



EDC 30TH ANNIVERSARY CASE DOCKET

Since 1977 the Environmental Defense Center (EDC) has represented community groups in Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo Counties on issues effecting our environment. We believe that our work on behalf of our clients is an important reason that our communities have retained much of their natural beauty and scenic qualities despite growth and development that could otherwise have caused permanent damage. This docket lists our major activities over the past 30 years.



EDC'S MISSION STATEMENT

The Environmental Defense Center protects and enhances the local environment through education, advocacy, and legal action.

EDC'S FOCUS

Since 1977 we have empowered community based organizations to advance environmental protection. Our program areas include protecting coast and ocean resources, open spaces and wildlife, and human and environmental health. We primarily work within Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo Counties.

INTRODUCTION TO CASE DOCKET

In 1969, Unocal's oil spill in the Santa Barbara Channel focused the nation's attention on the inherent danger of irresponsible natural resource exploitation, and made Santa Barbara the birthplace of the modern environmental movement. By 1977, an increasingly complex web of regulations, coupled with growing polluter sophistication, made necessary the creation of the Environmental Defense Center as a public interest law firm, dedicated to defending the health of the environment and the public.

On behalf of community action groups and environmental activists, EDC has repeatedly taken legal action to ensure that existing environmental laws are enforced, that endangered species and their habitats are protected, that public natural resources are safe from over development and rapacious exploitation, and that the public's air and water resources are kept safe and healthful. EDC has represented its clients in court and before governmental agencies, providing free and low cost legal counsel and advice on issues involving watersheds and water quality, air quality, biodiversity and endangered species, land use and open space protection, environmental health and justice, oil and gas development and public access.

The following Case Docket presents selected cases as a chronicle of the 30 year history of the EDC's efforts to protect our environment on California's Central Coast. We present these cases – organized by issue – in the belief that taking stock of where we have been is an important part of any process that helps us to see where we should be going. In addition, it's always good to celebrate how much has been accomplished.

Some of our accomplishments include protecting important open spaces from development, including the Hearst Ranch, East-West Ranch, Ellwood Mesa, Douglas Family Preserve (Wilcox), Carpinteria Bluffs, Sedgwick Ranch, Oxnard Shores and Ahmanson Ranch. We have also protected dozens of endangered species and their habitats. In addition, we have stopped new oil and gas development, and construction of liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals, off our coast. We have successfully advocated

for laws and policies that protect our communities from exposure to toxic pesticides, and we have litigated cases to enforce laws protecting our air and water quality. More recently, we have emerged as leaders in the fight against global warming by fighting projects that would increase greenhouse gas emissions in our region. Many of our cases have not only resulted in local protections, but have also established national precedents that help advance environmental protection on a larger scale. All of these accomplishments are chronicled in this Case Docket.

EDC CLIENTS AND PARTNERS

In our 30 year history, EDC has represented the following organizations in advocacy before governmental agencies and in litigation in State and Federal courts:

Abalone Alliance	Environmental Defense Center
Audubon Society	Environmental Law Foundation
Beacon Foundation	Environmental Working Group
California Coastal Protection Network	Fisheries Protective Institute
California Coastkeeper	Friends of Bonita Street
California Native Plant Society	Friends of Open Space
California Trout	Friends of Sedgwick Reserve
CALPIRG	Friends of the Earth
Carpinteria Creeks Committee	Friends of the RanchLand
Carpinteria Valley Association	Friends of the Santa Clara River
Center for Biological Diversity	Friends of the Sea Otter
Citizens for Goleta Valley	Friends of the Ventura River
Citizens to Preserve the Ojai	Gaviota Coast Conservancy
Citizens Planning Association of Santa Barbara County	Get Oil Out!
Coalition to Stop Weldon Canyon Dump	Heal the Bay
Coastal Alliance on Plant Expansion	Heal the Ocean
Concerned Citizens to Save the Wilcox	Isla Vista Recreation and Park District
Defenders of Wildlife	Keep the Sespe Wild
Earth Alert	League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara
Environment California	Naples Coalition
Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo	National Parks and Conservation Association
Environmental Coalition of Ventura County	Natural Resources Defense Council

Network	Santa Ynez Valley Alliance
North Grover Neighborhood Association	Santa Ynez Valley Concerned Citizens
Orcutt Area Advisory Group	Save Ellwood Shores
Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations	Save Open Space/Santa Monica Mountains
Paso-Watch	Save Oxnard Shores
Pesticide Action Network	Save the Mesa
Physicians for Social Responsibility	Save the Sunny Fields
Protective Association	Scenic Highway Preservation Committee
Rally to Save Ahmanson Ranch	Sierra Club
San Luis Obispo Chumash Council	Surfrider Foundation
Santa Barbara Channelkeeper	Small Wilderness Area Preserves
Santa Barbara Indian Center	The Otter Project
Santa Barbara Urban Creeks Council	United Chumash Council
Santa Clarita Organization for Planning the Environment	Ventura Coastkeeper
Santa Monica Baykeeper	WE-Watch
	Wishtoyo Foundation

HOW YOU CAN HELP

EDC is here to serve the needs of our community, providing support to grassroots organizations throughout Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties. EDC does not receive any government funding and relies primarily on community donations.

The EDC has grown and matured only through the collective effort of volunteers, staff, and community. You can be part of these wonderful changes. Please make a choice to make a difference, become a member of the EDC and enjoy special benefits as well as help support our efforts. As a valued EDC member, you will receive invitations to member-only events, our newsletter, plus special announcements of community events and action alerts. You can join through our website: www.environmentaldefense.org. You can also support EDC through a planned gift or multi-year pledge. Your gift will help ensure the sustainability of our organization, our community, and our natural heritage for generations to come.



COAST & OCEAN

EDC's Coast & Ocean Program Area focuses on protecting ocean water quality, enhancing protections for the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, responding to coastal development proposals, fighting offshore oil and gas leasing and development, and preserving public coastal access.

