EDC Challenges Ahmanson Ranch Development; Newhall Ranch Reapproval Imminent

In December 2002, the Ventura County Board of Supervisors approved the first phase of the Ahmanson Ranch development, a “new town” of about 3,500 homes plus hotels, a golf course, and other development proposed for open space near the City of Calabasas and bordering the San Fernando Valley. Prior to approval, other agencies and environmental groups provided considerable evidence that the project would harm one of the southernmost populations of the threatened California Red-legged Frog, push one of the two remaining populations of the San Fernando Valley Spineflower toward extinction, and expose humans and wildlife to perchlorate, a substance that is toxic even at extremely low levels. Ventura County, however, ignored this evidence in a rush to approve the project before the composition of the Board of Supervisors changed in early 2003.

In January 2003, EDC filed a challenge to Ventura County’s approval on behalf of a broad coalition of groups, including Rally to Save Ahmanson Ranch, Save Open Space/Santa Monica Mountains, Heal the Bay, Natural Resources Defense Council, California Native Plant Society, and Wishtoyo Foundation. With this lawsuit, EDC joins several others filed by local governments that will be affected by the Ahmanson Ranch project, including the City and County of Los Angeles, and the cities of Calabasas, Thousand Oaks, Agoura Hills, and Malibu. These cases have all been transferred to Riverside County Superior Court, where they will be heard in late 2003 or 2004.

Meanwhile, in March Los Angeles County again considered approval of the Newhall Ranch project, Ahmanson’s larger mirror image consisting of 21,400 residential units on nearly 12,000 acres on the Santa Clara River. Newhall Ranch also faces a variety of challenges. An investigation by the Los Angeles District Attorney’s office reviewed allegations that the Newhall developer had intentionally and illegally destroyed San Fernando Valley Spineflowers to facilitate development. The criminal charges have been dropped, but the investigation produced substantial evidence that the developer violated several environmental laws and fundamentally tainted the environmental review process.

On behalf of Sierra Club, Friends of the Santa Clara River, and Santa Clarita Organization for Planning the Environment, EDC prevailed in a previous challenge to the Newhall Ranch project. The current round of review is supposed to address the defects that the court found in the initial approval process. In addition to the unlawful San Fernando Valley Spineflower destruction, several other issues have not been adequately addressed. For example, evidence indicates that the developer has understated the contamination from existing oil development on the Newhall site, failed to address the project’s contribution to chloride levels in the Santa Clara River, and inadequately evaluated threats to fish and river habitat. The water supply for the project remains questionable with growing demands and supply cutbacks. EDC intends to address all of these issues before the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and, if necessary, through additional litigation.
ABOUT EDC
The Environmental Defense Center is the only environmental, public interest law firm on California’s Central Coast. EDC works with community groups on such environmental issues as protecting water quality, preserving precious open spaces, fighting offshore oil, saving species from extinction and guarding public health. EDC provides legal, educational and advocacy support to grassroots efforts.

EDC complements the efforts of local community and environmental groups to protect our environment and quality of life by offering a service that no other organization between Los Angeles and San Francisco does: the expertise of trained staff in understanding and navigating the system of laws that are in place to protect our health and environment.

In doing so, EDC levels the playing field for citizens, giving them a voice in determining the future of their communities. EDC balances the scales of justice by providing the tools that community groups need to navigate government bureaucracies and succeed against powerful, well-funded interests.

EDC is proud to welcome back two former EDC staff members in new roles as officers on EDC’s Board: President J. Marc McGinnes and Vice President Alana Walczak.

EDC also works with other groups to protect our unique habitats and precious watersheds such as the Santa Ynez River, Mission Creek, Ventura River and Santa Clara River. These watersheds are critical to preserving our region’s ecology, water quality, and fisheries.

Finally, EDC is in the forefront of regional efforts to work with farmworkers, farmers, public officials, schools and health care providers to provide education about the dangers of pesticides, reduce reliance on toxic chemicals, and protect farmworkers and the public from the health hazards associated with exposure to pesticides and other toxins.

If you support any of these efforts, please let us know. Your help is especially critical during these challenging economic times. Now more than ever, we recognize that we cannot sustain our efforts without the support of the community. Please join us in the launch of our 2003 membership campaign. Consider a gift that reflects your interest in these issues and allows EDC to continue its service to the community.

