

# ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE CENTER

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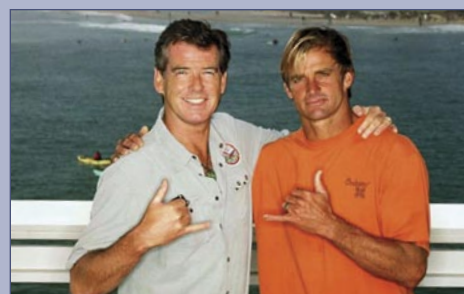
EDC Community

## Final Face-off for Massive Liquefied Natural Gas Project

After more than two years of heated debate, BHP Billiton's giant Cabrillo Port LNG project will receive final state and federal hearings this spring. The proposed floating LNG terminal, located offshore Ventura and Los Angeles Counties, would be three football fields long and 14 stories high. It would receive and store LNG, a highly flammable gas, from huge tankers that would arrive at least two to three times a week from halfway around the world.

EDC represents the California Coastal Protection Network in opposing this project. The most significant concerns include air pollution, public health and safety risks, ocean discharges, and adverse impacts to marine mammals. Intense political lobbying by BHP has led the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to reverse course and consider exempting the project from air quality rules, despite the fact that the project would be the single largest smog producer in Ventura County. In addition, the project would contribute to global warming and may interfere with our State's ability to reach its renewable energy goals.

The Cabrillo Port project must be reviewed and approved by the California State Lands Commission, California Coastal Commission, Governor Schwarzenegger, U.S. Coast Guard, and U.S. EPA. The CSLC hearing will be April 9, and the CCC hearing will be April 12, with a final decision on the license to be made by late May. For more information, visit our website at [www.edcnet.org](http://www.edcnet.org).

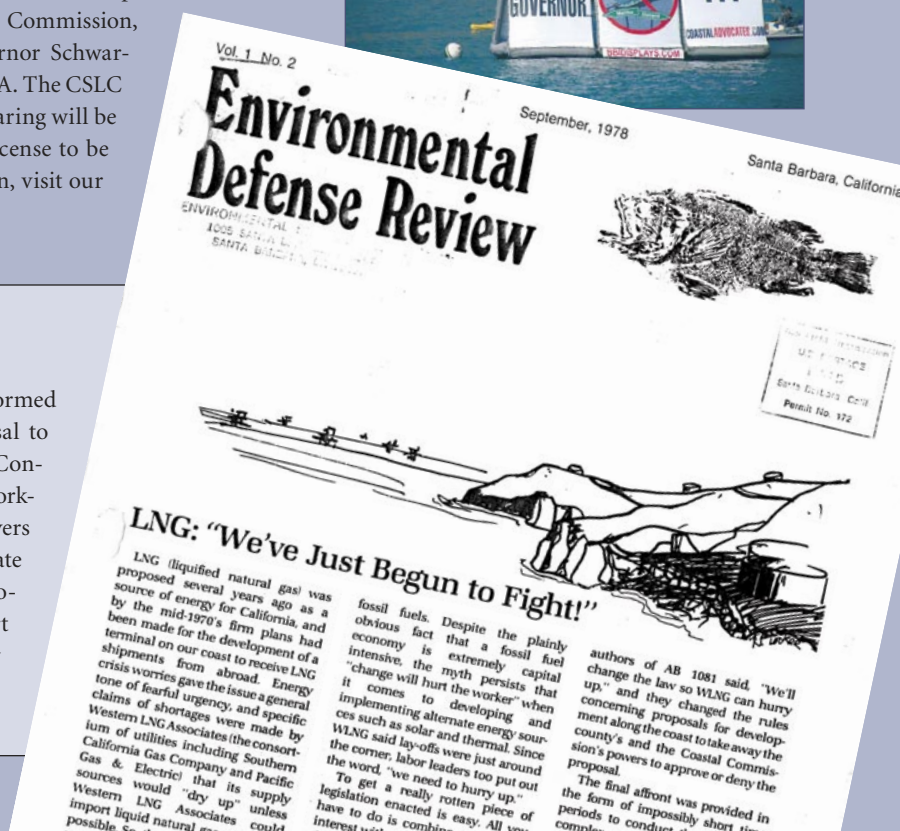


Photos courtesy of CCPN. Above: Pierce Brosnan & Laird Hamilton at an anti-LNG paddle out in southern California. Below: Surfers flood the beach to rally against the proposed Cabrillo Port LNG project.



