



2008 Annual Report





## Message from the Director

**M**ajor upheavals, both economic and environmental, over the last year have shaken many of our closely-held assumptions about what is “sustainable.” Here in California, ongoing pollution, fading waterways and disappearing populations of fish – the canaries of our virtual aquatic coal mines – have created significant uncertainty about what the future holds for all of us.

There are two ways we can react to these major changes: resist, or take them on. Those who choose to resist will try to wrench their environment – both human and natural – back to the familiar. This could mean billions spent on expanding the extensive network of dams and canals that have led us to the failing water system we have today. It could mean denying the science that shows that our native salmon species are fading fast, until they finally blink away. It could mean turning a blind eye to coastal water pollution and simply moving our pails and shovels to one of the few clean beaches left, convincing ourselves that the traffic to get there was “not so bad.”

Or we can see challenge as opportunity, which Thomas Edison famously said is “missed by most because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.” We can choose new, truly sustainable ways of living and governing that are more enriching for ourselves and our surrounding environment. We can invest in our communities by supporting local, organic agriculture and local businesses that create good jobs, reducing our carbon footprints along the way. And we can develop local water supply solutions that adapt to climate change and reflect the unique variability of California’s environment. Locally sustainable, low-energy water for California starts with conservation; and includes appropriate use of recycled water, and better use of storm water collected through “low impact development” strategies. Such strategies mimic the natural hydrology of the land, keeping more water local and usable rather than wastefully channeling it away. Millions of acre-feet of water can be created swiftly and at relatively low cost through these locally-focused water management efforts.

Finally, we can support this new, sustainable way of life by developing legal systems that ensure careful stewardship of California’s water, land, fish and wildlife. Communities around the United States increasingly are passing local laws that create an “enforceable right of natural communities and ecosystems to exist and flourish” within the community’s boundaries. California can raise the bar, with state water laws that grant enforceable water rights to the environment, which will allow us to better plan our chosen sustainable water future for the state.

Join us in embracing the challenges before us and charting a path for change that will enrich all of us on this borrowed planet.

Linda Sheehan  
Executive Director

## Our Vision & Mission

The California Coastkeeper Alliance envisions clean water and ready access to an ecologically healthy coast and ocean for all Californians. The Alliance coordinates and supports the work of local California Waterkeeper programs to provide a statewide voice for safeguarding California's waters, and its world-renowned coast and ocean, for the benefit of all Californians and for California's future.

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*“I think we’re challenged as mankind has never been challenged before to prove our maturity and our mastery, not of nature, but of ourselves.”*

*– Rachel Carson*

The health of California's water systems is essential to the health of the state. Study after study, however, shows that the overall health of our waterways is steadily eroding. In 2008, CCKA worked to achieve clean, abundant water through initiatives that identify and ensure implementation of clear, aggressive, regularly accountable actions to stop pollution, restore flows in our waterways, and respect the interdependency of water and life.

## Turning Stormwater from Refuse into Resource

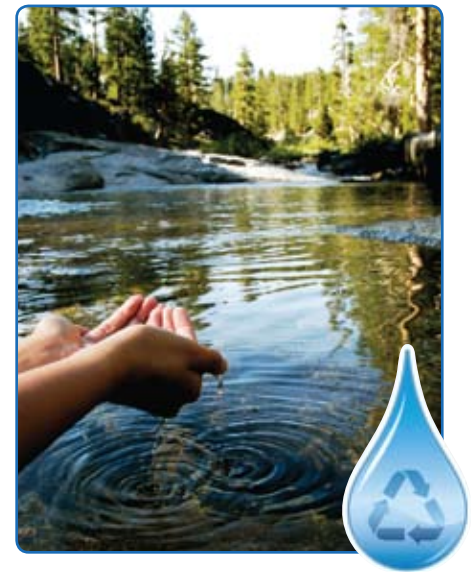
Polluted stormwater runoff pours more contaminants into California's coastal waters than any other pollution source. Stormwater accumulates trash, oil, pesticides and other pollutants as it flows over streets, yards, and parking lots, eventually dumping the contaminants into the waterways we use for fishing, swimming, and drinking.

CCKA recommended improvements to the draft statewide permit to control polluted stormwater runoff from construction sites, scheduled for 2009 adoption. CCKA also worked to turn stormwater into a resource, through implementation of low impact development (LID) techniques. LID allows stormwater to slow and sink, preventing its pollution, encouraging groundwater recharge, and potentially creating a new, local water supply. CCKA helped to direct state bond funds toward this effort through coordination with the Ocean Protection Council, Department of Water Resources, and State Water Board. For example, in early 2008, CCKA was appointed by the State Water Board to its Stormwater Advisory Task Force. As part of this Task Force, CCKA successfully helped shape the State Water Board's Proposition 84 stormwater grant guidelines to focus tens of millions in bond funding on the use of LID techniques.



