



BEAVER BRIGADE
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Beaver Brigade Cleans Up More Salinas Riverbed

ATASCADERO, CA September 17, 2020

Beaver Brigade members and friends, in two afternoons spent stuffing 104 big garbage bags full of trash from abandoned encampments, filled a roll-off dumpster provided by the Atascadero Mutual Water Company to the brim.

Landowners Chris and Danielle Wesney joined in. Chris tends his property on Rocky Canyon Road with care, even mowing around the wild California poppies along the riverbank in the spring. Chris grew up here enjoying the river and its rocky ledges, trout fishing, and swimming hole pools. He doesn't mind horseback riders and hikers traversing his land, but he worries about fires and regularly patrols the riverbed in his ATV to discourage overnight camping. In spite of his efforts there are areas where people have left large amounts of bedding, rotting clothing, shopping carts, and everything else they didn't carry out when they moved on.

These hidden piles of disintegrating plastics, discarded furniture and decaying batteries contaminate the water and the land, which is dangerous to both people and wildlife. Beaver believers and landowners alike felt well-rewarded seeing the clean riverbed and its beaver ponds. In fact, they pledged to do it all again!

(Photos courtesy Russ Hodin)

Beaver Brigade will clean up more abandoned camps along the Salinas River on Saturday, September 19th from 9am to noon. Please join us!



Contact Kate for details at katewave8600@gmail.com

- A beaver's home is called a lodge, a little dome-shaped house made from woven sticks, grasses and moss plastered with mud, built on riverbanks just barely above water level. **Beavers are very social and live in groups called colonies.** One lodge is a dry, cozy home for a monogamous couple, their young and the yearlings born the year before.
- **Beaver dams prevent erosion and raise the water table**, which helps purify the water as silt builds up and breaks down toxins, according to the Animal Diversity Web at the University of Michigan. Beavers build dams to make ponds, their favorite place to live!



ABOUT: 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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