

Wishtoyo

REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2009-2010



Pictured above: Wishtoyo Foundation's First Annual Tribal Wave Youth Camp in August 2010 made possible by the Marisla Foundation, Mary Frampton and the nonprofit organization she founded: Save Our Coast-Malibu Dolphin Watch Foundation, and camp partners Surfclass.org, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Environment Now, the Owens Valley Tribes, Santa Ynez Band and the Chumash Community Families whose support and generosity made a lifelong memory for California's Native American Youth.

*Shumawish
Tipashumawish*



*Together we make
Health
Harmony
And
Peace...*



**Haku from Wishtoyo's Executive Director, Ventura Coastkeeper,
& a Chumash Ceremonial Elder:**

Dear Friends,

The Wishtoyo Foundation would like to express our appreciation for your support in our beliefs, mission, and projects, which has enabled us to accomplish goals that thirteen years ago were only a vision of creating an organization based on the beliefs and values of the Chumash people.

For those of you who are new to our Foundation, Wishtoyo is a 501(c)(3) not for profit public interest organization that preserves and protects the culture and history of Chumash and indigenous peoples, and the natural resources all cultures depend upon. We achieve our mission through preservation and restoration projects, advocacy, cultural resource management, education and outreach, scientific research, community mobilizing, and legal action. One of Wishtoyo's unique gifts is that we instill in the public and its youth environmental awareness and responsibility for sustaining the health of our land, air, and water by utilizing and sharing traditional Chumash beliefs, cultural practices, natural cultural resources, songs, dances, stories, and values.

Today, Wishtoyo shows the fruits of your support through: our Chumash Discovery Village; our cultural/environmental stewardship programs delivered to thousands of our youth; the protection and preservation of Chumash Native American cultural resources and practices; the work of our Ventura Coastkeeper program to protect and restore the waterbodies, wildlife, and natural cultural resources of Ventura County watersheds; and through many of our other projects and programs.

We are the recipient of the U.S. EPA Award for Environmental Achievement, the American Planning Association's Special Merit Project Award, the honored presenter of the Governor's Inaugural blessing, and have been successful in environmental and cultural litigation aiming to improve the quality of life for all.

The enclosed report highlights our achievements in 2009 and 2010, years of economic challenge that also saw growth and much important work accomplished by our Foundation and our volunteers who have meaningfully contributed in so many ways. In 2011 and beyond, we look forward to continuing to give everything we have to our cultural preservation, environmental education, and natural resource protection and revitalization efforts.

Thank you for your support!

Mati Waiya
Executive Director, Chumash Ceremonial Elder



**Mati Waiya conducting ceremony in the
Chumash Discovery Village's Hummingbird Ap**



2009-2010 Accomplishments

Chumash Discovery Village

A Place for Chumash Cultural Preservation, and Natural Resource Advocacy, Restoration, Education, and Outreach



Mati Waiya applies newly harvested tule reed bundles to the willow frame of an 'ap - traditional Chumash house



Wishtoyo's Chumash Discovery Village - "Humaliwu"



Mati Waiya & David Dominguez perform "sacred water" ceremony at Nicholas Canyon Creek

The beginning of Wishtoyo's cultural preservation of Humaliwu, the Chumash Discovery Village at Nicholas Canyon, started in 1997 with the establishment of the Wishtoyo Foundation by co-founders Mati Waiya & Terry Tamminen. Mati Waiya's vision to "breathe life into a village" came true in 2000 when the Wishtoyo Foundation signed a lease with the Los Angeles County Department of Beaches & Harbors. Since then, Wishtoyo, with the spirit, memory, and honor of the ancestors, has worked with great passion to bring an 8,000 year old Chumash Village back to life at this four plus acre site overlooking the ocean and outward to the Channel Islands. Planning; permitting; preparing extensive environmental impact reports with consultants, experts, and agencies; clearing debris; taking out an extreme overgrowth of invasive species; and jack hammering and removing excessive amounts of previously dumped cement into the otherwise free flowing Nicholas Canyon Creek, are amongst the many restoration efforts Wishtoyo has undertaken at the site.