LID roof garden located at San Diego City College, downtown San Diego.  
Photo: San Diego Coastkeeper

*Recycled water will be an important part of California's sustainable water future.*



## Water Conservation through Recycling

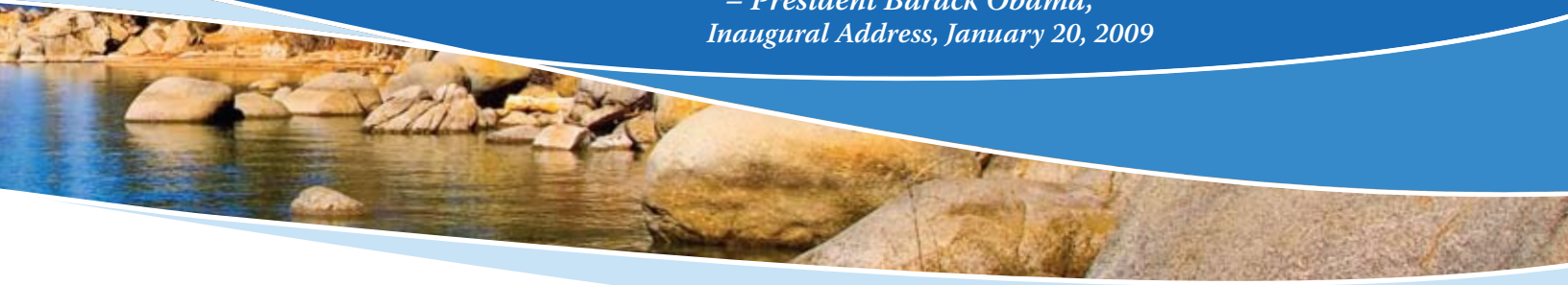
While simply using less water is the most immediate and effective way to ensure greater water sustainability, water recycling will also play an important part in California's sustainable water future. Increasing use of recycled water while protecting water quality is essential for ensuring clean, abundant water in California, and for increasing local self-sufficiency in water use. Recycled water is also a far more energy efficient water supply source than sources that have long, energy-intensive transport requirements, and so can help meet the state's greenhouse gas emission reduction goals. The key to making recycled water part of a sustainable supply is to use it in a way that protects both public health and waterway health.

CCKA continued extensive work in support of the highest and best use of recycled water, consistent with protecting the health of our waterways. In the first half of 2008, CCKA developed specific recommended improvements to the State Water Board's proposed Recycled Water Guidance. CCKA then teamed with members of the regulated industry and recommended a stakeholder process to rewrite the Policy. As a stakeholder, CCKA actively developed consensus points on the Policy, and presented it jointly with industry to the Water Board in the fall, to significant Board support.

## Key Waterkeeper Victories

- By stopping private property owners from illegally dredging, dumping, and filling into Arroyo Las Posas, **Ventura Coastkeeper** protected a major tributary of the Calleguas Creek.
- **Monterey Coastkeeper** worked successfully to set requirements for developers to use low impact development and smart growth concepts in future city expansions.

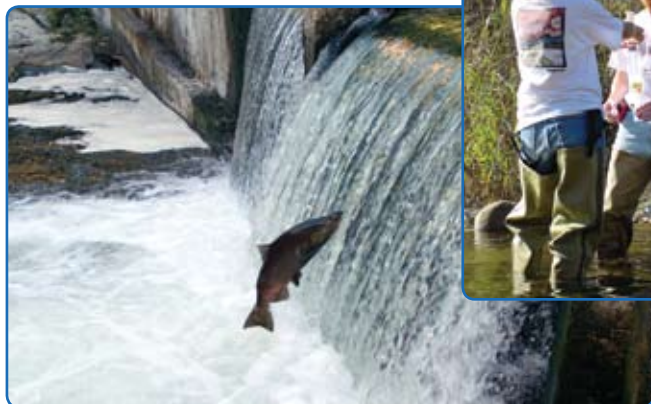
“Let clean waters flow.”  
– President Barack Obama,  
Inaugural Address, January 20, 2009



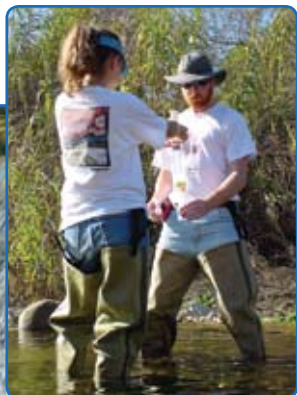
## Fish Gotta Swim

California’s water has been over-allocated and over-diverted to the point that natural systems, including native salmon populations, are collapsing. In a victory for abundant water in our rivers and streams, CCKA settled litigation against the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) for their failure to determine the flows needed to support fish and wildlife. The agreement requires DFG to create a prioritized list of at least 20 river and stream reaches for which it will prepare stream flow assessments. DFG will report to the public annually on the status of these flow assessments. As a result of the spotlight that CCKA’s lawsuit put on this issue, the Ocean Protection Council approved \$1 million in bond funds to jump-start the long-stalled flows program and provide the information needed to make sound water rights decisions that protect fish and ecosystems.

CCKA also contributed to the State Water Board’s Draft Policy for Maintaining Instream Flows in Northern California Coastal Streams, which will help protect key areas of salmon habitat. CCKA posted maps online of the numerous fish barriers currently in coastal streams, and is using the data to advocate for a program to remove the barriers where possible (see [www.cacoastkeeper.org/programs/mapping-initiative/fish-barriers-maps](http://www.cacoastkeeper.org/programs/mapping-initiative/fish-barriers-maps)).



Endangered coho salmon attempting to clear a spillway (above).  
Creek testing in Santa Barbara (top right).



The *Cosco Busan* container ship spilled nearly 53,000 gallons of oil into San Francisco Bay, causing extensive damage.  
Photo: Marine Photobank Bob Talbot, LegaSea Project, 2007

## No Oil In Our Waterways

The November 2007 *Cosco Busan* oil spill into San Francisco Bay and along the Central California coast underscored the need for better prevention and control over oil spills. CCKA was appointed as the Environmental Representative to the U.S. Coast Guard’s Incident Specific Preparedness Review Team to assess the local, state and federal response to the *Cosco Busan* spill. In close coordination with partner San Francisco Baykeeper, CCKA helped draft and review both phases of the *Cosco Busan* oil spill investigation, each of which were released in 2008 to nationwide attention (see [www.cacoastkeeper.org/programs/clean-abundant/oil-spills](http://www.cacoastkeeper.org/programs/clean-abundant/oil-spills)). The results of this intensive investigation have already had national implications for oil spill preparedness and response, with follow-up hearings and proposed legislation in Washington D.C.

