EDC Halts Illegal Prison Expansion in Lompoc

LOMPOC - Through EDC’s review of a proposed new 1,100-inmate prison in Lompoc, EDC discovered that the federal government was also working on a separate prison expansion project in Lompoc without notifying the public or analyzing the project’s impacts to the Lompoc community. This $5 million expansion of the Federal Correctional Institute in Lompoc could hold at least 500 new inmates, a significant increase in the current capacity of the federal facility. The expansion could negatively affect water, biological and cultural resources, traffic, housing and numerous public services, which are already strained in the community. After EDC, on behalf of the Citizen’s Planning Association of Santa Barbara County, threatened to file a lawsuit based on the lack of environmental review, the Federal Bureau of Prisons directed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to immediately stop all work on the project.

Prior to that, for six months the Bureau of Prisons failed to respond to the EDC’s requests for public documents describing the expansion project and its environmental impacts. After EDC sent a letter confirming that the Bureau had illegally withheld public documents and proceeded with a project without conducting environmental review, the Bureau finally responded.

On August 1, the Bureau released an Environmental Assessment (EA) that finds no significant impacts on the environment. The EA does a poor job of analyzing environmental impacts and completely ignores the cumulative effects from other proposed prison in Lompoc. However, despite the inadequacies of the EA, the Lompoc community now has an opportunity to review and comment on the project and its impacts, a legal right that the federal government attempted to deny.

City of Ventura to Present Hillside Protection Decision to Voters

VENTURA - In July, the Ventura City Council voted to place the Ventura Hillside Voter Participation Measure on the ballot in November 2001. This measure, if approved, would require that future development proposals in a designated 9100-acre hillside area north of Ventura, most of which is located outside the city’s current boundaries, must be presented to the voters for approval. The measure is a response to preliminary plans by four major landowners to develop approximately 2000 homes in the hills and canyons of the hillside area. EDC will monitor the adoption of the Hillside Voter Participation Measure on behalf of our client group, the Ventura Citizens for Hillside Preservation, which is a community group of volunteers dedicated to the preservation of the remaining hillside’s as open space in and around the City of Ventura.

Eye On North Coast

SAN LUIS OBISPO - As EDC continues to work on the public process surrounding land use decisions along SLO County’s north coast, the Hearst Corporation has been quietly working to exploit a loophole in the Subdivision Map Act to further its plans to develop a resort on its scenic ranch at San Simeon that includes 18 miles of coastline. By researching land records, many dating back to 1852, Hearst is attempting to acquire an arcane document known as a “certificate of compliance” for 279 parcels to establish legal lots without going through a subdivision process. Hearst Corporation’s immediate goal may be to create the threat of buildable lots to scare foundations and agencies interested in a conservation purchase to buy at a greatly inflated price. Unfortunately, the agricultural easement that Hearst is currently proposing to sell will do nothing to reduce their planned resort development.

EDC Halts Illegal Prison Expansion in Lompoc

LOMPOC - Through EDC’s review of a proposed new 1,100-inmate prison in Lompoc, EDC discovered that the federal government was also working on a separate prison expansion project in Lompoc without notifying the public or analyzing the project’s impacts to the Lompoc community. This $5 million expansion of the Federal Correctional Institute in Lompoc could hold at least 500 new inmates, a significant increase in the current capacity of the federal facility. The expansion could negatively affect water, biological and cultural resources, traffic, housing and numerous public services, which are already strained in the community. After EDC, on behalf of the Citizen’s Planning Association of Santa Barbara County, threatened to file a lawsuit based on the lack of environmental review, the Federal Bureau of Prisons directed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to immediately stop all work on the project.

Prior to that, for six months the Bureau of Prisons failed to respond to the EDC’s requests for public documents describing the expansion project and its environmental impacts. After EDC sent a letter confirming that the Bureau had illegally withheld public documents and proceeded with a project without conducting environmental review, the Bureau finally responded.

On August 1, the Bureau released an Environmental Assessment (EA) that finds no significant impacts on the environment. The EA does a poor job of analyzing environmental impacts and completely ignores the cumulative effects from other proposed prison in Lompoc. However, despite the inadequacies of the EA, the Lompoc community now has an opportunity to review and comment on the project and its impacts, a legal right that the federal government attempted to deny.