Finally, in 2009, with generous funding from the Marisla Foundation, Mary Frampton and the Dolphin Watch Foundation she established, the Santa Ynez Chumash Reservation, and many other generous donors and members, we were able to begin materializing a second phase: the physical building and habitat restoration. The Village currently showcases a riparian habitat restoration of native plants and trees; a central Ceremonial Gathering place - "sil'i'yik", six traditional Chumash houses - "aps", a sacred Burial Mound, and a Chumash canoe - "Tomol." This is the "Place of the People"- a gathering place not only for Chumash People to practice and preserve their culture, but a place for the public and children to learn about becoming practitioners of nature. A place where the mountains reach down to the ocean's shore; where whales, dolphins, cormorants, egrets, rabbits, deer, hawks, hummingbirds, and waters from the Santa Monica mountains naturally flow into the creek which washes into our great ocean; a place where the voices of the ancestors remind us of generosity and humanity as we greet thousands of visitors each year. It is with this responsibility and passion that we embrace all those who want to participate in protecting our greatest resources, the ocean, land, air, and one another.



2009-2010 Accomplishments

Cultural & Environmental Education and Outreach



Mati Waiya shares Chumash maritime culture conservation ethic with over 1,000 school children during World Oceans Day at Wishtoyo's Chumash Discovery Village in partnership with Star Eco Station.



Over 50 Native Youth from the Chumash Tribe, Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Reservation & Owens Valley participated in Wishtoyo's 4 Day Tribal Wave Youth Camp at the Village, where they learned about marine stewardship and water quality monitoring, and experienced intercultural exchange and surfing lessons.



Johnny Moreno, Chumash Elder, Storyteller, Singer and Language Teacher

Wishtoyo's educational programs instilled the cultural and social importance of a healthy marine environment to over 7,000 K-12 school children in 2009 & 2010 through sharing Chumash cultural values, art, traditions, maritime culture, songs, dance, history, and a stewardship ethic that exemplify not only the Chumash People's current and past dependency on a healthy ecosystem, but the dependency of society at large on our marine and coastal resources. Over 50% of the participants were from economically and politically marginalized communities in Ventura and Los Angeles Counties.

Wishtoyo's active engagement of its student audience goes beyond their participation in songs and story telling. Our programs present a window in time of Chumash Maritime life – a past and present living and breathing presentation from a Chumash Village overlooking Point Dume, the Channel Islands, and their marine waters, where whales and dolphins are often visible swimming, migrating, or feeding. We share with the children how we fished in the Channel Islands waters and coastal lagoons from our plank canoes (tomols) with abalone fish hooks and with nets made of natural materials from local rivers. Dressing in our traditional dolphin dance and seaweed dance regalia, we share our creation story about the rainbow bridge that was made to provide a passage way from the Channel Islands to the mainland, and how some of our people looked down from the bridge, and fell into the ocean below but were saved and turned into dolphins ("Alulkoy", which means blue dolphin).



Chumash elders deliver Chumash maritime culture and stewardship education program at Wishtoyo's Discovery Village

We then share how thus the dolphins are regarded as our relatives of the ocean - relatives that protect us by greeting us at the shore or when we travel in the ocean, and relatives that we need to take care of as well by protecting them and the waters they depend upon. The students who experience Wishtoyo's programs are like sponges, and we empower them by letting them know that they are the mothers, fathers, teachers, and stewards of the future, and that their dreams are in front of them. During their experience we take them back in time through experiencing our living village and people, where the greatest teacher of all is the natural world, and where it is of the utmost importance to honor the spirit and sacredness of our waters, our land, and the life they hold. When the youth smell the scent of the fire and see the movement of the dance and the sounds of our songs, we strive to make them understand our relationship and their relationship with all things, and to make them recognize the importance of being good stewards of our ocean and world. The atmosphere that Wishtoyo's program provide, engages youth in a moment that becomes a part of their lives.



2009-2010 Accomplishments

Cultural Preservation

Establishment of the Chumash Women's Elders Council (CWEC)

The formation of Wishtoyo's Chumash Women's Elders Council (CWEC) is a critical addition to the effort in restoring, preserving, reviving, and protecting the ancient Chumash Village site at Nicholas Canyon. The Elder Chumash Women are the seed of our cultural preservation and provide the traditional governance for the Village. It is an honor and blessing to have the spiritual support and infinite wisdom of our Traditional Enexiwaš hi ho Šamsukauwiwaš (*Respected Elder Women*).

