There is always a great hustle and bustle on the good ship Heal the Ocean, with ever-wonderful teammates working away in the office. We bring in interns, outside engineers, consultants and researchers to join us in projects to further our Mission.

OFFICE DOINGS

We send big thanks to Julia Teitzel, who joined the HTO team in August 2017 as an Operations Assistant. Julia helps with everything from social media and website management, to dog bag dispenser maintenance and office organization. Our sador caps off to you, Julia!

Meanwhile, we bid “aicio” to our Operations Coordinator, Corey Radis, who is suiling on to a career in education, with the goal of teaching high school physics. But first, Corey is traveling to Chile with her fiancé Benjamin Boyce, who has many Chilean family members. Ben is a musician whose band played during the pre-show festivities at HTO’s “Really Big Show” Annual Event in 2016. He, too, is going back to school, with the goal of teaching. We wish best of luck to both Corey and Ben!

CHECK OUT OUR NEW ONLINE STORE!

In January 2018, we launched a new HTO website (www.healtheocean.org) featuring extensive project timelines, a more streamlined donation system and an online store! Shop for HTO T-shirts, hats, sweatshirts, and more while contributing to an important cause.

SAVE THE DATE! ART SHOW TO BENEFIT HEAL THE OCEAN

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, July 25, 2018, beginning at noon, reception from 5-8pm, for an exciting art show at the Santa Barbara Museum to benefit Heal the Ocean. HTO is partnering with the Southern California Artists Painting for the Environment (SCAPE) for this show, and right up until show time, SCAPE artists will be painting Santa Barbara ocean and coastal scenes that will be displayed for sale at the July 25 event. Founded in 2002, SCAPE has grown to over 200 members—a diverse group including nationally known and local artists, students, patrons and even gallery owners. We will be sending you more details closer to the event date. Thank you, SCAPE!

HI FROM HILLARY

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times…”

The opening lines of Dickens’ “Tale of Two Cities” could so well describe the first few months of 2018 in Santa Barbara County: great tragedy and great victory, the spring of hope and the winter of despair. Both are on the pages of this newsletter—the monstrous Montecito mudslide, followed by the magnificence of the capping of Becker Well that ended an ugly source of oil pollution.

Also on the pages of this newsletter is a celebration of Heal the Ocean’s 20th Anniversary! Twenty years of work and labor and victories that were hard to imagine we’d get into when we gathered as a citizens’ action group in August 1998. That is when Santa Barbara citizens came together, infuriated at the prospect of beaches being closed due to bacterial pollution, and nearly rioted on the steps of the Santa Barbara County administration building.

We quickly banded together and started doing things without a lot of funding or fanfare. It’s a bit amazing even to us today how we did those things then. It had to do with the gathering of a team of really smart people—a Board of Directors that can best be described as environmental prophets. There are those of us who can never forget John Robinson (1938-2011) pacing the floor with his ever-present cigarette, thinking with his genius mind how to solve things—from storm drain pollution to the improvement of wastewater infrastructure.

We knew we had to tackle wastewater infrastructure as a chief source of ocean pollution, and the initial steps we took ended up being ahead of our time. The study we commissioned in 2001 from the Metcalf & Eddy engineering firm, “Cost of Tertiary Wastewater Treatment for Santa Barbara County” created a bit of incredulity at the time (“not necessary!”), but became an important source of information much later, when Santa Barbara County began to look for sources of water during a drought that still goes on today.

During these past 20 years we have seen wastewater discharge into the ocean upgrading to recycled water, and we have seen septic systems removed from 7 miles of coastline. We have won regulatory battles in Sacramento and collaborated successfully with City and County agencies to improve our pipes, facilities, environment, and impact on the ocean.

All this said, the basis of all this work over all these years is You, the citizen warriors who joined us and are still joining us. The pages of this newsletter contain montages of many pictures and many scenes—many people getting together to discuss and work on problems and issues, and also to have fun and celebrate.

Yes, Heal the Ocean is 20 years old! We will continue to work in the best of times and worst of times, always.

