

ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDER

WINTER 2001

New Plans for Devereux/Ellwood

SANTA BARBARA — The County of Santa Barbara and University of California recently unveiled plans to develop a regional Open Space and Development Plan for the Devereux/Ellwood area west of Santa Barbara. This 993-acre area includes some of the most valuable coastal habitat left on the South Coast, including Monarch Butterfly groves, wetlands and vernal pools, native grasslands, the Devereux Creek and Slough ecosystem, and coastal bluffs and beaches. For over ten years, EDC has represented various clients concerned about development of this area. In 2000, EDC reached a settlement protecting the sensitive habitats on Ellwood.

EDC and current clients, Save Ellwood Shores and Audubon Society, are pleased with many aspects of the proposal. For the first time since EDC proposed the concept in 1993, the County will be considering a transfer of development rights from the Ellwood mesa to an adjacent County-owned parcel next to existing residential neighborhoods along Hollister Avenue. This transfer would protect 135 acres of coastal bluff habitat and provide an undisturbed ecological corridor connecting Devereux Creek to the University's Coal Oil Point Reserve. We also support the University's commitment to withdraw plans to develop its Devereux property next to the Reserve. This commitment is consistent with the negotiations that have taken place between EDC, Audubon and the University over the past few years.



Sunset at Devereux Slough

However, although the plan has many positive aspects, EDC will continue to monitor the development plan to ensure that it complies with all coastal laws and regulations. The preliminary plans put forth by the County and University may allow destruction of some coastal wetlands and habitat in violation of the Coastal Act. EDC and our clients hope to work with the County, University, and private landowner to ensure that any plans for the area are designed to protect critical coastal resources while providing needed housing for the University and community.

Another Victory on SLO North Coast Development

SAN LUIS OBISPO — EDC is still celebrating what may prove to be the key element in our on-going effort to ensure that land use decisions along SLO County's North Coast protect the public interest. On October 13, Governor Davis signed into law SB 497, which closes a legal loophole in the Subdivision Map Act (Act) that developers have used to subdivide large tracts of pristine land like Hearst Ranch. Central Coast residents owe special thanks to all who joined the effort through letters and phone calls in support of this important legislation.



A marine terrace at Hearst Ranch

The loophole allowed land speculators throughout California to carve up large areas of land without going through the normal subdivision process. They first researched old maps and deeds to find evidence of ancient lots, many dating back to the 1800s. These lots are then reconfigured into new subdivisions without public review and without having to mitigate for impacts to parks, schools, roads and other essential public services. Some developers have also used this process to greatly inflate the value of their properties in order to squeeze more money from agencies that are trying to purchase the land for the public.

The Hearst Corporation, which is currently in negotiations with The Nature Conservancy and The Conservation Fund to sell their development rights, has found 279 of these ancient lot lines within the boundaries of their 83,000-acre ranch at San Simeon. In anticipation that Hearst would then use the threat of developing these lots to scare the conservation agencies into purchasing easements at a greatly inflated price, EDC and our client group, Friends of the Ranchland, supported the statewide effort to get SB 497 signed into law.

Now that Governor Davis has signed SB 497, Hearst and other developers will no longer be able to exploit this loophole to drive up their profits at the public's expense.

However, the struggle for conservation of this spectacular stretch of coast is far from over. The agriculture easement Hearst continues to offer will do nothing to reduce their planned resort development. Until the County of San Luis Obispo updates their Local Coastal Plan to reduce the allowable development, the proposal that Hearst brought forward in 1998, which included four resorts, commercial development, residential development, and a 27-acre golf course, is still possible. On behalf of Friends of the Ranchland, EDC continues to work with environmental groups statewide to protect this natural legacy.

Photo by Eric Cárdenas



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A Message from Armando



Y. Armando Nieto
Executive Director

The year 2001 will be remembered as a time of national tragedy, and of economic and emotional upheaval. Grief and anger, overshadowed by a lingering sense of individual helplessness—in times like these, it is tempting to want to give in to our feelings and isolate.

Instead, this holiday season let's make a point of giving generously to the causes we value. Let's open our homes to friends and loved ones. Let's celebrate another year of painfully hard lessons learned on how to peacefully co-exist with one another, and with the living planet we call home.