"Our women held our families together, remembered the stories and songs, and were often the primary Culture Bearers during the years of devastation. If we could somehow honor the place of Woman, the Female Principle, the Womb of Creation, and move on to what we, as women, can do to heal our wounded world, by example, by teaching, by putting into practice that internal creative capacity to carve lives of meaning for ourselves, our families, our communities and all people...that would be wonderful, powerful. Let's get to work on this; it will help us to focus on what we, as a Council, are called to do." - Georgiana "Luhui" Sanchez, Šamsukauwiwaš



Wishtoyo's Chumash Village is excited to Announce the Opening of our Šmuwič Language School Spring 2010
We are blessed to have Elder Johnny Moreno & Deborah Sanchez as our Devoted & Knowledgeable Teachers



Šmuwič Language School Opening

The continuance of speaking our language - the sounds of our culture - is of great importance to our cultural survival! Learning and passing on the songs, stories and dances of our ancestors is a responsibility that includes making new songs, stories and dances that reflect what is happening today. With the Opening of the Šmuwič Language School in the Spring of 2010 at Wishtoyo's Chumash Discovery Village, Chumash Elders Johnny Moreno and Deborah Sanchez have dedicated their lives to "reawakening our memory" by keeping the sounds of the Šmuwič language present. Our primary goal is to provide an avenue of practice and preservation of the Šmuwič language through songs and stories that can be shared with all Chumash tribal groups.



2009-2010 Accomplishments Chumash Material Cultural Preservation Tomol Construction and Voyages from the Village



Chumash Elder & Tomol builder, Matt Ward receives high accolades from Elder member of the "Brotherhood of the Tomol" Dr. Kote Lotah for building this beautiful redwood plank canoe, "Isha Kowoch!"— Glistening Salmon (Chumash word for Steelhead)

Chumash Elder, Matt Ward, built the Village resident Tomol, "Isha Kowoch" (Glistening Salmon, Chumash word for steelhead) in the traditional way - from the ground up! The "eyes" are embellished with abalone shaped into the form of the steelhead with the prayer that the steelhead will be healthy and abundant once more... The Tomol is made of redwood planks that have been lashed and sealed with yop (pine pitch and tar). Traditionally, tomols were made from recycled redwood carried from the north by ocean currents. The ancestors harvested the redwood, performed ceremony with it, and reshaped the redwood into planks that were then lashed with dogbane cordage and sealed with pine pitch and tar. The wood was sanded with sharkskin and planed with whale bone tools. Taking our tomols out into the ocean is a community activity. As we launch our boats

into the water, we connect with the pulse of our ocean in the swells. Like our sacred fires, the ocean's movement takes us further into our dream world. Wishtoyo is hopeful that the return of the Isha Kowoch tomol and other tomols to Chumash waters will not only help to preserve Chumash culture, but will help raise awareness about, and hope for, restoring steelhead populations to coastal watersheds from Santa Ynez to Malibu.

Chumash Basketry Preservation Program

In Spring 2009, Wishtoyo Foundation began its Chumash Basketry Preservation Program. Almost a lost cultural practice and art form, Chumash basketry is renowned for its artistic beauty and complexity of material usage and design. Tima Link Lotah, daughter of Chumash Elder Dr. Kote Lotah, has been commissioned by the Elders to teach basketry on multigenerational level. She weaves basket hats, cooking baskets, storage baskets, cradle boards and much more...and is our teacher here at the Village.

Tima doesn't have to weave baskets for the same reasons as our ancestors did (storage, cooking, gathering, etc.). She weaves "for the joy of continuing our traditions and to stay in relationship with the land and plants." Equally important as learning to weave is passing this knowledge to the next generation, preserving plant habitats, and maintaining Chumash gathering rights.



Chumash basket weaver and artist, Tima Link Lotah



Chumash elder, Jan Olmstead Bessey harvests Juncus – prime basketry material.