Though the *Cosco Busan* spill received significant attention, inland oil spills annually add up to far more destruction than marine spills. In 2008, CCKA developed much-needed legislation, AB 2911 (Wolk), to improve inland oil spill prevention and response. The governor signed the bill into law along with a suite of other oil spill prevention bills, including one sponsored by San Francisco Baykeeper. All of these bills will reduce the likelihood of future oil spills and protect the health of California’s fragile coast and waterways.

- **Russian Riverkeeper** reduced urban runoff by installing storm drain filters in parking lots, and teaming up with builders to embrace low impact development.
- Following the *Cosco Busan* oil spill, **San Francisco Baykeeper** worked with local legislators to remedy serious gaps in California oil spill policy.

California's world-renowned coast and ocean face significant threats from both land and sea including over-fishing, coastal development in sensitive habitats, and continued pollution. CCKA and its member Waterkeepers work locally and statewide to ensure healthy coastal and marine ecosystems for current and future generations of Californians.

## Cleaning Up Coastal Power Plants

Nineteen coastal and bay-side power plants currently cool their operations using "once-through cooling," an outdated "technology" that devastates local habitats. These plants pull in and circulate over 16 billion gallons of cold salt water per day and then pump the heated water back into sensitive ecosystems. This antiquated cooling system kills an estimated 79 billion fish and other types of marine life annually, including marine mammals as well as threatened and endangered species such as chinook salmon and delta smelt.

CCKA actively leads a broad coalition of conservation, fishing, and environmental justice groups, including most of the California Waterkeepers, to phase out once-through cooling. In addition to improving the health of irreplaceable marine and estuarine ecosystems, phasing out once-through cooling will also encourage modernization of older, inefficient coastal steam plants, supporting California's progress towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions. In 2008, CCKA worked to educate the Legislature about this issue, and helped develop language for a bill that would ensure timely phase-out of this destructive "technology." As a result of CCKA's and its coalition members' work, several older steam plants have signaled their intent to upgrade to more environmentally sensitive power operations or shut down.



San Onofre Nuclear Power plant has destroyed hundreds of acres of kelp forest, countless tons of fish, and up to hundreds of sea lions and harbor seals.



Julia Pfeiffer Burns ASBS, California.

## Helping Marine Life Thrive in Clean Water

In an effort to preserve critical marine habitats, California designated 34 Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBSs) in the 1970s to protect the water quality of biologically unique ecosystems, including areas that serve as important nurseries for marine life.

The State Water Board prohibits all waste discharges into ASBSs unless they have a formal - and difficult-to-obtain - exception. However, a statewide scientific survey discovered that discharges were in fact pervasive, finding over 1,600 violations, most of which are storm drains emptying directly into the ASBSs. In 2008, CCKA was appointed by the State Water Board to the ASBS Task Force to help review and recommend projects that would stop or redirect these discharges. Funds for the projects are coming from \$35 million of Proposition 84 funds, set aside to assist local public agencies in complying with the ASBS discharge prohibition. To educate the public about ASBSs, CCKA posted an online map of these areas. See: [www.cacoastkeeper.org/programs/healthy-marine-habitats/ASBS](http://www.cacoastkeeper.org/programs/healthy-marine-habitats/ASBS). Because many of the ASBSs overlap with existing marine protected areas (MPAs), and will likely overlap with future MPAs designated through the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative, this work is also an important opportunity to fully protect the health of designated MPAs.

## Key Waterkeeper Victories

- As a Regional Stakeholder in the South Coast MLPA Initiative, **San Diego Coastkeeper** continued to lend its expertise to establish new marine protected areas in the region.
- **Santa Monica Baykeeper** prevented polluted runoff from entering Malibu Lagoon by building a low impact development parking lot that captures rainwater.

*“When we heal the earth, we heal ourselves.”  
– David Orr*



Central California coast (left) and a Garibaldi, California’s marine state fish (below).

### Creating Underwater Parks

The California Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) is a landmark law calling for the creation of a scientifically-based network of marine protected areas off the state’s coastline. Similar to parks on land, these marine protected areas are designated ocean regions set aside for preservation and protection. A marine reserve is a subset of marine protected areas, where no take of marine life is allowed (much as in a national park). Marine reserves safeguard the most critical ocean habitats and allow all types of marine life to thrive there, from the coral of the seafloor, to the fish and mammals that reach the water’s surface, and all marine life in between.

In 2008, CCKA and several member Waterkeepers actively participated in the public stakeholder process to create marine protected areas in both the North Central and South Coast regions of California. As an appointee to the MLPA Statewide Interest Group, CCKA voiced strong support for marine reserves that protect ocean life and are coordinated with water quality initiatives that further protect the designated areas. CCKA will continue to participate in the process through its completion in 2011, ensuring that a comprehensive, scientifically-based network of MPAs is adopted throughout the state.

*CCKA strongly supports marine reserves coordinated with water quality initiatives to fully protect marine life.*

### Restoring Kelp Forests

The giant kelp beds off of Southern California are one of the most diverse biological communities known to exist in our world’s oceans. Approximately 800 species of marine organisms depend on the

kelp forests at some point in their life history. Giant kelp once grew thickly along the Southern California coast but has been reduced by nearly 80 percent in the past 100 years.

