



# BEAVER BRIGADE

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## Beaver Brigade Volunteers Make a Cleaner Salinas!

ATASCADERO, CA May 10, 2021

While removing 60 large bags of trash from the riverbed, Beaver Brigade volunteers enjoyed a cool breeze in the shade of the willows, the tall flowering mulefat plants, aromatic mints and rustling cattails... all thriving thanks to the beaver-engineered pond. An egret stalking in the shallow water, a great blue heron finally catching a fish, a long-tailed weasel hunting along the rocks at the waters' edge, and then Wow! A bald eagle flying low to strike at prey swimming near the surface.

These were more than reward enough for us as we bagged every visible scrap of trash from the river's banks and water. We left satisfied that our reach of the Salinas was returned closer to functioning the way beavers have kept it for eons. **As the beavers have always known, maintenance is everything, and we'll be back soon to scour for new or overlooked trash.** And then we'll bask in the beauty of the beavers' creation.

Beaver Brigade will clean up more along the Salinas as weather permits. Please join us!



**Contact Kate for details at [katewave8600@gmail.com](mailto:katewave8600@gmail.com)**

### May 8 Salinas River Cleanup Numbers

**Volunteers:** 13      **Volunteer Hours:** 40+ for planning, bagging, hauling

**Trash removed:** 60 large bags, a grocery cart, tenting, mattresses, food and beverage containers, clothes, plastic furniture, toys, household items, a copy of "Anna Karenina".

**Special Thanks:** Atascadero Mutual Water Company, Atascadero Water Treatment Plant, Schlegel Sand & Gravel, and to the River Dwellers who do their fair share for the environment.

If you want to work alongside some dedicated, happy people doing something significant for the Salinas River, **join us on the next river cleanup, June 12.** We can't claim to have as beneficial an impact on the environment as beavers can, but we do our best. After all, their species has been at it over 5 million years compared to our mere 200,000 years here on Earth. But we are here to witness and admire the beavers' remarkable achievements.

*Photos courtesy Amalia Galpert*

**ABOUT US:** Beaver Brigade is educating and raising awareness around the existence and benefits of beavers in San Luis Obispo County. We support healthy beaver habitats through habitat preservation and restoration, and collaboration with other groups using creeks and rivers.

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### HOMELESS CAMP CLEANED UP

Unhoused people living in tents and camps in the Salinas riverbed may help with the cleanup or set their bags out for the Beaver Brigade to pick up. ©DEREK COHEN



### TRASH STREWN AROUND A LARGE HOMELESS ENCAMPMENT ALONG THE SALINAS RIVER

More trash strewn around  
a homeless camp.

©AUDREY TAUB





### DAMAGED SHOPPING CART REMOVED

Trash along the Salinas River takes a variety of forms, from small to large items.

©DEREK COHEN



### HOMELESS CAMP AT RISK IF THE RIVER RISES

A neatly kept campsite likely to be threatened by the river should it rise.

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