"When I'm weaving and my fingers find

their rhythm...the world goes away and I find peace. And when I make a really silly mistake, I know my ancestors are looking over my shoulder laughing, which makes me laugh." – Tima Link Lotah



Weekend basketry retreat at the Village with Tima!



2009-2010 Accomplishments

Protection of Chumash Villages, Burials Grounds, Sacred Sites, and Natural Cultural Resources



Tejon Mountain Village Litigation

In November 2009, Wishtoyo Foundation filed a California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) lawsuit to overturn Kern County’s approval of the Tejon Mountain Village luxury resort mega development to prevent it from jeopardizing the California Condor and from displacing and destroying Native American sacred grounds, Native American burial sites and villages, and Native American cultural resources. Wishtoyo, Center for Biological Diversity, and the other plaintiffs have appealed the Lower Court’s adverse ruling to the California Court of Appeal.

Mati Waiya, Chumash Ceremonial Elder, prepares a sacred fire, fan burning sage in an abalone bowl with a Condor feather.



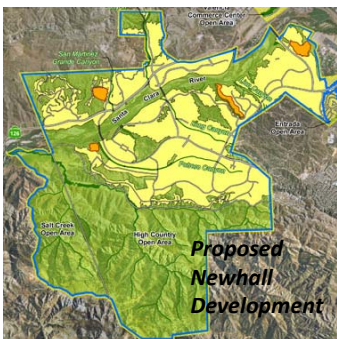
The California Condor and Southern California Steelhead, critical natural cultural resources for the Chumash People, are two of many endangered species Wishtoyo uses law, advocacy, and restoration projects to protect.

Protecting the Isha Kowoch: *Newhall*

Ranch, Santa Clara River Estuary, and Vern Freeman Dam. Wishtoyo advocated vigorously to protect the Isha Kowoch (Southern California Steelhead), along with Native American burials, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and the California Condor from the Newhall Ranch Development proposed in the floodplain and tributaries of the Santa Clara River, just upstream of Ventura County line, through CEQA Environmental Impact Report comments. Wishtoyo also pursued legal actions under the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act to provide for Isha Kowoch passage around the Vern Freeman Diversion Dam on the Santa Clara River to the ocean and their spawning grounds, and to prevent 9 million gallons per day of inadequately treated sewage from being discharged into the Santa Clara River Estuary, a crucial habitat for Isha Kowoch rearing.

Tribal Co-Management of Marine Protected Areas

Wishtoyo’s extensive participation in the Marine Life Protection Act (“MLPA”) Initiative through organizing South Coast tribes and working with the Stakeholder Groups, Blue Ribbon Task Force, Department of Fish and Game (“DFG”), and the Fish and Game Commission helped result in 1.) the establishment of ecologically protective South Coast Marine Protected Areas (“MPAs”) to preserve the marine resources all cultures depend upon and 2.) recommendations for the DFG to enter into agreements for MPA Tribal Co-Management with local tribes. Wishtoyo’s introduction and development of tribal co-management resulted in recommendations for the DFG to enter into tribal MPA co-management agreements with local Tribes for Tribes to provide MPA marine conservation public education / outreach; for Tribes to assist with MPA implementation, pollution prevention, and enforcement; and measures to best ensure MPAs allow for tribal cultural / religious practices and preservation. Wishtoyo continues to work on MPLA amendments to provide California Tribes full access to MPAs for cultural utilization.





Wishtoyo Foundation's Ventura Coastkeeper Program

A Message From Ventura Coastkeeper's Associate Director & Staff Attorney:

Wishtoyo Foundation's Ventura Coastkeeper Program ("VCK") is honored to be tasked with the great responsibility of protecting and restoring the ecological integrity and water quality of Ventura County's inland and coastal waterbodies that serve as the natural foundation for Venturan's economic, spiritual, and physical wellbeing.