Let us also not stand idly by while those who would take advantage of our collective mental and emotional state push for the unprecedented exploitation of our natural resources in the name of "national security." Now is not the time to turn away from our priorities. We must take the opportunity to ensure that the most important things in life—our health and that of our planet—are not destroyed.

One of the first steps is to embrace the courage to change. Real security is not about missile defense shields. It is about focusing on how to protect our water, air, food and open spaces to sustain us. For a fraction of the cost of the corporate handouts that our government has just doled out, we could restore the health of our oceans, protect our most precious open spaces, invest in a clean energy future, and so much more. But it takes the will of a people dedicated to life, and to living in harmony with the earth.

In response to events of 2001, and in a move to change how we respond as individuals—and as a society—to adversity, it also means thinking strategically and working smarter than ever on behalf of the values that define our place and time in history. Here at

EDC we are taking those steps, by restructuring our offices and focusing efforts to heighten environmental awareness, and to be more responsive to the issues that affect us all.

It is therefore entirely appropriate that we celebrate victories like the Governor's signing of SB 947 to protect our coastline from offshore oil development, and the defeat of "Rigs to Reefs", which would have let oil companies leave their discarded platforms after extracting the last ounce of profit from the Santa Barbara Channel.

It is also with a fair measure of pride that we watch Santa Barbara ChannelKeeper spin off from EDC to be an independent presence on the water in 2002. To celebrate the occasion, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., will return to Santa Barbara on January 27th to speak at the ChannelKeeper's Annual Dinner.

Looking forward, EDC is planning a year of activities to celebrate 25 years on the Central Coast, beginning with the February 2nd Ventura County Dinner, when we honor local heroes Ed Masry and Erin Brockovich for their work on behalf of environmental health and justice.

Read more about EDC plans for an online *Art that Works* art auction, other special events and activities, and ongoing and new cases in the pages of this newsletter, or online at www.edcnet.org.

But before we leave the immediacy of 2001 events, let us join together in celebration of the passing of the year, and enter 2002 with a renewed commitment to working together for a vision of environmental health and sanity for our communities, and for our country.

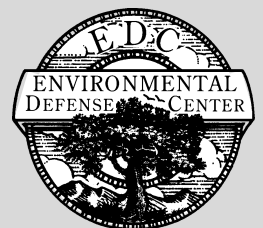
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About EDC

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.

T-shirts Selling Like Hotcakes!

Get your EDC t-shirts before they are all gone! Short-sleeve shirts in white and sagebrush cost \$18, long-sleeve shirts in

natural cost \$20. Special thanks to Elissa Pfost for the beautiful design, Lisa Nessel for making it happen, Seymour Silverstein of Images for donating his silkscreen services, and Patagonia for providing the organic cotton t-shirts at a discount rate. We also have tote bags for shopping (\$10) and EDC hats (\$15).

Get yours today! They make great holiday gifts!



Oil & Gas Developments

Photo by William Dewey



Gaviota Oil and Gas Facility

Point Arguello: De-Industrializing the Gaviota Coast

SANTA BARBARA — On October 16, 2001, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors moved one step closer to de-industrializing the Gaviota Coast when it voted to accelerate the abandonment of the Point Arguello oil and gas processing facility at Gaviota. Officially, the Board voted to uphold the October 2000 decision of the Planning Commission and to deny the appeals of that decision filed by a number of oil companies, including Arguello Inc., Samedan Oil Corporation, Nuevo Energy Company, and Benton Oil and Gas Company. The vote embodies the County's intention to require the immediate abandonment of all unused gas processing equipment on site, as well as the future abandonment of all oil processing equipment as soon as existing oil projects are fulfilled.

The Board's action means that the owners of the facility will start the permitting process to remove most of the unsightly industrial facilities. Just as important, the Board has protected this site from future oil and gas processing activities that pose grave threats to public health and safety. In 1997, for example, a hydrogen sulfide gas leak from this facility caused multiple injuries, as well as the closure of Highway 101.

EDC, representing Citizens Planning Association, Get Oil Out, Hollister Ranch Homeowners Association, League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara and Sierra Club, has taken the lead in this effort. An original opponent of the Gaviota facility, EDC is pleased to see the County take this important step towards restoration of our coast.