After completing its six-year Giant Kelp Restoration Program in the Southern California Bight in 2007, CCKA published a summary report in 2008 to be used as support for the Southern California phase of the MLPA Initiative. The report describes the results of this effort and illustrates the expertise of CCKA and its member Waterkeepers in patrolling both inland and marine waters. The kelp report can be found on CCKA’s website at: [www.cacoastkeeper.org/document/kelp-report.pdf](http://www.cacoastkeeper.org/document/kelp-report.pdf). CCKA

also partnered with the Aquarium of the Pacific to continue kelp restoration off in Orange County and to create a kelp forest exhibit that will carry on the legacy begun with this joint project. Santa Monica Baykeeper actively continues kelp restoration efforts in Santa Monica Bay.



Diver in kelp forest.

- **Santa Barbara Channelkeeper** took over Santa Barbara County’s beach safety monitoring program when the County’s funding for the program was stripped.
- An effort spearheaded by **Humboldt Baykeeper** successfully identified dioxin sources around Humboldt Bay and developed plans to cease the pollutant’s flow into the Bay.



Despite enjoying some of the most progressive environmental laws in the country, California's coast and waterways continue to face pollution and misuse due to the lack of full implementation and enforcement of those laws. CCKA recognized the need for California to pull in the public as partners, and took action to address the severe lack of publicly-accessible, quality information on the health of the state's waterways and on agencies' programs to protect them. CCKA expanded its website to provide needed pollution data to the public, as well as information on how public can meet with decision-makers and hold them accountable for managing and protecting the health of the state's waterways and ocean.



### Mapping Polluted Waters

It is important for all Californians to be aware of pollution in their local waters so that they may advocate for swift cleanup of existing pollution and prevention of new contamination. To this end, CCKA formally launched online maps in 2008 of all impaired surface waters in California, using 2006 water pollution data collected by the State Water Board. CCKA created regional maps that include a roll-over function allowing the user to view additional information about specific surface water bodies, including: contaminants at issue, potential sources of the pollution, Regional Water Boards responsible for keeping the waters clean, and the regional Waterkeepers.

California was required by federal law to review and update this list in 2008. The process unfortunately has moved slowly, and most regions of the state only began releasing draft updates to these impaired waters lists in early 2009. In 2008, CCKA began planning a series of workshops around the state, to be co-sponsored with the individual Waterkeeper organizations, to inform the public about the coming changes to these lists. Public support is essential to keep polluted waters on this list so that they may receive clean-up attention and funding. Public input is also critical for those waters that are still polluted but face pressure from dischargers to come off the list. Visit our website at: [www.cacoastkeeper.org/programs/mapping-initiative](http://www.cacoastkeeper.org/programs/mapping-initiative) to learn about the specific pollutants in your waterways, the decision-makers responsible for keeping those waters clean, and how you can be involved in the 2008 update of the impaired waters list for your region.

*CCKA provides the public with information needed to hold water managers accountable.*



### Key Waterkeeper Victories

- **Inland Empire Waterkeeper's** high school watershed education program, *River KATS: Kid Activism Together with Science*, reached more students than ever in 2008.
- **Orange County Coastkeeper** unveiled a 2.5-acre sustainable garden and helped install low impact development runoff controls in 10 homes.

*"It's the little things citizens do. That's what will make the difference."*

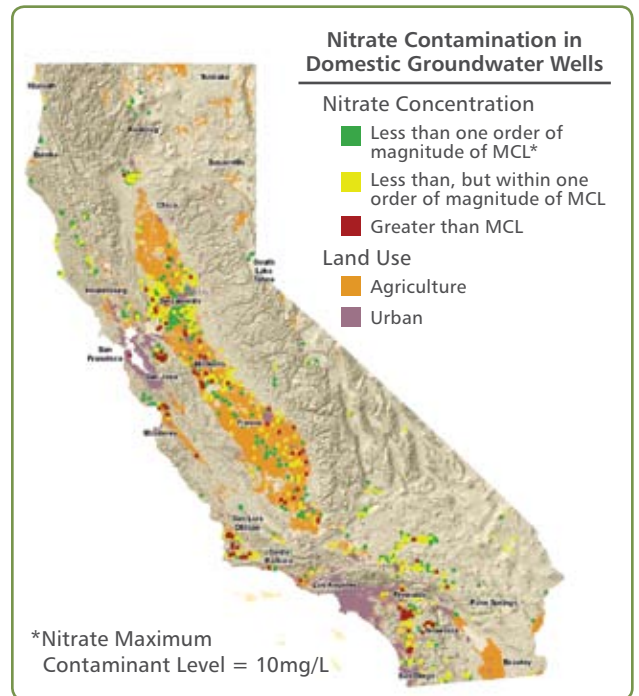
*– Wangari Maathai,  
Nobel Peace Prize Award Winner*



## Nitrate Contamination

To provide data to the public on groundwater pollution, CCKA developed several pollutant-specific maps in 2008, including a set of maps showing nitrate contamination levels of groundwater around the state. See: groundwater nitrate map at [www.cacoastkeeper.org/programs/mapping-initiative/nitrates-in-groundwater-maps](http://www.cacoastkeeper.org/programs/mapping-initiative/nitrates-in-groundwater-maps).