City of Ventura to Present Hillside Protection Decision to Voters

VENTURA - In July, the Ventura City Council voted to place the Ventura Hillside Voter Participation Measure on the ballot in November 2001. This measure, if approved, would require that future development proposals in a designated 9100-acre hillside area north of Ventura, most of which is located outside the city’s current boundaries, must be presented to the voters for approval. The measure is a response to preliminary plans by four major landowners to develop approximately 2000 homes in the hills and canyons of the hillside area. EDC will monitor the adoption of the Hillside Voter Participation Measure on behalf of our client group, the Ventura Citizens for Hillside Preservation, which is a community group of volunteers dedicated to the preservation of the remaining hillside’s as open space in and around the City of Ventura.

Eye On North Coast

SAN LUIS OBISPO - As EDC continues to work on the public process surrounding land use decisions along SLO County’s north coast, the Hearst Corporation has been quietly working to exploit a loophole in the Subdivision Map Act to further its plans to develop a resort on its scenic ranch at San Simeon that includes 18 miles of coastline. By researching land records, many dating back to 1852, Hearst is attempting to acquire an arcane document known as a “certificate of compliance” for 279 parcels to establish legal lots without going through a subdivision process. Hearst Corporation’s immediate goal may be to create the threat of buildable lots to scare foundations and agencies interested in a conservation purchase to buy at a greatly inflated price. Unfortunately, the agricultural easement that Hearst is currently proposing to sell will do nothing to reduce their planned resort development.
A Message from Armando

Fall is a busy time in EDC offices throughout the tri-counties. Apart from ongoing casework, the SLO office celebrates its last TGIF of the season on September 21st, while Ventura revs up planning activities for a February 2nd Victory for the Environment Dinner to honor Ed Masry and Erin Brockovich. The Santa Barbara ChannelKeeper is planning its own kickoff event on January 27th, the first as an independent organization separate from EDC. SBCK begins operations as an independent 501(c)(3) organization on January 1st, and we couldn’t be prouder of our part in launching this jewel in the network of more than 65 Keeper programs spanning the continental U.S., and beyond.

In Santa Barbara, focus groups are developing the agenda for an Environmental Summit to launch EDC’s 25th Anniversary activities in 2002.

Yet, for all the promise of 2002, we still have a ways to go in 2001.

We will likely remember 2001 as the roller coaster year when a new administration in Washington, D.C. made clear our challenge to preserve environmental quality of life on the central coast. It was also the year when the U.S. census verified what was widely assumed for years—that our state/region had achieved a level of diversity unprecedented in modern times. For many, the prosperity of the nineties came to a crashing end, the effects of which did indeed affect a much broader population.

As a result, nonprofit organizations across the state and throughout our region will end 2001 by regrouping and learning to live with dwindling resources.

At EDC, we view this state of affairs as a challenge and an opportunity.

Here in California the environmental movement is poised to welcome a much broader constituency of residents. In the tri-counties we will likely be the focus of the nation’s attention as the question is asked, at what cost gas and oil development? Up and down the coast, legal pressures for housing provide cover for any number of development projects that outstrip resources, or take away scenic vistas, public access or critical habitat. We, as community, as stewards of our homelands, must hold one another accountable. And we must look to one another for support.

In this—and every—issue of the Environmental Defender you will find a reply envelope with which we hope to solicit your financial support. Today, I ask that you make a more significant contribution, and I am not necessarily talking about money.

Please take a moment and put a 34¢ stamp on the enclosed envelope, and whether or not you are able to make a financial contribution, send it back to us at EDC. If you like, fill in your name and address, or just write across the envelope, “I’m with you, EDC.”

I want to receive thousands of envelopes. For the cost of a 34¢ stamp please step forward and declare your support for the preservation of our region. We’ll count each and every envelope and let you know how many of your fellow residents share your commitment for environmental quality of life.