ARCO Ellwood Oil Development

Raised environmental impacts of proposed offshore oil and gas development project; ARCO abandoned proposal to install three new platforms off the coast of UCSB. (1988-1991)

ARCO Golf Course

Filed litigation challenging County and Coastal Commission approvals of coastal golf course project due to project's interference with historic public access and violation of agricultural zoning for the property. (*Surfrider Foundation v. County of Santa Barbara, et al.*, 1995)

California Coastal Sanctuary Act

Worked on the initiation and passage of the California Coastal Sanctuary Act, which prohibits any further leasing for oil and gas development in state waters. (1994)

Calleguas Brine Line

Requested additional study of impacts to Calleguas Creek watershed from proposed de-salting plants and pipeline at Ormond Beach. (2000-01)

Calleguas Creek Watershed Management Plan

Participated in watershed plan process for Calleguas Creek Watershed. (1997-2001)

Capital Condos Project

Filed litigation challenging approval of waterfront condominium project without adequate environmental review. (*Citizens Planning Association, et al. v. City of Santa Barbara*, 2001)

Carpinteria Bluffs

Successfully defeated development plan, resulting in eventual public acquisition of Carpinteria Bluffs. (*Chevron v. California Coastal Commission*, 1996-1998)

Channel Islands Harbor Boating Center

Successfully advocated for an Environmental Impact Report for a proposed boating center in Channel Islands Harbor that would have eliminated an important blue heron colony. (2002) Subsequently filed a lawsuit challenging Ventura County's approval of the project; the California Coastal Commission subsequently required Ventura County to amend its plan before proceeding with the project. (2004)

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

Represented the Conservation community on the Sanctuary Advisory Council; advanced recommendations for improved resource protection, enhanced water quality, protection of marine mammals from underwater noise, and boundary expansion. Successfully advocated for establishment of marine reserves ("no take" zones) around the Channel Islands. (1999-Present)

Channel Islands Plants

Achieved listing and critical habitat designation for 16 endangered plant species surviving on the Northern Channel Islands. (*EDC v. Babbitt*, 1996-97)

Chevron Debris Mounds

Urged California Coastal Commission and State Lands Commission to require complete cleanup and removal of toxic debris mounds left offshore Summerland after Chevron removed the "4-H" Platforms. (1998-Present)

Chevron Point Arguello Tankering

Forced strict conditions on oil tankering by Chevron; tankering was terminated in February, 1994, because the company did not satisfy its permit conditions. (1991-93)

Del Playa Seawall

Successfully convinced Santa Barbara County to deny proposed seawall project in Isla Vista due to adverse impacts on beach access (1992); subsequently defeated similar proposal before the California Coastal Commission. (1998-99)

Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant

Challenged approval of a nuclear power plant in San Luis Obispo County; co-defended the Abalone Alliance and certain individuals from SLAPP (Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation) lawsuit brought against project opponents; won lawsuit, including sanctions and fees. (1978-80)

Douglas Family Preserve (Wilcox Property)

Achieved permanent protection of bluff top property, preserved public access, and defended SLAPP lawsuit. (*Concerned Citizens to Save the Wilcox v Santa Barbara Capital*, 1987) Subsequent efforts led to public acquisition of property in 1996. Advocated for deed restrictions and covenants for public use and enjoyment. (1997)

Duke Power Plant

Opposed expansion of Duke Power Plant at Morro Bay due to impacts to Morro Bay Estuary. (2001-02)

East-West Ranch

Preserved one of the largest coastal bluffs in San Luis Obispo County, located in Cambria, by convincing the California Coastal Commission to deny a proposed residential development project. (1997-98) Subsequently, EDC client Friends of the RanchLand secured acquisition of the entire ranch for public and private use and access. (2000)

El Estero and Mission Creek Wetlands

Forced City of Santa Barbara to halt bulldozing coastal wetlands and required City to restore wetlands. (2000)

El Estero Sewage Treatment Plant

Secured additional interim treatment of effluent until permanent treatment facilities were completed. (1987-88)

Ellwood Mesa

Advocated before public agencies and filed litigation that resulted in the protection of coastal environmentally sensitive habitat areas (Monarch Butterfly groves, native grasslands and vernal pools) and preservation of historic public access. (*Save Ellwood Shores, et al. v County of Santa Barbara*, 1989-2001) Subsequently negotiated land swap that permanently protected the entire Ellwood Mesa and Butterfly groves by transferring development to the adjacent Santa Barbara Shores Park property near Hollister Avenue. (2001-05)

Entrada de Santa Barbara

Won lawsuit requiring City to prepare an Environmental Impact Report for the Entrada project, a massive time-share development that would drastically change the character of the Santa Barbara's unique Waterfront area. (*Citizens Planning Association and League of Women Voters v. City of Santa Barbara*, 1999-2002)

Exxon Oil Exploration

Obtained new mitigation measures for proposed offshore seismic survey; enhanced protection of gray whales and other marine mammals. (1995)

Gaviota Coast

Served on founding Board of Directors of the Gaviota Coast Conservancy; worked with the GCC to protect the rural undeveloped areas of the Gaviota Coast, from Coal Oil Point to Point Conception; continue to work with various groups on Gaviota Coast issues. (1994-Present)

Gaviota Processing Facility

Enforced a permit provision that allows the County to require that the oil and gas facility be decommissioned and removed. (1999-2002)

Goleta Beach Sea Wall

Forced County to remove illegal seawall in 2000; subsequently required County of Santa Barbara to study alternative shoreline erosion control options that protect public beach access, sensitive wildlife, and prevent erosion to downcoast areas. (2000-Present)

Goleta Sanitary District

Sought full secondary treatment of wastewater to protect ocean water quality. (2002)

Hammonds Meadow Trail

Protected coastal resources and access rights to Hammonds Meadow. (*United Chumash Council v. Santa Barbara County*, 1982-83) Achieved dedication of public access trails to beach in Santa Barbara County. (*Surfrider Foundation v. Mutual Savings and Loans*, 1986-89) Subsequently sued to restore adjacent public access trail. (*Surfrider Foundation v. Lilienstein*, 1996-Present)

Haskell's Beach/Hyatt Hotel

Won published court of appeal ruling expanding state-wide requirements for consideration of alternative sites for development, and forced Santa Barbara County to consider alternative locations for Hyatt Hotel project as means to reduce environmental impacts. (*Citizens of Goleta Valley v Board of Supervisors*, 1985)

In the second case, California Supreme Court clarified law regarding analysis of alternative sites. (*Citizens of Goleta Valley v. Board of Supervisors*, 1988)