The primary source of nitrate contamination in California's waterways is agriculture. Commercial fertilizers and animal wastes release highly soluble nitrates, which leach through the soil from land application or run off into surface waters and eventually find their way into groundwater aquifers. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for nitrates is 10 milligrams per liter (mg/L), though nitrate concentrations far less than that can damage aquatic species. Infants and children are particularly susceptible to illness from nitrate contamination; immature human digestive systems convert nitrate into nitrites, which enters the bloodstream and reduces the ability of blood to carry oxygen. This can lead to the potentially fatal "blue baby syndrome." The map at right shows that in many areas of the state, Californians using private drinking water wells face potential nitrate contamination. CCKA will use these maps as support for increased attention to contamination of groundwater, which is often linked closely with surface water health.



Map created using National Water Quality Assessment Data and U.S. Geological Survey Data from the National Water Information System.



Volunteers clean up their local beach in San Diego.  
Photo: San Diego Coastkeeper

## Become a Steward for Your Water

CCKA's website provides a wealth of information on the health of coast, ocean, and inland waterways, and on ways that the public can get involved and become a water steward. Find up-to-date information on public meetings of government agencies responsible for managing our coast and oceans at: [www.cacoastkeeper.org/take-action/public-meetings](http://www.cacoastkeeper.org/take-action/public-meetings). CCKA also posts information on current California legislation that may affect our coast and waterways at: [www.cacoastkeeper.org/programs/people-and-government/legislative-tracker](http://www.cacoastkeeper.org/programs/people-and-government/legislative-tracker). Contact your legislators about important environmental issues in your area; they want to hear from you!

Waterkeepers throughout the state offer other programs for the public to get involved, including beach and river clean-ups, water quality testing, and kelp and eelgrass restoration. To learn about volunteer opportunities with your local Waterkeeper, visit the volunteer page on the CCKA website at: [www.cacoastkeeper.org/take-action/volunteer](http://www.cacoastkeeper.org/take-action/volunteer).

- Legal advocacy and effective community organizing by **Klamath Riverkeeper** helped push PacifiCorp to an initial agreement to remove their four, destructive Klamath River dams.
- Homeowners learned practical techniques for reducing water use and preventing stormwater runoff at **San Luis Obispo Coastkeeper's** water conservation and low impact development workshops.

While CCKA fights for clean water and healthy coastal ecosystems at the statewide level, the regional Waterkeepers focus their efforts in their local watersheds. In 2008, the Alliance included 12 community-based California Waterkeeper programs, spanning the coast from the Oregon border to San Diego. Visit [www.cacoastkeeper.org](http://www.cacoastkeeper.org) to find your local Waterkeeper.



SD Coastkeeper-sponsored beach cleanup.

SDCK engaged more than 12,500 volunteers through monthly beach cleanups and water monitoring, and reached more than 40,000 students with Project SWELL environmental education curricula.

## San Diego Coastkeeper

San Diego Coastkeeper (SDCK) helped score a major victory in 2008, by successfully encouraging the City of San Diego to approve and fund a pilot demonstration facility that will test the use of highly treated wastewater to augment local reservoirs and could pave the way for a full-scale Indirect Potable Reuse project that would provide up to 16 million gallons per day to augment the San Vicente Reservoir. SDCK also filed lawsuits challenging a proposed 50 million gallon per day Carlsbad desalination plant that would unnecessarily impact coastal habitat and release greenhouse gasses. SDCK helped secure a settlement for local restoration and land acquisition projects resulting from millions of gallons of sewage spills into Buena Vista Lagoon and Escondido Creek. SDCK also worked with the City and County to

## Inland Empire Waterkeeper

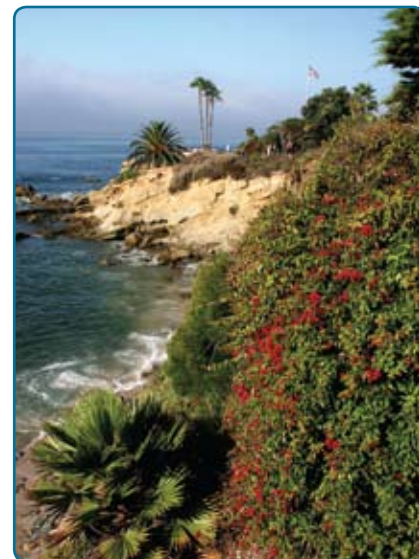
Inland Empire Waterkeeper (IEWK) continues to establish its presence as the only nonprofit water quality organization in the Upper Santa Ana River Watershed. In 2008, IEWK received a 14-month assessment contract to study key tributaries of the river in the San Bernardino/Redlands area. IEWK's watershed education program, *River KATS: Kid Activism Together with Science* grew substantially in 2008. During the rainy season, IEWK focused its enforcement efforts on large metal recyclers and scrapyards. IEWK continues to be highly involved in several development proposals that threaten wildlands, and participates in several watershed planning efforts.



IEWK and friends patrol local waterways.

## Orange County Coastkeeper

2008 was another fantastic year at Orange County Coastkeeper (OCCK), as its programs continued to make a difference in water quality throughout the region. OCCK opened the 2.5 acre Coastkeeper Gardens and moved forward with its Low Impact Design retrofit program by working with 10 homes to install runoff controls. As a part of its marine program, Coastkeeper became deeply involved in the implementation of the Marine Life Protection Act. OCCK continued to



study pollution sources into Newport Bay through its stormdrain monitoring project, and initiated a program to reduce copper levels in the Newport Marina. OCCK was a major part of the coalition to stop the Foothill South Tollroad, a project that would have degraded the water quality in San Mateo Creek and permanently damaged San Onofre State Park. OCCK's WHALES education program continues to grow, with hundreds of students heading out on field trips to learn about their watershed. After success in 2008, OCCK is looking forward to a great 2009.

