

# NEWS RELEASE

City of Santa Barbara  
Waterfront Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Operation Clean Sweep Volunteers “Dive In” to Keep Santa Barbara Harbor Clean

**SANTA BARBARA, CA** – The seafloor in any busy harbor may be littered with lost or discarded junk, impacting the environment just like litter on land. Ever wonder, “What’s down there, where does it come from, and does anybody ever clean it up?”

On Sunday, May 16th you’ll find out.

Santa Barbara Harbor’s Operation Clean Sweep, a seafloor debris cleanup program, holds its 13<sup>th</sup> annual event on Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. A team of volunteer divers, supported by 40 or so volunteer dock workers, will remove junk from beneath the California Urchin Divers Association dock, Fish Float North, and the City Pier. Divers will locate the junk and dock volunteers will cart it off for disposal. The event begins at 8:00 a.m., with a briefing on the Travel Lift Pier beneath the Harbormaster’s Office, complete with free coffee and donuts, and concludes with a hearty box lunch at 11:30 a.m.

During past events, volunteers—many of them “Clean Sweepers” from the start—removed over twenty tons of debris from Santa Barbara Harbor. Items retrieved during past years ranged from bicycles, barbecues, plastic barrels, and boat propellers to wire cages, outboard engines, phones, computers, and the occasional marine battery.

The City of Santa Barbara’s Waterfront Department joins volunteers from NOAA, SB Maritime Museum, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper, SB Sail and Power Squadron, Channel Islands Marine & Wildlife Institute, and harbor dive businesses in this effort.

New to the event this year will be a neighborhood cleanup co-event. Slip permittees will be able to drop off large bulky trash items and e-waste, for free, at two locations in the harbor. And, since the beach is part of our harbor neighborhood, there will also be a beach cleanup of West Beach.

For more information about the event or to volunteer, call Chris Bell at (805) 897-1962 or visit [www.santabarbaraca.gov/cleansweep](http://www.santabarbaraca.gov/cleansweep).

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