Thank you for your support and your commitment to environmental protection.

New Faces at EDC

EDC welcomes new Office Manager Rebecca Zinger to our staff. Rebecca just moved to Santa Barbara from Oregon, where she earned a B.S. from Portland State University and worked on national forest issues.

EDC would also like to announce that Katie Donovan has assumed the role of Development Director for EDC. Former Assistant Director Barbara Bannerman-Olitzky is now working part-time as a Development Analyst to allow her to spend time with her new baby.

EDC is proud to welcome back two former EDC staff members in new roles as officers on EDC’s Board: President Victoria Clark and Vice President Alana Walczak.

From the Desk of Linda Krop

As we face the upcoming issues and challenges of 2003, there is a sense of urgency in the air. The war on Iraq and other worldwide troubles weigh on us heavily, and inspire us to reevaluate our values and priorities. We at the EDC wish for peace. As we focus on such international matters, we also must remain vigilant at home to prevent erosion of the things that mean the most to us, including safeguards for our environment, liberties and communities. At the national level, our President proposes to weaken the basic framework of important environmental laws such as the National Environmental Policy Act, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, and Coastal Zone Management Act, using the national focus on war to divert the nation’s attention from these environmental catastrophes. In times like these, public interest law firms such as the Environmental Defense Center are critical to ensure proper enforcement of environmental laws on behalf of local and regional groups.

Despite persistent state and local opposition, the federal government continues to fight for the interests of the oil industry. EDC continues to lead the effort to block development of 36 federal oil leases off the coasts of Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo Counties, and represents eight environmental organizations in a victorious, precedent-setting case on this issue.

In our role as legal advocate for the community, we partner with other environmental organizations to save important open spaces such as the Ahmanson and Newhall Ranches, Hearst Ranch, Ellwood Shores, San Marcos Foothills, and Naples.

EDC is also a leader in the protection of our regional biodiversity. EDC is the only local organization working to enforce the Endangered Species Act to protect species and their habitats from destruction. EDC also works with other groups to protect our unique habitats and precious watersheds such as the Santa Ynez River, Mission Creek, Ventura River and Santa Clara River. These watersheds are critical to preserving our region’s ecology, water quality, and fisheries.

If you support any of these efforts, please let us know. Your help is especially critical during these challenging economic times. Now more than ever, we recognize that we cannot sustain our efforts without the support of the community. Please join us in the launch of our 2003 membership campaign. Consider a gift that reflects your interest in these issues and allows EDC to continue its service to the community.

Thank you for your support and your commitment to environmental protection.
EDC Wins Case Challenging Weak Stormwater Runoff Rule

In a tremendous victory for water quality, the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in January rejected a weak rule adopted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1999 to address pollution from stormwater runoff. EDC and former EDC Attorney Victoria Clark challenged the rule on behalf of several environmental groups on the grounds that it allowed water dischargers to determine for themselves whether they will meet federal clean water standards, instead of submitting to a complete agency and public review process.

The Court ruled that discharges from municipal storm sewer systems and construction sites must not be permitted until the public is notified and allowed to comment on the proposed discharge. The Court acknowledged the important role played by the public review and hearing process in enforcing federal clean water laws. This ruling requires EPA to revise its 1999 rule to provide for public notice, comment, and hearings before stormwater permits are issued.

EDC Leads Effort to Oppose State Rigs to Reefs Legislation

EDC is spearheading statewide efforts to prevent introduction of yet another rigs-to-reefs bill in California, which would allow oil companies to abandon their platforms in the ocean when production ceases. An earlier bill was ultimately vetoed by Governor Davis in October 2001 after intense community opposition and several studies revealed the flaws of the concepts espoused by the bill.

A rigs-to-reefs program would result in the littering of California’s coastal waters with abandoned platforms and accompanying pollution and navigational hazards, leaving the public to deal with the rigs in perpetuity. The University of California Marine Science Council concluded that there is no scientific evidence that abandoned platforms enhance fish stock; in fact, some scientists warn that artificial reefs can detrimentally affect fisheries by attracting fish away from more productive natural reefs. Furthermore, the platforms and surrounding debris contain high levels of toxic substances that would leach into the environment. EDC will continue to monitor this issue and demand that oil companies be held to their commitments and not be allowed to use the ocean as an industrial dumping ground.