## Santa Monica Baykeeper

Santa Monica Baykeeper (SMBK) continued its long tradition of protecting and restoring Santa Monica Bay, San Pedro Bay and adjacent waters by taking on new challenges in 2008. After years of persistent pollution problems, SMBK filed lawsuits with NRDC against the City of Malibu and the County of Los Angeles for violating municipal stormwater permits. To prevent polluted runoff from entering Malibu Lagoon, SMBK managed the construction of a low impact development parking lot that captures and treats rainwater, adjacent to the lagoon for California State Parks. In September, SMBK staff took to the skies in a partnership with LightHawk to perform aerial surveys off Southern California's coast; this effort will provide crucial information for establishing marine protected areas as part of the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative. And most importantly as a direct result of SMBK's efforts, the City of Los Angeles achieved a 71% reduction in sewage spills.



SMBK volunteers working hard to restore Stone Canyon Creek.

## Santa Barbara Channelkeeper

Santa Barbara Channelkeeper (SBCK) preserved a critical public health service by taking over Santa Barbara County's beach safety monitoring program when the County's funding was cut in 2008. SBCK conducts weekly bacteria sampling at 12 beaches and notifies the public when State health standards are exceeded. SBCK secured significant improvements in local municipalities' programs to combat urban runoff pollution. SBCK convinced the Regional Water Board to approve a rigorous clean-up plan for soils contaminated with toxic heavy metals, DDT, and other pesticides in Carpinteria. SBCK's water quality monitoring and field investigations identified and led to the cleanup of several pollution problems, including a raw sewage discharge from a medical clinic to Cieneguitas Creek and polluted discharges from an agricultural facility to the lower Ventura River. The eelgrass bed that SBCK restored offshore Anacapa Island increased in size by 250%, providing habitat for many commercially and recreationally important fish species.



SBCK preserved an important public health service when they took over weekly beach water quality sampling in November 2008 after Santa Barbara county cut funding for this effort.

## Ventura Coastkeeper

In 2008, the Ventura Coastkeeper (VCK) resolved its enforcement action against three private property owners for illegally dredging, dumping and filling into the Arroyo Las Posas stream, a tributary of the Calleguas Creek. The filling, conducted without permits in order to recover land eroded during storms, changed the natural course of the river and degraded its ecosystem. After VCK filed suit, the U.S. EPA issued orders requiring additional property owners to remove unpermitted fill and to restore the damaged portions of the river. VCK's enforcement actions are part of its campaign to end decades of dumping into Ventura County streams and to require the clean up of fill material. Into 2009, VCK continues to protect, preserve, and restore the ecological integrity and water quality of Ventura County's inland waterbodies and coastal waters, focusing specifically on monitoring, enforcement actions, advocacy, and projects in the Santa Clara River and Calleguas Creek watersheds.



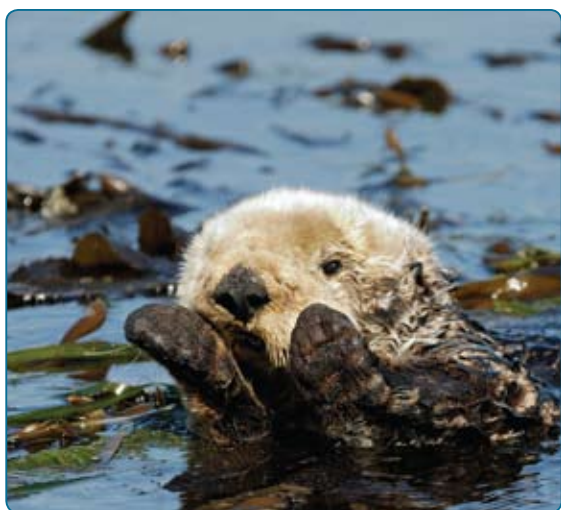
The Calleguas watershed flows through five cities and their wastewater facilities.

## San Luis Obispo Coastkeeper

In 2008, San Luis Obispo Coastkeeper (SLOCK) continued to provide leadership on the Central Coast to prevent new threats and reduce existing threats to water quality in San Luis Obispo County and northern Santa Barbara County. This year, SLOCK focused on: reviewing Urban Storm Water Permit proposals by 8 of the region's MS4 agencies, monitoring to complete the enrollment of the remaining irrigated agricultural operations in the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Board's Agricultural Waiver program, and protecting Central Coast waters from degradation resulting from multiple gravel mine proposals on the Salinas River and the Cuyama River. In addition SLOCK continued its well-received, volunteer-led water conservation and low impact development workshops. These workshops provide homeowners with practical, hands-on demonstrations of techniques and products suitable for do-it-yourself level application.



Signs warn of danger from pollution in creeks.



## Monterey Coastkeeper

2008 was very busy for Monterey Coastkeeper (MCK) Early in the year MCK kicked off its Agricultural Water Quality Protection Program encouraging growers to implement management practices, including water conservation and use of recycled water, that are highly protective of water resources. In addition, MCK began monitoring practices implemented in the name of "food safety" that are destructive of resources including the poisoning of wildlife and destruction of riparian habitat. MCK has also engaged state and federal agencies in an effort to bring water quality and food safety requirements together. In our urban areas MCK has actively engaged municipalities and state agencies to promote comprehensive stormwater management. MCK won a major victory for residents of the City of Salinas by requiring developers to use low impact development and smart growth concepts for future city expansion. Additionally, MCK moved into new offices and grew its staff to meet any new challenges ahead.

