

ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE CENTER

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Colossal Carpinteria Oil Proposal Threatens Beaches, Views, Wildlife

Thirty years ago, in the aftermath of the infamous 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill, community leaders created the Environmental Defense Center. Their intentions were to prevent future environmental disasters, and to help the public effectively use and enforce the many environmental laws that were adopted after the spill. Today, the potential for an oil spill remains one of the most significant threats to our unique coastline. Despite EDC's many successful efforts to limit oil development on and off our coast – including litigation preventing the renewal of 36 federal leases, and the passage of the California Coastal Sanctuary Act in 1994, which banned new leasing in state waters – today our coastal community is the target of several new development proposals.

EDC recently submitted comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Venoco's proposed Paredon Project in Carpinteria. This project is especially egregious because it would require construction of a new 175-foot tall drilling rig next to City Hall, Carpinteria Bluffs, a seal sanctuary, coastal beaches and trails, and residential neighborhoods. The Draft EIR identified 11 "Class I" (significant and unavoidable) impacts relating to the risk of hazardous releases, oil spills, views, recreation and land use. In order to permit the project, the City would have to not only override all these impacts, but also modify its zoning ordinance to allow this type of coastal development.

EDC represents the Carpinteria Valley Association, Sierra Club and Get Oil Out! in this case. Our efforts are focused on ensuring an evaluation of all of the significant threats posed by the project, as well as supporting clean alternatives that can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and global warming.

Further to the north, EDC represents several groups that are concerned about expanded oil development from Platform Holly (located offshore UCSB) and Platform Irene (located offshore Point Arguello, near Vandenberg Air Force Base).



Finally, we are working to ensure that other existing oil operations are as safe and environmentally sound as possible. On September 13, we will represent GOO!, Sierra Club, Citizens Planning Association and Citizens for Goleta Valley in asking the California State Lands Commission to order Venoco to stop barging oil from the Ellwood Marine Terminal, which is located next to UCSB's Coal Oil Point Ecological Reserve. Venoco is the only producer in the state that refuses to transport its oil by pipeline and instead ships its oil on single-hulled barges. Pipelines result in greatly reduced risks of oil spills, and lessen air and water pollution.

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

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

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Nathan Alley *Staff Attorney*
Gloria Campa *Accounting Manager*
Eric Cárdenas *CCEHP Program Director*
Vickie Hormuth *Development Associate*
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From the Desk of David Landecker

I first came to Santa Barbara as a law clerk in the summer of 1976. Every day, I'd walk past a small sign outside Marc McGinnes' law office on Santa Barbara Street that read: "Environmental Law Center."

In those days, Santa Barbara was absorbed with oil development, liquefied natural gas at Point Conception, nuclear power at Diablo Canyon, a new missile base at Vandenberg and a new concept called "growth control." The environmental movement was young, and the laws it was fostering to protect air, water, endangered species and open spaces were untested. The following year, Marc and a brave group of supporters officially opened the Environmental Defense Center.

Thirty years later, EDC is still considered among the finest public-interest law firms in the nation and remains the only non-profit environmental law firm between Los Angeles and San Francisco. EDC has represented more than 75 community groups in hundreds of cases, using the law to effectively protect our communities. Although the issues have become more complex and the opponents more sophisticated, EDC still fights similar battles to those that led to its founding.

This year, EDC defeated a Liquefied Natural Gas plant in Oxnard just as we did at Point Conception thirty years ago. We continue to challenge new proposals which would expand oil development and degrade ocean resources and air quality. Preserving open spaces like the Gaviota Coast from development remains a major part of our docket. Protecting wildlife from extinction is as important now as then. Our Environmental Health Project is a new way we work to protect humans from the effects of environmental contaminants.

Your support allows EDC to advise and represent community-based organizations that usually cannot pay the entire cost. Laws that give citizens rights to protect the ocean, creeks, air and open space are of little or no value without lawyers and community advocates who understand and can effectively use them. That has been EDC's role for the last 30 years.

YOU CAN TRUST SOMEONE OVER 30! TRUST EDC!