Gaviota Gas Drilling Project Abandoned

In 1996, on behalf of a coalition of environmental groups, EDC negotiated additional measures to reduce impacts from a proposed sweet gas drilling project next to the Chevron Gaviota processing facility. One term imposed upon the project was a strict timetable to avoid prolonged degradation of the coast. Because the proponents of the project, Molino/Benton, missed their December 2002 deadline to commence drilling, the project site will be abandoned and cleaned up. In addition, the leases offshore associated with this project will be given back to the State and the area will be forever protected from oil or gas development as part of the state’s coastal sanctuary.

Davis Signs Coastal Commission Bill

In February, Governor Davis signed AB 1XX, the legislation authored by Assemblymember Hannah-Beth Jackson to remedy the current threat to the continued functionality of the California Coastal Commission. The Santa Barbara News-Press published a letter from EDC supporting Jackson’s bill, which provides an easy fix to a problem that has compromised the effectiveness of the Coastal Commission. The bill establishes fixed terms for Commissioners, putting an end to the practice by some appointors of removing their appointees if they disapprove of their votes. Jackson’s bill also maintains the balanced nature of the Coastal Commission by not giving a majority to any one appointing authority.
Naples Developer Agrees to One Environmental Analysis

EDC represented the Naples Coalition in reviewing proposed development at Naples, one of the largest and most threatened open spaces on the Gaviota Coast. On behalf of the Coalition, EDC objected to the separated, piecemeal review of the coastal and inland portions of the proposed development as allowed by the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the County of Santa Barbara and the developer. In response to these concerns, the developer agreed to prepare one environmental impact report for the entire project, which will ensure that all impacts of the proposed development be analyzed comprehensively and that alternatives for the entire project be considered.

Pacific Vehicle Processing Project Abandoned

In response to EDC’s action, the City of Oxnard recently determined that a full environmental impact report (EIR) would be required for the Pacific Vehicle Processing plant, a 39-acre parking lot and other industrial facilities, proposed near the Ormond Beach wetlands. Rather than prepare an EIR, the applicant has withdrawn the project. With development of the site averted for the immediate future, environmental and community groups, including the Saviers Road Design Team, Earth Alert, Sierra Club, Beacon Foundation, and Ventura CoastKeeper, are now attempting to secure permanent protection for the site and the adjoining wetlands.

Alamo Pintado Creek Resources Saved from Development

In February, a developer withdrew his plans for a large winery and processing facility near Solvang and Mission Santa Ines after the County voted to require an environmental impact report (EIR) for the project. EDC, on behalf of Save the Sunny Fields, Inc., objected to the project stating that it would harm endangered species in Alamo Pintado Creek and destroy the area’s rural ambience and historic landmark status. Although the County did not originally require an EIR, after considering the evidence submitted by EDC, neighbors and historians, the County determined an EIR necessary to ensure the area is protected. The developer subsequently dropped his plans for the winery.

Trust for Public Land Launches Ellwood Preservation Campaign

For the first time since development was proposed, the community has an opportunity to protect the entire Ellwood Mesa in Goleta. Although the most sensitive resources at Ellwood are permanently protected as a result of an EDC lawsuit, the previous owners of the Mesa were not “willing sellers” and persisted in their efforts to develop the rest of the blufftop property. Thanks to the new owners’ interest in swapping development from the Ellwood Mesa to the adjacent, less sensitive Santa Barbara Shores property, and the launch of a multi-million community fundraising campaign, the Ellwood Mesa could be saved. The $6 million dollar goal must be met by June 30, 2003 and is critical to TPL’s total $20.4 million fundraising goal. To make a donation, send a check payable to TPL to: Campaign to Save Ellwood Mesa, P.O. Box 1244, Goleta, CA 93116. For more information, visit www.tpl.org/ellwoodmesa.

California Wild Heritage Campaign

The California Wild Heritage Campaign urgently needs the support of two legislators to help the passage of wilderness and wild river protection for our region and other areas throughout California. This campaign already has the support of Congresswoman Capps and Senator Boxer.

Please write to Senator Dianne Feinstein and Congressman Elton Gallegly to ask them to co-sponsor the California Wild Heritage Act.

