkeeper identified a number of concerns, including monitoring gaps, environmental impacts of hard infrastructure, community impacts of truck traffic, noise, emissions, and costs, and the long-term effects of sediment dumping.

Make Your Voice Heard

Between September 28 and October 20, Santa Barbara County is hosting several public meetings to discuss the study and gather community feedback before moving forward.

If you care about the future of our coastline, this is an opportunity to learn more, ask questions, and share your perspective. Your voice can help inform how sediment is managed along our coast for years to come.

We encourage you to attend a meeting, review the proposed alternatives, and weigh in on what you think should—and shouldn't—be considered as Santa Barbara County plans for the future of our beaches.

Meeting Info



A Critical Moment for the Ventura River: Speak Up for Flows, Habitat, and a Healthy Ventura River

In the coming weeks, the Ventura River needs us to speak up on its behalf at two important meetings. On October 19, at 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., community members will have an opportunity to learn more about and offer their perspectives on a proposed Physical Solution developed by City of Ventura, Casitas Municipal Water District, and several other parties to the Ventura River's watershed-wide adjudication (background info [here](#)). A Physical Solution is a

court-approved framework for resolving water uses while ensuring water is used reasonably and beneficially under California law.

Channelkeeper opposes the current version of the proposed Physical Solution because it does not:

- Require implementation of actions that will be established in a Fish Habitat Restoration Plan (FHRP).
- Provide a firm commitment to fund management actions.
- Use the recommended National Marine Fisheries Service steelhead recovery benchmark to inform management decisions.
- Include fish habitat restoration as the core action to undertake.

Addressing these shortcomings will help to promote results that advance Southern California steelhead recovery, improve the health of the watershed, and protect the public trust resources and beneficial uses of the Ventura River such as fish, habitat, recreation, and water quality.

Meeting Info:

We invite you to attend a public meeting, share your points of view, bring your questions, and encourage others to come with you.

Monday, October 19 @ 10 a.m.

In Person: Oak View Park & Resource Center Auditorium
555 Mahoney Ave.
Oak View, CA 93022

Monday, October 19 @ 5 p.m.

Hybrid: In Person & Virtual via Zoom / Webinar ID 858 8343 3041
Spanish interpretation available by request. Email mhogan@cityofventura.ca.gov
Kent Hall

111 W. Santa Ana St.
Ojai, CA 93023

We hope you will join us in advocating for a brighter future for the Ventura River.



Speak Up for Clean Water Protection Comments Due on Friday, October 9

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Army Corp of Engineers are proposing changes that could significantly reduce federal protections for rivers, streams, lakes, and wetlands across the country.

On September 9, the agencies published a [supplemental proposal](#) related to the definition of “Waters of the United States” (WOTUS) under the Clean Water Act. The public has only 30 days to comment, with comments due October 9, 2026.

Why is this Important?

This proposal would exclude all intermittent and ephemeral tributaries, such as creeks that flow only during the wet season, leaving at least 79% of continental U.S. rivers and streams unprotected. It could also potentially leave 84% of wetland areas in the U.S. without protection.

Seasonal streams may not flow year-round. These streams and wetlands are important parts of healthy watersheds that provide fish and wildlife habitat, minimize flooding, store water, filter pollutants, and improve water quality. These important waterways need to remain protected for the benefits they provide.

Your Voice Matters

The EPA is accepting public comments before making a final decision. Tell the agencies why clean water matters to you and your community. You can share your experiences with local rivers, streams, wetlands, or other waterways and explain why protecting these resources is important.

Please take a few minutes to submit a public comment before October 9.



A Win for California's Coast: AB 1448 Signed Into Law

Thank you to everyone who spoke up for California's coast! Governor Gavin Newsom has signed AB 1448 into law, strengthening California's ability to protect our coast from expanded offshore oil drilling.

The new law prohibits existing oil infrastructure in California's state waters from being used to support new offshore oil drilling projects in federal waters. It also requires the State Lands Commission to consider additional environmental and public safety factors before approving lease renewals or transfers for offshore oil infrastructure and reinforces California's prohibition on new oil and gas leases within National Marine Sanctuaries.