## 1977-2007: Thirty Years Protecting Our Local Environment and Quality of Life

One of the first major cases on the docket of the newly-formed Environmental Defense Center was in response to a proposal to construct a liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal near Point Concepcion. Representing the Santa Barbara Indian Center and working in concert with several environmental groups, EDC lawyers waged a 5-year educational and legal campaign before local, state and federal agencies to demonstrate the unsuitability of the proposed site and the lack of justification for the project. The effort culminated in victory when the project proponents withdrew their application in 1982. — J. Marc McGinnes, former Executive Director of EDC





ABOUT EDC The Environmental Defense Center is the only nonprofit environmental law firm on California's Central Coast. EDC works with community groups to protect air and water quality, preserve precious open spaces, save species from extinction and guard public health. EDC provides legal, educational and advocacy support to grassroots efforts.

EDC complements the efforts of local environmental groups by offering a service that no other organization between Los Angeles and San Francisco provides: the legal expertise and assistance 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 and gives 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 succeed against well-funded special interests.

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PHOTO BY ROBERT BERNSTEIN

From the Desk of Cameron Benson

“We’ve just begun to fight!” declared then-EDC Executive Director Marc McGinnes in the September 1978 issue of EDC’s newsletter. He was talking about one of EDC’s first major cases: a proposed Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) plant at Point Conception in Santa Barbara County.

This year EDC is celebrating its 30th Anniversary and, coincidently, we find ourselves in the thick of another major LNG battle. This time the proposed location is offshore Ventura County. The parallels between the two projects are remarkable. As they did in 1978, today’s industry proponents plan to import super-cooled natural gas mined in Pacific Rim countries. Without any substantive evidence, they insist the state cannot survive without LNG. And they assert, falsely, that LNG is a “clean” energy source.

The facts demonstrate that their plan makes no sense. It turns out that shipping LNG half way around the world in refrigerated supertankers releases an enormous amount of greenhouse gas emissions. Moreover, independent studies have shown that there is no need to import LNG - natural gas demand is projected to remain relatively flat and simple conservation and efficiency improvements will provide sufficient supplies. Finally, thorough scientific analysis has revealed that LNG produces air pollution in quantities similar to burning coal. Indeed, the proposed LNG terminal would be the single largest source of smog pollutants in Ventura County!

LNG was not then, and is not now, the only threat to our local environment. Run-off pollution is fouling our beaches and ocean, increased traffic and loss of open space is diminishing our quality of life, and global warming is jeopardizing our very existence. These threats don’t go away over time and neither can we.

Today, as in 1977, EDC depends on its members, supporters, volunteers, and client organizations to accomplish its mission. We know the stakes are high and we remain committed to the fight. In reviewing EDC’s efforts and accomplishments over the past 30 years, we are reminded of Margaret Mead’s famous admonition, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” Together we have made an enormous difference in our community. Let’s continue to change the world.

Special Announcements



EDC is pleased to announce the hiring of **Nathan Alley** as our new Staff Attorney. Nathan graduated from Indiana University with a B.A. in both Journalism and Religious Studies. He then went on to receive his J.D. from New York University School of Law. For the past three years Nathan has been working as a Staff Attorney for the Natural Heritage Institute in San Francisco as well as for Sierra Watch in Nevada City.

EDC also welcomes new Program Assistant **Betsy Weber** to our staff. Betsy recently moved to Santa Barbara from Wyoming, where she worked for the non-profit Wyoming Wilderness Association. Betsy holds a B.A. in Cultural Anthropology from UC Santa Cruz.



EDC would also like to announce that **Vickie Hormuth** has assumed the role of Development Associate for EDC.

EDC is pleased to announce that **Peter Schulyer** and **Gail Osherenko** have been elected as Co-Vice Presidents of the Board of Directors, and **Elise Arthurs** as our Board Secretary. We are grateful to Peter, Gail and Elise for talking expanded roles on EDC’s Board of Directors.

Finally, we would like to thank **Marti Fallon** for her hard work and dedication during her time with EDC as Development Associate. Marti has left EDC to peruse a career in nursing. Good luck, Marti, you will be missed!