Senator Dianne Feinstein  
11111 Santa Monica Blvd., #915  
Los Angeles, CA  90025

Congressman Elton Gallegly  
300 Esplanade Dr., #1800  
Oxnard, CA  93030

Contact Erin Duffy at the California Wild Heritage Campaign for more information: (805) 564-2460; calwild_sb@yahoo.com.

California Wild Heritage Campaign

The California Wild Heritage Campaign urgently needs the support of two legislators to help the passage of wilderness and wild river protection for our region and other areas throughout California. This campaign already has the support of Congresswoman Capps and Senator Boxer.

Please write to Senator Dianne Feinstein and Congressman Elton Gallegly to ask them to co-sponsor the California Wild Heritage Act.

 Senator Dianne Feinstein  
11111 Santa Monica Blvd., #915  
Los Angeles, CA  90025

Congressman Elton Gallegly  
300 Esplanade Dr., #1800  
Oxnard, CA  93030

Contact Erin Duffy at the California Wild Heritage Campaign for more information: (805) 564-2460; calwild_sb@yahoo.com.

California Wild Heritage Campaign

The California Wild Heritage Campaign urgently needs the support of two legislators to help the passage of wilderness and wild river protection for our region and other areas throughout California. This campaign already has the support of Congresswoman Capps and Senator Boxer.

Please write to Senator Dianne Feinstein and Congressman Elton Gallegly to ask them to co-sponsor the California Wild Heritage Act.

 Senator Dianne Feinstein  
11111 Santa Monica Blvd., #915  
Los Angeles, CA  90025

Congressman Elton Gallegly  
300 Esplanade Dr., #1800  
Oxnard, CA  93030

Contact Erin Duffy at the California Wild Heritage Campaign for more information: (805) 564-2460; calwild_sb@yahoo.com.
Protecting San Simeon From Hearst Development

EDC represents Friends of the RanchLand (Friends) in continued efforts to protect the spectacular gateway to the Big Sur Coast near San Simeon. In 1998, EDC successfully convinced the California Coastal Commission to deny Hearst Ranch's proposal to construct four massive resorts in this area. EDC also convinced the Commission to require the County of San Luis Obispo to update its coastal policies to protect the scenic communities of Cambria and San Simeon. Because the County continues to resist the recommendations of the Commission, EDC and Friends asked the Commission at its March hearing in San Luis Obispo to seek legislative action. EDC and Friends will also submit a list of recommendations to Hearst and the American Land Conservancy in response to Hearst's new proposal to develop a hotel, accessory facilities, and up to 27 homes on the Ranch.

EDC Seeks Critical Habitat for Tiger Salamander

EDC and the Center for Biological Diversity filed a lawsuit in February against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for failing to designate critical habitat for the endangered Santa Barbara County California Tiger Salamander. Despite evidence that designating critical habitat would greatly enhance recovery efforts, the FWS has failed to take action, in violation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

When the Salamander was listed as endangered in September 2000, FWS identified direct loss of habitat and widespread conversion of land to agricultural and residential uses as the primary causes of the decline of the salamander. Critical habitat designation does not establish a land preserve, but it does identify the habitat areas of greatest concern and requires federal agencies to consult with FWS before undertaking or authorizing activities that may impact the habitat.

Efforts to Preserve San Marcos Foothills Accelerate

The San Marcos Foothills is one of the most ecologically valuable areas threatened with development in Santa Barbara County. It boasts several creeks, oak woodlands and extensive native grasslands, a habitat so rare it has been reduced by 99% in California. Under the recently unveiled development plan for the site, fifteen mansions up to 9,000 square feet in size and five affordable homes would be built on the ridge tops of this highly scenic 377-acre natural open space. EDC, representing Small Wilderness Area Preserves (SWAP), and the San Marcos Foothills Coalition seek to preserve all or as much as possible of this site and its natural heritage. A Draft EIR will be released this summer. To get involved, call the County at (805) 568-2000 to be added to the project mailing list and call EDC at (805) 963-1622.

