

Working Together to Protect Children

STATEWIDE – One remarkable result of EDC’s new relationship with the Ventura County Farm Bureau and the Ventura County Agricultural Commissioner’s Office is Assembly Bill 947.

AB 947 is extraordinary. Not only is it sponsored by incredibly diverse interests, it is the result of a collaborative process that worked, and continues to work. The legislation was written as one response to an incident in which school children were exposed to drifting agricultural pesticides. Its goal is to provide tools at the local level to



Assemblymember Hannah-Beth Jackson and EDC Executive Director Y. Armando Nieto announce Assembly Bill 947

prevent pesticide exposure at schools. The most important aspect of the legislation is that it provides County Agricultural Commissioners (CACs) statewide with authority to regulate *all* pesticide applications around schools on a case-by-case basis – currently CACs are only provided this authority with a small number of pesticides. Furthermore, the legislation increases fine amounts for serious offenses from \$1,000 to \$5,000, requires schools within a quarter mile of agricultural operations to incorporate pesticide emergency plans into their already established safety plans, and allows CACs to propose a County fee ordinance for the issuance of permits.

Although the substance of the legislation is important, equally important are the unprecedented relationships that formed it. Regardless of the outcome, there is much work to be done regarding pesticide use in our communities. It is imperative that our legislative representatives see a unified front. The more we can unite with non-traditional partners, the stronger we become.

As those who follow Sacramento politics well know, protective pesticide legislation is not often well received and is regularly opposed.

(contd on page 7 Protect Children)

Environmental Groups Claim Victory in Federal Oil Lawsuit

CALIFORNIA – In a monumental victory for EDC and anti-oil activists across the state, a federal judge ruled on June 22 that the federal government must cancel its extension of 36 undeveloped oil and gas leases off the coast of Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties, pending state review. The decision effectively puts a halt to current exploration plans underway in the Santa Barbara Channel.



Platform Holly off the coast of Santa Barbara

The case involved a dispute over whether the California Coastal Commission had jurisdiction to review requests for time extensions of these 36 leases. In November 1999, the federal government granted time extensions for the leases without consulting with the Commission. In response, the State of California, under pressure by EDC, filed suit against the federal government. EDC also represents eight environmental groups (Sierra Club, Friends of the Sea Otter, CALPIRG, California CoastKeeper, Santa Barbara ChannelKeeper, Santa Monica BayKeeper, Get Oil Out and Citizens Planning Association) that intervened in the litigation. Natural Resources Defense Council, on behalf of

“The decision effectively puts a halt to current exploration plans underway in the Santa Barbara Channel.”

them-selves and League for Coastal Protection, also joined in the suit, as did the Counties of Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo.

The ruling will now allow the California Coastal Commission to review the possible impacts any new oil development may have on California’s precious coastline. The multitude of issues to review includes impacts from oil spills, potential harm to the resources of the Channel Islands and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries, impacts to state and federally listed threatened and endangered species, including the southern sea otter, increased air and water pollution, conflicts with local policies and regulations restricting oil and gas development, and inconsistencies with the California Coastal Act and Local Coastal Programs. The public will have the ability to participate in the Coastal Commission’s review process, which will take place over the next several months.

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School District Abandons Juan Soria Site

VENTURA – The ill-conceived Juan Soria school proposal finally succumbed after a lengthy battle waged by EDC and other concerned community members. In late April, the Oxnard School District announced its decision to drop plans to build a new elementary school on 14 acres of prime agricultural land located off of Emerson Avenue in an unincorporated area on the outskirts of southeast Oxnard. The site is surrounded on three sides by SOAR-protected agricultural land and is part of the Oxnard/Camarillo Greenbelt.

Concerned about children and school staff being exposed to pesticide drift from surrounding farming operations, EDC worked diligently for three years to oppose the project. Although not representing any client group, EDC played a key opposition role by evaluating school siting regulations/studies, analyzing and commenting on environmental documents, testifying at numerous public hearings, initiating legal challenges, meeting with numerous decision-makers, disseminating information about the risks of pesticide exposure and researching alternatives to building schools on farmland. We hope that this decision heralds more creativity on the District’s part to build new schools within the existing urban core. In this way, we may begin to rediscover smaller, “walkable” neighborhood schools once feared to be lost forever.

This newsletter was printed with environmentally sound dyes on Sandpiper paper, made from 100% post-consumer waste.



