



SBCAN 2025 Newsletter

SBCAN takes action on environmental, economic and social justice issues. We bring community members together, foster discussion on topical issues and disseminate information from local groups.

In this issue:

- Stopping oil and gas in SB County
- Protecting water
- Fighting for affordable housing
- And more!

Oil & Gas

Since Santa Barbara County Action Network's founding in 2002, we have been focused on protecting Santa Barbara County's environment and transitioning into cleaner energy, including fighting oil and gas production. SBCAN, working with a large coalition, has countered Sable's efforts to restart the aging offshore oil platforms.

SBCAN was the first organization to bring attention to and take action against the Sentinel Peak Truck Rack proposal, which proposed to truck crude oil for 165 miles from Lompoc to Coalinga over the next 50 years. SBCAN mobilized the community—hosting Roundtables, gathering 600+ petition signatures, and uniting 12 organizations in SLO and SB counties in opposition. With SBCAN-hired legal support, we presented a strong case to the County Planning Commission, prompting Sentinel to withdraw its proposal indefinitely.



SBCAN in coalition with other groups was instrumental in major victories in 2025, including:

- Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors' vote not to approve any further onshore oil and gas development, and vote to start a process to phase out existing onshore oil and gas production.
- Getting local officials support of the Make Polluters Pay SB campaign to hold oil companies accountable
- Passage of AB1448 to safeguard our coast against federal attempts to unlawfully open federal waters to new oil leasing off California.

We celebrate many victories throughout the year in partnership with the Environmental Defense Center, including the County denial of permit transfers from Exxon to Sable.



Water

Since SBCAN's inception, we have fought for clean water. Recent efforts include:

- Working on restoring native habitat in areas where homeless encampments had been located in the Santa Maria Riverbed.
- Started forming a group to advocate for and take action in the Santa Maria River watershed.
- Restarted a planning process to establish a wetland-bioswale demonstration project on the Orcutt-Solomon Creek.
- Advocated for SM levee trail to be extended to Guadalupe.
- Met with Guadalupe residents and County of SB regarding flooding issues in Guadalupe and access to Guadalupe Beach.



SBCAN 2025 Roundtables:

Jan 24: Meet County Sup. Roy Lee and SB City Councilmember Wendy Santamaria

Feb 14: Marine Protected Areas for Pt. Sal and Carpinteria. Save Our Sanctuaries

Feb 28: Sustainability in our Countywide Education Systems

Mar 14: County Jail Expansion, SM General Plan, Sentinel Proposal

May 16: County Workforce Housing Study

June 13: Protect Public Lands & Water!

July 11: Building the Next System

July 25: Calls to Action from Local Orgs

Sept 5: Achieving Rent Stabilization (Co-Sponsored with CAUSE)

Nov 7: Paseo Nuevo Development

SBCAN Team

Jeanne Sparks, Co-Executive Director
Ken Hough, Co-Executive Director
Nancy Avoce, Assistant Director
Joyce Howerton, Consultant

Board Members

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Geoff Green Das Williams
Lee Heller Hilda Zacarías
Christina Hernandez Terri Zuniga

Housing

SBCAN works to expand affordable housing for residents across the County—starting in Santa Barbara, where our workforce struggles to find affordable homes. We advocate for resilient housing solutions on both the local and state level, share action alerts, promote public engagement, and identify effective, cost-conscious models to increase affordable housing and ensure sustainable growth for our communities.

SBCAN Co-President Dick Flacks hosts weekly Housing Brainstorms with elected officials, housing advocates and residents to address the housing crisis by advocating using public land for affordable housing, creating a substantial funding base for the Santa Barbara City Housing Trust Fund, and strengthening tenant rights and empowerment.

SBCAN celebrates key victories we achieved with the housing justice coalition:

- City of SB’s allocation of \$5 million/year to the Local Housing Trust Fund
- Passing of stronger tenant protections in April 2025



And more!

- Immigrant rights
- Livable wages for farmworkers, firefighters and caregivers
- State funding of SNAP benefits
- Prop 50
- Jail Expansion/Fair In-Custody Death Investigations
- Kroger/Albertsons merger
- Trauma-Informed workshop



Despite the national climate, SBCAN proves that our community is not powerless and that we will prevail! Support our mission—your donation helps build a more affordable, livable community for everyone.

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