The exploitation of Ventura's waters in the preceding decades has imparted never before experienced ecological, social, and economic harms and threats to the County, its neighbors, and the future generations we've loaned our natural resources from. Impassible dams; excessive water diversions; unsustainable ground water pumping; wasteful water use; severely polluted agricultural, urban, sewage, and industrial storm water and wastewater discharges; channelization of our rivers; and ecologically irresponsible developments have left their mark. They have decimated Southern California Steelhead, Red Legged Frog, and Arroyo Toad populations; degraded the health of our aquatic communities; made locally caught fish served on our dinner plates unsafe to consume; dewatered our streams; depleted our groundwater banks; consumed riparian habitat, and have made our waters dangerous to drink, swim in, recreate in, and culturally utilize.

To sustain the wellbeing of Venturans and Ventura's diverse communities ranging from Chumash Native Americans and surfers to fishermen and migrant farm workers, Ventura's waters - the public's commons - must be taken back from the private interests that exploit them for personal gain, placed in trust for the public benefit, protected from pollution, and utilized in a manner that is both sustainable and ecologically responsible. The county wide "hard path" water management approach consisting of building large centralized infrastructure to meet our growing demand for water, must be replaced with a "soft path" that utilizes a combination of decentralized technologies, conservation, efficiency, recycling, re-use, equity, water service provision, and integrated management that accommodates both current essential needs and new development without impairing the integrity of natural ecosystems.

Into 2011, Ventura Coastkeeper is providing much needed local leadership and assistance to sustain Ventura's diverse communities and their future generations. Utilizing science, legal action, advocacy, community mobilizing, educational programs, and stakeholder outreach, we are working to protect the ecological integrity and water quality of Ventura's waters, and invite all of you to join us and support our efforts.

Please enjoy reading about our 2009-2010 accomplishments that have resulted in protections for our waterbodies and that are laying the foundation for us to expand upon our work.

Yours truly,

Jason Weiner
Associate Director & Staff Attorney



Jason Weiner monitoring Arroyo Simi, a tributary of Calleguas Creek



68 Oxnard Community Members, Mati Waiya (Ventura Coastkeeper Executive Director), and Jason Weiner pick up 3,989 pieces of trash at a Ventura Coastkeeper J. Street Drain/Ormond Beach Wetlands Clean Up Event



Wishtoyo Foundation's Ventura Coastkeeper Program

2009-2010 Accomplishments *Scientific Research, Community Involvement, & Education*

Establishment of VCK's Watershed

Monitoring Program: In October 2009, with assistance from the State Water Resource Control Board Clean Water Team and Friends of the Santa Clara River, VCK established its Watershed Monitoring Program with over 40 river, estuary, wetlands, storm channel, and coastal monitoring sites. We have since mobilized 100 + stream team volunteers to assist with sampling and monitoring in the Calleguas Creek, Santa Clara River, Ormond Beach, and Ventura's Coastal Watersheds. The high-quality bacteria (total coliform, e-coli), nitrate, phosphate, ammonia, dissolved oxygen, water temperature, flow, turbidity, trash, conductivity, and pH actionable data we collect in the field and analyze at our California State University Channel Islands laboratory in accordance with a Regional Water Quality Control Board Quality Assurance Project Plan ("QAPP"), is used by state and regional water quality agencies to determine water quality impairments and to formulate remediation plans for swimming, fishing, wildlife, and other uses. We also use this actionable data to bring polluters into compliance with applicable state and federal regulations, to support our legal and advocacy efforts to improve water quality, and to work with land owners to stop water pollution at its source.



Luzma Espinosa, Mati Waiya, and Luhui Isha lead a Santa Paula Creek Trash Clean up with the local community

Trash Clean Up Events: Our 10 community trash clean up events with 200+ volunteers in Oxnard's J Street Drain storm channel that discharges into the Ormond Beach Wetlands; at the Santa Clara River Estuary; and in Santa Paula Creek resulted in the clean up of over 19,000 pieces of trash weighing roughly 4,000 pounds. Over 10,000 of these pieces were plastic. During these events, VCK presented marine debris trash pollution education presentations to its volunteers who not only picked up trash, but recorded the different types of trash on VCK's marine debris data cards. VCK provided its detailed trash data from each event to government agencies to inform trash pollution prevention regulations and to aid local governments to implement source and structural controls to prevent trash from entering our waterbodies.



Monitoring Program Volunteers Charles Cohn and Brian Cook Measure Flow on the Sespe Creek



Monitoring Program Volunteer Gisselle Gutierrez monitors from a Fillmore urban storm water outfall.



