



Humboldt BAYKEEPER
Klamath RIVERKEEPER
Russian RIVERKEEPER
San Francisco BAYKEEPER
Monterey COASTKEEPER
San Luis Obispo COASTKEEPER
Santa Barbara CHANNELKEEPER
Ventura COASTKEEPER
Los Angeles WATERKEEPER
Orange County COASTKEEPER
Inland Empire WATERKEEPER
San Diego COASTKEEPER

CCKA ACCOMPLISHMENTS (1999 – 2016)

Facilitated Kelp Reforestation – From 2001 to 2006, CCKA helped facilitate the Kelp Reforestation program among the Southern California Waterkeepers. Through the Kelp Project, CCKA and the participating Waterkeepers restored 18,500 square meters of kelp and trained and involved hundreds of volunteer divers. Volunteers and project biologists saw up to 100-fold increases in fish density and as much as a 20% increase in fish diversity in the restored areas within just a few years.

Achieved Stormwater & Clean Water Act Protections – In 2001, CCKA obtained stormwater capture standards in stormwater permits as recommendations, and in 2006 as binding requirements. In 2012, CCKA launched the two-year, statewide Polluted Runoff Campaign. The campaign yielded immediate, and dramatic public engagement in the stormwater permit processes, and resulted in measureable improvements to stormwater permits.

Successful Instream Flows Lawsuit – In 2008, CCKA successfully litigated against the California Department of Fish and Game for the failure to assess and disclose minimum instream flow requirements to the public. As a result of CCKA's action, the Department was required to identify waterways most in need of specific attention to flows, and to determine the necessary amount of water to improve stream flows, particularly in coastal streams critical to salmon populations.

Establishment of the Water Quality Monitoring Council – In 2007, CCKA sponsored legislation to enact Senate Bill 1070 (Kehoe), which established the California Water Quality Monitoring Council to advise the state on how to develop coordinated water quality monitoring data collection and reporting systems.

Adoption of the Water Recycling Policy – In 2008, CCKA became a Member of the Water Recycling Policy Working Group, which was tasked with drafting a Recycled Water Policy for the State Water Board's consideration. In 2009, the State Water Board adopted its Recycled Water Policy and Water Recycling Landscape Irrigation Permit, based largely on CCKA's proposal.

Creation of a Statewide Network of Marine Protected Areas – From 2004 to 2012, CCKA was engaged in both the planning and implementation of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) around the state. In close collaboration with the local Waterkeepers and the Department of Fish and Game, CCKA continues to advocate for monitoring and enforcement of MPAs throughout California, and strong water quality and water flows laws to enhance those protections.

Adoption of the Once-Through Cooling Policy – In 2010, CCKA led a broad coalition of fishing, environmental and community groups to ensure completion of a statewide Once-Through Cooling Policy to phase-out OTC power plants. California was the first state in the nation to put an end to the destructive practice of using seawater to cool coastal power plants, and in doing so, saved billions of marine species lives.

Shaped Climate Change Policies – From 2010 to 2015, CCKA shaped the development of foundational California climate change adaptation policies and practices by the California Coastal Commission and Ocean Protection Council. CCKA’s work resulted in the prioritization of ecosystem-based adaptation strategies, and financial support for preparedness and planning.

Creation of the Blue Business Council – In 2014, CCKA launched the Blue Business Council based on the belief that a healthy ocean and coast and clean water is vital to California’s economy, public health, and way of life. In its first two years, the Blue Business Council saw enormous growth with over 69 California companies pledging to support initiatives that strengthen the economy by making our state’s coast and waters clean and safe to enjoy and that protect our scarce water resources.

Adoption of the Trash Policy – From 2010 to 2015, CCKA led a statewide effort to become the first state in the nation with a statewide Trash Policy. Adopted by the State Water Board, this precedent setting policy will be implemented in stormwater permits to meet California’s historic goal of no trash to be present in our waterways.

Adoption of the Desalination Policy – From 2011 to 2015, CCKA led a statewide effort to adopt the nation’s first set of regulations for protecting the marine environment from the impacts of ocean desalination. In May 2015, the State Water Board adopted a precedent-setting Ocean Desalination Policy that requires desalination proposals to use the best available site, design, and technology to prevent marine life impacts.