Special Announcements

EDC is pleased to announce the hiring of **David Landecker** as our new Executive Director. He is a graduate of Georgetown University Law Center and has been active in environmental law and policy for more than thirty years, including service on EDC's Board of Directors in the 1990s. David also served as the Executive Director of the Santa Barbara Neighborhood Clinics for four years and as a boardmember of many local groups. Our staff and board members are excited to have the benefit of his experience and years of commitment to environmental causes available to EDC and our clients.

David is replacing former Executive Director **Cameron Benson**, who has taken a job as the City of Santa Barbara's Creeks Restoration and Water Quality Manager. We would like to thank Cameron for his tremendous dedication and hard work as EDC Executive Director. We miss you Cameron!

EDC would also like to welcome our three new board members: **Bruce Anticouni, Kevin Contreras and Sharyn Main**. We are honored to have these three individuals on board and look forward to their commitment to EDC and to our local environment.



From left to right:
Bruce Anticouni
Kevin Contreras
Sharyn Main

Contact us at:
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DEFENSE CENTER**

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Finally, we would like to thank **Elise Arthurs** for her commitment to EDC, having served on our board for two years, one of which she served as Secretary. Elise has left EDC and is relocating to Seattle, Washington. We wish her luck in her future endeavors.

Cabrillo Port LNG Proposal Sunk – Multinational Corporation BHP Billiton Sent Packing

EDC scored a tremendous victory this spring by defeating BHP Billiton's proposal to build the Cabrillo Port Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) project off the coast of Ventura County. On behalf of the California Coastal Protection Network, EDC engaged several experts and submitted extensive evidence showing that the project would violate clean air standards, threaten harm to whales and other marine wildlife, generate up to 25 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions per year and expose the public to serious safety risks.

Based in large part on our reports and testimony, the State Lands Commission and California Coastal Commission both rejected the project in April, citing a lack of need for the project, and raising concerns about impacts to air quality, marine mammals and global warming. These actions effectively stopped the project, and were followed by denials from the Governor and U.S. Maritime Administration.

Despite these denials, another company, NorthernStar, has plans to construct an LNG terminal on Platform Grace, which is located off the coast of Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. Environmental and permitting review could start soon.

Sanctuary Advisory Council Unanimously Adopts EDC Aquaculture Report

On July 20, the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council unanimously endorsed EDC's report and recommendations regarding open ocean aquaculture, or fish farms. Ocean aquaculture is a concern because these projects can spread pollution and disease, introduce non-native species, harm marine wildlife due to entanglements and noise exposure, and require significant amounts of fishmeal and fish oil. Our recommendations seek to avoid or minimize



Pacific sardines (*Sardinops sagax*) in the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. ©2007 Jaimi Kercher (www.jkercherphoto.com).

threats to Sanctuary resources and water quality. To view the report, go to <http://edcnet.org/ProgramsPages/pressrelease.html>.

In a related matter, EDC successfully advocated for the expansion of marine reserves, or "no take" areas, into federal waters around the Channel Islands. The federal reserves went into effect on July 29, 2007.



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Photo: Sean Lieberman

Ensuring a Sensible Future for Goleta Beach

EDC has been working with the Surfrider Foundation to ensure an environmentally sound solution to erosion problems at Goleta Beach. Over the years, the County of Santa Barbara Parks Department has placed rocks on the beach in an attempt to protect lawn areas from erosion. However, such hard structures can interfere with beach access, harm coastal biology and actually exacerbate erosion of the coast. For these reasons, the Coastal Commission encourages alternative erosion control methods. EDC and Surfrider are working with experts to develop a solution that protects the coastline's natural resources and maintains the public park.

Saving Santa Barbara County's Coastal Gem: Update on Naples and Gaviota



Photo: Phil McKenna.
Naples coastline.

The Gaviota Coast has been a focus of EDC's efforts since the early 1990s. Gaviota is recognized on a regional, state and federal level for its significant natural, scenic and cultural values. Located between the mountains and the sea, this area boasts the highest level of biodiversity in the continental United States.