Settled third lawsuit with Hyatt, establishing a \$5 million land trust for preservation of open space in the Goleta Valley. (*Citizens of Goleta Valley v. Board of Supervisors*, 1990)

Hearst Ranch/ San Luis Obispo County North Coast Area Plan

Led successful opposition to massive development proposed by the Hearst Corporation for San Luis Obispo's North Coast. (1997-98) Subsequent efforts resulted in conservation easement for most of the Ranch. (2002-04)

Jalama Creek Wetlands Restoration

Secured relocation of campsites out of creek bed and obtained restoration of wetlands (1992)

Liquefied Natural Gas – Cabrillo Port, Oxnard/Malibu

Convinced State agencies to oppose BHP Billiton's proposal to construct a massive LNG terminal offshore Ventura and LA Counties; advocated for enforcement of federal laws protecting the environment and public health and safety, and adoption of clean energy alternatives. (2004-2007)

Liquefied Natural Gas – Point Conception

Defeated proposed LNG facility at Point Conception; protected cultural resources under Native American Religious Freedom Act and state and federal environmental review statutes. (*S.B. Indian Center v. Public Utilities Commission and related actions*, 1977-82)

Marine Reserves

Successfully advocated for marine reserves ("ocean wilderness areas") in State waters surrounding the Channel Islands in Santa Barbara Channel; advocated for extension of such reserves into federal waters (beyond three nautical miles) as well. (2000-2007)

Measure A96

Drafted and defended successful ballot measure requiring voter approval of new oil and gas development projects outside of established consolidated industrial sites in Santa Barbara County. (1996-97)

Mobil Clearview Project

Raised environmental and safety issues regarding Mobil's proposed slant drilling project next to sensitive ecological areas and UCSB, leading Mobil to abandon the proposal after three years of community opposition and the passage of Measure A96. (1993-96)

Mobil Ellwood Gas Plant

Gas processing plant temporarily shut down, clean air laws enforced and new air pollution control system required to address odor problems and Hydrogen Sulfide risks. (1995-97)

Molino Gas Project

Convinced proponents to relocate gas drilling project to one of the County's designated industrial sites; secured additional protection for the endangered Gaviota Tarplant populations; and obtained landmark agreement to fully mitigate air quality impacts to zero. (1995-96) Project was subsequently abandoned by proponent. (2003)

Naples

Successfully blocked attempt to conduct piecemeal environmental review for large coastal subdivision; advocated for compliance with Santa Barbara County coastal policies requiring transfer to development from the Naples site on the Gaviota Coast to existing developed urban areas, and to consider alternatives that would protect the visual, biological, cultural and agricultural resources of the property. (1999-Present)

North Shore Mandalay

Challenged residential development proposed for only known location of the Ventura Marsh Milkvetch, once deemed extinct, resulting in additional

protections for the Milkvetch. (*California Native Plant Society v. City of Oxnard*, 1999-2001)

Subsequently, filed lawsuit challenging Coastal Commission and City of Oxnard approvals of the North Shore at Mandalay Bay project to enforce the habitat protection provisions of the Coastal Act; reached settlement requiring additional on-site conservation measures and establishment of off-site populations of the Ventura Marsh Milkvetch. (*California Native Plant Society et al. v. Coastal Commission, et al.*, 2002-03)

Oceano Dunes

Filed an Endangered Species Act lawsuit to protect threatened and endangered species from harm as a result of off-highway vehicle use at Oceano Dunes State Park. (*Sierra Club v. Rusty Areias*, 2000-02) Secured settlement agreement with State Park establishing an approximately 1.25-mile enclosure area for the protection of snowy plover and California least tern, and secured funding for critical volunteer program and long-term study of plover.

Offshore Oil and Gas Leasing

Stopped the lease of 40,000 acres of offshore oil development. (*Fisheries Protective Institute v. State Lands Commission*, 1983) Successfully opposed subsequent federal leasing proposals in 1991 and 1996.

Won monumental case in 2002 canceling the extension of 36 undeveloped oil leases off the coast of Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties until adequate environmental, state and public review is conducted. (*State of California v. Norton*, 1999-2002) Won second case when Federal government still failed to conduct full environmental review of the leases. (*League for Coastal Protection, et al. v. Norton*, 2004-Present, appeal pending)

Offshore Oil Platform Discharges

Convinced Coastal Commission to add requirements to permit covering discharge of drilling muds and cuttings from platforms in the Santa Barbara Channel, to ensure adequate protection of ocean water quality. (1999-2001)

Filed lawsuit challenging EPA's failure to update expired permits for twenty-two Federal oil platforms located offshore central and southern California; EPA responded by adopting a new General Permit that included stricter water quality standards. (*Our Children's Earth, et al v. U.S. EPA*, 2004)

Ormond Beach

With other Ormond Beach advocates, successfully opposed proposals for a massive onshore Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facility and construction of a new road through a wetland to serve the Halaco facility. (2002)

Oxnard Shores

Protected open space and public access at Oxnard Shores. (*Save Oxnard Shores v. Ocean Front Lot Owners*, 1984-89)

Pacific Vehicle Processing

Won appeal of the approval of a vehicle storage project located adjacent to wetlands in the Ormond Beach area; convinced City of Oxnard to require environmental impact report. Proposal was subsequently withdrawn. (2002-03)

Parker Waterfront Hotel Project

Successfully challenged proposed hotel on grounds that the project would negatively impact views, parking and affordable housing. (1997)

Point Conception

Negotiated access to and use of federal land at Pt. Conception for religious ceremonies on behalf of the Santa Barbara Indian Center. (1978)

Port Hueneme Coastal Plan

Challenged City of Port Hueneme's coastal plan update that was approved without adequate environmental review, and obtained additional coastal protection policies. (*Sierra Club v. City of Port Hueneme*, 1998)

Project Clean Water

Supported establishment of Project Clean Water objectives in Santa Barbara County and participated in project's work on wetlands and riparian restoration, septic systems, policy review and pollution reduction. (1999-Present)

Rights-to-Reefs

Led successful state-wide effort to defeat legislation that would have allowed oil companies to leave their platforms in the ocean when production ceases rather than remove them and clean up the marine environment. (1999-Present)