Governor Vetoes Senate Bill 1, "Rigs to Rubbish"

CALIFORNIA — One day before the deadline, Governor Gray Davis vetoed SB 1, the controversial bill that would have allowed oil companies to abandon offshore platforms in the ocean and turn over maintenance and liability to the State. EDC took the lead in fighting SB 1, and was joined by over 30 national, state and local organizations in urging the Governor to veto the bill. Of the 27 platforms offshore California, 20 are in the Santa Barbara Channel and their abandonment at sea would have caused environmental, safety and economic harm to our region. Our efforts were bolstered by a University of California Marine Science Council report that found that oil platforms do not provide fish habitat. In addition, other reports disclosed the financial and liability risks associated with the proposal.

Did you know?

.....

Fuel Economy Standards

The fuel efficiency standard for passenger cars has not been increased since 1986. Improvements in U.S. automobile efficiency would **save over eight times** as much energy as what would be produced from drilling for oil and gas off of the California coast over the next 20 years.

- Increasing the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standard by 60% would **save 131 million gallons** of oil per day.
- By holding light trucks (including pick-ups and SUVs) to the same fuel economy standard as automobiles, **41 million gallons of oil per day** would be saved. This is equivalent to three times the amount of oil estimated to be in the Artic Refuge.
- By increasing the fuel efficiency of SUVs by three miles per gallon, the U.S. could **reduce its gas demand by 49 million gallons** a day.

Energy Efficient Products

- Compact fluorescent light bulbs can **save 75% of the electricity** consumed by incandescent bulbs.
- Replacing all the refrigerators in California with newer and more efficient models would **save 1,000 megawatts, enough electricity to power one million homes**. This is as much energy as is produced by a **large power plant**.
- **50% energy savings** could be realized in new buildings if energy efficient equipment, appliances and building design methods were implemented.
- If every family in the U.S. switched from using four incandescent light bulbs to four energy-efficient light bulbs, it would **save as much energy as taking 7 million cars off the road**.

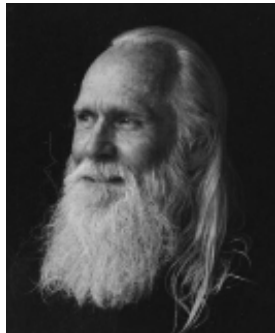


The Santa Barbara Channel is home to 20 of California's 27 offshore platforms.

Honors, Acknowledgments

Planned Giving Leadership

EDC would like to thank William Denneen for his amazing commitment to the long-term stability of our efforts. This summer, Bill established a trust account and named EDC as a beneficiary to ensure that EDC would be financially viable for many years to come. With this planned gift, Bill began a "philanthropic legacy" that lays a foundation for the future growth and development of our organization. For that, we profoundly thank him. EDC would like to take this opportunity to remind our supporters that planned gifts are wonderful ways to invest in the future of non-profit organizations that are important to you, while also enjoying the financial returns of your gift throughout your lifetime. If you would like to learn more about how to establish a planned gift with EDC, please feel free to call us at (805) 963-1622.



Bill Denneen

Ideas for Year-End Giving

For many of us, the end of the year is a time to reflect on what we have received in the past and to plan for the future. It is also a time to give, along with others. Federal tax laws and those of many states provide incentives for giving, and estate taxes on funds you donate for charitable purposes are reduced, while you gain the satisfaction of supporting causes you care about.

Making a gift to EDC before the end of this year may be made in a wide variety of ways. Depending on your situation, a gift of cash, insurance, real estate, or the establishment of a life insurance trust may be more advantageous than income taxes. Consider the following:

- **Cash:** Cash contributions are deductible as an itemized deduction, up to 50% of your adjusted gross income. If you make a cash contribution before December 31, you will be eligible for a significant tax deduction.
- **Stocks:** The best stocks to donate are those that are appreciated and those producing a low yield. If you have owned the stock for one year, you may deduct the full fair market value of the stock, avoiding all capital gains taxes.
- **Insurance:** A gift of a life insurance policy you own can be a year-end way to contribute. To qualify as a gift, you must give up all incidents of ownership of the policy or simply as the beneficiary.
- **Real Estate:** If you own property that is not your primary residence, a charitable gift may be an attractive option. If you own the property for longer than a year, you can claim an income tax deduction for the fair market value of the property, avoid all capital gains taxes and avoid gift taxes.
- **Charitable Gift Annuity:** If you would like to receive a steady stream of lifetime income, consider a gift annuity. You will receive a fixed percentage of the charitable tax deduction.
- **Trusts:** If you would like to make a gift to EDC but want to retain the right to receive that of a second beneficiary), consider establishing a trust. The trust can be funded with an asset such as appreciated stock or real estate. The trust can be sold (without capital gains tax), and the proceeds can be used to fund the trust.

Contact us at any time if you have questions about any of these options or your goals this year, or consult with your tax advisor for more information.

Community Challenge

Earlier this year, EDC received a \$200,000 anonymous donation to support our Community Challenge campaign to raise a total of \$500,000 through the Community Challenge supports day.

EDC is pleased to report that 347 households have participated in the Community Challenge, increasing the total amount raised to \$100,000.

These are critical times for our country and for our community. We need a group of residents who have declared their support for the Community Challenge. To reach our goal EDC needs your help. Consider giving a cash donation, establishing a planned gift to EDC, or participating in one of our upcoming events.

Check out EDC's website!

Have you checked out EDC's website lately at www.edc.org? We have a lot of information about our programs and cases, press releases, recent news, and upcoming EDC events, and much more.

Keeping in Touch

Keeping in touch with our members and supporters is important to protecting our quality of life on the Central Coast. We need your help to disseminate information. Please send your email address to info@edc.org so you can be in the loop on important environmental issues.

Intern spotlight: Will McGowan

EDC is pleased to be working with intern Will McGowan, an international student from the United Kingdom who is pursuing a Communications degree from the University of California at Santa Barbara. Will is helping EDC's Community Affairs Department to improve our communications strategy, including revamping portions of EDC's website. Will's high energy and great attitude make him an important part of EDC's team.



"As part of my class requirement I decided to pursue an internship with the EDC. I have really enjoyed working within this close-knit and highly effective team. I am grateful for the chance to do work that benefits and protects this beautiful area that I have come to love. Thanks EDC; good luck."

Volunteer spotlight: Liz Podolinsky

As a nonprofit organization, EDC relies heavily on support from the community. EDC would like to acknowledge a member of our community who has donated her precious time to support EDC's efforts: Liz Podolinsky. Liz worked hard to ensure that EDC's 2001 Auction was a success, and she always makes herself available to help. When she's not volunteering for EDC, Liz spends her time writing, working for Second District Supervisor Susan Rose, swimming and traveling the world. EDC is grateful for Liz's professionalism and enthusiasm.



"EDC knows how to thank its volunteers and make them feel special. And EDC acknowledges that my volunteer work makes a difference in its work, work that makes Santa Barbara such a great place to live."

EDC Welcomes All Volunteers

EDC welcomes all enthusiastic volunteers. Call Eve Bailey at (805) 963-1622 if you are interested in helping with events, campaigns, professional services, mailings, community outreach and many other activities.

Spaghetti Dinner

On Saturday, November 3rd, members of the Orcutt Area Advisory Group coordinated the 12th Annual Spaghetti Dinner to benefit EDC. The dinner and silent auction, held in Santa Maria, raised \$3,100 to support EDC's on-going operations. Thanks to everyone who participated in the event. EDC would like to acknowledge Olga Howard for coordinating all of the details to ensure that this event was a huge success.