AB 1448 was authored by Assemblymember Gregg Hart and is the result of two years of collaboration among community members, coastal advocates, and statewide organizations.

Thank you for raising your voices, contacting your representatives, and standing up for our coast. Your actions helped make this important bill become law.



Clear the Way for Winter and Keep Trash Out of Our Waters

Before winter storms approach, now is a great time to take a few minutes to clean up trash and debris around our homes, neighborhoods, streets, creeks, and beaches. What may seem like a small piece of litter can quickly become part of a much bigger problem once heavy rain and runoff arrive.

When stormwater flows through our communities, it carries plastic, food packaging, cigarette butts, yard waste, chemicals, and debris into storm drains, creeks, and ultimately the Santa Barbara Channel. Removing trash before rain events prevents pollution from reaching local waterways and protects the fish, wildlife, and coastal habitats that depend on clean water.

A pre-storm cleanup can also help keep storm drains and drainage pathways clear, reducing the chance that debris will clog them and be swept downstream during heavy rainfall.

Before the next big storm, take a walk around your neighborhood and pick up litter, secure loose outdoor items, clear debris from nearby drains, and properly dispose of what you collect. Every piece of trash kept out of the stormwater system is one less piece that can reach our ocean. Together, we can help keep our communities clean and local waters healthy all winter long.



Lobster Season is Here - Help Keep Our Beaches Clean

The California Spiny Lobster season opened in late September, kicking off lots of fishing activity along our coast. But along with the excitement comes the challenge of beached lobster traps.

Storms and heavy surf can wash these traps ashore, where they pose risks to wildlife and beachgoers. If you spot one, snap a photo of the trap's tag, note the location, and report it online [here](#).

Each tag includes 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.

Your report helps gather important data and keep coastal ecosystems healthy.

Report Lobster Traps



Sarah Breen
Program Assistant



Welcome Sarah Breen!

Please join us in welcoming Sarah Breen to the Channelkeeper team! Sarah will support our community engagement, education, development, and monitoring programs as a Program Assistant.

Sarah brings a wealth of experience in outdoor education, youth mentorship, community outreach, and science communication. Before joining Channelkeeper, she worked with The Sea League and Surfrider Foundation, connecting young people and communities with the ocean and helping organize grassroots efforts to protect Santa Barbara's coast.

A UCSB graduate with a bachelor's degree in Sociology and a minor in Applied Psychology, Sarah discovered an even deeper passion for hands-on environmental education and community-based learning while studying in Indonesia. She is also an avid volunteer and mentor in the type 1 diabetes community.

When she's not working to connect people with the ocean, you'll likely find Sarah somewhere along the coast—surfing, diving, or tide pooling with friends.

Welcome to the team, Sarah! We feel so lucky to work with you!



Kadeine Peterson

**Welcome to the
Board of Directors**



Kadeine Peterson Joins Channelkeeper's Board of Directors

We are thrilled to welcome Kadeine Peterson to Channelkeeper's board of directors.

Kadeine began her career in the wet lab, studying genetics and genomics through fertility research, before transitioning into teaching at boarding high schools across the country. That move opened the door to fieldwork focused on climate change, which she now weaves directly into her classroom at Cate School, teaching advanced courses in climate biology, human toxicology, and animal behavior that together trace a thread from field ecology through the ways organisms and people respond to a changing environment.

Kadeine also serves as Cate's Multicultural Programming Coordinator, working closely with the student affinity groups and organizing the school's annual MLK Jr. Day of Celebration.

We look forward to Kadeine bringing her science and education background at a pivotal moment for clean water and coastal protection.

Welcome, Kadeine! Our staff and board look forward to working with you!



