



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Wishtoyo's Ventura Coastkeeper Program to Honor Erick Burres of the State Water Board's Clean Water Team with its 2009-2010 Sacred Waters Award**

*Award Honors Mr. Burres's Important Role in Protecting the Water Quality and Ecological Integrity of Ventura County's and California's Inland and Coastal Waterbodies*

**Patagonia's Headquarters, Ventura, CA** - The Ventura Coastkeeper Sacred Waters Award is given annually to individuals whose efforts have resulted in substantial protections for California's inland and coastal waterbodies whose health is critical to the wellbeing and sustainability of humans, wildlife, and various cultures. In his 10 years with the State Water Board Clean Water Team's Citizen Monitoring Program, Mr. Burres has done so much to protect waters all over California. Over these years, Mr. Burres has gone above and beyond the call of service with the Clean Water Team to help close to 1,000 citizens groups, including Ventura Coastkeeper, build the capacity to monitor their waterways and to collect data relied upon, and needed by, the State Water Resources Control Board to protect the ecological integrity and water quality of California's inland and coastal waters. Data collected by monitoring groups that Mr. Burres has helped start and support through his work with the Clean Water Team have resulted in hundreds upon hundreds of Clean Water Act impaired waterbody 303(d) listings in California, which has led or is leading to their legally mandated clean up. In addition, the data collected by these groups has provided a scientific foundation for countless ecological restoration efforts and has led to the pinpointing and abatement of thousands of toxic industrial, government, construction, and residential storm water, sewage, and wastewater discharges into our waterways.

Mr. Burres will be presented with Ventura Coastkeeper's ("VCK's") Sacred Waters award at VCK's 2009-2010 celebration on February 16, 2011 from 2:00-3:30 at Patagonia's Headquarters ( The Grand Room, Patagonia Headquarters, 259 W. Santa Clara St., Ventura, CA).

**About VCK's 2010 Sacred Waters Award Recipient Erick Burres:** Mr. Burres, born in Ventura and raised in Oxnard, has a background in conservation biology (BS Zoology, MPA Public Policy and Administration). He has worked throughout southern California in wildlife, marine, and fisheries research and conservation as well as open space management where he was an early bioneering practitioner. While at SDSU he conducted research at the San Diego Zoological Zoo (hook-lipped rhino) and the Center for Research on Endangered Species (green iguana). At CSULB his research

focused on providing public access to wildlife resources. Amongst the many wild animals Mr. Burre has worked with include spotted owls, California halibut, benthic macro-invertebrates and desert tortoise. He is an active natural sounds recordist and his photography has been used by Arizona Game and Fish Department, Sea World –San Diego, State of California and many environmental non-profit organizations. Currently he works for the State of California where he is the Clean Water Team’s Citizen Monitoring Coordinator that works throughout the state helping citizen monitors and watershed stewards engaged in water quality monitoring projects.

**About The Wishtoyo Foundation and its Ventura Coastkeeper Program:** Founded in 1997, Wishtoyo is a 501(c)(3) non profit grassroots organization with over 700 members consisting of Ventura County’s diverse residents and Chumash Native Americans. Wishtoyo’s mission is to preserve and protect Chumash culture, the culture of all of Ventura County’s diverse communities, and the environment that our current and future generations depend upon. Wishtoyo shares traditional Chumash Native American beliefs, cultural practices, songs, dances, stories, and values with the public in its Chumash Discovery Village and through educational programs in schools to promote environmental awareness and natural resources stewardship. In 2000, Wishtoyo founded its Ventura Coastkeeper Program (“VCK”). VCK’s mission is to protect, preserve, and restore the ecological integrity and water quality of Ventura County's inland and coastal waterbodies for all beings in the County’s diverse community through outreach and education, restoration projects, advocacy, litigation, and community organizing and empowerment. Wishtoyo and its Ventura Coastkeeper program believe that our land, waterbodies, and oceans are interconnected, co-dependent communities to which we as individuals, are one of many living entities that belong. As such, it is our responsibility to protect the land, water, and oceans we exist upon for the common good and to sustain our well being, co-existence, and harmony with the world and our many diverse surrounding communities.

**To volunteer, support, or find out more about Ventura Coastkeeper’s please visit:**  
<http://www.wishtoyo.org/ventura-coastkeeper.html>.