THE FROG DAYS OF SUMMER
After these frogs were rescued, they were transported to Santa Barbara where SBWCN assisted in both washing and providing supportive care. Some of SBWCN’s animal care staff, including veterinarian Dr. Avery Berkowitz, shifted gears to dedicate a majority of their time to focus on these frogs. This care included washing the frogs, providing regular exams, distributing meals of tiny crickets, fruit flies, and fly larvae, and ensuring they had a safe, clean, and quiet space to recover.

“As a partner of the Oiled Wildlife Care Network, we are always on standby to step in whenever we are needed,” said Dr. Avery Berkowitz, Director of Animal Care. “We all worked together, alongside OWCN staff, to make sure these frogs received the care they needed.”

Thanks to these efforts, almost 99% of the frogs survived and were able to be safely released back into their habitat. All of these frogs were found oiled after being recovered from Toro Canyon Creek, just south of Santa Barbara, where there was a leak from an old oil well. California Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN) called upon SBWCN to aid in caring for these frogs.

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Thanks to these efforts, almost 99% of the frogs survived and were able to be safely released back into their habitat. The patients were primarily made up of Baja California tree frogs, but also included a few California tree frogs and one fence lizard. All three species are native to Southern California.

Coincidentally, this incident comes just a few months before the completion of SBWCN’s new Wildlife Hospital. This 5,400-square-foot building will provide critical upgrades to current facilities, including SBWCN’s ability to care for oiled wildlife. With features like newer and larger washing stations, SBWCN will be able to play an even larger role in future incidents like this one.
Isn't it time for a Wild Night Out? Join fellow wildlife lovers for SBWCN's 2021 Benefit for Wildlife! Spend an evening on the beach enjoying delicious food, live music, and an exciting auction – all benefitting the groundbreaking Wildlife Hospital.

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- Enamel pins
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Front cover: California tree frog
(Lauren Gonzales)