Santa Barbara Harbor and Seafood Festival

Saturday, October 17

10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Harbor & Seafood Festival
Saturday, October 17, 2026
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Harbor Way

Celebrate Santa Barbara Channel's bounty and engage with local commercial fishermen at the 23rd Annual Santa Barbara Harbor & Seafood Festival on Saturday, October 17, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Timed to coincide with the opening of lobster season, the festival showcases fresh, regional seafood along with live music, maritime education, free boat rides, children's activities, vessel tours, and more.

The Harbor & Seafood Festival offers an interactive day for visitors and locals alike, reminding us that the Santa Barbara Harbor is a working harbor where more than 100 commercial fishermen land millions of pounds of seafood each year, adding \$30 million to the local economy and beyond.

Meet fishermen face-to-face. Visit specialty food booths for fish tacos, oysters, mussels, barbequed albacore, clam chowder, seafood paella, and more. Be sure to stop by the Channelkeeper booth and say hi!

The Santa Barbara Harbor & Seafood Festival is presented by the City of Santa Barbara Waterfront Department, the Santa Barbara Harbor Merchants' Association, and the Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara, Inc., along with various community partners and volunteers.



MARIA YGNACIO & SAN ANTONIO CREEKS CLEANUP

With Environmental Defense Center and Chumash Bear Circle



Saturday, October 24
9:00 am - 11:30 am



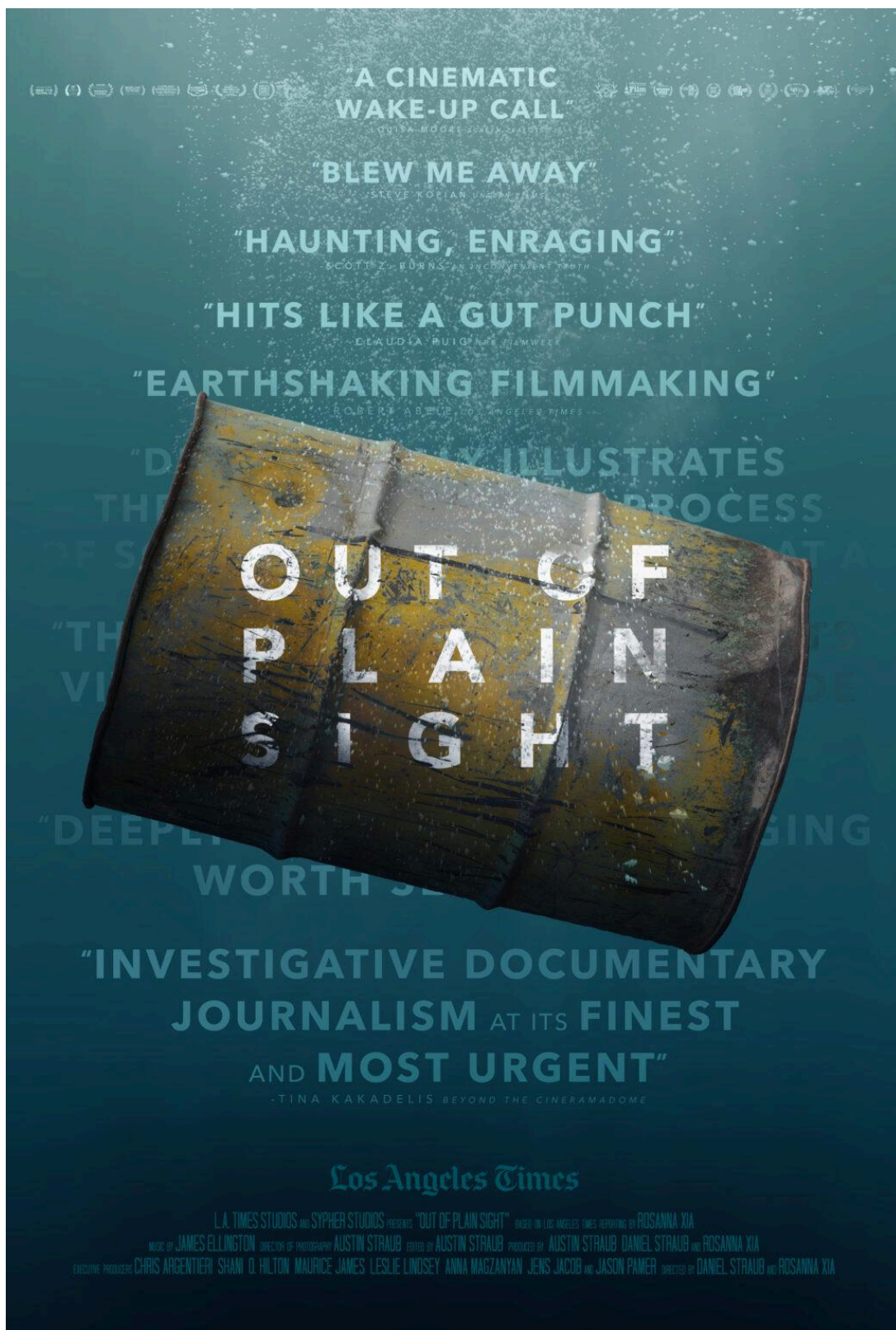
Maria Ygnacio & San Antonio Creek Cleanup
Saturday, October 24
9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Ribera Drive and Matorral Way