Santa Barbara Channelkeeper

Launched the Santa Barbara Channelkeeper, a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and restoring the Santa Barbara Channel and its watersheds through citizen action, field work, education and enforcement. (1999-2001)

Santa Barbara City Desalination Plant

Obtained preparation of environmental impact report for analysis of City's proposed supplemental water supplies. (1990)

Santa Rosa Island

Achieved settlement that protected the Channel Islands National Park's resources by phasing out private grazing and hunting operations, and enhancing monitoring and protection for endangered plant species. (*National Parks and Conservation Association v. Kennedy*, 1996-98)

South Coast Watershed Alliance

Helped to bring together 15 local planning, environmental, educational and scientific groups, as well as landowners and agriculturists, to work on issues involving water quality, wetlands, creeks, steelhead, development and planning. (1998-Present)

Stormwater Phase II Regulation Litigation

Won lawsuit challenging EPA's Phase II Stormwater Regulations and ensuring stricter standards for stormwater run-off. (*EDC v. Environmental Protection Agency*, 2000-03)

Surfer's Point

Worked with Surfrider Foundation to minimize beach erosion from bike path project. (2001-04)

Taylor Ranch

Preserved coastal open space, prevented development of State University. (*Environmental Coalition v. Board of Trustees*, 1989)

Toro Canyon Community Plan

Advocated for larger creek setbacks, full protection of sensitive habitats, and other measures to be included in Toro Canyon Plan. (1999-2001)

Tranquillon Ridge Oil and Gas Project

Successfully advocated for rejection of proposed slant oil and gas drilling project off Santa Barbara's coast that would have allowed the first state oil lease since the 1969 oil spill. (2002) Subsequently responded to new proposal for similar development. (2006-Present)

UCSB Campus Point Seawall

Worked with Surfrider Foundation to stop Campus Point seawall project. (1999)

UCSB North and West Campus Housing

Protected environmental sensitive habitat on the University's West Campus. (*Freeman et al. v. Regents*, 1984-85)

Successfully protected wetlands and other sensitive habitat from development at UCSB's North and West Campuses, next to Devereux Slough. (1998-2006)

Venoco Ellwood Oil Development

Represented a coalition of environmental groups to phase out operations at the Venoco onshore oil and gas facilities and oppose Venoco's proposal to "slant drill" from Platform Holly into currently unleased areas. (1999-Present)

Venoco Paredon Oil Development

Sought denial of proposal to slant drill from an onshore site next to Carpinteria City Hall and the Carpinteria Bluffs into an offshore state oil lease. (2007-Present)

Ventura River: RV Park

Opposed approval of RV park in the flood zone and sought enforcement of permit and Coastal Act violations. (1992-99)

Ventura Visioning Project

Participated in Ventura's Comprehensive Plan update process to improve environmental protection policies. (1999-2000)

Weldon Canyon

Enjoined ballot measure that would have permitted the development of massive landfill in Ojai. (*Coalition to Stop Weldon Canyon Dump v. Dean*, 1994)

Woodlands

Filed and settled lawsuit to enforce San Luis Obispo County's growth management ordinance. Secured major funding to support local environmental groups. (*Save the Mesa v. County of San Luis Obispo*, 2002)



OPEN SPACE & WILDLIFE

EDC's Open Space & Wildlife Program Area seeks to enhance and enforce protections for endangered species, habitats, watersheds, and agricultural lands.

Ahmanson Ranch

Filed lawsuit challenging Ventura County's approval of a proposed new town in the Santa Monica Mountains that would have destroyed habitat for California red-legged frog and San Fernando Valley Spineflower. (*Rally to Save Ahmanson Ranch et al. v. County of Ventura*, 2001-03) Property was subsequently purchased and preserved as publicly accessible open space.

Alamo Pintado Creek

Achieved reinstatement of open space easement protecting a riparian corridor along Alamo Pintado Creek in Los Olivos. (1996)

Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permits

Advocated for increased protection for wetlands and other natural resources in Army Corps Nationwide Permits. (1997-99)

Arroyo Burro Trail

Filed litigation on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara against various landowners to preserve historic public hiking; case resulted in permanent protection for portions of the historic trail. (*County of Santa Barbara v. Anderson and Gadbois, et al.*, 1977-1983)

Arroyo Linda

Challenged proposed annexation of land to City of Arroyo Grande that would have converted agricultural land to industrial uses. (1999-2001)

Atascadero Creek

Secured wetlands enhancement and permanent protection along a coastal riparian corridor in Santa Barbara County. (*EDC v. Army Corps of Engineers*, 1993-94)

Atascadero General Plan Update

Filed suit challenging the City of Atascadero's approval of amendments to its General Plan that would intensify development and density in Atascadero. Settlement resulted in changes to the General Plan, including a resource map identifying habitat within the City and interim creek set back protection. (*ECOSLO v. City of Atascadero*, 2002)

Bonita Street, Santa Maria

Secured reduction in project size to conform to neighborhood; revised City environmental review guidelines. (*Friends of Bonita Street v. City of Santa Maria*, 1989)

Box Canyon

Investigated cumulative impacts from development in a biologically sensitive canyon with numerous special status species in Ventura. (2001)

Braun-Cavaletto

Established precedent of requiring traffic fees to mitigate project impacts. (*Citizens Planning Association v. County of Santa Barbara*, 1981-82)

Burton Mesa Chaparral

Preserved 5,000 acres of endangered chaparral habitat that was ultimately purchased by the State. (*La Purisima Audubon Society v. County of Santa Barbara*, 1989) Subsequently challenged proposed Kelly-Gausman development adjacent to Burton Mesa Chaparral lands. (*La Purisima Audubon Society v. County of Santa Barbara*, 1991)

Cachuma Project Water Rights

Challenged review of water rights permits to protect public trust rights, including protection of endangered steelhead trout on the Santa Ynez River. (1992 to present)

California Red-Legged Frog

Won protection for the California red legged frog, forcing U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to list it as a threatened species. (*EDC v. Babbitt*, 1995-96) Achieved additional protection by demonstrating that water diversions from Alder, Fox and McCoy Creeks jeopardized important habitat.