A Message from Armando



Y. Armando Nieto
Executive Director

Summer at EDC kicked off with our first Annual Environmental Hero Awards on June 10th. And although the event was held in Santa Barbara, EDC's 2001 Heroes represent the best of environmental stewardship throughout the tri-counties, from Carla Frisk, a longtime activist at many levels, to Pedro Nava who continues to champion environmental quality of life from his seat on the California Coastal Commission.

For many, the picture of former Second District Supervisor Tom Rogers being wheeled forward to accept his lifetime achievement award will be the lasting impression. Rounds of applause greeted the battered warrior whose life symbolizes citizen involvement and dedication to community and the environment. It was a defining moment, with 300 guests representing our entire south coast population, united in celebration of the power of one man's dedication to the environment.

One person can, and often *does* make a difference. Yet, while we all benefit from the results of their dedication, it is equally important that we are aware of their efforts so that we know what is possible.

Most recently, Linda Krop, EDC Chief Counsel, often goes unmentioned in reports of what ABC news has called the Bush administration's first major setback. On Friday, June 22nd, U.S. District Court Judge Claudia Wilkin canceled the Clinton administration's unilateral extension of 36 undeveloped offshore oil leases, which

figured prominently in the Bush administration's energy plan to open up more offshore oil development.

It was two years ago that Linda devised a strategy to take on the federal government in this arena. Before then, no one had ever challenged the U.S. Minerals Management Service's (a division of the Interior Department) authority to make unilateral decisions. Before suit was ever filed, Linda had to first convince state officials, and other environmental groups, that there was a potential for victory.

Like Tom Rogers, Linda's perseverance in promoting the strategy represents the best of what can be done to preserve our bioregion. What each one of us can do.

I am not a lawyer. I cannot take on oil companies and environmental despoilers in court. I am not a scientist; I cannot recite the science to validate why we must learn to co-exist with the other living beings in our bioregion. With respect, I leave the program work to the experts. But I *do* know what makes sense, and what feels right in my heart.

What each of us can do is support the work of EDC's attorneys, environmental analysts, and programmatic staff.

At every opportunity, lend your voice and support to the preservation of our environment. In this way we continue to honor the work of Tom Rogers and Linda Krop. In this way we continue the preservation of our home.

Farewell to Kim & Andrea

EDC bids fond farewell to EDC staff Kim Uhlich and Andrea Henry. Kim served as EDC's Environmental Analyst in Ventura for three years. Kim's willingness to work with a diverse range of community groups and interests, and her diligence in developing positive alternatives to projects, are reflected in her recent victories on the Juan Soria School siting project and the Home Depot project in Ventura. Andrea, who helped the San Luis Obispo office at a crucial time during this year's spring event period, has graduated from Cal Poly and is off to pursue her teaching credential.

EDC Welcomes New Staff

EDC's new Development Director Alana Walczak comes to EDC from St. Louis, Missouri and brings more than seven years of non-profit management and development experience, including a Masters Degree in Philanthropic Studies from the Indiana University Center on Philanthropy. Most recently, Alana worked for three years as the Assistant Director for a neighborhood-based child development center, where she was responsible for program design and management, fund development, finance and budgeting, as well as day-to-day supervision of staff, volunteers and on-going operations of the center.



Socorro López Hanson has joined EDC as the new Program Manager for the Central Coast Environmental Health Project. She has over fifteen years of professional experience, including program management and administration, public relations and strategic planning, as well as public health program planning and implementation. Most recently, Socorro owned and managed her own consulting business, Alpha Omega Enterprises. Prior to that, she worked for five years as the Community Service Coordinator/Injury and Violence Control Coordinator for the Ventura County Public Health Department. Socorro holds a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish from Cal State Northridge and an Associate of Arts in Spanish from Long Beach City College.



