



## January eNewsletter

### **Voice Your Opposition to the Reactivation of Offshore Oil Operations Along the Gaviota Coast**

Texas-based oil company Sable Offshore continues to push forward with plans to restart oil production from the three platforms of the Santa Ynez Unit and convey the oil through the same corroded pipeline responsible for the devastating 2015 Refugio Oil Spill.

In December, the California State Fire Marshal granted Sable Offshore a waiver for the pipeline's cathodic protection system. In doing so, the agency helped advance Sable's efforts to reactivate oil production in the Santa Ynez Unit, which threatens the precious ecosystems of the Santa Barbara Channel and the surrounding communities.

It should be noted that President Biden's recent executive action to ban offshore oil development by prohibiting new drilling leases does not affect Sable Offshore's existing leases and operations.

Channelkeeper stands with the Environmental Defense Center and 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. Together we uphold that the approval of the state waiver should be

suspended until State agencies carry out a full oversight and environmental review of the restart project.

We invite community members to take action by expressing their disapproval of the waiver's issuance and the project's advancement to Governor Gavin Newsom and California Secretary for Natural Resources Wade Crowfoot.

The public can also provide comments at the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors meeting tentatively scheduled for February 25. During this meeting, the County Board of Supervisors will consider an appeal of the transfer of pipeline permits from Exxon Mobil to Sable Offshore approved by the Santa Barbara County Planning Commission in October of 2024.

### **Here's how you can get involved:**

- Call Governor Gavin Newsom's office (916-445-2841) to express your disapproval. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is the agency under the Newsom administration that granted the corrosion protection waiver.
- Call Secretary Wade Crowfoot (916-653-5656) to share your concerns. Secretary Crowfoot leads the California Natural Resources Agency, which directly supervises CAL FIRE.
- Attend the tentative February 25 Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors meeting in person. It will take place in the Santa Barbara County Administration Building Board Hearing Room, Fourth Floor, 105 East Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara.
- Submit written public comment via email prior to 5:00 PM on the day prior to the February 25 Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors meeting. Email comments to: [sbcob@countyofsb.org](mailto:sbcob@countyofsb.org). Your comments will be distributed to the Board and posted online.
- Participate in the February 25 meeting by Zoom. Check for meeting details on the County of Santa Barbara's [County of Santa Barbara's meeting calendar](#) and find links to register in advance if you would like to provide verbal public comments.

Find talking points and additional information [here](#).

---





### January Board Walk Postponed

Channelkeeper's January Board Walk will be rescheduled. We're grateful for your understanding and look forward to exploring Rattlesnake Canyon with Karen Telleen-Lawton, author of *Canyon Voices – the Nature of Rattlesnake Canyon* in February. Please stay tuned for the new date and event information.



## Public Input Requested for SpaceX Expansion at Vandenberg Space Force Base

Community members are invited to participate in the public scoping process for the Environmental Impact Statement on SpaceX's proposed increase to 100 launches annually at Vandenberg Space Force Base. This is an important opportunity to share your voice on the potential environmental impacts of these activities.

There are four public meetings scheduled in January:

- Jan. 14: 5–8 PM, VFW Post 1679, 3801 Market St., Ventura;
- Jan. 15: 5–8 PM, Westside Neighborhood Center, 423 W. Victoria St., Santa Barbara;
- Jan. 16: 5–8 PM, Dick DeWees Community Center, 1120 W. Ocean Ave., Lompoc;
- Jan. 23: 6 PM, Virtual Meeting (link: [VSFBFalconLaunchEIS.com](http://VSFBFalconLaunchEIS.com)).

Comments are due by Jan. 27 and can be submitted by:

- Email: [info@VSFBFalconLaunchEIS.com](mailto:info@VSFBFalconLaunchEIS.com)
- Mailing comments to: ATTN: VSFB Falcon Launch EIS c/o ManTech International Corp., 420 Stevens Ave., Suite 100, Solana Beach CA 92075
- Completing a comment form on the project [website](#).



