



PRESS RELEASE

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Standard Industries to Fund CSUCI Santa Clara River Estuary Toxicity and Emerging Contaminants Study; Storm Water Settlement Agreement Reached

Standard Industries' Commitments to Protect and Help Restore the Southern California Steelhead, and the Ecological Integrity, Water Quality, and Cultural Resources of One of America's Most Endangered Rivers, sets a Stewardship Standard for the Santa Clara River and Industry in Ventura County

Saticoy, Ventura County, CA

Standard Industries and Wishtoyo Foundation's Ventura Coastkeeper Program ("VCK") are pleased to announce the resolution of a lawsuit filed against Standard by VCK in May of this year. The settlement agreement, filed with the Federal Court along with a dismissal of the suit, provides for Standard Industries to improve their extensive storm water treatment infrastructure so that their storm water discharges comply with Clean Water Act water quality standards and are protective of the Santa Clara River, its Southern California Steelhead, and the natural cultural resources cherished by Chumash Native American's, Venturans, and County visitors alike.

Most noteworthy about the settlement, is Standard Industries' funding of \$89,000 to California State University Channel Islands ("CSUCI") for a never before conducted Santa Clara River Estuary Toxicity and Emerging Contaminants Study needed by state and federal agencies to help them determine whether any amount of the City of Ventura's tertiary treated sewage effluent discharge into the Estuary is ecologically appropriate. "The study will characterize pollutants discharged into the Santa Clara River Estuary and how problematic they are to organisms living there. In particular we will be looking at the impacts of these compounds upon juvenile and adult Southern California Steelhead,

and endangered fish increasingly rare here in Ventura County”, says the study’s Principal Investigator Dr. Sean Anderson of CSUCI. Samples from the Estuary and Ventura’s discharge of tertiary treated sewage into the Estuary will be analyzed for acute and chronic toxicity utilizing EPA approved organisms such as rainbow trout, and will also be analyzed for emerging contaminants found in sewage such as pharmaceuticals, caffeine, deodorants, and personal health care products.

“Standard Industries’ act of stewardship to best ensure the health of the Santa Clara River ecosystem, its natural cultural resources, and Ventura County’s residents by its full funding of CSUCI’s Estuary Toxicity and Emerging Contaminants Study, sets a stewardship standard that should be emulated by other corporations...It also exemplifies why locally owned businesses that invest in the well-being of their community are so important,” says Jason Weiner, Ventura Coastkeeper’s Associate Director and Staff Attorney.

Standard Industries, founded in 1988, operates a modern 8 acre scrap recycling facility in Ventura, immediately adjacent to the Santa Clara River. Company President Michelle Scheck commented, “The owners of Standard Industries and all of our employees pledge to do everything we possibly can to insure the future of the Santa Clara River. It should be the responsibility of every business to participate in acts of environmental stewardship where ever possible. Everything we do as human beings, families and business operators should be directed toward our future. We are very proud that we are able to make this gift to Dr. Anderson and Cal State Channel Islands for this important project.”

Mati Waiya, Chumash Ceremonial Elder and Executive Director of the Wishtoyo Foundation and its Ventura Coastkeeper Program says that “he hopes other entities join Standard Industries by taking important measures to protect the natural cultural resources up and down the Santa Clara River that the Chumash People and all of the County’s residents depend upon.” Mati also would like to remind that public that “Ventura Coastkeeper’s Storm Water campaign is ongoing, and it is of the utmost importance to our 700 plus members and our Board of Directors that we continue to ensure storm water discharges do not impair the ecological integrity, water quality, and cultural resources of the Santa Clara River.”

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, scientific analysis, advocacy, litigation, and community organizing and empowerment. To learn more about Wishtoyo and its Ventura Coastkeeper Program, visit us at <http://www.wishtoyo.org/ventura-coastkeeper.html>.