On October 24, Channelkeeper is collaborating with the Environmental Defense Center and Chumash Bear Circle to clean up Maria Ygnacio & San Antonio Creek! With El Niño and the rainy season approaching, we plan to work together to remove more trash than imaginable that is washed off our streets, through our storm drains, and into our creeks before it has the chance to be carried out into the ocean.

Volunteers will meet at the corner of Ribera Drive and Matorral Way at 9:00 am. The volunteers will be sectioned off into teams to divide and conquer to clear as much ground and debris as possible. The terrain may be rocky and wet, so we encourage volunteers to wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Don't forget your hat, sunscreen, and a reusable water bottle. Channelkeeper will provide buckets, trash grabbers, and gloves.

Let's work together to keep local creeks clean and the ocean healthy!

[Sign Up](#)



Out of Plain Sight
Sunday, October 25
4:00 p.m.
Marjorie Luke Theatre

Out of Plain Sight is a cinematic exposé of an environmental disaster lurking just off the coast of Southern California, from the Los Angeles Times and Pulitzer Prize-finalist Rosanna Xia.

UCSB Professor David Valentine discovered a suspicious barrel on the seafloor near Catalina Island. Xia researched and pieced together a shocking revelation:

In the years after World War II, she reports that as many as half a million barrels of toxic waste had been quietly dumped into the ocean – and the consequences continue today.

This event is part of the Marjorie Luke Theatre's Green Film Series. The Channelkeeper team will be there to share information about our work. We hope you will stop by our booth.

[Tickets & Info](#)



Wild & Free Film Festival: Stories That Inspire Adventure

November 6 - 8

Camino Real Cinemas, Goleta

Get ready for Wild & Free Film Festival, an independent film festival built around a shared love of adventure, storytelling, and our natural world. The festival celebrates stories that explore the beauty of our planet, the species we share it with, and the urgent questions shaping our relationship with the environment.

Find the full festival lineup and get tickets at www.wildandfreefilm.org.



**Registration is Open for the 30th Annual Patagonia Salmon Run
2026 Run Benefiting Santa Barbara Channelkeeper!**

November 15

Registration: 8:00 a.m.

Race Begins at 10:00 a.m.

Lace up your sneakers and support Channelkeeper! Registration is currently open for the 30th Annual Patagonia Salmon Run 5K, which will take place on Sunday, November 15, 2026, in Ventura.

This year, we are thrilled to announce that the run will benefit Channelkeeper's work to protect and restore the Santa Barbara Channel and its watersheds. We are grateful to Patagonia for its ongoing support of our work to address some of our region's most pressing environmental challenges.

Registration is \$59.30 and the price increases after October 31. Spots are limited and there will be no day-of registration. Online registration closes at noon on November 10 or when the race sells out.

Sign up for the Patagonia Salmon Run 5K below!

[**Register**](#)



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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