——

EDC Welcomes New Board Members

EDC welcomes new Board members Larry Rogero, Virginia Clarke-Laskin, Lisa Nessel & Alyssa Firmin. (Pictured below, left to right)

EDC Board of Directors
Tim Miley, President
John Steiner, Chair
Ava Varey, Vice President
Diane Wondolowski, Treasurer
Carlos Christiansen, Secretary
Anna Rue
Ken Churchill
Virginia Clarke-Laskin
Alyssa Firmin
Lisa Nessel
Larry Rogero
Scott Wisn

EDC Staff
Y. Armando Nieto, Executive Director

Jenica Altimir, ChannelKeeper Program Dir.
Tina Baker, Office Administrator
Diana Barker, ChannelKeeper
John F. Braun, Senior Staff Attorney
Eric Calabrese, Program Coordinator
Vicki Clark, Staff Attorney
Ken Edwardsen, Ventura Managing Director
Laura Engoren, Office Assistant
Jenna Guarnieri, Community Affairs Director
Tanya Gallicchio, Staff Attorney
Success Leopold Hamilton, Program Manager
Juliette Harding, Bookkeeper
Stefanie Hwang, Receptionist
Gordon Henkyn, Environmental Analyst
Shady Lemos, CEO/Managing Director
Mohab Mofdy, Staff Attorney
Jennifer O’Donohue, Database Manager
Lori Schlangen, CCEEP Project Director
Brian Trainer, Environmental Analyst
Sara Selvey, Staff Attorney
Alana Wolkoff, Development Director
J. Mike McGuire, Of Counsel

EDC Law Clerks and Interns
Nicole Badgerman
Andrea Cohen
Susan Erickson

EDC Staff
Jennifer Laskin, President Director
Linda Krop, Chief Counsel
Jenica Altimir, ChannelKeeper Program Dir.
Tina Baker, Office Administrator
Diana Barker, ChannelKeeper
John F. Braun, Senior Staff Attorney
Eric Calabrese, Program Coordinator
Vicki Clark, Staff Attorney
Ken Edwardsen, Ventura Managing Director
Laura Engoren, Office Assistant
Jenna Guarnieri, Community Affairs Director
Tanya Gallicchio, Staff Attorney
Success Leopold Hamilton, Program Manager
Juliette Harding, Bookkeeper
Stefanie Hwang, Receptionist
Gordon Henkyn, Environmental Analyst
Shady Lemos, CEO/Managing Director
Mohab Mofdy, Staff Attorney
Jennifer O’Donohue, Database Manager
Lori Schlangen, CCEEP Project Director
Brian Trainer, Environmental Analyst
Sara Selvey, Staff Attorney
Alana Wolkoff, Development Director
Jeff McGuire, Of Counsel

EDC Law Clerks and Interns
Nicole Badgerman
Andrea Cohen
Susan Erickson

EDC Welcomes New Board Members

EDC Welcomes New Board Members

EDC Welcomes New Board Members

EDC Welcomes New Board Members

EDC Welcomes New Board Members

EDC Welcomes New Board Members

EDC Welcomes New Board Members

EDC Welcomes New Board Members

EDC Welcomes New Board Members

About EDC

Since 1971 EDC has provided public education and legal services to environmental and community groups dedicated to environmental quality in California’s Central Coast. EDC represents clients in court and before governmental agencies, provides educational opportunities to its legal counsel and advises, and assists nonprofit environmental groups to ensure that existing environmental laws are enforced. EDC represents the community on issues involving biodiversity/endangered species, air quality, access.

Volunteer Opportunities at EDC

Have you been asking yourself “how can I lend a helping hand to EDC”? Here is one idea, volunteer! Our volunteer projects are diverse, including helping with mailings and TGIFs, general office tasks, fundraising, events and public outreach.

Contact Eve Bailey at 963-1622 if you are interested in more information on any of our volunteer ventures.
Biodiversity & Habitat

Oil and Gas Developments on the Central Coast

CENTRAL COAST - Despite a federal moratorium on new oil and gas leasing off the coast of California, the Central Coast remains heavily threatened by industry's plans to develop 36 existing leases in federal waters and several more leases in state waters (up to three miles offshore).