We thank all of you, so very much, for helping.
The Thomas Fire was the largest fire in California history, starting in Ventura County on December 4, 2017 and racing west toward Santa Barbara County. It became a firestorm advancing at the rate of 1 acre per second, threatening Ojai, Faria, Rincon, Carpinteria, and finally, Montecito.

The fire cleared out the City of Santa Barbara and neighboring communities – because no one could breathe the dense smoke. Then, during the early morning hours of January 9, 2018, a fast and dense rain hit the scorched scarred area in the mountains behind Montecito. While people slept, flash floods roared down the mountainside, bringing along fast-moving car-sized boulders that smashed into homes and overturned cars. Torrents of mud swept people from their homes, burried much of the community while taking lives, homes and property on the way to inundating the 101 Freeway.

Firemen and emergency responders went into high gear to rescue people and animals, while Santa Barbara County Public Works officials immediately went to work on the mud problem. The only place so much mud could immediately be taken to, fast enough, was Goleta Beach. The debris basins behind Carpinteria were impacted, too, and had to be emptied before the Carpinteria Salt Marsh flooded, not only to wreck the Marsh, but the homes at Sandyland and Sand Point, on the beach side of the Marsh.

At Heal the Ocean we knew there would be an environmental backlash, and HTO Board Members (particularly Charles Vinick and Hillary) had hasty conversations. Our Mission Statement includes “No ocean dumping,” but what was occurring was a disaster of monumental proportions. People were missing. Public Works was doing all it could to find the missing, clear the 101 Freeway, and restore the community as fast as possible – before the next rains came.

If Vesuvius had just buried Pompeii, would we be asking to test the ash before we dug people out? We decided this:
- Good environmental work focuses on day-to-day operations and regulations.
- When a monstrous disaster strikes, there is not time to quibble.
- We agreed we needed to support Public Works, and when the disaster was settled, do all we can do to get the ocean back to normal again.
- And do what we can to encourage a long-range plan for Santa Barbara County should (heaven forbid) such a disaster happen again.

We put out our views in E-letters and Facebook – and received 58,371 hits, 737 Likes, 131 hearts, and 581 shares. We were most gratified to hear how much we had comforted the community. So many thanks came in for our leadership in this troubled time. There were, and are, detractors, who didn’t and don’t agree with us, and we respect those opinions, too – a lively discussion is always healthy in community situations as monumental as this. We have stayed our course.

To support Emergency workers, as well as Heal the Ocean’s view, Hillary composed this poetic tribute, and HTO placed it in a full-page ad in the Montecito Journal, January 25, 2018 issue. The gripping photo by Kenneth Song/Reuters tells the whole story (we thank him for its use!). This image, together with the words, has become something of a hallmark in Montecito, to mark the biggest disaster in Santa Barbara history, and to pay tribute to the heroism of the emergency responders who went beyond every conceivable means to help people in distress.
WITH SO MUCH DESTRUCTION, WHAT COULD WE DO?

With mud going into the ocean from the Montecito Mudslide, citizens reached out to us from everywhere, wanting to do what they could to help. In the debris flow to the ocean came many plastic items – household, children’s toys, even broken septic tanks. We couldn’t do much about the immense piles of wood debris, the mangled cars that hit the beach, but we could pick up – little by little – pieces of things that didn’t belong there. In all the beachcombing that took place in this Citizen’s Effort, some personal items were actually returned to their owners who lost about the immense piles of wood debris, the mangled cars that hit the beach, but we could pick up – little by little – pieces of things that didn’t belong there. In all the beachcombing that took place in this Citizen’s Effort, some personal items were actually returned to their owners who lost

THE SECRET TO HTO SUCCESS – TAKING RISKS

There are many talented people who haven’t fulfilled their dreams because they over thought it, or they were too cautious, and were unwilling to make the leap of faith.