California Tiger Salamander

Filed three lawsuits against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services for failing to list the salamander under the Endangered Species Act. The tiger salamander was granted full protection as an endangered species in September 2000. (*EDC v. Babbitt*, 1998-2000) Successfully opposed subsequent effort to down-list the species to “threatened” and reduce its protective status. (*Center for Biological Diversity v. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*, 2004-05)

Successfully challenged U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s failure to designate critical habitat for the Santa Barbara County population of the California tiger salamander. (*EDC vs. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*, 2002-03)

CALMAT

Successfully challenged use of abandoned gravel pits for groundwater recharge in Ventura County. (*Environmental Coalition of Ventura County v. Calmat, et al.*, 1997-98)

CALTRANS Highway 101 Freeway

Opposed extensive grading work in native coastal scrub habitat along Highway 101 in Ventura. (2000)

Camarillo Regional Park

Filed lawsuit that reversed Ventura County's approval of a golf course and outdoor concert arena due to inconsistencies with the County's General Plan. (*California Native Plant Society, et al v. County of Ventura, 1997-1999*)

Carnevale

Successfully convinced City of Carpinteria to require a full Environmental Impact Report for residential development proposed next to Carpinteria Creek and to move development away from the Creek. (2002)

Carpinteria Creek Policies

Shaped update of Carpinteria Local Coastal Plan, including policies for protection of sensitive habitats like creeks and wetlands. (2001-02)

Casitas Dam

Responded to Bureau of Reclamation's seismic retrofit of Casitas Dam, which would have resulted in large-scale habitat loss, air quality impacts and adequacy of mitigation associated with. (1999-2000)

Cathedral Oaks Road Extension

Persuaded County of Santa Barbara to construct a narrow bridge over El Encanto Creek instead of burying Creek in a long culvert. (1997-98)

City of Santa Barbara Creek Policies

Advocated for large creek setbacks to be included in the City of Santa Barbara's update of its creek protection policies. (2000-Present)

Creekside Residential Development

Stopped project that would have destroyed wetlands near Devereux Slough in Goleta. (1998-99)

Dalidio Shopping Center

Opposed major shopping center development on agricultural lands containing endangered species in San Luis Obispo. (2001)

Duff Mesa

Opposed Village Estates Specific Plan and drafted referendum on development project in Solvang. (1990-91)

Forde Industrial Park

Filed suit against City of Grover Beach that resulted in additional mitigation for an industrial park near a state Monarch Butterfly Preserve. (*North Grover Neighborhood Assn. v. City of Grover Beach*, 2002)

Gateway Development

Convinced the Ventura City Council to deny the approval of a project that violated "City Smart Growth" principles and would have caused traffic congestion and safety impacts in a residential neighborhood. (2000-01)

Freshwater Invertebrate Shrimp

Filed litigation that resulted in listing of several species of freshwater shrimp as endangered and threatened. (*EDC v. Babbitt*, 1994). Intervened to uphold the scientific basis of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service action. (*BIA v. Babbitt*, 1995-2002)

General Plans

Forced City and County of Santa Barbara to seek extensions from the state to bring their general plans into compliance with state mandates, and to refrain from approving projects until they came into compliance. (1977)

Gibraltar Dam

Challenged adequacy of environmental impact report raising Gibraltar Dam. (*Montecito Water District, et al., v. City of Santa Barbara*, 1988)

Glen Annie Golf Course

Successfully negotiated mitigation measures to replace habitat to be lost by the construction of the golf course in the Goleta foothills. (*Santa Barbara Urban Creeks Council, et al. v. County of Santa Barbara*, 1994-2002)

Goleta Water District: Water Basin Management Plan

Secured environmental impact report analyzing Goleta's water basin management plan. (*Citizens for Goleta Valley v. Goleta Water District*, 1987)

Goleta Water District: Water Service Agreements

Challenged a series of Water Service Agreements involving exchange of wells for meters; upheld voter approved ordinance and forced payment of funds to Goleta Water District. (*Citizens for Goleta Valley v. Goleta Water District*, 1989-91)

Goleta Water District: Wright Suit

Intervened in groundwater basin adjudication to protect ratepayer and public interest, secured full compliance with the state and local environmental statutes and voter approval requirements. (*Wright v. Goleta Water District*, 1989)

Heritage Valley Parks

Filed lawsuit resulting in additional review of proposed residential and levee project along the Santa Clara River. (2002-03)

Highway 101 Widening

Participated in broad community coalition that promoted alternatives to proposed freeway widening project in southern Santa Barbara County. (1996)

Lake Casitas Water Project

Provided comments on proposed recreational developments for Lake Casitas that were approved without environmental review. (2001-02)

Lompoc Prison

Stopped construction of a prison expansion project in Lompoc pending environmental review. (2001)

Los Carneros Reservoir

Negotiated additional measures to control erosion and protect and restore habitats for reservoir project proposed in foothills above Goleta. (2000-01)

Los Carneros Wetlands

Protected wetlands from proposed development. (1986-95)

Los Padres National Forest Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Use

Reversed the decision allowing ORV use in blunt-nosed leopard lizard habitat area. (1980)

Objected to construction of proposed Badlands Trail near native American community and through sensitive habitat areas. (1996)

Secured the closure and relocation of Snowy Trail away from wetlands and arroyo toad habitat. (1991-96)

Los Padres National Forest Oil and Gas Development

Assisted local residents in securing adequate community involvement and environmental protection in Quatal Canyon seismic testing oil exploration project. (1992)

Opposed Oil and Gas Leasing Plan for Los Padres National Forest. (2001-Present)

Lot Line Adjustment Ordinance

Supported Santa Barbara County in adopting an ordinance to eliminate development on small fractional lots, thereby preserving important agricultural lands. (2001)

Mackie Mountain

Preserved 17 acres of open space in residential subdivision development and secured revisions to County groundwater element in the general plan. (*Friends of Open Space v. County of Santa Barbara*, 1983-93)

Maritime Chaparral Plants

Filed lawsuit that resulted in the listings of four plants unique to Southern California's coast. (*Southwest Center for Biological Diversity v. Babbitt*, 1995)

Matilija Dam Removal

Advocated for removal of Matilija Dam to restore steelhead, replenish beach sand, and provide recreational access to Los Padres National Forest. (2000-05)