In June 2001, a federal district court ruled that the 36 federal leases had to be reviewed by the California Coastal Commission to ensure consistency with the state's Coastal Act. This decision was the result of a multi-year effort by EDC to enforce a 1990 federal law that allows states to review federal activities that may impact a state's coastal zone.

On August 17, 2001, the federal government appealed the court's decision. EDC will continue to represent eight environmental groups in the appeal. Our goal is to allow the state to review the leases, which could potentially result in the expiration of any leases that threaten harm to the coast in violation of the Coastal Act. Pending the appeal, plans to develop the 36 federal leases (representing 1 billion barrels of oil) remain on hold.

However, plans are proceeding to develop several existing state leases off the Santa Barbara County coast. Torch has submitted an application to drill from a federal platform (Irene) into state waters offshore Pt. Arguello, POOH/Carone proposes to develop three leases offshore Carpinteria, Molino/Benton proposes to produce from a gas offshore the Gaviota Coast, Samedan wants to develop two leases west of Goleta, and Venoco seeks to expand its lease offshore UCSD to allow additional production. EDC currently represents four local organizations in opposition to the Venoco plan, which would violate a settlement agreement forged by its previous owner, ARCO, and the State Lands Commission. EDC represents the Sierra Club and three other groups in an effort to enforce the settlement agreement and also to ensure compliance with County policies that require new oil and gas processing facilities to be sited at designated locations.

Commission Demands Better Protection for Mission Creek

REDONDO BEACH - On August 9, the California Coastal Commission (CCC) sided with EDC and Santa Barbara ChannelKeeper (SBCK) in their concern about the State of Santa Barbara and Corps of Engineers' proposed Mission Creek Flood Control Project, demanding additional measures to protect the creek, endangered species, wetlands and water quality. In an unprecedented action, the Commission invoked new guidelines in order to require the Corps to return at a later date with plans for new protective measures.

EDC and SBCK sought denial of the project, unless significant improvements were made, due to inconsistencies with the California Coastal Act. EDC & SBCK presented scientific evidence illustrating that the project could eliminate all the endangered tidewater gobies in the creek, increase sedimentation and decrease water quality.

The CCC approved the project in concept, but not before requiring a series of conditions that must first be met before the project can move forward. Used for the first time in Coastal Commission history, the Commission's vote to "conditionally concur" requires the Army Corps, the County and the City to develop and implement: 1) a management plan for the endangered tidewater goby and its estuarine habitat; 2) a native tree planting program for the creek banks; 3) a revised creek maintenance plan that de-emphasizes herbicides and bulldozing; and 4) a new low-flow channel in the creek to support steelhead and other species. The CCC will revisit this issue at a future public hearing to determine if these new measures sufficiently protect Mission Creek.

Navy Facility Receives Another Rebuke from Coastal Commission

PT. HUENENE - In August, the long struggle to give the state some authority over the Navy's Surface Warfare Evaluation Facility (SWEF) at Port Hueneme continued at the California Coastal Commission. EDC represents The Beacon Foundation in advocating a greater scope of public review of the SWEF, a facility containing several high powered radio installations that was constructed in the mid-1980s. In August, the Coastal Commission considered the Navy's compliance with environmental commitments offered to the Commission in April 2000. The Commission concluded that the information and monitoring data submitted by the Navy regarding the SWEF failed to honor these commitments. EDC and the Beacon Foundation have asked the Commission to reopen its evaluation of the entire SWEF, which has never been subject to a public environmental review process.
Interns, Law Clerks & Volunteers
What did you do this summer? Was it eventful? Was it fulfilling? If you were an EDC law clerk, intern or volunteer, you would have answered “yes” to these questions. We have been incredibly fortunate with the quantity and the quality of our volunteers this summer.

Our summer law clerks were Bryan Dempsey in San Luis Obispo and Justin Massey in Santa Barbara. Two Bren School students, Susan Erickson and Andrea Cohen, joined us as interns. EDC was also blessed with the help of several volunteers and interns who worked on everything from legal projects to events. We are very grateful to all of them for their support.