Over the past 20 years, HTO's big victories for the Ocean happened because we took leaps of faith, not knowing for certain if we’d land on our feet. In other words, we have taken risks. When we didn’t have the funds or means, we did it anyway. A few examples:

• Rincon $67,000 gamble (2001). At the beginning of our campaign to sewer the Rincon, we got the news that the Carpinteria Sanitary District (CSD) was going to drop the septic-to-sewer project at an evening board meeting, because it was $67,000 in the hole, and the District could not legally spend ratepayer money to annex new customers. Even though we had Two Cents in the bank, and an hour to react, we raced to that board meeting and guaranteed the $67,000 debt to keep CSD moving forward. Forever thanks to HTO Board Director John Robinson (1938-2013) who told Hillary, “just Go Do It!” (Later, we passed the financial responsibility on to Santa Barbara County.)

• City/USGS (2005). HTO appeared before Santa Barbara City Council and said we’d raise $75,000 to give the City if it would proceed with contracting with the U.S. Geological Survey for a 3-year project, “Sources of Fecal Indicator Bacteria in Urban Streams and Ocean Beaches,” which turned out to be a landmark study about the relationship of groundwater and the ocean. The City said Yes, and this was HTO’s first into the new mode of raising money to help City, County and other agencies get things done.

• Becker Well (2018). When HTO learned of the $150M price tag to cap the leaking Becker Well, we contracted with Dudaek to get the funds. We didn’t get the grant, but we got the attention of the State Lands Commission. When SLC officials announced in a Carpinteria public meeting at the end of 2017 that half the funds weren’t there, Hillary stood up and said, “We will sell lemonade and get those funds!” This established a great communication with SLC to push - push - for getting the funds into the State budget, signed by Governor Brown, and Becker Well is now capped.

• Montecito Mudslide (2018). This was a big one. In the immediate aftermath of the disastrous Montecito mudslide in the early morning hours of January 9, 2018, HTO Executive Director Hillary Hauser knew HTO had to take a stand on the dumping of the mud onto Goleta Beach – that there was no environmental business as usual. She called HTO Board member Charles Vinick in near distress as to how HTO could support the mud dumping on Goleta Beach. “This is a heavy situation that has heavy answers,” Charles said, “but decisions are made nonetheless.” With this simple advice, HTO published our E-letter and HTO’s Facebook Page full support for Public Works doing the dumping, as well as other emergency personnel working to find missing people, open the 101 Freeway, and get the heavily hit Montecito community settled down. The results: 58,000 hits on FB posting, 737 “Likes,” 581 “Shares.” Some comments (including some from those who opposed) are represented in the margins of this page.

Thanks to the Great and Wonderful HTO Board of Directors, who not only went along with these risks, but encouraged them.
On Monday, February 26, 2018, a big ocean barge from Long Beach pulled up to Summerland, California, and oil workers began offloading massive oil-construction equipment to the shore at the west end of Summerland beach. The target? The infamous Becker Onshore Well, which had been leaking onto the beach and into the ocean ever since it was improperly abandoned during Summerland’s wildcatting years of the early 1900s.

- Summerland citizens rabble-rouse about the problem when the well starts leaking oil more than usual in 2014;
- HTO learns the State Lands Commission (SLC) has no budget to cap Becker, and contracts with Dudek to apply for a $1.5 million grant to cap the well;
- HTO attends SLC hearing in Orange County, August 2015, to announce we will find the funds;
- SLC officials come to HTO office in Santa Barbara to collaborate on grant application. Unfortunately, we can’t find the $200K for CEQA, and the application is not submitted;
- Then Assemblyman Das Williams successfully introduces $750K for Becker project into State budget FY 2016/2017;
- With all necessary funds for capping so very close to being in hand, HTO goes on Rabid Letter Writing Campaign to get very unique cards on Governor Jerry Brown’s desk, asking him to approve the $750K in the State budget.
- The Governor says YES!