Measure B, City of Santa Barbara

Supported legislation to increase the hotel bed tax to raise \$2 million per year to clean up creeks in the City of Santa Barbara. (2000)

Measure E, City of Santa Barbara

Successfully defeated Board of Realtors' attempt to vacate City growth control ordinance. (*Santa Barbara Board of Realtors v. City of Santa Barbara*, 1989)

Mira Monte

Won lawsuit challenging subdivision Environmental Impact Report for failure to consider new information regarding the presence of wetlands and rare plants that would be harmed by proposed development; established new state-wide precedent for consideration of new information in environmental review reports. (1983-1985)

Mission Creek Flood Control Project

Successfully opposed channelization of 1.2 miles of Mission Creek in Santa Barbara and advocated for natural alternative. (1991-2002)

Mission Creek Retaining Wall

Won litigation requiring additional environmental review of a rock retaining wall along historic Mission Creek. (*Santa Barbara Urban Creeks Council v. City of Santa Barbara*, 1999-2000)

Newhall Ranch

Challenged approval of 21,000-home Newhall Ranch project and secured additional environmental analysis of impacts on water supply and quality and ecological resources. (*Sierra Club v. County of Los Angeles*, 1999-2003)

Nipomo Mesa

Settled lawsuit challenging San Luis Obispo County's decision to allow an exceedance of the County's Growth Management Ordinance without conducting environmental review. (*Save the Mesa v. County of San Luis Obispo*, 2000)

Nyborg Estates

Modified Solvang gateway project to reduce environmental impact; secured payment of \$50,000 for improvement of City park and recreational facilities. (*Santa Ynez Valley Concerned Citizens v. City of Solvang*, 1991)

Oak Park

Filed lawsuit challenging the failure of a mitigation program for a rare plant species (Braunton's milkvetch) at the site of an approved residential development in Oak Park. (*California Native Plant Society v. County of Ventura*, 1998-2003)

Oak Tree Protection (Kendall-Jackson)

Filed lawsuit against Santa Barbara County regarding the clear cutting of 850 oak trees near Los Alamos under a County-issued grading permit (*Sierra Club v. Santa Barbara County*, 1998-2000)

Participated in a consensus building process that resulted in an ordinance protecting oak trees and habitats in rural Santa Barbara County. (1997-2003)

Orcutt Community Plan

Achieved improved policies through lawsuit against the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors for inadequate environmental review of the Orcutt Community Plan; won additional protections for biological and water resources. (*Orcutt Area Advisory Committee v. County of Santa Barbara*, 1997-2001)

Parker Ranch

Opposed residential development in southeastern Simi Valley that would annex almost 100 acres of oak woodland habitat and relocate rare spadefoot toads. (2000)

Perfect Park, Isla Vista

Successfully defended the Isla Vista Recreation and Park District (IVRPD) against challenge to environmental review conducted to condemn historic public parkland. (*St. Athanasius Church v. IVPRD*, 1990-92)

Plam Mission Meadow; Winery

Successfully forced full environmental review of proposed winery at Sunny Fields; proposal was eventually withdrawn. (2002-03)

Rancho San Marcos

Filed litigation challenging approval of golf course on agriculturally-zoned land in the Santa Ynez Valley. (*Scenic Highway Preservation Committee v. County of Santa Barbara*, 1991-94)

Rocky Pointe

Opposed residential development proposal in Simi Valley based on concerns related to wetlands, rare plants, aesthetics, and policy consistency. Site was ultimately acquired for preservation. (1999-2000)

Rosemary Lane Extension

Convinced developer of multiple tracts in foothills of Arroyo Grande to redesign an access road to avoid endangered plants, wetlands, a creek, and other habitats. (1998-99)

San Antonio Creek / VAFB

Successfully stopped Vandenberg Air Force Base from clearing over 50 acres of high quality riparian habitat along San Antonio Creek, home to various rare species. (1997-98)

San Antonio Creek / Ventura River

Halted damaging flood control project on Ventura River tributary approved without environmental review. (*Friends of the Ventura River v. County of Ventura*, 1995-96) Secured environmental review and revegetation for bank stabilization project. (*Friends of the Ventura River v. Ojai Valley Sanitary District*, 1996)

San Fernando Valley Spineflower

Filed lawsuit challenging the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's failure to protect the San Fernando Valley Spineflower, formerly believed to be extinct. Court rejected the Service's rationale for its failure to protect the spineflower. (*California Native Plant Society v. Norton*, 2001-05)

San Marcos Foothills

Helped defeat large residential project proposed for one of the most biologically rich sites on Santa Barbara County's South Coast. (1998-99) Subsequently responded to new development proposal that achieved additional protection of 200 acres of important habitats and open space. (2004-05)

Sandpiper Residential Project

Secured additional protections for wetlands, native grasslands, and Devereux Creek threatened by proposed residential development in Goleta. (2002)

Santa Barbara City College

Obtained increased protection for natural and archaeological resources. (1989)

Santa Barbara County Agricultural Policies

Successfully advocated for consideration of environmental impacts of proposed agricultural operation expansion in County's Agricultural Element. (1991)

Forced County to conduct public review of all proposed changes to agricultural policies, thereby revealing full potential for conversion and development on agricultural lands. (2006-07)

Santa Barbara County Conservation Element

Secured preparation of groundwater resource plan. (*Friends of Open Space v. Board of Supervisors*, 1983-94)

Santa Barbara County Flood Control District Annual Maintenance Program

Required County to comply with state environmental review laws and consider impacts caused by County's flood control maintenance activities. (1990-92)

Santa Barbara County Rural Resource Policies Update

Advocated for protection of sensitive habitats as part of Santa Barbara County's update of its land use policies. (1999-Present)

Santa Margarita Ranch

Worked with San Luis Obispo Chumash Council to ensure that a proposal to plant a 3000-acre vineyard protected endangered species habitat and Native-American burial sites. (*San Luis Obispo Chumash Council v. County of San Luis Obispo*, 1999-2000)

Santa Ynez River

Obtained wetlands protection for flood control projects along the Santa Ynez River. (*EDC v. Army Corps of Engineers*, 1992-93)

Represented CalTrout in public trust action before the State Water Resources Control Board. (2002-Present)