EDC Board of Directors

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EDC Staff

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Jennifer Oetken, *Database Manager*

Lori Schiraga, *CCEHP Project Director*

Brian Trautwein, *Environmental Analyst*

Steve Velyvis, *Staff Attorney*

Alana Walczak, *Development Director*

J. Marc McGinnes, of Counsel

EDC Law Clerks and Interns

Kyle Collins

Gillian Cutshaw

Justin Massey

Alyssa Nieto

Ada Otter

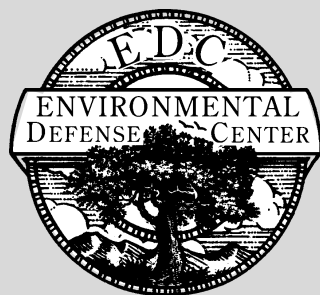
Mark Papay

Kris Pearson

Austin Quinn-Davidson

Eric Wood

Dale Zurawski



About EDC

Since 1977, EDC has provided public education and legal services to environmental and community groups dedicated to environmental quality in California's Central Coast region. EDC's staff assists other nonprofit environmental groups to ensure that existing environmental laws are enforced. EDC represents clients in court and before governmental agencies, provides legal counsel and advice, and offers educational opportunities to the community on issues involving water quality, watersheds, biodiversity/endangered species, environmental health/justice, land use/open space preservation, offshore oil and gas, and public access.

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Biodiversity Habitat

Protecting the Plover

VANDENBERG – On May 9, 2001, the California Coastal Commission approved Vandenberg Air Force Base’s 2001 Snowy Plover Management Plan for the threatened western snowy plover, a small shorebird that depends on coastal



Plover at Vandenberg Air Force Base

habitats for its survival. The Air Force agreed to re-submit the predator control element of the plan, which originally allowed lethal control of native coyotes and avian predators. The plan allows unrestricted recreational beach access to 1.25 miles of western snowy plover nesting habitat during the 2001 breeding season (March 1 to September 30), with year-round closure of the Santa Ynez River mouth and specific plans to eradicate non-native dune vegetation, to control predators, to enforce closures, and for education and monitoring.

For approximately five years, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Coastal Commission, and the public have urged the Air Force to prepare a comprehensive plan for snowy plovers and beach management. Under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Pacific Coast population of the western snowy plover was listed as a federally threatened species in 1993 and 12.5 miles of the Air Force’s coastal sand beaches and adjacent dunes used by the plover on Vandenberg were designated as critical habitat in 1999. Since 1991, the population of snowy plovers on VAFB has declined by 56 percent.

The snowy plover habitat on Vandenberg is also an environmentally sensitive habitat area where predator populations have reached a balance within the ecosystem. Therefore, the proposed lethal removal of coyotes may have significant impacts on the ecosystem. Lethal removal of coyotes could result in the increase of native (e.g., skunk, raccoon) and exotic (e.g., domestic cat, opossum) species that might prey on western snowy plovers, or could result in an increase in the coyote population, depending on whether the leaders of the coyote pack are removed. Since scientific evidence provides support for non-lethal management of predators, non-lethal alternatives must be analyzed. EDC will continue to monitor the Plan to ensure that it protects the integrity of not only the plover, but of the entire ecosystem.

Support Ocean Wilderness in Our Sanctuary

CHANNEL ISLANDS – The Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (Sanctuary) is considering the issue of establishing marine reserves, or ocean wilderness areas, within the existing Sanctuary boundary (six nautical miles surrounding the Channel Islands). Marine reserves are important tools to protect representative and unique habitats, sustain ecological processes, and provide opportunities to research undisturbed areas. Currently, despite the fact that many fisheries are in decline, less than 1% of America’s coastal waters are within fully protected marine reserves. By creating safe havens, species can enjoy a much-needed recovery. In fact, over 160 of the world’s top scientists recently signed a consensus statement concluding that marine reserves are an effective and necessary tool to protect ocean ecosystems, and that they ensure healthy fisheries for the present and future.

In 1999, the Sanctuary Advisory Council appointed a Marine Reserves Working Group (MRWG) comprised of various stakeholders to develop recommendations for a potential system of marine reserves around the Channel Islands. The Advisory Council also selected two technical teams to provide advice to the Working Group – a science panel and a socioeconomic panel. The science panel has recommended a network of reserves amounting to 30 – 50% of the current Sanctuary. The Conservation Working Group, led by EDC Chief Counsel and Sanctuary Advisory Council Conservation Representative Linda Krop, supports the findings of the science team.

On June 19, the Council forwarded all the information developed during the MRWG process to the state and federal agencies that regulate fisheries, asking that the Sanctuary Manager and the Department of Fish and Game representative develop a single reserve recommendation.



Action Alert
Oil Off Our Coast
Venoco is proposing additional oil development from aging platform Holly. Venoco’s current proposal remains in the application stage so there is still time to get involved and stand up in opposition to new oil development off of the extremely sensitive Coal Oil Point. Please contact staff attorney Steve Velyvis at EDC for more details on how you can get involved.