The Becker Onshore Well is just one uncapped oil well problem along the California Coast, and in December 2016, Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson introduced SB 44 – the Coastal Hazard and Legacy Oil and Gas Well Removal and Remediation Program. The bill will create a program to address over 200 oil wells in California’s coastal waters that are improperly abandoned and leaking oil into the ocean. HTO went wildly

- With other groups, HTO goes on massive letter-writing campaign to Governor Jerry Brown, and the Governor approves the funding;
- At the end of 2016, however, SLC officials tell an audience in Carpenteria it doesn’t have the other half ($750K) needed to get the job done. HTO responds by telling SLC we will sell lemonade, do anything to find the funds;
- January 2017, SLC introduces needed funds into State budget for FY 2017/2018;
- By this time, Summerland residents/ocean lovers Michael & Nora McNeely Hurley have joined the fight, and Nora goes to the beach almost every day to photograph Becker Well leaking onto the beach and send photos and video to the State Lands Commission;
- With all necessary funds for capping so very close to being in hand, HTO goes on Rabid Letter Writing Campaign to get very unique cards on Governor Jerry Brown’s desk, asking him to approve the $750K in the State budget.
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The giant barge from Curtin Maritime, Long Beach, is towed into Summerland Beach in front of Becker Well and drops a giant pipe onto the beach. This “cofferdam” is hammered into the sand around the well and pumped clear of sand and water to create a work space. The work platform is lowered on top of the cofferdam so that workers can descend to the top of the well and do their magic.

Nora McNeely Hurley is an ardent ocean lover (and HTO Advisory Board Member), who lives with her husband Michael Hurley (also Advisory Board) in Summerland, overlooking the beach. Almost every day she would take her camera down to Becker Well and photograph it, and send photos and video to the State Lands Commission;

Michael Hurley, Hillary, Nora McNeely Hurley

Nora McNeely Hurley’s Personal Campaign

SB 44 - OIL CLEANUP ACT

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Nora McNeely Hurley’s Personal Campaign

HTO’s Postcard Campaign

We wanted to flood the Governor’s desk with pleas for his approval of Becker funds, so we published an E-letter with a number of different messages people could pick from. We handwrote the messages onto postcards that we had created in the office. There was much art and cutting and gluing and stamping – and in the end, 250 of these colorful cards landed on the Governor’s desk...and he said YES!
We thought of ourselves as the Monkey Wrench gang:

We snuck into wastewater plants & took samples.

GSD wrote HTO Board & said if they caught HTO Executive Director inside again, they were calling the police.

We boldly drove into Tajiguas and filmed everything.

We produced a 1 hour film (about 59 minutes too long) – showing us sampling a siltation pond using a mayonnaise jar). Film was so terrible it became “camp”.

We held protests with outrageous signs (i.e. “No more Brown Trouts!”)

To get public attention we did lots of stunts:

• A Sea Animal Parade along Cabrillo Blvd.
  • Francone Park and Hillary were dressed like Mermaids.
  • Jean-Michel Cousteau went along in a bicycle cart blowing bubbles.
  • HTO co-founder Jeff Young arrived as King Neptune.

• A Healing Service for the Ocean At All Saints by the Sea, representatives from all denominations, (Catholic, Jewish, Chumash, Krishna, etc.) walked down the aisle with receptacles of sea water, poured contents into a communal bowl at the altar where it was blessed by the All Saints priest.

• We used a NOAA ship & submersible to dive 25 ft. on the Montecito outfall, got hung up on a diffuser and NOAA made us abort the dive.

• We made a scuba dive on the Goleta Sanitary District outfall to 90 feet, filmed it, and showed it to the Regional Board to convince the Board to force GSD to upgrade.

• We had great fun!

To celebrate after 20 years of work, Heal the Ocean is now celebrating much progress:

- Goleta Sanitary District upgraded to full secondary treatment, because in 2002 we badgered the Regional Board to deny extension of their waiver to do less. We celebrated with GSD when the renewed plant started operating in 2013.

  • The South Coast Beaches Community Septic to Sewer Project (including Rincon) removed septic systems from 7 miles of Santa Barbara County coastline. (It only took 14 years!)

  • HTO collaborated with Montecito Sanitary District to convince homeowners along creeks to abandon their septic systems.

- We worked with Heal the Bay, Santa Monica, to get AB 883 (septic system regulations for California) in place.

- We paid for engineering studies and produced surveys that are still in use today.