Santa Ysabel Ranch

Settled suit challenging County of San Luis Obispo's approval of the Santa Ysabel Ranch development, resulting in increased protection of oak woodland habitat. (*PasoWatch v. County of San Luis Obispo*, 2002)

Sea Otters

Urged U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to stop enforcing "no otter zone" south of Point Conception and allow sea otters to re-inhabit their historic range. (2005-06)

Sedgwick Ranch

Successfully stopped proposed sale of 6,000 acre ranch at the foot of Figueroa Mountain in the Santa Ynez Valley, resulting in permanent protection of the Ranch as part of the University of California Natural Reserve System. (1990-97)

Southwestern Arroyo Toad

Filed litigation that resulted in the listing of the Southwestern arroyo toad as an endangered species. (*EDC v. Babbitt*, 1993)

Southwestern Willow Flycatcher

Obtained endangered listing for the Southwestern willow flycatcher. (*EDC v. Babbitt*, 1993)

State Water Project

Drafted ballot measures for communities in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties opposed to the importation of State Water. (1991-92)

Secured settlement with water agencies requiring them to allocate new water supplies to replenish groundwater overdraft before serving new development. (1992)

Steelhead Trout

Filed suit against the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service over the failure to fully protect imperiled steelhead trout in southern California; reached settlement requiring NMFS to reconsider its decision not to list steelhead occurring above man-made dams and barriers. (*EDC v. Evans*, 2000-05)

Secured funding and provided recommendations for plans to remove concrete bed from channelized sections of Mission Creek, as a means to restore steelhead migratory access. (2000-Present)

Substandard Size Lots

Protected Santa Barbara County rural areas by successfully supporting an ordinance that restricts development of substandard size lots. (2001)

Tajiguas Landfill

Modified proposed landfill expansion project in a coastal canyon to include consideration of alternative waste technologies, avoid and mitigate habitat destruction, and increase recycling efforts and water testing. (1998-2001)

Tidewater Goby

Filed lawsuit that resulted in the listing of tidewater goby as an endangered species. (*EDC v. Lujan*, 1992-93)

Successfully challenged U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's failure to prepare a recovery plan for the goby. (*EDC v. U.S. Dept. of the Interior*, 1999-2003)

Toland Landfill

Represented Citizens to Stop Toland Landfill in their campaign to tighten landfill permit compliance, minimize off-site water contamination and reduce dust/litter impacts on adjacent properties. (2000)

Unarmored Three-Spined Stickleback

Brought a lawsuit to protect critical habitat for the unarmored threespine stickleback, a federally listed endangered freshwater fish species. (*Center for Biological Diversity v. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*, 2002-06)

University of California Santa Barbara

Required additional mitigation measures for biology, housing and traffic in 1990 Long Range Development Plan. (1990-91)

Achieved realignment of Mesa Road to protect the Goleta Slough and surrounding environmentally sensitive habitat. (1997)

Forced UCSB to relocate planned 800-bed San Rafael Dorm out of wetlands on a coastal bluff. (1997-99)

Successfully advocated for protection of wetlands and the Devereux Slough in the context of the University's North Campus housing plan. (2001-06)

Vandenberg Air Force Base

Negotiated relocation of commercial space launch facility to avoid leapfrog industrial development of coast. (1995)

Vandenberg Air Force Base: MX missile

Forced Air Force to comply with federal environmental review laws regarding waste disposal, road construction and monitoring. (1977-82)

Vandenberg Peat Bog Fire

Ensured that the least environmentally damaging methods were used to address a peat bog fire in Barka Slough wetlands at Vandenberg Air Force Base. (2000)

Ventura River Diversion

Preserved instream flows and steelhead spawning grounds. (*Friends of the Ventura River v. City of Ventura & Casitas Water District*, 1984)

Ventura River Habitat

Brought a series of cases to preserve, protect and enhance habitat in lower Ventura River. (1986-94)

Ventura River Watershed Monitoring

Supported Santa Barbara ChannelKeeper in launching program to enhance and restore Ventura River through community participation in volunteer monitoring and restoration program. (2000-2001)

Vernal Pool Wetland Species

Filed suit that forced the Fish and Wildlife Service to establish listing and designate critical habitat for five vernal pool wetland species. (*Southwestern Center for Biological Diversity v. Babbitt*, 1996)

Western Snowy Plover

Brought lawsuits against U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that resulted in the listing of the western snowy plover and protection of critical habitat. (*EDC v. Babbitt*, 1994-2000) Subsequently represented the Audubon Society in successful opposition to effort to de-list the plover.

Convinced the Coastal Commission to require additional protections for snowy plovers at the Coal Oil Point Reserve in Goleta and Vandenberg Air Force Base. (2001-02)

Wild and Scenic Rivers

Prevailed in litigation requiring management plans for three Wild and Scenic Rivers in the Los Padres National Forest. (*Center for Biological Diversity v. Derby*, 2001-02)



ENVIRONMENTAL & HUMAN HEALTH

EDC's Environmental & Human Health Program Area is focused on combating air and onshore water pollution, providing education through our Central Coast Environmental Health Project, and promoting alternatives to pesticides and other toxic substances.

Ag. Futures Alliance

EDC's Central Coast Environmental Health Project (EHP) convened an ongoing facilitated process for building trust and setting mutual goals among farmers, environmentalists, health and labor groups. (2007-)

Agricultural Run-Off

Through its EHP, EDC participated on Regional Water Quality Control Board stakeholder group that developed recommendations to enhance water quality practices for agricultural operations to reduce polluted discharges. These regulations were approved by RWQCB and now serve as a model for the rest of the state. (2003-04)

Air Quality Plans

Worked to strengthen and enforce the air pollution control plans in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. (1987-97) Forced reclassification of Santa Barbara County to federal "serious" designation, thereby requiring imposition of greater protection for public health. (*EDC v. Marcus*, 1997)

Assembly Bill 947

Co-sponsored bill to limit pesticide use near schools that was signed into law in September 2002. (2000-02)

California State Implementation Plan

Filed lawsuit that forced the EPA to formally adopt statewide air quality plans. (*EDC v. Marcus*, 1996)

California Resources

Defeated expansion and secured closure of Class I hazardous waste facility, advocated for testing and compliance with regulations, strengthened clean-up standards. (1987-92)