EDC represents the Surfrider Foundation in response to the largest proposed development project along the Gaviota Coast – the Santa Barbara Ranch Project, located at Naples. Through the enforcement of the Coastal Act and other environmental protection laws, EDC and Surfrider are working to ensure that development is properly sited to avoid sensitive areas, including coastal habitats, creeks and viewsheds. We are also working to enforce a County policy requiring the transfer of development rights (TDR) from Naples to an existing urban area, if feasible. Through our efforts, we hope to minimize development at Naples and preserve the rural, scenic character of the region.

Steelhead: Breaking the Barrier to Recovery

Just as the spotted owl indicates the health of the forest, so the steelhead indicates the health of our coastal watersheds. Historically, steelhead thrived in this area, and migrated freely between the ocean and upstream spawning habitat. Unfortunately, southern steelhead numbers have declined by more than 99%, and only a handful of fish are found in the area today. This decline is due to many factors, including the construction of dams and other barriers on our rivers and creeks, diversion of water for urban and agricultural uses, and loss of riparian habitat.

The southern steelhead is listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and a lot must be done to bring this species back from the brink of extinction. EDC is working on several efforts to restore steelhead in our area. On behalf of CalTrout and EDC, we are advocating for (1) restoration of historic steelhead spawning grounds; (2) completion of a recovery plan that will ensure the future viability of the species; (3) reinstatement of water flows and fish passage along the Santa Ynez River; and (4) restoration of Lower Mission Creek as a steelhead migratory corridor. EDC recently received a large grant from the Annenberg Foundation that will be matched with funds from the City of Santa Barbara to help prepare restoration plans for Mission Creek.



Photo: John Southwick.

Steelhead Facts (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)

- Steelhead migrate from the ocean to fresh-water during winter or spring to spawn.
- Most southern steelhead spend 1 or 2 years at sea before returning – often to their natal stream – to spawn, usually spawning at the age of 3 or 4.
- Unlike all other salmonids, steelhead can spawn more than once in their lifetime.
- These fish can reach 36" in length and weigh up to 25 pounds.
- Surviving populations of southern California steelhead are found in coastal creeks and rivers in Santa Barbara, Ventura and Los Angeles Counties, and as far south as Baja.
- Southern California steelhead were listed as a federally endangered species in 1997.

Envisioning a Healthy Food Future

Imagine the year 2030, a year in which California's agricultural industry has become a model for environmental responsibility, economic profitability, and social equity. This, in short, is the vision of the Roots of Change (ROC).

CCEHP director Eric Cárdenas was recently selected as one of 27 Fellows from across California to assist ROC in implementing this vision. Fellows were selected based on their experience working with diverse stakeholders, background in issues related to agriculture, and a shared desire for a food system that adequately represents California's geographical, cultural and political landscape.

Fellows spent nine days critically analyzing the current food system, reviewing proposals set forth in *The New Mainstream* (ROC's guiding document), and developing unique projects and ideas that could lead to a sustainable agricultural industry in California. While the fruits of this process have yet to be realized, firm relationships have developed between farmers, inner city youth advocates, labor leaders, environmentalists, and health professionals as we begin to create a new food future for California and the rest of the nation.

CCEHP will continue to participate in this process. With your support, the impacts of our efforts could be tremendous.

To find out more, visit ROC's website at www.rocfund.org, or call CCEHP at (805) 963-1622.



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Roots of Change fellows winding down with a sunset dinner on the farm.



Soaking up the sun in Winters, CA, site of the first two Roots of Change gatherings.

Ag Futures Alliance – An Idea Whose Time Has Come

In 2000, EDC and the Ventura County Farm Bureau joined together to elevate the level of dialogue between farmers, environmentalists, health and labor advocates, and others interested in protecting agricultural land. Since that time, the Ventura Ag Futures Alliance (AFA) has addressed issues of pesticide use near schools, stewardship, land use, farmworker health and housing.

While Ventura's great success has led to the formation of AFAs in communities around the state, Santa Barbara County is not among them.

But there is hope. After speaking for months with members of the agricultural community, the time is ripe to consider the formation of a Santa Barbara Ag Futures Alliance. The next few months will help us determine whether or not this type of collaborative process will be possible.