Your Tax Refund At Work

EDC would like to thank everyone who donated some or all of their tax refund to support our efforts to protect environmental quality of life along the Central Coast. With your help, EDC has raised approximately \$5,500 from donated tax refunds.

nts and Opportunities



express thanks for the blessings we have re-
 an also be a time for sharing our good fortune
 states make it possible to bypass income, gift,
 ble purposes. This can result in a lower tax bill
 uses in which you believe.

r will result in a charitable tax deduction and
 ing on your situation, gifts of cash, stock, life
 life income gift, may save you money on your

itemized deduction in the year you make the
 come. By making a gift of cash before De-
 t deduction.

at have increased greatly in value, particularly
 ed your gift of stock for more than a year, you
 ck as a charitable contribution while avoid-

a no longer want or need may make a perfect
 t, EDC needs to be named as either the owner

subject to a mortgage and has appreciated in
 tion. If you have owned the property for
 ax deduction based upon the fair market value
 d remove that asset from your taxable estate.

make a gift to EDC and continue to receive a
 will receive a fixed quarterly income and a

DC and receive income for your lifetime (and
 hing a charitable trust this year. The trust is
 c or real estate. The assets in the trust are then
 eds reinvested to produce a much higher yield.

out the best ways to achieve your charitable
 for more information specific to your needs.

ymous pledge to launch a Community
 before the end of the year. All money raised
 -to-day operations of EDC.

ave contributed \$173,806 toward the Com-
 raised during this campaign to \$373,806.

our region. We urge you to join the growing
 ort for EDC by contributing toward the
 needs to raise an additional \$126,194. Please
 ledge, transferring stock, or making a planned

www.edcnet.org

www.edcnet.org? You'll find information about
 newsletters, 2000 Annual Report, notices about

ters is very important to our success in
 st. As such, EDC is increasing its use of email
 ail address to: info@edcnet.org and we'll keep
 es in our region.

TGIF Thanks

EDC would like to thank the many individual and group sponsors, participating restaurants, musicians and volunteers who made our 2001 *Thank Goodness It's Friday* season a smashing success. Your hard work and overwhelming generosity helped EDC raise approximately \$10,000 from Santa Barbara's TGIFs alone. We want to thank everyone who attended an event in 2001, and look forward to another year of TGIF memories in 2002.

Participating Restaurants

- Aldo's Italian Restaurant
Steve Dunn
- Emilio's Ristorante & Bar
Fresco
- Good Earth Restaurant
Little Alex's
- Main Squeeze Cafe
Our Daily Bread
- Palazzo Trattoria Italiana
Paradise Cafe
Pascucci
- Piranha Restaurant & Sushi Bar
Playa Azul Cafe
Rock's Restaurant
- Santa Barbara Brewing Company
SoHo Restaurant & Music Club
Sojourner Cafe
Trader Joe's

Musicians

- Antara & Delilah – Contemporary folk
- Bill Lanphar – Americana/folk
- Jorge Mijangos – Cuban guitar
- Jeff Mills – Irish music
- Craig Stuart & Kasey Lloyd
– contemporary
- Red Star Productions

Sponsors

- Robert D. Bernstein
- Mike Brown & Laura Malakoff
- Citizens for Goleta Valley
- Community Environmental Council
- Friends of the Ellwood Coast
- Gaviota Coast Conservancy
- Isla Vista Food Co-op
- Isla Vista Youth Group
- Local Ocean Network
- Mid-State Bank
- Patagonia, Inc.
Susan Rose
- San Marcos Foothills Coalition
- Santa Barbara Audubon Society
- Santa Barbara Bank & Trust
- Sierra Club, Los Padres Chapter
- John Strawn and Nancy J. Smith, M.D.
- Surfrider Foundation
- UCSB Environmental Studies Associates
Ann Veazey
- Mike & Diane Wondolowski
- Jon Zuber & Mike Allen

Special thanks

to Steve Dunn for donating and cooking
 over 150 pounds of fish for the Fall Feast.
 Thanks to Tim O'Brien for his
 culinary assistance.



Left to right: Sponsors and supporters;
 friends of EDC; Steve Dunn

25th Anniversary

The Environmental Defense Center grew out of the modern environmental movement that was born in the aftermath of the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill. That movement in turn led to the creation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts, and other environmental protection laws. Citizen groups gained confidence when this new legislation forced developers and others to take serious notice of the environment for the first time. New groups were formed to watch the watchdog agencies. But by the mid-1970s, environmental despoilers had developed an army of legal experts who were increasingly adept at evading governmental restraints.

In 1977, citizens and groups on the Central Coast turned to their own experts for help – attorney J. Marc McGinnes, activist Selma Rubin and others at the newly established Environmental Defense Center. In 2002, EDC will celebrate its 25th year.