Photo by Eric Zimmerman

Less than 1% of America’s coastal waters are within fully protected marine reserves.

Saving the Symbol of Our Landscape

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY – Oak trees form the backbone of Santa Barbara County’s native landscape. They are a symbol of this region’s wild heritage. Biologists call oak woodlands one of the most biologically valuable and imperiled habitats in this part of the state. In spite of this, Santa Barbara County is one of the few counties in the state with considerable oak habitat, but without an oak protection ordinance. This may soon change, as the County is considering a range of oak protection programs designed to provide greater protection for these majestic trees.



Oak photos by Richard Sage

The County’s environmental review of the range of options concluded that a mandatory ordinance with incentives would provide the most assurance that oak trees would be protected for future generations. However, some landowners are lobbying the County to adopt a voluntary program, similar to ones that have proved useless in several other Counties.

EDC strongly supports incentives for landowners to preserve and plant native oak trees. However, a strictly voluntary program would not set limits on oak tree removals and would not require any replacement trees for those removed. The ongoing history of unsustainable oak tree clear cuts makes one thing abundantly clear: regulation is needed to prevent the continuing decline of the mighty oak tree in Santa Barbara County. The program is currently in front of the County’s Planning Commission and will soon go to the Board of Supervisors. Stay tuned!

Help protect our oaks!
The Santa Barbara County Planning Commission will again consider oak tree protection in Santa Maria, July 16th. Call the County at 568-2000 for time and location.

Honors Acknowledgments

Community Challenge

2001 is a critical year for the Environmental Defense Center, for our tri-county region and for the entire country. A new administration in Washington, D.C. seems intent on undoing environmental protections that have taken nearly three decades to develop. In response, a growing number of local residents are stepping forward to preserve and protect our environmental health and quality of life on the South Central Coast.

EDC Wish List

- 4-drawer, legal-size file cabinets
-
- copier
-
- scanner
-
- computer
-
- office furniture
-
- conference phone

In that spirit, EDC is proud to announce a \$200,000 anonymous pledge for unrestricted funding as a challenge to the community to raise a total of \$500,000 before the end of the calendar year. The funding will support day-to-day operations of the Environmental Defense Center. The intent of the donor is to challenge individuals, businesses and philanthropic institutions to step forward and declare support for environmental quality of life right now. Here are a few ways that you can participate:

- Give a cash donation
- Make a pledge
- Transfer stock

In the face of seemingly daily assaults from Washington, it is arguably our duty to articulate and promote environmental principles, and to do our part to defend our bioregion. We are excited by the current challenge opportunity and encourage you to contribute to EDC in support of its on-going efforts to preserve, protect and defend the environment. With your help, we can make lasting change throughout the Central Coast. Call Alana or Armando at 963-1622 if you would like more information.

Honoring Our Interns

EDC is very fortunate to have the help of our wonderful law clerks and interns: Kyle Collins, Gillian Cutshaw, Justin Massey, Alyssa Nieto, Ada Otter, Mark Papay, Kris Pearson, Austin Quinn-Davidson, Eric Wood, and Dale Zurawski. Thank you for your hard work!

Benefit Auction and Environmental Hero Awards

EDC held its 8th Annual Benefit Auction June 10th at the Bistro Med in Santa Barbara. Many thanks to the Auction Committee and everyone who contributed to the event, including Eve Bailey, Nancy Berenson, Bruce Bernson, Jane Brewer, Laura Engeman, Tommy Hernandez, Bronwen Jones, Liz Podolinsky and Martana Rybincek.

In addition, thanks to the 2001 Benefit Auction Host Committee:

David & Lyn Anderson	Barry & Jean Schuyler	Jon & Lillian Lovelace
Jack Baker	Barnaby & Mary Conrad	Ellen McCurdy
Drs. Michael & Carol Behrman	Mercedes Eichholz	Richard & Thekla Sanford
Carnzu A. Clark	David Fortson	John C. Strawn
Virginia Clarke-Laskin	Steven Harding	Seyburn Zorthian
	Susan Jordan	