Chevron Platform Abandonment

Secured additional mitigation of air pollution impacts from the abandonment of four oil platforms. (*Get Oil Out! v. State Lands Commission*, 1996)

Cuyama Metam Sodium Spraying

Responded to pesticide drift incident in northern Santa Barbara County where school had to be evacuated as a result of children suffering pesticide-induced illness which resulted in the implementation of new restrictions for this pesticide in SB County. (1999)

Central Coast Environmental Health Project (CCEHP)

Launched Tri-County Environmental Health Project focusing on education of farmworkers, schools, health care providers and communities regarding the risks of pesticide exposure; continued advocacy for alternatives to toxic chemicals and pesticides. (1998-Present)

City of Santa Barbara Integrated Pest Management

Led coalition of groups in successful effort to convince the City of Santa Barbara to adopt a least-toxic Integrated Pest Management (IPM) policy for City-owned properties, parks and departments. (2001-04)

Exxon Platform Development

Challenged settlement agreement between Exxon and Santa Barbara County; secured zero air pollution emissions from new offshore platforms. Established basis for local regulation of offshore sources, subsequently incorporated into the federal Clean Air Act. (*Citizens Planning Association v. Board of Supervisors*, 1986)

Farmworker Education and Trainings

Provided education to thousands of farmworkers to help them reduce the risk of exposure to pesticides. Trained farmworkers to educate peers in the field. (1998-Present)

Halaco Engineering Company

Filed a citizen enforcement suit against Halaco Engineering Company, a metal smelting facility located next to Ormond Beach in Oxnard, for violating environmental laws intended to protect public health. (*Santa Barbara ChannelKeeper, et al. v. Halaco Engineering Co.*, 2000-Present)

Hydro Systems

Secured installment of state-of-the-art air pollution equipment to control toxic styrene emissions in Simi Valley. (*HydroSystems v. City of Simi Valley*, 1988)

Inland Waters Plan Litigation

Successfully challenged the State Water Resources Control Board's adoption of the Inland Waters Plan for failure to comply with the federal Clean Water Act and state Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act requirements for ensuring adequate limits on toxic pollutants. (*WaterKeepers Northern California, et al. v. State Water Resources Control Board*, 2000-02)

Juan Soria Elementary School

Helped secure denial of Oxnard School District's request to annex a school site that would have exposed students to pesticides from adjacent agricultural operations. (1999-2001)

Lead Paint

Settled case regarding lead hazards in apartments that required landlord to provide proper warning to his tenants, perform lead testing of rental properties, provide blood screening for tenants, and abate lead hazards in buildings. (*Environmental Law Foundation v. Pini*, 1997-2000)

Leaking Underground Fuel Storage Tanks

Enhanced Santa Barbara County enforcement program to detect and remove leaking tanks. (1988)

Local Toxic Hotspots Rule

Supported enhanced notification and reduction of public exposure to airborne toxic chemicals in Santa Barbara. (1993-96)

Medical Training

Educated hundreds of health care providers in the proper diagnosis, treatment and reporting of pesticide-related illnesses. (1998-Present)

Methyl Bromide Regulations

Participated in state-wide coalition and conducted public education campaign regarding methyl bromide and other pesticide usage issues in San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. Appealed proposed use permits to protect neighbors and schools. (1994-98)

Won lawsuit challenging state regulations for failing to incorporate adequate environmental and public health safeguards. (*EDC, et al. v. Department of Pesticide Regulations*, 2001-Present, appeal pending)

Moorpark

Successfully challenged airport plan on toxic waste site based on inadequate environmental review. (*Protective Association v. City of Simi Valley*, 1980)

Mound Elementary School Spraying

Responded to pesticide drift incident at Mound Elementary school in Ventura County where school had to be evacuated and shut down due to children and staff illness. This led to the passage of AB 947. (2000)

Offshore Oil and Gas Air Emissions

Supported legislation, then sued to prompt promulgation of federal regulations for control of air pollution from Outer Continental Shelf (offshore oil and gas) sources. (*EDC v. EPA*, 1990-93)

Petrochem Refinery

Stopped expansion of oil refinery near Ojai; won published court of appeal ruling requiring analysis of cumulative air impacts from offshore oil and gas facilities. (*Citizens to Preserve the Ojai Valley v. Ventura County*, 1983-1985)

Phillips Petroleum

Successfully challenged improper issuance of emissions reduction credits to Phillips Petroleum. (1988)

Port Hueneme SWEF

Raised safety issues related to the Navy's Surface Warfare Evaluation Facility (SWEF) at Port Hueneme. Thwarted Navy proposal to conduct low altitude jet flights just offshore of Port Hueneme. (1995-2002)

Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District Community Advisory Committee

Sat as appointed member; opposed relaxation of air pollution control rules. (1995-97)

Southern California Edison Merger

Successfully opposed merger of Southern California Edison and San Diego Gas and Electric companies on environmental grounds. (1989-91)

Subsea Well Abandonment

Secured mitigation of air quality impacts caused by offshore well abandonment program through \$450,000 contribution to Santa Barbara APCD's Innovative Technologies program. (*Get Oil Out v. State Lands Commission*, 1996)

Sweetwater Ranch

Focused attention on pollution from oil wells located on private lands. (1988)

TMDL Litigation

Joined lawsuit against EPA challenging the failure to require the adoption of Total Maximum Daily Loads for impaired water bodies in California. (*San Francisco BayKeeper, et al. v. Environmental Protection Agency*, 2000-2002)

Ventura County Agricultural Futures Alliance

Cooperative alliance formed with EDC's direct participation in order to address the long term sustainability of Ventura County's agricultural industry while addressing important environmental, economic, and social equity issues. (2000-Present)

Ventura County Air Quality

Forced promulgation of Federal Implementation Plan (air quality regulations) for Ventura County. (*Citizens to Preserve the Ojai v. EPA*, 1987-1995)

Secured \$750,000 air pollution control system on Ventura power plants. (1987-1996)

Zero Emission Vehicles

Opposed relaxation of California's schedule to phase in electric vehicles. (1996)



Many thanks

to

Lessie Nixon-Schontzler

for underwriting this

30th Anniversary Docket