## San Francisco Baykeeper

In 2008, San Francisco Baykeeper (SFBK) continued its long tradition of protecting the San Francisco Bay watershed through community outreach, regulatory advocacy, sound science and high-impact litigation. Following up on a decade of lawsuits to stop sewage spills, SFBK sued the City of Burlingame for rampant sewage overflows and for illegally piping wastewater into a popular recreational area. The case successfully settled with the City agreeing to aggressively upgrade its sewer system and to commit \$250,000 in penalties towards Bay restoration projects. SFBK also spent much of the year in Sacramento working with local legislators in the wake of the November 2007 *Cosco Busan* oil spill to remedy serious gaps in oil spill policies throughout the state. Additionally, SFBK targeted vessel pollution in the Bay by suing the federal government for toxic pollutants leaching off abandoned military vessels polluting a sensitive Bay marsh.



San Francisco Bay is a popular recreation area.



Russian Riverkeeper cleaning debris from stormdrain filter that would have gone to the River as part of a filter efficiency test.

## Russian Riverkeeper

Russian Riverkeeper (RRK) achieved another year of victories for a healthier river in 2008, including: stopping a major riverbank wastewater discharge facility, reaching final settlement with a lumber mill requiring them to develop and implement pollution control measures at the mill, and filing a lawsuit with other community groups to hold Sonoma County to their previous decision to permanently end destructive deep pit mining along the River. RRK also worked to reduce our largest pollution source – urban stormwater – by installing stormdrain filters in parking lots to catch pollutants and teaming up with builders to treat stormwater pollution by diverting to landscaped areas. In the community, RRK coordinated and trained volunteers for the 7<sup>th</sup> First Flush stormwater pollution survey, educated the community about our native fish at the Healdsburg Wild Steelhead Festival and continued training new volunteers to restore the native riparian forest at the 5-acre Riverkeeper Stewardship Park.

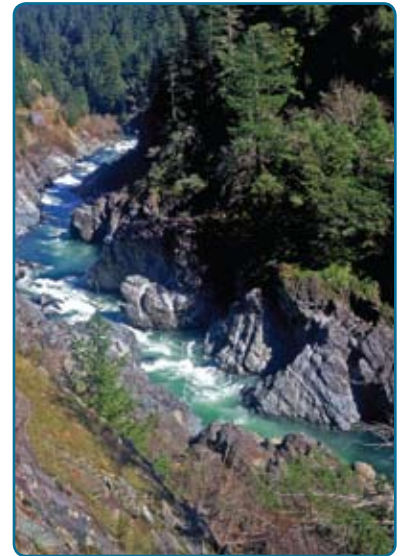
## Humboldt Baykeeper

In 2008, Humboldt Baykeeper (HBK) continued to battle toxic contamination around Humboldt Bay left in the wake of decades of industrial timber production. Following a successful petition to the State Water Board to identify Humboldt Bay as impaired for dioxin under the Clean Water Act, HBK is spearheading a multi-agency Dioxin Working Group to identify sources of dioxin around the Bay and to develop strategies to cease the flow of this contaminant into the Bay. In continuing to expand its Water Quality Monitoring Program, HBK developed an extensive data set utilized by local municipalities to identify stormwater-related problem around the Bay and coast. As an active member of the Northcoast Stormwater Coalition, HBK continued its work to reduce stormwater pollution in local streams, rivers, Humboldt Bay and the ocean through educating the public, coordinating pollution prevention efforts, and implementing pollution control measures.



## Klamath Riverkeeper

In 2008, Klamath Riverkeeper (KRK) successfully used a combination of hard-hitting legal work, participation in regulatory processes, and effective community organizing to push PacifiCorp to initially agree to remove their four dams on the Klamath River. This success is monumental, however, much work remains on obtaining a final dam removal agreement that meets the needs of the river. KRK also completed a detailed scientific and legal analysis of a state plan to fast-track permits that would allow harming or killing endangered Coho salmon on the Scott and Shasta Rivers, two of the most important Klamath tributaries. Additionally, KRK was the only organization in the Klamath watershed to formally oppose a proposed liquefied natural gas pipeline that would threaten water quality and endangered species in Oregon's Upper Klamath Basin. Organizationally, KRK increased its staff capacity with the addition of an Administrator, a Community Organizer, and an Executive Director; and hired a new Riverkeeper.



## Staff

Linda Sheehan  
*Executive Director*

Angela Haren  
*Program Director*

Dirk Burcham  
*Regional Kelp Project Manager*

Thomas Lyons  
*Program Coordinator*

Louis Schilling  
*Bookkeeper*

## Board of Directors

Tom Ford, President  
*Baykeeper, Santa Monica Baykeeper*

Pete Nichols, Secretary  
*Director & Baykeeper, Humboldt Baykeeper*

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*Executive Director, Orange County  
Coastkeeper and Inland Empire Waterkeeper*

Gordon Hensley  
*Coastkeeper, San Luis Obispo Coastkeeper*

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*Executive Director, Monterey Coastkeeper*

Don McEnhill, Vice President  
*Riverkeeper, Russian Riverkeeper*

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Erica Terence  
*Riverkeeper, Klamath Riverkeeper*

Mati Waiya  
*Executive Director, Ventura Coastkeeper*



CCKA represents all California Waterkeeper programs from the Oregon border to San Diego. From top: Mendocino Headlands State Beach, Sacramento River, and Laguna Beach.

*“We do not inherit the earth from our  
ancestors, we borrow it from our children.”  
– Native American Proverb*

## Government & Foundation Grants

California Coastkeeper Alliance gratefully acknowledges the following donors for their generous support of our 2008 work.