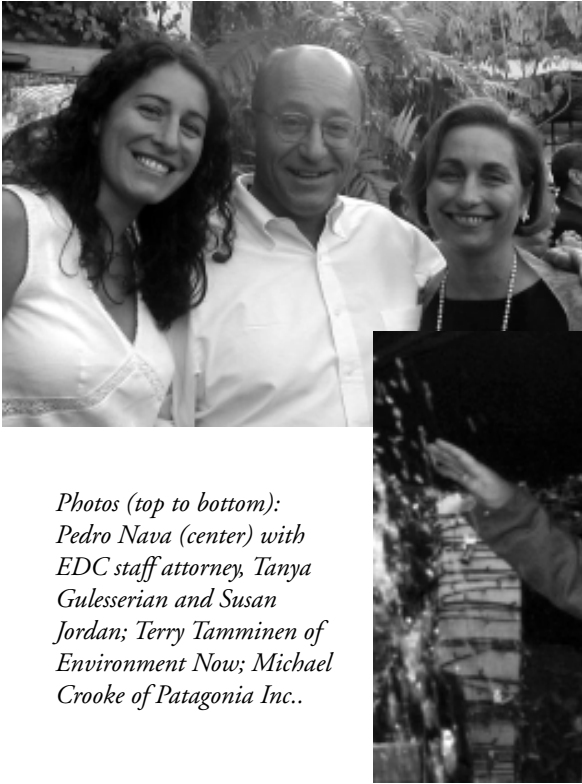
Alana Walczak, EDC Development Director and Eric Cárdenas, Program Coordinator

At the event, EDC presented the first annual *Environmental Hero Awards* to recognize the strong leadership that these “heroes” provide to build a healthy and sustainable future for our communities. EDC proudly honored the following individuals and groups for their work on behalf of California’s Central Coast:

Tom Rogers	<i>Life Achievement</i>
Carla Frisk	<i>Advocacy</i>
Patagonia, Inc.	<i>Business</i>
Environment Now	<i>Philanthropy</i>
Pedro Nava	<i>Public Leader</i>
Hannah-Beth Jackson	<i>Public Official</i>



Photos (right): Mindy Lorenz at the SLO Rendezvous Event; (right & below) Carla Frisk with daughter, husband and State Senator Jack O’Connell.



Photos (top to bottom): Pedro Nava (center) with EDC staff attorney, Tanya Gulesserian and Susan Jordan; Terry Tamminen of Environment Now; Michael Crooke of Patagonia Inc..



Photos (above): Tom Rogers; (right) EDC staff and auctioneers, Eric Cárdenas and Y. Armando Nieto.



SLO Second Annual Rendezvous Events

This spring, EDC hosted the second annual Rendezvous to benefit the San Luis Obispo EDC office. The events took place on April 29 at Windrose Farm in Creston and on May 20 at Alflora Gardens Nursery in Nipomo. Last year, the event at Alflora Gardens was such a great success that owners Bonnie and Sol Mayesh and EDC decided to expand event activities in South County. In addition, in a concerted effort to outreach to the North County about the mission and services of EDC, Bill and Barbara Spencer opened their organic farm for a tour, plant sale and entertainment to benefit EDC.

A number of client and other nonprofit organizations participated in both events, including California Native Plant Society, Coastal Alliance on Plant Expansion, ECOSLO, Friends of the RanchLand, Save the Mesa, and Sierra Club. Music was provided by the talented local bands Up in the Air and Glider, as well as Louis Ortega. Many individuals, business and media sponsors made invaluable contributions and services for pre-event promotion at the event sites.

Ventura TGIF

The Ventura County EDC office held this year's first TGIF event on May 18th. The *Thank Goodness It's Farming* event was held at the Churchill Orchards, owned by Board member, Jim Churchill in Ojai, and featured music by EDC Board member Scott Weiss and friends. The event was sponsored by Aquasports and the Ventura Farm to School Salad Bar Project, and included a farm tour of the beautiful tangerine and avocado Churchill Orchards.

Many EDC volunteers contributed to the success of the event, including Dulanie Ellis-LaBarre, Jo Rogers, David Dolan, Tim Malloy, Ron Bottorff, Roma and Bill Armbrust, Dale Zurawski, Debbie Tygel, Jim Churchill, and the Ventura EDC staff.



Churchill Orchards

A special thanks to the following businesses for their donations of food and raffle prizes: Frankie's Place, Anacapa Bread Co., Bill Baker's Bakery, Front St. Deli, Suzanne's Cuisine, Allison's Country Cafe, Spaghetti Company, Taqueria Tepatitlan, Trader Joe's, Royal Bakery, Trufflehounds, New French Bakery, Ojai Ice Cream, Lenox Factory Outlet, Presto Pasta, Cafe Bella, Cafe Zack, Kid's Cuts, and Jim and Rob's Fresh Grill.