Oil Development Threats Reach New High

Despite EDC’s success on behalf of several organizations (including Get Oil Out!, Sierra Club, Surfrider Foundation, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper and Citizens Planning Association) in stopping development of 36 oil and gas leases located in federal waters, 2007 presents several challenges to those trying to protect our coast from the risk of oil spills and increases in air and water pollution. There are five proposals for oil development in state waters, within three miles of shore. North to south, these proposals are:

• Tranquillon Ridge: PXP proposes to drill from Platform Irene into a new state lease located offshore Point Arguello. This project would extend the life of Platform Irene (from which there was a large oil spill in 1997) by 30 years.

• Ellwood Pier Lease 421: Venoco seeks permission to recommission an oil lease located on Ellwood Pier. Production from this lease ceased in 1994 following an oil spill.

• Ellwood Oil and Gas Project: Venoco also proposes to expand its production from Platform Holly, located offshore Goleta, by slant drilling into the California Coastal Sanctuary.

• Paredon: Venoco plans to construct a 175-foot drill tower on land, next to Carpinteria City Hall and the Carpinteria Bluffs, and slant drill into an offshore lease.

• Carone: POOI seeks permission to slant drill from Platform Hogan into a state lease located offshore Carpinteria.

In addition, Venoco seeks to continue barging oil from Platform Holly to refineries in the Los Angeles and San Francisco Bay Areas. Venoco is the only oil company in the state that does not transport its oil by pipeline, which is a much safer and environmentally preferable mode of transportation.

Each of these projects would pose adverse environmental effects to our local communities, as well as perpetuate our reliance on fossil fuels and contribute to global warming.

For more information about these projects, please contact the EDC at [www.edcnet.org](http://www.edcnet.org).



Platform Holly is one of 20 oil platforms in the Santa Barbara Channel.

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

EDC represents the conservation community on the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council. EDC is currently working to expand marine reserves at the Channel Islands, improve the Management Plan for the Sanctuary, and develop a report on open ocean aquaculture. EDC joins the Pew Commission and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in raising awareness about the potential threats from aquaculture, including introduction of non-native species and pollutants, disruption of the ocean environment, spread of disease, and requirement for high volumes of fish feed. EDC will coordinate a panel presentation at the Council’s March 16 meeting.



Photo: William B. Dewey





Photo: William B. Dewey.  
Naples coastline.

## Naples Development Gets a Second Look

EDC represents Surfrider Foundation in response to a proposal to develop up to 130 homes at Naples, the gateway to the Gaviota Coast. Although Naples is located outside the urban boundary and zoned for agricultural use, the property owners have attempted to base development rights on an old map from the 1880's that predated current zoning or the California Subdivision Map Act. The County of Santa Barbara has recognized several legal lots from the old map, but has not determined how many of those lots are developable. Many of the lots are located within the coastal zone and cannot be developed because they are on steep slopes, provide habitat for wildlife, are part of the scenic viewshed of Highway 101, and lack adequate water and sewer services. EDC submitted extensive comments on the County's Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR), pointing out

several problems with the analysis of the project, its potential impacts, and alternatives. As a result of the voluminous comment on the Draft EIR, the County has agreed to revise and re-circulate the report for further public review.

One of the key issues in this case pertains to the feasibility of transferring development rights from Naples to an existing urban area, as required by the County's Local Coastal Plan. EDC and Surfrider are working with the Naples Coalition to ensure that the County first considers the feasibility of preserving this pristine stretch of California coast before allowing urban sprawl into an area that the National Park Service has determined to be of national significance.



Photo: Callie Bowdish. Devereux Slough.

## Environmental Groups Secure Additional Protection for Devereux Watershed

After 10 years of work, EDC and our clients - Save Ellwood Shores and the Santa Barbara Audubon Society - have successfully protected coastal wetlands and other sensitive habitats in the Devereux watershed. Late last year, the California Coastal Commission approved UC Santa Barbara's proposed 323-unit faculty and student housing project on the condition that UCSB agree to several measures that will protect Devereux Creek and Slough, as well as the University's Coal Oil Point Reserve.