Visit www.agfuturesalliance.net or call us at (805) 963-1622 to learn more.

CCEHP gratefully acknowledges our current funders: The California Endowment, The Fund for Santa Barbara, The James S. Bower Foundation, The Lawson-Valentine Foundation, and The McCune Foundation.

Halaco Toxic Slag Heap to be Considered for Superfund Status

In 2001, EDC and Lawyers for Clean Water filed a lawsuit on behalf of EDC and Santa Barbara Channelkeeper against Halaco, based on the company's illegal discharges of toxic air and water pollution from its smelting facility next to Ormond Beach in Oxnard. Halaco filed bankruptcy in 2002, thereby interfering with our ability to enforce the law and clean up the site. Fortunately, in early 2006, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency began investigating the site. In May 2007, EDC submitted comments in support of EPA's proposal to include Halaco on the Superfund "National Priorities List." Adding Halaco to the NPL would expedite remediation at the site, as well as future protections for environmental and public health.



Environmental Heroes Fran Pavley and Yvon Chouinard with EDC's former Executive Director Cameron Benson and Linda Krop, EDC's Chief Counsel.

Thank You for Making this Year's Auction Our Most Successful Ever!

EDC would like to thank everyone who helped to make our 30th Anniversary Benefit Auction & Environmental Hero Awards the most successful fundraising event **EVER!**

We are grateful to all of our wonderful volunteers, donors, event sponsors and underwriters, staff, Board of Directors, Advisory Board, and all those who attended this special event to honor our 2007 Environmental Heroes: Yvon Chouinard and Fran Pavley.

The proceeds from this event will help us continue our work to protect our local environment.

Thank you!

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The Upham Hotel & Country House
Tiffany Story Dogwalking & Pet Sitting
Tina Mavaro
UCSB Arts & Lectures
Village Cheese & Wine
Wency's Dog & Puppy Training
Western Alliance for Nature
Whitney Abbott

THANKS TO OUR MUSICAL GUEST

Marilyn Avenali

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR BENEFIT AUCTION VOLUNTEERS, WITHOUT WHOM THIS EVENT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE

Nathan Alley
Gloria Campa
Rene Carbajal
Marti Fallon
Lee Heller
Karen Kraus
Linda Krop
Renee Lafrenz
Jill Martin
Christina Mavaro
Michael Mayer
Christina McGinnis
Mike McGinnis
Hannah Muller
Emily Peterman
Adele Peters
Shiva Polefka
Brian Trautwein
Betsy Weber
Celia Williams

Dine Out 2007 a Success!

Thanks to all of the restaurants who participated in this year's Dine Out for the Earth:

Aldo's Restaurant	Nu Restaurant	Spiritland Bistro
Zaffiro	Fresco at the Beach	Bouchon
Elements	Sage and Onion	Sojourner Café
Fresco Café	Zookers	

On April 19, these restaurants showed their commitment to a clean planet by donating a portion of the day's proceeds to EDC.

Circle of Friends: A Night of Music

EDC would like to extend a special thank you to Andrew Jackson for putting on *Circle of Friends: A Night of Music*. This is the second year that Andrew has graciously organized the concert to raise funds for EDC's work in the community. On Sunday, July 29, music fans, supporters and friends circled up as more than 15 local musicians took the stage to support EDC. We would like to extend our gratitude to SoHo for donating the space and to all the musicians whose talent made the evening a success: *John Batdorf, Jeri Brown, Adam Miller, Mark Rodney, James Lee Stanley, Lily Wilson, Mark Brown, Goh Kurosawa, James Hurley, Karen Thurber, Robert Brown, Linda Dam, Bruce Goldish, David Cowan, Andrew Jackson, John Ornelas, Brian Jacobs, Art Emer, and Robert Postel*. We would also like to thank Jensen Music, J.R. Baggs, Ojai Vineyard, and Karen Thurber for donating items to our raffle.



Adam Miller, Brian Jacobs and Andrew Jackson perform at *Circle of Friends*. Photo by David Cowan.