Coastal Commission Celebration

EDC, along with statewide and local environmental and business groups, held a reception for the California Coastal Commission on April 11th to kick off a year-long campaign to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Coastal Act in 2001 and the 30th Anniversary of Proposition 20 in 2002. The campaign is designed to call attention to the role of public participation in coastal protection and to showcase the important work of the California Coastal Commission in upholding the landmark Coastal Act.

Among those honored were original Prop. 20 activists Selma Rubin and Bob Sollen who have continued their fight for coastal protection over the years. Other honorees included Linda Krop for her role in spearheading the fight against the development of the 36 federal offshore oil leases off the Central Coast and David Forston, a young activist whose early accomplishments demonstrate a strong commitment to coastal protection. Sanford Winery was honored for its tremendous sensitivity and commitment to the preservation of the environment.

Event co-sponsors included the Environmental Defense Center, California Coastal Protection Network, Center for Marine Conservation, League for Coastal Protection, Natural Resources Defense Council, Santa Barbara Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Sierra Club of CA, Gail Marshall, Susan Rose and Naomi Schwartz.



Coastal Heroes

Save the date!

Ventura Victory Celebration for the Environment Honoring Ed Masry and Erin Brockovich October 13

TGIF Schedule

Ventura: August 3 Santa Barbara: July 6 August 10 September 7 October 12



Land Use Developments

Citizens Planning Association and League of Women Voters On the Waterfront

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 scenic quality in Santa Barbara’s unique Waterfront area. The future of the Waterfront is at stake in the City’s review of the Entrada project on lower State Street and the City’s approval of the Capital Condo project on East Yanonali Street. CPA and LWVSB have been vigilant in testifying before the City and submitting comments throughout this process.

“The future of the Waterfront is at stake in the City’s review of the Entrada project . . . and the City’s approval of the Capital Condo project on East Yanonali Street.”

The Entrada project blocks foothill and Santa Ynez mountain views, including the views of Gibraltar and La Cumbre Peaks, from the Waterfront. In response to a lawsuit filed by the EDC, on behalf of CPA and LWVSB, the City was ordered to prepare an EIR on the project’s potential to significantly affect foothill and mountain views. However, the EIR that was prepared failed to consider potential changes to public views, and instead, judged whether public views are important and concluded that there would be no significant impact. As a result, the draft EIR did not provide the required analysis of alternatives and mitigation measures to reduce impacts to views.

The Capital Condo project, consisting of 40 high-end residential condominium units and a market on East Yanonali Street, would block foothill, Santa Ynez mountain and Mesa views from the Waterfront and Highway 101. On March 16, 2001, EDC, on behalf of CPA and LWVSB, appealed the City Planning Commission’s decision to approve the project and exempt the project from environmental review. Given the project’s inconsistency with the City’s visual resource policies and the evidence of a significant impact to views, granting an exemption from environmental review is improper. After the project was approved by the Santa Barbara City Council on April 17, 2001, EDC, on behalf of CPA and LWVSB, filed another appeal to the California Coastal Commission. Although the Coastal Commission denied the appeal in June, EDC has also filed a

lawsuit challenging the City’s approval of the exemption from environmental review.



The Newhall Ranch Project would impact this stretch of the Santa Clara River

Photo by Lynne Plambeck

L.A. County Releases New Information on Newhall Ranch

LOS ANGELES COUNTY – In response to the successful legal challenge to the Newhall Ranch Project by EDC (on behalf of the Sierra Club, Friends of the Santa Clara River, and SCOPE) and Ventura County, Los Angeles County has released an additional analysis of some of the project’s environmental impacts. Based on a Kern County court’s decision in April 2000, this additional analysis addresses issues of water supply, Santa Clara River floodplain impacts, modification to areas designated by L.A. County as Significant Ecological Areas, the location of a wastewater treatment plant, wildlife movement corridors, and traffic. While these issues have received more discussion, the 22,000 -unit new city development project itself has not been changed in any significant way to address environmental concerns. In addition, Los Angeles County has yet to evaluate the project’s impacts on the endangered Arroyo Southwestern Toad and the implications of the discovery of one of two known populations of the San Fernando Valley Spineflower on the Newhall Ranch site. As the additional analysis is subject to public hearings in the coming months, EDC will persist in its call for full disclosure and honest evaluation of the project’s environmental consequences.