EDC is constantly seeking law clerks, interns and volunteers. Law Clerks are current law students who assist with EDC’s legal cases and receive school credit. Interns may come from a variety of different backgrounds and work on EDC cases, assist with community outreach and advocacy, public relations, office activities, grant writing, and event planning.

Thank you to all of our law clerks, interns and volunteers.

Thanks from SLO
Thank you to Linnara’s Cafe, Sabitas Cafe, Cafe Roma, and Central Coast Brewing for hosting EDC events. EDC also recognizes our stellar volunteers in SLO:

- Brian Shambaugh, Avra Menger, George Griffin, Ann and Ron Avis, Pat Taylor, Judy Jennings, Jean Carter, Cynthia Hostetter, Kurt Vavra, Pat Harris, Maya Andlig, Barbara Bell, and Carol Berger.

As a UCSB masters student at the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management I have been studying human impacts on the environment. EDC has allowed me to learn by studying in action. This summer I have been performing legal and political measures to protect our natural resources. I worked on the opposition to the “Hogs to Ball” Senate BILL, drafted an Energy Efficiency Fact Sheet, and researched both Clean Water and Coastal Zone Management Acts. Thank you EDC for letting me learn what I could not get from the inside of a classroom. — Andrea Cohen

My experience with the EDC this summer has been invaluable. In working with Brian Kibbe on the Lower Mission Creek Flood Control Project, I was able to get a much better understanding of EDC's mission and mission.
Community Challenge

This spring, EDC received a $200,000 anonymous pledge to launch a Community Challenge that will raise a total of $500,000 before the end of the year. Through these generous leaders, the anonymous donors have encouraged individuals, businesses and philanthropic institutions to take immediate action to support environmental quality of life.

We are pleased to report that hundreds of people have stepped up to the challenge! As of September 11th, EDC had already received $134,284 in contributions, in addition to the initial pledge of $200,000. All money raised through the Community Challenge will fund day-to-day operations of EDC.

These are critical times for our country and for our region. If you would like to join the growing group of Central Coast residents who have declared their support for EDC, we urge you to contribute to the Community Challenge. You can participate by giving a cash donation, establishing a pledge, transferring stock, or making a planned gift. To fully meet our potential, EDC needs your leadership and support.

A Tradition of Giving

This country’s rich philanthropic heritage is reflected in the more than $590 billion given to charitable organizations each year. In addition, people like you donate their time and resources to nonprofit organizations in a wide variety of worthy causes. Although your commitment is great, you may be unaware of the many options you have when it comes to making charitable gifts/options that can benefit your personal situation, as well as the long-term viability of your favorite organization.

Planned giving is defined as any donation to a charitable organization, other than a current gift of cash. Planned giving enables you to invest in the future of an organization, while also enjoying the results of your gift during your lifetime. For example, you may be able to obtain an immediate tax deduction, establish a living memorial to your family, or support your loved one; receive an income stream for life, or enjoy savings in income, estate and gift taxes. By using such giving strategies, you are often able to make larger gifts than you ever dreamed possible. With a planned gift, you can become a major donor to your favorite organization through their generous leadership, the anonymous donors have encouraged individuals, businesses and philanthropic institutions to take immediate action to support environmental quality of life.

Planned giving enables you to invest in the future of an organization, while also enjoying the results of your gift during your lifetime.

Law Clerk Housing Needed

EDC is fortunate to have the assistance of law students throughout the year, who work on June and often need housing that is free or reduced in cost. Please contact Eve at 963-1622 if you or someone you know may be able to help with housing for a law clerk who starts in January.

New Date! ChamberKeeper Dinner

January 27

Send Your Tax Refund to EDC

Some time this summer, most of us received a bonus tax refund. Many see this tax refund as a fiscally irresponsible attempt to take critical funding away from existing environmental and social programs. EDC has worked on the Central Coast for almost 25 years in order to preserve and protect the natural environment we hold so dear. While we have accomplished much, there is still tremendous work to do. We encourage you to donate some or all of your refund to support EDC’s efforts to protect our environmental quality of life.

Shop at Scolari’s and Help EDC

Now you can shop for groceries and help EDC at the same time. EDC has been added to Scolari’s Club Card Friendship Fund. You can designate EDC as your charity of choice by filling in EDC’s 4-digit code (5349) on your Scolari’s Club Card application. EDC will receive 1% of all sales coded with that number.