Opposition to Goleta Beach Seawall Mounts

In 2000, after the County installed a rock seawall at Goleta Beach, EDC successfully lobbied for its removal. In December 2002, the County installed another ‘emergency’ seawall at Goleta Beach. Seawalls erode sandy beaches, impair public access, mar views and displace rare species. In response, EDC helped forge The Coalition to Save Goleta's Beaches, which also includes Sierra Club, Audubon Society, ChannelKeeper, Surfrider, UCSB’s Environmental Affairs Board, Urban Creeks Council, citizens and scientific experts. In February, the Board of Supervisors voted to not pursue an additional 1,000 feet of seawall, but did authorize staff to seek approvals to leave the 600-foot seawall in place for up to two years while a stakeholder process and an environmental analysis determine the appropriate long-term plan. The Coalition will continue to advocate for a long-term solution that balances human use and natural resources at Goleta Beach.
Environmental Health Project Update

The Central Coast Environmental Health Project (CCEHP) is now in its fourth year of providing information to Central Coast communities about health risks posed by exposure to pesticides. With our partner, the Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo (ECOSLO), CCEHP has been able to work with a diverse array of stakeholders to raise awareness about this important issue.

The Need

In 2001, the latest year for which data is available, over 11 million pounds of pesticides were applied in agricultural settings in Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo Counties. Some of the top pesticides used in all counties included the most toxic - methyl bromide (1,969,620 lbs.), chloropicrin (1,534,399 lbs.), and metam sodium (974,532 lbs.).

These three pesticides are all classified as fumigants, and are injected into the soil to sterilize it prior to the planting of crops. Problems can arise when these gaseous pesticides, which can cause cancer, reproductive harm and respiratory problems, rise from the soil and drift over adjacent schools, neighborhoods, or even farmworkers working in nearby fields.

Couple the use of these agricultural chemicals with the hundreds of thousands of pounds of pesticides used in homes every year, and the result is a community that is literally poisoning itself.

A Success Story

After learning that a pesticide, chloropicrin, had drifted over a Santa Maria community, Project Director Eric Cárdenas conducted an informal door-to-door survey of the area. A majority of the residents interviewed reported symptoms consistent with those of pesticide exposure. Among these residents was a nurse who suspected her symptoms were related to the application of chloropicrin on a neighboring field.

Although unfortunate, this drift incident resulted in a great opportunity to educate the health care community in Santa Maria about pesticide-related illnesses. CCEHP was invited to conduct a medical presentation about pesticides to local health care providers. More importantly, local regulations governing the use of chloropicrin were modified in an attempt to prevent similar drift incidents.

To find out more about CCEHP, contact Eric Cárdenas at (805) 963-1622, or visit CCEHP’s new web site at www.ccehp.org.

Media Campaign Reaches Out to Farmworkers

With generous support from the California Endowment, the Wellness Foundation, and the Santa Barbara Foundation, CCEHP has begun a media campaign and is now airing television and radio commercials on Univision (Channel 18) and Radio Lazer (94.1 FM). These stations were chosen based on their popularity among the Spanish-speaking community.

These commercials will allow us to reach a larger audience, increasing CCEHP’s visibility in the many neighborhoods located at the ‘agricultural/urban interface.’ Commercials will air in Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo Counties through April.

Our media campaign is part of a larger effort to educate farmworkers and their families about pesticide related issues through a series of bilingual presentations, classes, and roundtable discussions.

Action Alert

At the request of EDC and others, the City of Santa Barbara will soon be considering the implementation of an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program to reduce pesticide use on city properties. Please contact City Council members and ask them to immediately take steps to reduce pesticide use.

Marty Blum, Mayor:  mblum@ci.santa-barbara.ca.us;  (805) 564-5321
Harold P. Fairly, Council Member:  hfairly@ci.santa-barbara.ca.us;  (805) 564-5324
Dan B. Secord, M.D., Council Member:  dsecord@ci.santa-barbara.ca.us;  (805) 564-5319
Gregg A. Hart, Council Member:  ghart@ci.santa-barbara.ca.us;  (805) 564-5323
Iya G. Falcone, Council Member:  ifalcone@ci.santa-barbara.ca.us;  (805) 564-5322
Babatunde Folayemi, Council Member:  bfolayemi@ci.santa-barbara.ca.us;  (805) 564-5325
Roger L. Horton, Council Member:  rhorton@ci.santa-barbara.ca.us;  (805) 564-5320
Jim Armstrong, City Administrator:  jarmstrong@ci.santa-barbara.ca.us;  (805) 963-0611
Mailing Address:  City Council, PO Box 1990, Santa Barbara, CA 93102-1990
Become a Member of EDC

Annual membership contributions provide the Environmental Defense Center with the steady, reliable funding we need to stay on top of issues and allow us to do whatever we can to protect our quality of life on the Central Coast. By supporting EDC, you are also supporting all of the community groups EDC represents. YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!