In 1997, the UC Regents had approved the development of 513 homes, including 122 units on the 70-acre "South Parcel" between Devereux Creek and Devereux Slough. As a result of our intervention, the entire South Parcel will be permanently protected with a conservation easement. In addition, development on the North Parcel will be redesigned

to avoid over 40 wetlands and several rare native grasslands. The University will also undertake measures to enhance Phelps and Devereux Creeks, and improve drainage on the site to protect water quality into the Slough. Finally, UCSB agreed to fund two full-time environmental stewards to oversee management and restoration efforts on this important coastal property, which abuts Ellwood Mesa.

## Santa Barbara County Farmland: Save It Or Pave It?

Ninety percent of the privately owned land in Santa Barbara County is zoned for agriculture. A majority of the County Supervisors have been quietly making plans to significantly increase the residential, commercial, and industrial development potential on that farmland.

Their counterintuitive and nonsensical argument for the new development is essentially that "You have to let farmers develop their land if you don't want them to develop their land."

Interestingly, while these new development rights have been pushed by individual Supervisors and large agricultural landowners, farming organizations have been conspicuously silent.

EDC, on the other hand, has not kept quiet. On behalf of seven nonprofit community groups representing residents from Carpinteria to Santa Maria, EDC has been fighting back to protect this farmland and the community's quality of life.

We have discovered that the County is working on over 20 rule changes to encourage and facilitate development on farmland. We have also discovered that the County has failed to comply with numerous California laws in its effort to slip these changes through.

EDC will continue to represent the public's interest at the Board of Supervisors and in court if necessary to protect Santa Barbara County's farmland from rampant unplanned development.



Our family has farmed in Santa Barbara county for five generations, first growing lima beans, then walnuts, citrus, avocados, and more recently, organic flowers. We have seen the value of our agricultural heritage in our community first hand; we work together and support each other during the summer harvest as well as this winter's frost. We see how our labor defines our town – we celebrate with an avocado festival after all! So when ag land is lost to unnecessary development, not only do we lose our fertile soils, our open space, and our natural habitats, we also lose a piece of who we are – our identity. We need to ask ourselves what kind of legacy we want to leave for the next five generations.

—Whitney Abbott, Artist, Farmer & EDC Board Member

Painting: *Strawberry Fields* by Whitney Abbott.



EDC’s Central Coast Environmental Health Project (CCEHP) “  
continues to provide important information and outreach about the “  
effects of pesticides on human health and the natural environment.”

CCEHP Off to a Healthy Start in 2007



EDC’s Central Coast Environmental Health Project (CCEHP) continues to make great strides in educating communities about pesticide use. With the start of the new year, CCEHP has hit the ground running.

CCEHP’s Train the Trainer program recently received \$35,000 from the McCune Foundation, \$9,200 from the Fund for Santa Barbara, and \$2,500 from the Center for Environmental Health to further develop it’s “Train the Trainer” educational model. In 2006 alone, CCEHP staff and volunteers educated over 300 farmworkers on pesticide safety and alternatives! The new funding will help increase CCEHP’s volunteer base, further develop the Trainer program, and assist with general outreach efforts—primarily in northern Santa Barbara County.

CCEHP continues to serve on the City of Santa Barbara’s Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Advisory Committee. In 2006, the committee visited various parks in order to assess past and current pesticide use trends, as well as improvements that could be made to reduce pesticide use in the future. In 2007, we will continue to refine the program and seek to reduce city-wide pesticide use even further!

Finally, CCEHP’s demographic survey of indigenous farmworkers in Santa Barbara County ([www.ccehp.org/DemographicSurvey](http://www.ccehp.org/DemographicSurvey)) continues to receive positive attention from across the state. Most recently, it served as basis for discussion among 20 local service agencies seeking to provide health, environmental and social services to farmworkers. CCEHP will continue to facilitate these discussions with interested partners throughout 2007.

CCEHP would like to thank The California Endowment, The California Wellness Foundation, The Center for Environmental Health, The Fund for Santa Barbara, The Lawson-Valentine Foundation, and The McCune Foundation for their generous support.

To find out more, please call CCEHP director Eric Cárdenas at 805.963.1622.