As we look back on our successes, it is equally important that we join together as a community to tackle current and future challenges to our quality of life: preservation of open spaces, restoring the quality of our streams and ocean, protecting endangered species, preventing risks to human health, and more.

As you hear more about EDC's 25th Anniversary activities throughout 2002, consider joining in the celebration. Please call us at (805) 963-1622 to find out more.

Biodiversity Water

Planning Commission Recommends Strong Oak Protection Program

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY – Biologists call oak woodlands one of 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 with considerable oak habitat but without specific regulations to address removal of native oak trees in rural areas. This may soon change, as the County is considering a range of oak protection programs designed to slow the loss of oaks. EDC has consistently advocated for strong protection for oak habitat since this process first began.



Photo by Richard Sage

Imperiled oak habitat

In 1998, the public outcry when Kendall Jackson cleared 900 oak trees without permits prompted the County to convene the Oak Protection Collaborative Process. In 1999, the County began developing oak protection policies based on the work of the collaborative

process. In its environmental review, the County concluded that regulations addressing the number of oak trees that may be removed, combined with incentives to enhance oak trees and woodlands, would provide the most assurance that oak trees would be protected for future generations.

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. County staff has indicated that approximately 1,000 more mature oaks have been removed since 1996-97, and that since the recommendations of the Collaborative process in 1999 and the circulation of voluntary oak protection guidelines in 1998, approximately 340 oak trees have been removed from four agricultural projects alone.

In July 2001, the Planning Commission recommended an Oak Protection Program that includes both a regulatory component and incentives, which will be considered by the Board of Supervisors next year. Anyone who is concerned about the plight of oak trees in Santa Barbara County is encouraged to get involved.

Pesticides in Our Water

The most sensitive use of groundwater is for drinking water. In Ventura County, portions of its domestic water come from the local watershed. Although Ventura's drinking water is currently deemed safe, due to increasing application of pesticides, it has become imperative to examine the County's groundwater contamination and its effect on the quality of our drinking water.

Ventura County's groundwater is vulnerable to large-scale agricultural applications of chloropicrin, a soil fumigant often applied with methyl bromide. Efforts to assess the human health risks from exposure to chloropicrin are minimal at best.

Ventura, Santa Barbara, Monterey, and Santa Cruz are the counties where chloropicrin is applied most heavily for agriculture in California. From 1990-1999 more than 3.55 million pounds of chloropicrin were applied in Ventura County. Despite this fact, monitoring of chloropicrin seepage into groundwater is grossly inadequate. The agency in charge of monitoring claimed "no detection" of this chemical in groundwater, based on data collected only once more than a decade ago, using questionable methods. Since there has been no monitoring on chloropicrin since the late 1980s in these counties, it is impossible to estimate the negative impact to any of the groundwater basins.

Chloropicrin can also be manufactured during chlorination of drinking water. The total combined levels of chloropicrin, from agricultural application and drinking water treatment, could be toxic and pose health hazards to the 2.4 million people receiving groundwater in their drinking water in these four counties.

The use of chloropicrin will likely rise further in the future. Thus it becomes even more critical for agencies to start monitoring this chemical now in our water supply, in order to understand and track the way a future increase in use of chloropicrin could pose threats to human health.

Ecological Concerns About Ahmanson Ranch Project Persist

VENTURA — Ahmanson Ranch consists of 5,433 acres of the Santa Monica Mountains in the southeast corner of Ventura County, north of Agoura Hills and Calabasas. Washington Mutual Bank, the owner of Ahmanson Ranch, proposes to build a new town of 3,000 houses, two golf courses, a hotel, and offices on 2,800 acres of this site. The Ventura County Board of Supervisors approved a specific plan for this project in 1992, but Ventura County is currently considering Washington Mutual's application for a tract map for the first phase of the project.