California Coastal Conservancy

Code Blue Charitable Foundation

David and Lucille Packard Foundation

Environment Now

The Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment

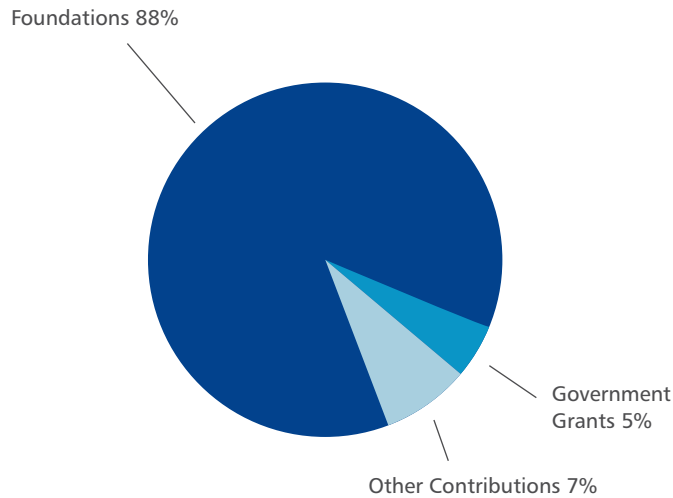
Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund

The Rose Foundation

Anonymous

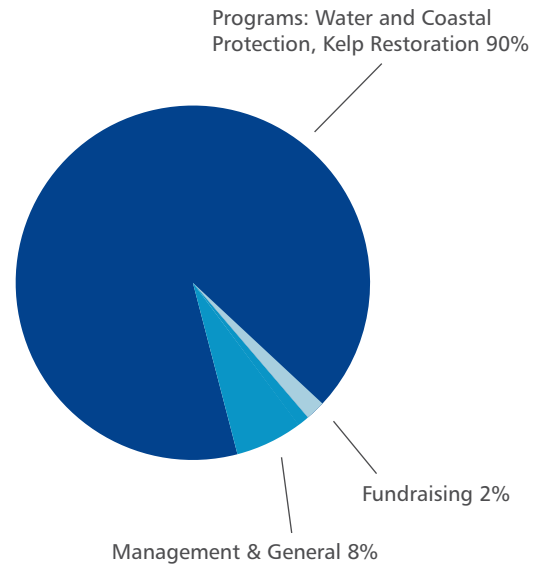
California Coastkeeper Alliance is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization incorporated under the laws of California in 1999. We greatly value the continued generous support for the work of the Alliance, and so we maximize use of every donation for the protection of water and the coast of California. We are proud to report that 90 cents of every dollar goes directly to environmental policy and programs.

## 2008 Sources of Funds



Total Operating Income \$534,321\*

## 2008 Uses of Funds



Total Operating Expenses \$452,350\*

\*Financial statements are audited by Notti & Company, San Rafael, CA. Copies of our complete financial report are available upon request.

## Giving Opportunities

Help us protect California's waterways and world-renowned coast for all Californians and our future generations.

- Individuals can make a tax-exempt donation online at [www.cacoastkeeper.org](http://www.cacoastkeeper.org) or via mail to:

California Coastkeeper Alliance  
 PO Box 3156  
 Fremont, CA 94539

- California Coastkeeper Alliance is part of 1% For the Planet, an organization that encourages businesses to donate at least 1% of their proceeds to environmental organizations. To learn more visit: [www.1percentfortheplanet.com](http://www.1percentfortheplanet.com).





PO Box 3156  
Fremont, CA 94539  
[www.cacoastkeeper.org](http://www.cacoastkeeper.org)

## California Waterkeepers

San Diego Coastkeeper  
2825 Dewey Rd, Suite 200  
San Diego, CA 92106  
[www.sdcoastkeeper.org](http://www.sdcoastkeeper.org)

Santa Barbara Channelkeeper  
714 Bond Ave  
Santa Barbara, CA 93103  
[www.sbck.org](http://www.sbck.org)

San Francisco Baykeeper  
785 Market St, Suite 850  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
[www.baykeeper.org](http://www.baykeeper.org)

Inland Empire Waterkeeper  
3741 Merced Dr, Unit F2  
Riverside, CA 92503  
[www.iewaterkeeper.org](http://www.iewaterkeeper.org)

Santa Monica Baykeeper  
PO Box 10096  
Marina del Rey, CA 90295  
[www.smbaykeeper.org](http://www.smbaykeeper.org)

Russian Riverkeeper  
PO Box 1335  
Healdsburg, CA 95448  
[www.russianriverkeeper.org](http://www.russianriverkeeper.org)

Orange County Coastkeeper  
3151 Airway Ave, Suite F-110  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626  
[www.coastkeeper.org](http://www.coastkeeper.org)

San Luis Obispo Coastkeeper  
EPI-Center 1013 Monterey St, Suite 107  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401  
[www.epicenteronline.org](http://www.epicenteronline.org)

Humboldt Baykeeper  
217 E St  
Eureka, CA 95501  
[www.humboldtбайkeeper.org](http://www.humboldtбайkeeper.org)

Ventura Coastkeeper  
3875-A Telegraph Road, #423  
Ventura, CA 93003  
[www.wishtoyo.org](http://www.wishtoyo.org)

Monterey Coastkeeper  
475 Washington Street, Suite A  
Monterey, CA 93940  
[www.montereycoastkeeper.org](http://www.montereycoastkeeper.org)

Klamath Riverkeeper  
PO Box 751  
Somes Bar, CA 95568  
[www.klamathriver.org](http://www.klamathriver.org)



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