Jason Weiner takes e-coli and fecal coliform grab samples from Sespe Creek.



Wishtoyo Foundation's Ventura Coastkeeper Program 2009-2010 Accomplishments

Scientific Research, Community Involvement, & Education



The Santa Clara River Estuary

CSUCI and UCLA Santa Clara River Estuary Toxicity, Emerging Contaminants, and Ecological Effects Study:

Through VCK's settlement agreement with scrap metal company Standard Industries, Standard Industries will fund a CSUCI and UCLA study that will attempt to further characterize and analyze the affect of wastewater discharges into the Santa Clara River Estuary upon the potential and current Estuary habitat for juvenile and adult endangered Southern California Steelhead. Researchers Dr. Anderson from CSUCI and Dr. Ambrose from UCLA will lead the toxicity and emerging contaminants analysis, which will include sampling from the City of Ventura's sewage treatment plant outfall into the Estuary.

Marine Stewardship and Water Quality Monitoring Educational Presentations for large groups of economically and politically marginalized school children were delivered at Wishtoyo's Chumash Discovery Village for events like World Oceans Day (over 1,000 participants) and Wishtoyo's Tribal Wave Surf Camp.

Santa Clara River Estuary Independent Expert Review Study:

Ventura Coastkeeper contracted Dr. Sean Anderson and Dr. Richard Ambrose to conduct an Independent Expert Review on Ventura's Estuary Special Studies and on the effects of Ventura's Sewage Treatment Plant Effluent Discharge of 9 million gallons per day into the Santa Clara River Estuary on the Estuary's Ecological Integrity and on the Estuary's populations of Endangered Species, including the Southern California Steelhead and the Tidewater Goby. The Review is needed to help inform State and Federal Agencies as to how to best protect the Estuary and its species from Ventura's Discharge.

Environmental Stewardship, Research, and Education Partnership with California State University Channel Islands (CSUCI):

In July of 2010, VCK and CSUCI formed a scientific research and education partnership to provide CSUCI students with enhanced hands on professional and educational experiences, research opportunities, and internships, while providing VCK's Watershed Monitoring Program with an on campus laboratory, an increased capacity to monitor and protect Ventura County's waterbodies, and access to the student body for community mobilizing.



Monitoring Program volunteer Pam Monaco and CSUCI Intern Michael Smith measure flow just upstream of the Santa Clara River Estuary



World Oceans Day '09 (left) & '10 (right) at the Village





Wishtoyo Foundation's Ventura Coastkeeper Program

2009-2010 Advocacy Work & Achievements

Clean Water Act 303 (d) Impaired Waterbody Listings:

Data collected through VCK's watershed monitoring program and submitted to the State Water Resources Control Board resulted in 303(d) Clean Water Act Impaired Waterbody listings for trash on eight reaches of Calleguas Creek. VCK data collected from 2009 - 2010 and submitted to the State Board also supports Twenty Nine additional 2012 303(d) waterbody listings for flows, fish barriers, nitrate, phosphate, dissolved oxygen, E-Coli, trash, & pH impairments in the Santa Clara River, Ormond Beach, Bubbling Springs, Nicholas Canyon, and various Ventura County coastal watersheds. The listings mandate that California adopt Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) that abate the pollution causing these impairments from municipal, agricultural, and private sources.



Mati Waiya utilizing Nicholas Canyon Creek at the Chumash Village for cultural purposes

VCK's Hearing Testimony, Submission of Extensive Comment Letters, and

Community Mobilizing has Played Critical Roles in:

- 1.) the adoption of an ecologically protective network of Marine Protected Areas from Point Conception to San Diego via the Marine Life Protection Act;
- 2.) the adoption of the Ventura County MS4 Stormwater Permit, which is the most protective of water quality in California;
- 3.) an Agricultural Discharge Waiver that holds promise of being protective of water quality; and
- 4.) protecting water quality, aquatic life, and riparian habitat in the Santa Clara River and Ormond Beach watersheds from developments and unsustainable urban planning set forth in the Ormond Beach Specific Plan; Oxnard 2030 General Plan; and the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan.