Send Your Tax Refund to EDC

Some time this summer, most of us received a bonus tax refund. Many see this tax refund as a fiscally irresponsible attempt to take critical funding away from existing environmental and social programs. EDC has worked on the Central Coast for almost 25 years in order to preserve and protect the natural environment we hold so dear. While we have accomplished much, there is still tremendous work to do. We encourage you to donate some or all of your refund to support EDC’s efforts to protect our environmental quality of life.
Forde Project Violates Local Coastal Plan

GROVER BEACH - On August 2nd, EDC filed a lawsuit against the City of Grover Beach, challenging the City’s approval of the Forde Development project based on inadequate environmental review and violations of the City’s Coastal Plan. EDC filed the suit on behalf of the Northwest Grover Beach Neighborhood Alliance, a group dedicated to ensuring strict enforcement of environmental laws in Northwest Grover Beach. The proposed project located on Front Street between Ramone and Newport Avenues, involves the construction of 10 industrial shells along the western edge of Front Street, abutting the Pacific Railroad track right of way.

The lawsuit alleges that the City violated the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) by failing to adequately describe the project, or to analyze the project’s impacts on traffic, views, and the state’s largest Monarch Butterfly over-wintering site at the nearby Pismo State Park. The suit also alleges that the City violated the policies and requirements of the Grover Beach Local Coastal Plan, a document created through a public process that is intended to guide the City’s approval of development projects in the coastal zone.

City Council Approves Entrada Project, Again

SANTA BARBARA – EDC, on behalf of the Citizens Planning Association (CPA) and the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara (LWVSB), is working to enforce state and local laws that require preservation of views, water and biological resources, lower cost hotel accommodations and small town ambiance in Santa Barbara’s unique Waterfront area. However, on August 21, 2001 the Santa Barbara City Council approved the massive Entrada project proposed for lower State Street without legally adequate environmental review, in violation of State and local laws and policies and in the face of intense community opposition. EDC will represent LWVSB and CPA in appealing the City’s decision to the California Coastal Commission, based on the project’s inconsistencies with the Coastal Act and Local Coastal Plan, including the loss of low cost accommodations and the siting of development too close to Mission Creek.

EDC is also seeking the City’s compliance with the Court’s previous order requiring the City to prepare a legally adequate environmental impact report on the Entrada project. We are also working on the other issues that were raised in the lawsuit against the City but were put on hold by the judge when he ordered the City to prepare an environmental impact report. Other issues raised in the litigation include the incompatibility of the Entrada project with the surrounding neighborhood, impacts on the adjoining residential West Beach neighborhood, and inconsistencies with visual resource protection policies in the General Plan and Local Coastal Plan.

Final Amendments to Orcutt Community Plan Approved

ORCUTT - The lawsuit filed by EDC in 1997 on behalf of the Orcutt Area Advisory Group (OAAAG) and Citizens Planning Association (CPA) against Santa Barbara County over inadequacies in the Orcutt Community Plan (OCP) has finally been resolved. The lawsuit was brought out of a concern that the amount of development proposed did not consider serious constraints in Orcutt, namely the availability of water and the capacity of wastewater treatment services. In March of 2000, OAAAG and CPA entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the County to settle the lawsuit by amending the OCP. These amendments were approved by the Board of Supervisors in July.

The OCP Amendments improve the Plan in several respects. For example, development in Orcutt will proceed in two phases to ensure that adequate services are available. In addition, the water policies now provide better guidance to planners in evaluating water supply. The County also agreed to evaluate the reliability of State Water each year in November when the County Water Agency gives its Annual Water Report, an action that citizens concerned about growth should monitor.

EDC Files Suit on Santa Ysabel Ranch Development

SAN LUIS OBISPO - EDC filed a lawsuit on behalf of Paso Watch in August against the County of San Luis Obispo for its approval of the Santa Ysabel Ranch project, an 840-acre residential project in Paso Robles on a parcel consisting of open grassland and oak woodlands. The proposed project site currently provides habitat for a wide variety of species, including golden eagles and southwestern pond turtles, which are protected under both state and federal law.