North Coast Area Plan Update

SAN LUIS OBISPO – To most people right now the San Luis Obispo Coastline north of Morro Bay seems pretty well protected. Recent acquisition of the Estero Property at Cayucos and East-West Ranch in Cambria, as well as great news about conservation easements on additional north coast properties, have given a general feeling that the SLO coast to Big Sur is preserved. But just like the movies where the monster appears to have been vanquished, only to reappear when the hero’s guard is down, so it is with the still dormant North Coast Area Plan Update.

Since EDC’s much celebrated victory on behalf of client Friends of the RanchLand at the Coastal Commission meetings in 1998, the County has been delaying and waiting for a more favorable political climate to complete the long overdue update to the North Coast Area Plan. Fortunately, Friends of the RanchLand have remained vigilant, continuing to monitor County actions as well as the significant lobbying efforts by the largest landowner on the north coast, Hearst Corporation.

To keep the process in the public arena, EDC, on behalf of its client, successfully advocated for a Coastal Commission Periodic Review of the County Local Coastal Plan. In addition, the SLO EDC office is still in pursuit of a resolution to the water rights complaint, made on behalf of Friends of the RanchLand, regarding protection of resources and potential use of Arroyo De La Cruz Creek water for Hearst’s development plans.



Photo by Jenna Garmon

The Santa Barbara Waterfront

ChannelKeeper



Cleaning Up the Carpinteria Salt Marsh

CARPINTERIA – The Carpinteria Valley is blessed with one of the richest and most productive ecosystems in Santa Barbara County: the Carpinteria Salt Marsh. Over ninety percent of California’s historic wetlands have been destroyed, mostly by filling to create land for homes, industry and agriculture. The Carpinteria Salt Marsh,

“The Carpinteria Salt Marsh, covering 230 acres, represents one of the last remaining wetlands on the South Coast.”

covering 230 acres, represents one of the last remaining wetlands on the South Coast. Over 100 species of birds, from the majestic Great Blue Heron to the tiny, and endangered, Belding’s Savannah Sparrow, call the Salt Marsh home during all or part of the year.

The Salt Marsh also provides nursery grounds for numerous commercially and recreationally important fish species, such as the California Halibut and Diamond Turbot. Steelhead Trout still enter the Salt Marsh, although streambed alterations prevent them from returning upstream. The Marsh also hosts over 200 plant species and about a dozen mammals. Few spots exist anywhere in California with as much biological diversity.

Unfortunately, the Salt Marsh is being damaged by some greenhouse operators in Carpinteria. Numerous greenhouses illegally discharge water contaminated with fertilizers and pesticides into the Salt Marsh. Fertilizer discharges – primarily nitrates – have severely disrupted the delicate ecological balance of the Salt Marsh because they lead to the overgrowth of algae. Unnaturally dense algal mats literally choke the Marsh by consuming available oxygen. This, in turn, reduces the abundance and diversity of the flora and fauna in the Marsh, inhibits bird-feeding behavior, reduces available oxygen for aquatic species, and impacts water and sediment chemistry.

These greenhouse discharges are unlawful, but neither the County nor the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board will address the problem, even though the Salt Marsh made California’s 1998 list of “impaired waters.”


The County is currently considering zoning changes that will allow for the expansion of greenhouses in the Carpinteria Valley. Greenhouse expansion, without proper discharge controls in place, will only increase the threat to the long-term survival of the Salt Marsh.

We are encouraging the County to stop greenhouses from discharging contaminated water into the Salt Marsh.

The available evidence also strongly suggests that greenhouse activity may be having an adverse impact on groundwater quality. Groundwater in many parts of the valley is very close to the surface and can be polluted by greenhouse and other agricultural operations. Several of the existing greenhouse operations have septic systems and holding ponds that also pose a threat to this groundwater.

Greenhouses can install equipment that will eliminate the discharge of contaminated water. This will save greenhouse operators money in the long run since it will both reduce and recycle water, fertilizers and pesticides. According to a study prepared by the University of California Cooperative Extension, there are many techniques available to greenhouse operators to eliminate wastewater discharges by maximizing irrigation efficiency, eliminating leaching, and recycling runoff.