Volunteers Trevor Smith from the Los Padres Sierra Club (left) and Chris Kahler from VC Shorebirds(right) deliver a Ormond Beach Wetlands restoration presentation before a J. Street Drain Trash Clean Up

Glyphosate Herbicide Project: VCK successfully advocated for improvements in Ventura County's best management practices to help prevent the County's application of glyphosate to roadsides, trails, and invasive plants from jeopardizing endangered species, aquatic ecosystems, and human health. As a result of VCK's, Pesticide Free Ojai's, and the Center for Biological Diversities efforts, the County has ceased foliar spraying from hoses on elevated platforms; switched to cut & daub application; improved its water quality monitoring program during storm events; implemented tighter contractor controls including eliminating leaky application backpacks and hoses; and has increased opportunities for resident monitoring of application practices.



Jason Weiner samples from the Ormond Beach Wetlands Lagoon for pesticides and heavy metals



Wishtoyo Foundation's Ventura Coastkeeper Program

2009-2010 Enforcement & Legal Action

Standard Industries Storm Water

Litigation: In November 2010, VCK settled its Clean Water Act storm water case against Standard Industries. The settlement agreement will ensure the 10 acre scrap metal facility implements Best Management Practices (“BMPs”) that protect Southern California Steelhead, the Santa Clara River, and Ventura County’s marine waters from metals in its storm water runoff. Standard, in its agreement to implement these BMPs and via its funding of the Santa Clara River Estuary Toxicity and Emerging Contaminants study, has committed to becoming watershed stewards.



Vern Freeman Diversion Dam: In 2009, VCK Issued a Notice of Intent to file suit under the Endangered Species Act against United Water Conservation District to help enable a settlement between California Trout and United that 1.) provides for adequate Southern California Steelhead passage around the Vern Freeman Diversion Dam on the Santa Clara River and that 2.) provides adequate flows past the Dam for steelhead migration. VCK’s believes the settlement holds promise for enabling steelhead passage around the Dam, which is a critical component to steelhead restoration in the Santa Clara River watershed.



City of Ventura Sanitary Sewage Overflow (“SSO”)

Litigation: In November 2010, VCK settled its SSO case against the City of San Buenaventura. The consent decree will ensure Ventura adequately maintains its sewage infrastructure to prevent raw sewage from spilling into our streets and coastal waters.



Santa Clara River Estuary Sewage Effluent Case

(Ongoing): In January 2010 VCK initiated a Clean Water Act Action against the City of Ventura to protect the Southern California Steelhead and the Santa Clara River Estuary’s ecological integrity from a 9 million gallon per day polluted sewage effluent discharge. VCK is hopeful it can secure the ecological protections needed for the Estuary, and that the sewage effluent is recycled and re-used for agricultural, groundwater recharge, and other beneficial uses in the water supply limited watershed and county.

Shaman Summit—*Practitioners of Nature...*
Coming Soon October 2011



September 2010—Berito Cobaría, Spiritual Leader of the U'wa People from the Colombian Amazon Cloud Forest and Mati Waiya, Chumash Ceremonial Elder, exchange gifts of gratitude after being in prayer and conversation regarding the current status and needs of their lands, water, and traditions...

KIYALASAL (Chumash Prayer)

*Kiynon hi-i ;Alapay
Our Grandfather above*

*Pkutyin k'e pkuti hi-kuhk'u
You see me and you see the people*

*Pnu'na ho-l a'way k'e ho-l ališaw
You bring the moon and the sun*

*Kiyaqšwalaw hi-i 'alapay
We love the sky*

*Kiyaqšwalaw hi-i šup
We love the land*

*Kiyaqšwalaw hi-i sxamin
We love the ocean*

*Pqilik hi-i 'alapay
You watch over the heavens*

*Pqilik hi-i šup
You watch over the land*

*Pqilik hi-i sxamin
You watch over the ocean*

*Pqilik hi-i kuhk'u
You watch over the People*

*Kiyqantučhika kiyalasal
We believe and so we pray*

By Deborah Sanchez



REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2009-2010

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Special Thanks

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Visit us at the Chumash Discovery Village

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