- We went door to door to “sell” Proposition 1 program to sanitary districts to upgrade to full tertiary (recycled water) treatment.

- We now work hand in hand with city & county governments and sanitary agencies to get where we all need to go!

- The leaking Becker Well on Summerland Beach was capped in February 2018, as a direct result of our lobbying work and great communication with the State Lands Commission.

- We have a wonderful base of members and donors who keep us going!
The Heal the Ocean 2017 Benefit was a great party for a sold-out, packed house — and wow, did we have fun for our Good Cause! The evening got off to a rip-roaring start when HTO Executive Director Hillary Hauser announced that California Governor Jerry Brown had just signed SB 44, authored by our intrepid State senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, a bill that will provide funds to cap the leaking oil wells off the California coast, including Summerland Beach! In all our thanks to our generous sponsors, we took a moment to video-record a live toast to our beloved Julia Louis-Dreyfus, to send her our best wishes for her full return to health. Our Live Auction was really cooking this year, with Rick Werner from LosAngelesAuctioneer.com bringing in the most income in HTO Event history! Then, rocking pianist Jason Libs had people dancing to old and new classics, singing along, forming conga lines, and just letting it “all hang out.” Huge thanks to our sponsors, guests, and donors. And to Heather Hudson, Shannon Trotta & Corey Radis for putting this event together. We thank Debbie Kline, and Per la Mar Nursery for the décor. And as always, thank you dear Julia Louis-Dreyfus for being our Honorary Chair, and for always helping us.

Jason Libs rocking the house

The toast to the health of Julia Louis-Dreyfus

ALL PHOTOS BY PRISCILLA
SAVE THE DATE!

HTO Honorary Chair
Julia Louis-Dreyfus

Invites You To
Heal the Ocean’s
20th ANNIVERSARY
Benefit
at the
Historic El Paseo

Saturday
October 27, 2018
in downtown Santa Barbara

Live Music! Dancing! Fun!
To Celebrate
20 years of Victories
with Heal the Ocean
The Funnest Party
of the Year!

DIG THESE DOGS! In the 7 years HTO has been raising money for dog bags for the dispensers of Santa Barbara County south coast beaches (and now some dispensers in Santa Barbara City parks), we’ve contributed over $100,000 for bags for the public to use when walking their pooches. We love the beloved dogs who have barked at their owners to get with our great program...here are some of them!

CELEBRATING DOGS AND FRIENDS

SOTHEBY’S INTERNATIONAL HELPS HTO 8TH YEAR IN A ROW

The Sotheby’s realtors are the BEST! For the eighth fabulous year in a row, Sotheby’s International Realty chose HTO as one of the Santa Barbara non-profits to share in the proceeds of their one-year (2017) collection of a portion of its real estate commissions. This is a sizable donation, and HTO is very proud to be honored along with other charitable organizations doing good work in Santa Barbara County. Big big thanks to all of the Sotheby’s realtors!

ENCORE FROM SB SHELLFISH

During the month of November 2017, anyone that bought a ticket for $30 on Central Coast Dining in the name of HTO was able to double the value of that ticket (through March 2018) when dining at the Shellfish Company on Stearns Wharf in Santa Barbara. Thank you, Tom White & Adam White for coming to us year after year with your wonderful menu of donations to us!

1% FOR THE PLANET

We love our 1% For the Planet donors!
Hoyt Torola of Torola Properties, Ojai, has chosen HTO for the sixth year in a row to benefit HTO through the program. We also received a 1% for the Planet donation from Patrick Marr, a Santa Barbara architect and civil engineer. One Percent for the Planet was founded by Yvon Chouinard (Patagonia) and Craig Mathews (Blue Ribbon Flies) in 2002 to encourage more businesses to donate 1% of sales to environmental groups. Thank you, Hoyt and Patrick!

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With Deep Appreciation

Heal the Ocean sends its sincere thanks to these contributors who have helped assure the success of our campaign for a clean and healthy ocean. This roster records donations made from May 10, 2017 to March 5, 2018. If your name has been omitted, we sincerely appreciate and ask that you please call (805) 965-7570 so that we can correct our records.