CCEHP Santa Maria Office:

509 W. Morrison, Suite B      Current office hours:  
Santa Maria, CA 93458      Mondays and Wednesdays 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.  
Tel: (805) 922-8452  
Fax: (805) 922-8745

Website: [www.ccehp.org](http://www.ccehp.org)

APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER
<b>19</b> Dine Out for the Earth	<b>11</b> TGIF	<b>TBA</b> 30th Anniversary Benefit Auction & Environmental Hero Awards	<b>13</b> TGIF  <b>TBA</b> Circle of Friends Musical Benefit	<b>7</b> 10% Tuesday’s at Aldo’s Restaurant  <b>10</b> TGIF  <b>14</b> 10% Tuesday’s at Aldo’s Restaurant  <b>21</b> 10% Tuesday’s at Aldo’s Restaurant  <b>28</b> 10% Tuesday’s at Aldo’s Restaurant	<b>7</b> TGIF  <b>14-15</b> Channel Swim Benefit	<b>12</b> TGIF Fall Feast  <b>TBA</b> Santa Barbara Ocean Film Festival

Dine Out for the Earth!

You can support EDC and all you have to do is enjoy a dinner at one of your favorite local restaurants! Dine out for the Earth is on Thursday, April 19th, 2007, and some of your favorite restaurants will donate a portion of the day’s proceeds to EDC. Stay tuned to EDC’s website, Action Alerts, and your mailbox for the list of participating restaurants.

EDC’s 2007 TGIF Season!

When the weather gets warmer and the days get longer you know it is TGIF Season at EDC, the best environmental happy hour in Santa Barbara. Mark you calendars now for:

**May 11** 5:30-7:30 pm

**July 13** 5:30-7:30 pm

**August 10** 5:30-7:30 pm

**September 7** 5:30-7:30 pm

**October 12 Fall Feast** 5:30-7:30 pm

If you would like to volunteer, donate food or live music, or sponsor a TGIF event, please contact Betsy Weber at EDC at 963-1622 or [bweber@edcnet.org](mailto:bweber@edcnet.org)

EDC’s 30th Anniversary Benefit Auction and Environmental Hero Awards

Please join us in early June for wine, hors d’oeuvres, music, live & silent auctions, and award presentations. Watch the mail for your invitation, or check our website ([www.edcnet.org](http://www.edcnet.org)) for event updates.

Register now for the 2007 Santa Barbara Channel Swim!

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, 2007. Participants will swim or kayak in a relay from Santa Cruz Island to Goleta Beach.

Six ways you can make a splash:

- 1. Swim or kayak the Channel.**  
Anyone who can confidentially swim 20 to 30 minutes in open ocean water can join. 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 15th.
- 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.
- 4. Be a Corporate Sponsor.**  
Be a part of our campaign and promotional items.
- 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](http://www.edcnet.org)

Aldo’s 10% Tuesdays

10% Tuesdays are back! During the month of August, locally owned Aldo’s Italian Ristorante in Santa Barbara will donate 10% of each Tuesday’s gross sales to EDC. Have a delicious meal and support EDC! Visit our website for more details.

## Monthly Giving

Demonstrate your commitment to protecting our coast and ocean, preserving open spaces and wildlife, and enhancing human and environmental health by becoming a monthly EDC donor. It's easy! Simply decide on a monthly donation level that is right for you and call EDC at (805) 963-1622. Just \$10 a month can go a long way toward protecting and enhancing our local environment.



## Thank You Organic Loft!

We would like to thank the Organic Loft for their support for the month of January. The Organic Loft donated 20% of its gross sales when shoppers mentioned EDC! The Organic Loft features a very unique assortment of earth-friendly items and it provides a wonderful opportunity for you to align your wardrobe with both your values and sense of style. For the first time in Santa Barbara, organic cotton, soy, bamboo, hemp and wool casual and professional style clothing is available for you to try out all in one store.

## Peets Tea and Coffee Share the Holiday Spirit

The employees of Peets Tea and Coffee generously donated all of their Christmas Eve tips to the Environmental Defense Center. Peets then went one step further by matching their employees' gift! Thanks for your generous support!

### EDC would like to acknowledge the generous donations we have received in memory of Frank Shewczyk:

Michelle Garbarino  
Connie and Robert Hannah  
Beverly Hartman King  
Sheila Kamhi  
George and Joan Kerns  
Lessie Sinclair Nixon  
Ernie and Josephine Parziale  
Patricia Shewczyk  
Ruth Waldfogel



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