



### 2,100 Pounds of Debris Removed from the Channel Islands

On November 19, 23 volunteers joined staff from Channelkeeper, Island Packers, Santa Barbara Adventure Company, and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation to clear approximately 2,100 pounds of trash and fishing gear from Yellowbanks, a stretch of cobble beach on the south side of Santa Cruz Island, and Driftwood Cove on Anacapa Island.

During the day-long cleanup effort, the group spent the morning removing debris from Santa Cruz Island before moving on to Anacapa Island, where they collected an assortment of trash items, including drink bottles, tennis balls, and plastics. They ferried all of the debris from shore using kayaks and a skiff and loaded it onto the Island Packers boat that brought it back to the mainland for proper disposal.

The large amount of fishing gear and trash that had accumulated on Yellowbanks on Santa Cruz Island was surprising to the team, especially considering that this was the fourth time the area had been cleared of trash this year.

Channelkeeper is grateful for the opportunity to work together with [Island Packers](#), [Santa Barbara Adventure Company](#), and the [National Marine Sanctuary Foundation](#) to clean up these special places.

This Channel Islands debris removal program is supported by the National



Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Marine Debris Program with funding provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law as part of the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation's larger effort to remove marine debris from five different marine sanctuaries across California, Washington, and the Gulf of Mexico.



### **Urge Secretary Wade Crowfoot to Help Protect our Coast**

Nine years ago, a corroded pipeline on the Gaviota Coast ruptured, spewing more than 120,000 gallons of crude oil near Refugio State Beach. It caused one of the largest oil spills in California's history, resulting in \$750 million in damage to our coastal environment, local fisheries, and ocean-dependent businesses, in addition to the deaths of more than 775 marine mammals and birds.

A Texas-based oil company, Sable Offshore, is currently attempting to restart offshore oil production using the same pipeline, along with three offshore platforms called the Santa Ynez Unit and two onshore processing facilities on the Gaviota Coast. They have promised their shareholders that production will begin by the end of the year.

Channelkeeper has joined the Environmental Defense Center and many other organizations in opposing the restart of oil production from the Santa Ynez Unit and conveyance through the corroded pipeline that damaged our coast in 2015.



There are several agencies who will make decisions that will affect if and when Sable Offshore can restart production. However, the California State Fire Marshal is the only agency with confirmed authority to approve the restart. It is considering a request from Sable to issue a waiver of federal pipeline safety requirements. The Office of the Fire Marshal seems prepared to make its key decision without appropriate environmental review.

The State Fire Marshal's office is part of the California Natural Resources Agency, which is led by Secretary Wade Crowfoot. Secretary Crowfoot can prohibit the Fire Marshal from issuing a waiver of safety requirements and he can also direct the Fire Marshal to require full environmental review prior to issuing permits to restart the pipeline.

Channelkeeper is inviting community members to write letters urging the Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency, Wade Crowfoot, to help protect our coast.

Here's how you can get involved:

- **Email Secretary Wade Crowfoot**
- **Download a postcard to mail to Secretary Wade Crowfoot.**

Key Talking Points:

- Ask Secretary Crowfoot to prohibit the California State Fire Marshal from issuing a waiver of pipeline safety requirements.
- Urge him to direct the Fire Marshal to require full environmental review prior to issuing permits to restart the pipeline.
- Explain why you feel that it is important to protect the Gaviota Coast from another oil spill.





## Channelkeeper Monitors Agency Responses to Two Goleta Sewage Spills

On October 30, an estimated 8,000 gallons of sewage spilled from a pipeline operated by the Goleta West Sanitary District. The sewage flowed from a manhole into a stormwater drainage basin located at Santa Barbara Airport. While the size of this spill was much smaller than the 1,000,000+ gallon spill that occurred in February 2024, it is alarming that this is the second significant spill from Goleta West's main pipeline within an eight-month period. The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board issued the District a notice of violation of state water pollution laws after the February spill and is investigating its cause and impact.

Channelkeeper is closely monitoring the district's responses to these spills and has provided comments at the Sanitary District's Board meetings, the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, and other public venues. Our staff continues to ask questions regarding the operations, responses, and impacts of these spills. Early next year, the Sanitary District will release a comprehensive Condition Assessment of the pipelines. Channelkeeper will review this report carefully.