$75,000+ 
Manitou Fund

Mystery Amount
Kate Marshall

$20,000 
Manny Casy
Brian & Laurence Hodge/WWF Foundation

$15,000 - $19,999 
Dan & Rae Emmett/Emmer Foundation

$10,000 - $14,999 
Charles & Brynn Crowe/Koby-Jones Foundation
Roy E. Cramer Foundation

$5,000 - $9,999 
Sara Myller Hurley & Michael Hudley
Pechauer-Snook Charitable Trust
Adam & Kara Rhodes/WWF Foundation
Cheryl Tomchin/Poehler-Stremel Charitable Trust

$2,000 - $2,999 
Anonymous
Elizabeth B. Denison/Denison Family Foundation

$1,000 - $1,999 
Jonathan & Elise Wygant
Robin Tost

$100 - $199 
Anonymous (4)

$250 - $499 
Nicholas & Joni Stauffer

$100 - $249 
Anonymous

$50 - $99 
Anonymous

$25 - $49 
Anonymous

$10 - $24 
Anonymous

$5 - $9 
Anonymous

$1 - $4 
Anonymous

Panelists & Supporters

Debbie & Bill Fisher
Anonymous
Teddy Grace
Tom Farr

Deborah & Mike deGruy
Marydee & Jim Hackett
Tom Farr

John Vezza
Lauren Ventrella
Diana Marmo
Jeffery Walmley
Scott Law

Toma Restaurant*
Virginia Backus Vaughan
Laura Vandervoort
Nina Harris

Eugene Garfield

$100,000

$50,000

$25,000

$15,000

$10,000

$5,000

$2,000

$1,000

$500

$200

$100

$50

$25

$10

$5

$2

$1

$0.50

$0.25

$0.10

$0.05

$0.01
**Call for Email Addresses**

If you would like to receive electronic notices from HTO about upcoming events, please email your email address to us: info@healtheocean.org. In particular, please let us know if you are interested in receiving our monthly e-letters.

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**HTO: A PROJECT OF THE PEOPLE**

Since the beginnings of Heal the Ocean, we have always emphasized the fact that our organization is a Citizens’ Action Group. The success of HTO is the work of citizens – a Project of the People. This photo montage is our HTO quilt, so to speak, illustrating just a part of a huge, seamless team of citizens that made it all happen.

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**HORAY FOR OUR DOG BAG DONORS!**

Thanks to the generosity of HTO Sponsors and Donors to our Doggy Bag program, we’ve been able to send considerable funds to Santa Barbara County Parks & Recreation Department to buy doggy bags, and this year we’ve added in the Santa Barbara City Parks & Recreation Department, too! We give a big Bark-Out to:

- **American Veterinary Services**
- **Manuela & Rob Caviness**
- **Kathryn Courain**
- **Bob & Alex Cunningham**
- **Dr. David Dawson**
- **San Roque Pet Hospital**
- **Montecito Pet Hospital**

**Advanced Veterinary Services**
James & Wendy Drazdo
Manuela & Rob Caviness
Kathryn Courain
Bob & Alex Cunningham
Dr. David Dawson/
San Roque Pet Hospital/
Montecito Pet Hospital

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**In Memory of...**

Heal the Ocean cherishes each and every one of our members, and we are sad when we lose those who are dear to us. We thank those who have sent donations in memory of loved ones who have left us. We are honored to memorialize the following people in the donation pages of this newsletter:

- **Maverick Barsl Crail**
- **Eric Sutherland**
- **Paul H. Turpin**
- **Vincent Brown**
- **Bobby Roberts**
- **Robert Rockey**
- **Diane Sanders**
- **Shelley Merrick**
- **Vincent Brown**
- **Michael & Lisa O’Connell**

**7:38 a.m. THE BEGINNING - 12/05/17**

A photo by Marcia Munson, an ocean lover who has taken photos all over the world – including this stunning view of the Thomas Fire smoke looming over the Ventura horizon as seen from Montecito as the fire was entering Santa Barbara County.

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**Back Cover Art by MARIE MORRISROE**