Thank You Aldo's Restaurant!

We would like to extend sincere thanks to Mark Sherman and the rest of the Aldo's team for offering '10% Tuesdays' to EDC again this year. Aldo's donated 10% of each Tuesday's gross sales to EDC during the month of August.

Thanks to Everyone For Making EDC's 2007 TGIF Season a Huge Success!

EDC's monthly TGIF gatherings continue to be a hit; this season's events have brought in the highest attendance of any year! We trust that you are having as much fun as we are. We would like to thank all of the sponsors, food and beverage donors, musicians, and countless volunteers (too numerous to name here!) for contributing to the success of our 2007 TGIF Season.

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 Sojourner Café
 State & A
 Palace Grill
 Something's Fishy
 Our Daily Bread
 New Belgium Brewing Company
 Vintage Logistics
 Big Easy Catering Company

MUSIC

Andrew Jackson and Friends
 Claude Hopper
 Lily Wilson
 Bruce Goldish
 Earl and Friends

EDC would also like to thank the numerous individuals and businesses who have donated items to our raffles, making them incredibly successful.

We encourage you to show your appreciation to all our food and beverage donors by supporting these local businesses. Please also watch out for local shows, and provide your support to the musicians who donated their talent to EDC.



Join EDC and the Ocean Ducks As We Swim for Clean Water!

Join EDC and the Ocean Ducks for the fourth annual Channel Swim.

This relay swim across the Channel and fundraiser for EDC is a fun way to help protect the Santa Barbara Channel. This year's swim is taking place on September 14 & 15. Participants will swim or kayak in a relay from Santa Cruz Island to Goleta Beach. All proceeds will go to help EDC protect our coastal waters!

Six ways you can make a splash:

1. **Swim or kayak the Channel.** Anyone who can confidently swim 20 to 30 minutes in open ocean water can join. Simmers and kayakers will sign up for legs of their preferred duration. Make memories for a lifetime!
2. **Swim the last leg.** Can't commit to the whole crossing? Join "The Sandpipers" for the last leg to shore on Saturday, September 15.
3. **Sponsor a swimmer or kayaker.** Reward those who are crazy enough to do this by sponsoring them. This year's beneficiaries are the Environmental Defense Center, Community Environmental Council, and Marine Sanctuaries. Go to <http://edcnet.org/SupportPages/ChannelSwimPage.htm> to sponsor a swimmer/kayaker today!
4. **Be a Corporate Sponsor.** Be a part of our campaign and promotions.
5. **Volunteer.** Join the crew or help with the Landing Party.
6. **Cheer us from your own boat.** Join the flotilla party, motor or sail out to meet us anytime during the day.

Space is limited! Register NOW! Contact Vickie Hormuth at EDC (805) 963-1622 ext. 103; or download a registration packet from our website www.edcnet.org.



Join Us for an Evening of Inspiration at the Wild & Scenic Film Festival

The Wild and Scenic Environmental Film Festival sits apart from the hundreds of festivals around the world by leaving you feeling *inspired* and *motivated* to go out and make a difference. At the festival, you'll *learn* new ideas from a selection of environmental films with hard-hitting topics including water issues, wilderness preservation, citizen activism, and more. You'll *experience* the adrenalin of kayaking the wildest rivers and climbing the highest peaks with adventure films from around the world. You'll *explore* the issues and movements with leading environmental activists and professionals, filmmakers, and celebrities.

EDC will be hosting the Wild and Scenic Film Festival on Wednesday, November 7th at the Metro 4 Theaters in downtown Santa Barbara. Check our website for details on show times and tickets, contact Vickie Hormuth at 805-963-1622 or vhormuth@edcnet.org.



TGIF Season Is Not Over Yet!

September 7 – This TGIF gathering will be sponsored by First District Supervisor Salud Carbajal and Second District Supervisor Janet Wolf. Acoustic music will be provided by Earl and Friends.

October 6 – EDC's Fall Feast is catered by the Big Easy Catering Company. Sponsors include Surfrider, GOO!, and the Shoreline Preservation Fund, with acoustic music by Lily Wilson.



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