We plan to work with the greenhouse operators to help them understand that it is in the best interest of the Salt Marsh, the community, and their enterprises to eliminate discharges of contaminated water to the Salt Marsh.



Action Alert
Rig Watch
Help document evidence of marine pollution! Join ChannelKeeper in patrolling waters of the Santa Barbara Channel on the ChannelKeeper boat to monitor water quality around oil rigs. Interested? Call ChannelKeeper at 563-3399 or 563-3377.

Save the date!
ChannelKeeper
Dinner
November 17



Central Coast

Environmental Health Project

Making Our Schools Healthy

CENTRAL COAST – One of the most important roles of the CCEHP is disseminating information. As might be expected, many members of our community are unaware that they are potentially exposed to pesticides. Further, many community members are unfamiliar with current requirements for pesticide use, general symptoms of exposure and the regulatory agencies that exist to address pesticide issues.


Most recently, CCEHP educational activities have focused on alerting school districts about the Healthy Schools Act of 2000. The requirements of the Healthy Schools Act are important for both school districts and parents to understand.

Generally, the Act requires that, on an annual basis, school districts provide a written notification to staff and parents outlining the expected pesticide use for the coming year. Further, the Act requires the school district to establish a registry for those parents and staff who wish to be notified 72 hours prior to individual pesticide applications. Unfortunately, the Act does not require that the use of pesticides be reduced or eliminated. Therefore, the CCEHP is encouraging all parents to register for the notification

prior to individual applications. We encourage parents to pursue the implementation of true Integrated Pest Management (IPM) policies that are aimed at significantly reducing pesticide use on school campuses. Since these policies have proven effective in a number of school districts across the country, there is no excuse for not implementing the most protective policy possible here.

For more information on the requirements of the Act, or for information on pursuing an IPM policy for your school, please contact Eric Cardenas at (805) 963-1622, extension 111.

Protect Children (continued from page 1)
Assemblymember Hannah-Beth Jackson and her dedicated staff are to be congratulated for not only carrying the legislation, but also for making it a priority. We encourage supporters to write letters to their local Senators stating that protective pesticide legislation is a priority to you and that you will be watching their voting record on this issue.



Action Alert
Write your local Senators and tell them you support the intentions of AB 947 and any attempts to implement protective pesticide legislation. Regardless of the outcome of AB 947, your representatives need to hear that this is a priority issue for you.

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Photo by Brian Trautwein



EDC Joins Wild and Scenic Rivers Suit

LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST – EDC joined the Center for Biological Diversity and Keep the Sespe Wild Committee in filing a lawsuit to require the Forest Service to prepare a management plan for Sespe Creek (above), Sisquoc River and Big Sur River. A management plan will help ensure that these rivers remain forever free and protected.



906 Garden Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Address Service Requested

EDC Launches New Website

Visit EDC’s new website: <http://www.edcnet.org>. It’s a work in progress so check frequently for new features and updates.

EDC’s 2000 Annual Report

EDC is pleased to announce that its 2000 Annual Report will be ready on July 31, 2001. The Annual Report will be posted on EDC’s new website, which is www.edcnet.org. If you would like to receive a printed copy of the report, please contact Alana at 963-1622, ext. 110.

Got Art?

The EDC Ventura office is soliciting contributions of environmentally themed art from artists and art-owners for its August fundraiser, an exhibit at Art City that will take place from Thursday, August 2 through Sunday, August 5. A reception will be held on the evening of Friday, August 3, which will feature hors d’oeuvres, wine, and flamenco music by Russ Baggerly. Art City, a Gallery and sculpture workshop located at 72 Peking Street in Ventura, has generously donated the use of their space for the event.

If you are an artist, or if you own art that you are ready to pass on, you can contribute works of two or three dimensions to the EDC for sale at the reception and show. Thirty-five percent of the proceeds benefit the Ventura Office of EDC; the balance goes to you. To find out more, please contact Jennifer Carnine at the Ventura Office, 677-2570.

Employment Opportunities at EDC

Staff Attorney for our Ventura office. CA Bar and environmental law background required. Entry level okay.

Environmental Analyst (full-time) for case support, policy analysis, legal and scientific issues, public appearances. Requirements: B.S. in Environmental Studies or related field, knowledge of environmental laws, scientific and legal issues, research, writing.

Send resume and writing sample to: EDC, 906 Garden St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101, fax (805) 962-3152. EOE.