### MPA Watch Training Wednesday, January 15

Are you interested in becoming an MPA Watch volunteer? Sign up for Channelkeeper's Virtual Training on January 15, from 5:30 to 6:30 pm.



Channelkeeper's MPA Watch program conducts surveys of human use activities in our local marine protected areas (MPAs) at Campus Point MPA (IV/Goleta), Naples MPA, and Kashtayit MPA (Gaviota State Beach). The data collected helps to inform MPA monitoring and enforcement efforts. Surveys involve walking a designated transect along the beach at the MPAs mentioned above and recording all human use activities observed on the beach or just offshore. Volunteers are asked to conduct just three surveys per month.

The volunteer training workshop will take place virtually on Wednesday, January 15, from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Following the online workshop, there will be several opportunities to join a one-hour field training session at Campus Point in the Campus Point MPA.

Click below to sign up for the volunteer training workshop.

[Sign Up](#)



**"Raging Waters"  
Film & Panel Discussion**

January 18  
2:30 pm to 5:00 pm

**"Raging Waters" Film and Panel Discussion  
Saturday, January 18**

Conversations about how to manage stormwater and flooding are critical as climate change affects the frequency and severity of storms and weather patterns around the world. On January 18, the community is invited to a screening of the film "Raging Waters: The Devastating Power of Floods" at the Community Environmental Council's Environmental Hub (1219 State Street in Santa Barbara) from 2:30 pm to 5:00 pm. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion about managing increasing flooding events and threats. Channelkeeper staff member Nate Irwin will be a panelist, discussing the importance of maintaining

and restoring healthy, functional watersheds to mitigate flooding and sea level rise and ways to strengthen community resilience in the face of increasing storm events.

The event is co-hosted by CEC, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee of Santa Barbara, and the Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara Earth Advocates.

[Sign Up](#)



# Underwater Parks Day

**January 18**

**10:00 am to 3:00 pm**

**Sea Center, 211 Stearns Wharf**

## **Underwater Parks Day Saturday, January 18**

Celebrate Underwater Parks Day with free admission to the Sea Center on Stearns Wharf from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm on January 18, thanks to support from The Moeller Lab at UC Santa Barbara. Enjoy the Sea Center's interactive exhibits, ocean-themed crafts, and two storytime sessions at 10:30 am and 1:30 pm, as well as an interactive dive demonstration at 11:00 am.

Channelkeeper will be there to share information about the Santa Barbara Channel, Marine Protected Areas, and marine ecosystems.

Underwater Parks Day celebrates Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), or underwater parks, that preserve the biodiversity and abundance of ocean life in our coastal waters. Some of the most nutrient-rich waters on the planet are located in the Santa Barbara and Channel Islands region. These waters support abundant marine life found in kelp forests, tide pools, and rocky intertidal reef habitats.

Several MPAs restrict or limit fishing and other human uses to promote stable species populations, healthy habitats, and recreational use for future generations of visitors.



# Watershed Brigade Cleanup

**January 25**

9:30 am to 11:00 am

East Beach @ Sycamore Creek

## East Beach Cleanup Saturday, January 25

Join Channelkeeper's Watershed Brigade on January 25 to clean up East Beach at the Sycamore Creek outlet. The Sycamore Creek Watershed covers 2,600 acres where nine miles of creeks run from the mountains through neighborhoods and out to the ocean. Litter from streets can enter these creeks and get washed out onto the beach during large rain events. We hope you can join us and help remove this trash! Volunteers will meet at 9:30 am on the beach near the [Kids' Playground](#) and will clean the area until 11:00 am.

[Sign Up](#)



### **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



*Santa Barbara*  
**CHANNELKEEPER®**



**CONNECT WITH US**



Santa Barbara Channelkeeper | 714 Bond Avenue | Santa Barbara, CA 93103 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)