### Help Keep our Coast Debris-Free

Ocean waves and winter storms can bring fishing gear onshore during lobster season. Channelkeeper monitors trap activity, alerts fishermen and agencies, and tracks the removal of gear that has washed ashore. We also collaborate with local fishermen on cleanup events.

If you see a trap on the beach, simply take a photo of the tag and complete our online form with information about the trap's location (beach name, geographical description, and/or latitude and longitude details). The tag contains information that California wildlife officers use to identify the owner and the year the trap was

set. Channelkeeper staff will report the tag to the Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to encourage the recovery of derelict traps by their owners for reuse or disposal.

Report Traps



### Join the Solstice Sea Star Search

Each year, researchers from the California Academy of Sciences ask the public for help identifying sea stars along the California coast. This is a great opportunity to explore tidepools and contribute to an important community science initiative. This year, the search takes place during the entire month of December.

Researchers are documenting all sea stars but are especially interested in finding sunflower sea stars (*Pycnopodia helianthoides*) and giant pink sea stars (*Pisaster brevispinus*) living along the California coast. Sunflower stars are important keystone predators in kelp forests along our coast and have been especially hard-hit by sea star wasting syndrome. While we know there are some sunflower star populations still out there, they're pretty hard to find.

More people searching for sea stars means more chances of finding and documenting them — we're hopeful that by coming together to search for these keystone species, we can better understand and restore sea star populations in the long run.

#### Here's how to participate:

- Visit tidepools during the low tide in December.
- Download the [iNaturalist](#) app and document any sea stars that you see.



- If you spot a sunflower star or giant pink sea star, send the iNaturalist observation link to: [solsticeseastarsearch@gmail.com](mailto:solsticeseastarsearch@gmail.com).

Spread the word with hashtag [#SolsticeSeaStarSearch](#)!

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### **Community Science Opportunity: Help Document King Tides December 13, 14, and 15**

The term King Tide describes an especially high winter tide when the sun, the Earth, and the moon line up. 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 December 13, 14, and 15, our beaches will experience extreme high and low tides.

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, visualize 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 December 13, 14, and 15. to document this winter's final King Tides. The highest tides will take place during the morning hours:

- Dec. 13, 2024 - high tide 7:05 AM PST 6.78 ft
- Dec 14, 2024 - high tide 7:46 AM PST 6.93 ft

- Dec. 15, 2024 - high tide 8:29 AM PST 6.89 ft

The SPACE  
EST. 2024  
ART & CULTURAL EDUCATION

**Indigenous Market**  
Hosted by The SPACE

**Under The Oak and Olive**  
“Artisans & Allies”

*Join us!*  
*Sunday December 15, 11am - 5pm*  
*15 E. De La Guerra St.*

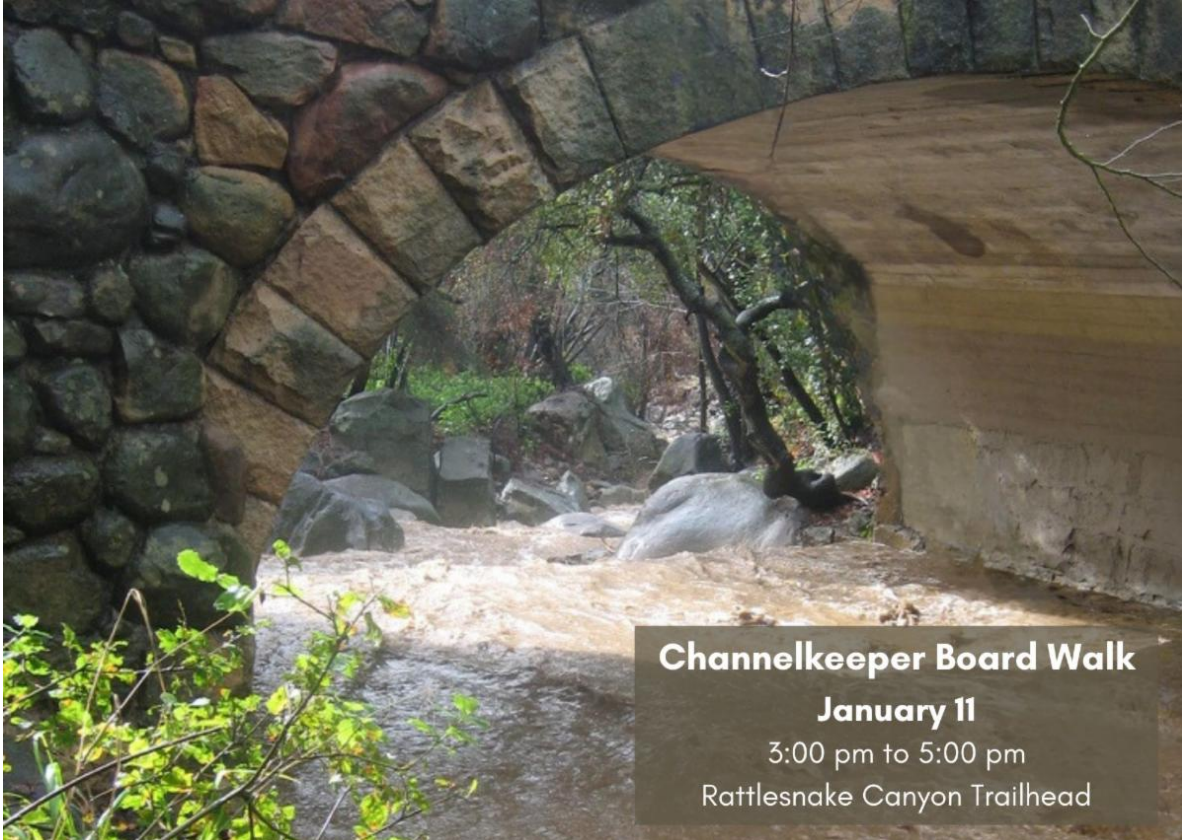
For tabling and information contact: [mlopez@sunan-the-space.org](mailto:mlopez@sunan-the-space.org)