In many respects, Ahmanson Ranch is a mirror image of the larger Newhall Ranch project in Los Angeles County. Like Newhall Ranch, many of the impacts of Ahmanson Ranch will be inflicted on a neighboring county. For example, the burden of increased traffic generated by Ahmanson Ranch will be placed almost entirely on Los Angeles County, since all access to the development will be through the cities of Calabasas and Los Angeles, and through unincorporated parts of Los Angeles County. Also like Newhall Ranch, development of Ahmanson Ranch will result in the ecological disruption of a sensitive watershed. Ahmanson Ranch lies on the headwaters of Malibu Creek, and contains populations of the California Red-Legged Frog and the San Fernando Valley Spineflower.

“...development of Ahmanson Ranch will result in the ecological disruption of a sensitive watershed.”

In 1996, EDC's legal action resulted in federal protection for the Red-Legged Frog.

EDC is currently representing six plaintiffs in litigation to secure protection for the San Fernando Valley Spineflower. Washington Mutual's development plans will potentially affect both species by destroying habitat, eliminating buffer areas, and introducing exotic species. Because of the importance of the Ahmanson Ranch site for the conservation of the Red-Legged Frog and San Fernando Valley Spineflower, EDC will monitor the progress of Ahmanson Ranch to ensure that Ventura County requires sufficient safeguards to protect these and other resources.



Action Alert
Marine Reserves
California Fish and Game Commission hearing Dec. 6-7 in Long Beach.

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary
Advisory Council meeting: January 9

In 1997, we lost a dear friend, Carla Bard, to a tragic car accident. EDC established the Carla Bard Water Resources Community Advocacy program to offer ongoing training and experience in environmental activism related to water resource issues in Ventura County, one of Carla's passions.

Alice Tseng received the Carla Bard Award in 1999 and did extensive research on the issue of pesticide contamination of groundwater. The following piece reports her efforts:

Central Coast

Environmental Health Project

Promotoras and Promotores

Socorro López Hanson, Program Manager for the Central Coast Environmental Health Project, has been working with a new program called Promotoras and Promotores in Ventura County to provide training on how to prevent pesticide poisoning and what to do if exposed. The purpose of the Promotoras and Promotores Program, consisting of volunteers under the Ventura County Public Health, Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Programs, is to encourage Latinos in the community to use available Ventura County services. This program is needed because Latinos are less likely to receive the health and social services essential for a healthy family due to language, transportation and cultural barriers.

Promotoras and Promotores are English/Spanish bilingual and have been trained as lay health promoters. They receive training on various health topics and presentation skills. This training empowers them to develop a grassroots network for promoting healthy communities. They have received training from: Public Health Programs, California Rural Legal Assistance, Behavioral Health Department, VCMC-Family Planning Programs, Lideres Campesinas,

March of Dimes-Comenzando Bien, Oxnard Neighborhood Programs and now the Central Coast Environmental Health Project.

As a result of the training provided by CCEHP, two Santa Paula Promotoras are planning to conduct a similar presentation for their community. The 18 people who were present for the CCEHP training will in turn share the information they learned that day with many others in their communities, thereby increasing the safety and health of many more individuals. The success of this program lies in its ability to help each other maintain the health and safety of our environment and CCEHP is proud to participate.



Volunteer Graphic Designer needed

to help develop outreach materials for farmworkers. Fluency in Spanish preferred but not required. Call 963-1622 for more information.

ChannelKeeper

ChannelKeeper's New Venture

As planned, Santa Barbara ChannelKeeper will be spinning off from EDC on January 1, 2002. ChannelKeeper will continue to partner with EDC on many important projects including the lawsuit against Halaco Engineering Co., one of the South Coast's worst industrial polluters.

ChannelKeeper enjoys growing support from the community and wish to thank everyone for their contributions, financial or otherwise. Like most lean groups, we have a constant need for volunteers to help with policy work, water quality monitoring and restoration, and our on-the-water efforts.

ChannelKeeper will become an independent organization, and will continue to be the ocean's advocate before all regulatory bodies. National, state, regional and local authorities make rules that directly impact water quality in our creeks, wetlands and the Channel. ChannelKeeper will review all agendas and attend those meetings where critical issues affecting clean water are discussed.



Our Five-Point Platform is as follows. ChannelKeeper works to:

1. Protect and Improve All Remaining Coastal Wetlands. Over 90% of California's historic wetlands have been destroyed. We'll use all available legal means to protect

what remains on the South Coast. Stopping greenhouse pollution of the Carpinteria Salt Marsh is one of our top wetlands priorities.