The lawsuit alleges that the County violated the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) by failing to adequately describe the project, adequately consider and analyze the project’s environmental impacts, and include adequate mitigation measures to ensure that the project’s significant impacts are alleviated.

In light of the Grand Jury’s recent criticism of the County issuing too many negative declarations instead of environmental impact reports, it is imperative that this project be carefully scrutinized for possible impacts to the community and sensitive resources.
The Healthy Schools Act (AB 2260) provides for increased safety measures on school properties and requires the state of California, are making a concerted effort to reduce the risk of pesticide exposure to children, and to provide more information to interested parents, guardians and school staff.

As you may know, the effect of pesticides on children’s health is a great concern because children are far more susceptible to the harmful effects of pesticides than adults. This is true because: 1) children eat 3-4 times more food, drink 2.5 times more water, and breathe 2 times more air for their body weights than adults do, allowing them to ingest more toxins; 2) children’s bodies and critical organs are still in development, making them more susceptible to disruption; and 3) their every-day activities put them more at risk (i.e., playing on recently treated lawns).

For these reasons, many people and organizations, including the state of California, are making a concerted effort to reduce the risk of pesticide exposure to children, and to provide more information to interested parents, guardians and school staff.

The Healthy Schools Act (AB 2260) provides for increased safety measures on school properties and requires the distribution of critical information regarding pesticides use.
Fall Feast
Friday, October 12th
Join us for Santa Barbara's last TGIF of the season on Friday, October 12th. Sponsored by Surfrider Foundation, Friends of the Ellwood Coast, UCSB Environmental Studies Associates, and the Community Environmental Council, this TGIF is sure to be the biggest and best of the season! Join us from 5:30pm-7:30pm for a fantastic buffet of fresh seafood, salads, breads, desserts, and more. Cost is $12 at the door and includes dinner, two drinks, and live music. Join us one last time as we celebrate the close of another successful TGIF Season.

12th Annual Spaghetti Dinner
Saturday, November 3rd
Please join us for the 12th Annual Spaghetti Dinner held in Santa Maria. Members of the Orcutt Area Advisory Group coordinate this event, and all proceeds support EDC. Tickets are $10 for adults and $5 for children, and include great food, silent auction items, wonderful company, and more. Call 963-1622 for information.

Next Year is EDC's 25th Anniversary!
In 1977, visionary community activists, J. Marc McGinnes and Selma Rubin formed a nonprofit law firm to provide a means of addressing increased concerns for environmental quality in the Ventura, Santa Barbara and SLO tri-county area. With that action, EDC began a battle to protect our environment that has lasted over two decades. Next year will mark EDC's 25th Anniversary and we invite you to join us in celebrating. For more information on how you can be part of the festivities, or to give ideas, historical information or the names of individuals who should be contacted as part of the celebration, please call EDC at 963-1622.

New EDC T-Shirts Available Now
Thanks to Patagonia, EDC is proud to offer a new t-shirt design. Printed on 100% organic cotton with water-based ink, the t-shirts feature a woodcut by Elissa Pfost on the back and a small EDC oak logo on the front. Short-sleeve shirts with a white and "sagebrush" background (muted blue-green) cost $18. Long-sleeve shirts are printed on "natural" and cost $20. Available in small, medium, large and extra-large. Quantities are limited, so buy one today!

Victory Celebration for the Environment
honing Erin Brockovich and Ed Masry
Ventura's own Erin Brockovich and attorney Ed Masry successfully brought a small town to its feet and a huge corporation to its knees. Masry and Brockovich's efforts, the subject of the recent motion picture starring Julia Roberts and Albert Finney, won a settlement of over $333 million on behalf of more than 600 residents exposed to toxic chemicals—a triumph for justice and for the environment. Join EDC in honoring Masry and Brockovich in a Victory Celebration for the Environment, Saturday, February 2, 2002. The event, starting at 7 p.m., will be held at the North Ranch Country Club in Thousand Oaks. Please call 677-2570 to purchase tickets or for more information.

February 2nd, 2002 • Save the date!