Being a member of EDC means:

• Supporting a local organization with a unique role and proven track record in protecting local resources
• Putting your dollars to work in your own community
• Staying informed on issues that affect your environment
• Learning about the actions you can take to help protect our Central Coast

Your support allows EDC to:

• Be an agency watchdog
• Provide the "last line of defense" in protecting our environment
• Guide local groups through the legal process and advocate on their behalf
• Give citizens a voice in determining the future of their communities
• Level the playing field by allowing citizens to challenge well-funded, powerful interests and make them play by the rules
• Provide much-needed education about pesticides and other issues

Your annual membership donation ensures that you receive:

• EDC’s newsletter
• Invitations to special events
• Email Action Alerts

To help monitor our costs, these benefits will only be offered to those who give an annual donation of $35 or more. Event contributions will not be applied toward your membership dues.

Support EDC the Easy Way

Your annual support of EDC and its programs can be convenient, easy, safe, and hassle-free. You can ensure a record of continuous support for the Central Coast we love. No more letters! Save mailing costs and trees.

It works like this: You complete a simple form to authorize EDC to instruct your bank or savings institution to make monthly gift payments of $10.00 or more from the account you indicate. Within two months, you will begin to see the deducted amount on your account statement (deducted the first week of each month). The deduction will continue until you choose to cancel or change the amount of your monthly gift.

Each January you will receive a gift receipt from EDC showing the amount you’ve given during the previous calendar year. Save that receipt for tax documentation.

It’s that simple!

If interested, please print the authorization form on our website or call EDC at (805) 963-1622 to have a copy mailed to you, complete it, and mail it along with a voided check to:

Gift Processing, Environmental Defense Center, 906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

EDC would like to acknowledge the donations we received in memory of Don Dodd

Congratulations on your marriage:

Pedro Nava & Susan Jordan
Timonie Hood & John Canfield
Tracy Abrams & Jonathan Rosen

Thank you for thinking of EDC at this special time and designating us as a recipient of wedding donations. The Board and Staff of EDC wish you all the best.
Help Plan EDC’s Auction

EDC’s 10th Annual Benefit Auction and 2003 Environmental Hero Awards will be held on Sunday, June 8th at Nu Restaurant in Santa Barbara. We need your help to ensure this event is fun and successful!

At the event, EDC will present the second annual Environmental Hero Awards to recognize local leaders who help build a healthy and sustainable future for our communities. Proceeds from the event will directly support EDC’s work to protect our Central Coast environment.

Please consider joining our Auction Committee. Contact Katie Donovan at (805) 963-1622 or kdonovan@edcnet.org if you are interested in participating, or if you would like to sponsor the event, place an ad in the program, or donate an auction item.

This year’s recipients are:
- Advocate: Keith Zandona
- Corporate: Sanford Winery & Vineyards
- Stewardship: David H. & Lyn Anderson
- Public Leader: Hannah-Beth Jackson
- Life Time Achievement: Olga Howard

TGIF (Thank Goodness It’s Friday)

EDC’s TGIFs are casual happy hour events that bring the community together to celebrate our common mission of environmental protection. Everyone is welcome to attend and all proceeds benefit EDC’s ongoing programs.

In Santa Barbara, join us in our courtyard at 906 Garden Street in Santa Barbara from 5:30-7:30 pm for drinks, hors d’oeuvres, live music and good company. EDC will host four TGIFs in Santa Barbara this year. Mark your calendars:
- May 2
- July 11
- August 1
- October 3 (Fall Feast)

EDC will also host a TGIF (Thank Goodness It’s FARMING) event in Ventura on Saturday, May 17, from 2-5 PM at the Churchill Orchard in Ojai (4101 Grand Ave.). Join us for a family-friendly event to benefit EDC’s activities in Ventura County.

Please spread the word, and contact Katie Donovan at (805) 963-1622 ext. 100 if you are interested in sponsoring or volunteering for a TGIF.