2. End Regional Sewer Pollution. Our governmental agencies charged with making sure our beaches are clean have not been successful. We are investigating the sewage system in Santa Barbara to determine if leaks from it are causing or contributing to the problem. We also plan to challenge Goleta Sanitary District's "waiver" that allows it to discharge sewage into the ocean that has only received primary treatment.

3. End Pollution from Urban Runoff and Industrial Discharges. Halaco Engineering is probably the worst industrial polluter on the South Coast. We will continue to pursue our lawsuit against this company despite its numerous harassment and intimidation tactics (including a trespass lawsuit against our Executive Director). We have an eye on other polluting industries, including junkyards, along the South Coast.

4. Conduct On-The-Water Pollution Patrols. The public is invited on our boat, the Magic, as we patrol the channel looking for signs of pollution from the oil rigs and other sources. Venoco refused to tell us the schedule of oil offloading from its marine terminal in the waters off of Ellwood, so we were forced to submit a Public Records Act request to the California State Lands Commission.

5. Monitor and Restore Local Waterways. We conduct regular water-quality monitoring throughout Santa Barbara and on the Ventura River watershed. We also plan next year to replant eelgrass and kelp in the Channel. If you'd like to help monitor creeks, storm drains or the ocean, or if you'd like to dive with us, please let us know. Call us at (805) 563-3399.

Santa Barbara ChannelKeeper Dinner Sunday, January 27

Help launch ChannelKeeper's independence by supporting its upcoming fundraising event, on Saturday, January 27, 2002. The event, which will be held at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum, features keynote speaker Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., and includes a catered dinner, Sanford wines, and silent and live auction items. Award presentations will honor Wayne Ferren, Susan Jordan and Barry Schuyler. For more information, please call (805) 563-5665 or (805) 563-3399.

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Victory Celebration for the Environment Saturday, February 2

Join EDC in honoring local heroes, Ed Masry and Erin Brockovich, in a *Victory Celebration for the Environment*, on Saturday, February 2. The event includes a full dinner, awards presentation and live auction. The *Celebration* will begin at 6:30 pm at the North Ranch Country Club in Westlake Village. If you are interested in sponsoring the event, purchasing tickets or simply need more information, please call (805) 963-1622.

Corporate Polluters: A Talk by Ed Masry

On Sunday, January 20 at 3 pm, attorney Ed Masry will tell how he teamed with Erin Brockovich to win \$333 million for residents exposed to toxic chemicals by PG&E, the largest legal settlement in U.S. history. This event, sponsored by the Coastal Alliance on Plant Expansion (CAPE), Environmental Council and EDC, will take place at the Chumash Auditorium at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Tickets cost \$10 for general admission, and \$5 for students. Please call (805) 781-9932 for more information.

Concert to Benefit Paso Watch and EDC

Join us on Saturday, January 19 for *An Evening with Acoustic Guitarist Laurence Juber* - Grammy Award Winner and former lead guitarist for Wings. Acoustic Guitar Magazine calls Juber "one of the most gifted and versatile fingerstyle guitarists on the scene." Proceeds from the event will benefit Paso Watch and EDC. The event will be held at Castoro Cellars in Templeton and will include appetizers and dessert. Tickets are \$75. For information and ticket reservations, call (805) 237-4443.



Art That Works

Art that Works is an opportunity for our community to celebrate and take pride in the work of some of our best artists, to acquire objects of unusual aesthetic value and utility, and to support EDC's on-going efforts to protect and preserve environmental quality of life along California's Central Coast.

Fifteen distinguished artists from Southern California have come together to organize an on-line exhibition of their work to benefit EDC. Each artist is a master of the craft who creates functional objects of exquisite beauty, originality and longevity. EDC will receive the gallery commission, or 50%, from each sale.

We hope you will join us in this unique presentation of exquisite works of art. Individual pieces or information about the artists can be viewed on www.fineartthatworks.com or by requesting an exhibition catalog. Tours of the artists' galleries will occur in early 2002, culminating with an invitational one-day exhibition and sale scheduled for late March. Please call us at (805) 963-1622 if you would like to learn more about *Art that Works*.