**Under the Oak and Olive “Artisans & Allies” Indigenous Market  
Sunday, December 15**

Celebrate art, culture, and the season at the Artists & Allies Indigenous Market, hosted by The SPACE on Sunday, December 15, from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. This free, seasonal market will take place under the oak and olive trees in the Casa de la Guerra courtyard at 15 E De La Guerra Street. There will be activities for young people, community-building opportunities, and beautiful items to purchase. Support local creators and explore diverse, culturally rich textiles, jewelry, art, and more from talented Indigenous artists as well as information shared by local allies and organizers.

Channelkeeper will be present to share our work to protect and restore the Santa Barbara Channel and its watersheds. Our team is honored to support The SPACE's ongoing efforts to promote cultural heritage, provide creative resources and connections for Indigenous communities, and offer a warm, welcoming place to be.

For more information, please contact [The SPACE](#).



## Channelkeeper Board Walk

January 11

3:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Rattlesnake Canyon Trailhead

### January Board Walk Saturday, January 11

Explore the secrets of Rattlesnake Canyon with us on Saturday, January 11. Channelkeeper board member, Karen Telleen-Lawton, author of *Canyon Voices – the Nature of Rattlesnake Canyon*, will lead a walk up Rattlesnake Canyon from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Join us to help solve intriguing creek mysteries and learn about how Rattlesnake Creek factors into the history, geology, archeology, and biology of Santa Barbara.

We will uncover the answers to fascinating local questions. Why are geologists interested in Chumash stories about Rattlesnake Canyon? Why is there a grove of pines after the first creek crossing? What is the origin of the name Tin Can Meadow?

Meet at the [trailhead](#) on Las Canoas Road at 3:00 PM on Saturday, January 11 for a short hike that includes a moderate climb on a dirt trail. Participants should wear sturdy shoes and bring a hat, jacket, water, and sunscreen.

Channelkeeper Board Walks are occasional walks and talks around town to explore water from different perspectives. They are designed for the whole community to understand our place in nature, especially with respect to life-giving water. Each is led by a Channelkeeper board member, drawing upon their expertise as naturalists, hydrologists, nature film producers, native plant gardeners, and more.

We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, January 11, at 3:00 pm.





### Help us Make Meaningful Change

We're deeply grateful for the support from our community. As 2024 comes to a close we hope you will consider supporting Channelkeeper with a tax-deductible donation.

Making a contribution to Santa Barbara Channelkeeper today is an investment in clean beaches, healthy watersheds, and a more sustainable future. Help us care for the Santa Barbara Channel and the people and wildlife that depend on it.

Please consider making a donation today.

[Donate](#)

KEEPING WATCH FOR CLEAN WATER  
SINCE 1999



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