

ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE CENTER

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Environmental Groups Secure Landmark Agreement Limiting Oil Development in Santa Barbara County

On April 10, EDC and our clients, Get Oil Out! and Citizens Planning Association, announced an historic agreement with Plains Exploration and Production (PXP) that will phase out existing oil and gas production off the coast of Santa Barbara County. The cornerstone of the Tranquillon Ridge agreement is the enforceable commitment by PXP to shut down operations at four offshore oil platforms and two onshore processing facilities. Without this agreement, especially with high gas prices, production from these existing operations could continue indefinitely.

This agreement complements our continued support for the federal moratorium against new offshore oil leasing. The federal moratorium is necessary because it will prevent the development of new oil fields and leases, while the Tranquillon Ridge agreement will end existing production of two oil fields, Point Pedernales and Point Arguello. Both strategies are necessary to protect the California coast from the risks of offshore oil and gas development, and to protect the environment from climate change.

Specifically, the following benefits will result from this agreement:

- The Tranquillon Ridge Project will include an "end date" of December 31, 2022, for existing production at Platform Irene and the onshore Lompoc Oil and Gas Plant (LOGP);
- PXP will phase out other existing operations in the County, including three offshore platforms near Pt. Conception, hundreds of acres of onshore oil wells near Lompoc, and the Gaviota onshore processing site;
- All greenhouse gas emissions from the Project will be mitigated or offset, resulting in carbon neutrality;
- PXP will donate an additional \$1,500,000 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Santa Barbara County;
- PXP will convey approximately 4,000 acres of land for public benefit; and
- As part of the land conveyance, PXP will withdraw its application for the Purisima Hills development project located outside Lompoc.



The signing of the Tranquillon Ridge Agreement
Front row: Abraham Powell (GOOI), Steve Dunn (CPA), Linda Krop (EDC) Back row: Joyce Howerton (CPA), Steve Rusch (PXP), Steve Kirby (PXP). Photo by Carla Frisk

The land conveyances will be administered by The Trust for Public Land and will be permanently dedicated for conservation, education, research and recreation purposes. PXP will convey 3,700 acres in the Lompoc area next to the Burton Mesa Ecological Reserve. This land includes the site of the LOGP, as well as 800 acres on which PXP proposes to construct the Purisima Hills residential project; accordingly, the agreement requires PXP to withdraw its applications for this project. In addition, PXP will convey approximately 140 acres on the Gaviota coast next to the existing processing site. PXP will take steps to convey the 56-acre Gaviota processing site following abandonment of the facilities.

(continued on page 3)

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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From the Desk of David Landecker

President Bush just announced he will exploit gas nearing five dollars per gallon as justification for reversing a federal policy limiting new offshore oil drilling. The President said that he understands that increased offshore production cannot occur for many years, but that his choice will somehow have a “positive psychological effect.” Rather than spending billions on pursuing short-lived reserves of high carbon, air and water polluting oil, just imagine the “psychological effect” if our nation instead was making a major commitment to increased energy efficiency and renewable power generation that will deliver pollution-free energy for the next century.

EDC’s actions will continue to be driven by our goals of ending the risks inherent in oil development in the Santa Barbara Channel and encouraging a transition to cleaner, more sustainable fuels. We will use our influence, and encourage you to use yours, to resist the President’s effort to expand oil production off our shores.

Linda Krop’s lead article in this newsletter explains that EDC’s settlement with PXP (on behalf of CPA and GOO) was based on significant and enforceable environmental gains for the Santa Barbara Channel and our communities. The agreement is about ending the impacts of oil development in the Channel through the removal of four oil platforms and two processing facilities by 2022 and payments to offset more than 100% of the greenhouse gas impacts of a project that will require no new infrastructure, production or distribution facilities. The conveyance of almost 4,000 acres of valuable open space lands into public trust will provide environmental benefits for generations to come.

The current high price of oil allowed PXP’s management to create a model project, addressing our clients’ concerns by sharing potential profits with the community in the form of real concessions and environmental benefits. It was a reason for optimism. A national policy that encourages continued exploitation of oil reserves simply to allow favored corporations to reap enormous profits brought on by speculation and greed is reason for more cynicism and despair.

Please help us advocate for policies that will allow us to look to the future with hope and long-term vision rather than returning to mistaken choices based on short-term gains.

Special thanks to everyone who supported EDC’s wildly successful Environmental Heroes event honoring John Garamendi, Tree Amigos and Jack and Kim Johnson. We’re pretty sure that you had a great time, and we look forward to seeing you again at next year’s event.

Special Announcements



Deborah Lott

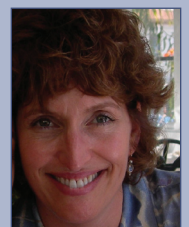
EDC is pleased to announce the hiring of Deborah Lott as our Development Associate. Deborah comes to EDC with a diverse non-profit project management background and holds a BS in Psychology from Appalachian State University.

Deborah is replacing former Development Associate Vickie Hormuth who is currently in Washington working as an instructor for Outward Bound. We would like to thank Vickie for her years of dedication and hard work at EDC.



Dan Emmett

We would also like to welcome two new board members, Dan Emmett and Angela Antenore. We are delighted to have these individuals join the board and look forward to working with them as they each bring unique skills to the table. We are honored to have their commitment in protecting our local environment.



Angela Antenore



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Defending Gaviota: EDC and Allies Fight On to Protect Naples



Photo courtesy of Jessie Alistatt/Santa Barbara Channelkeeper

As the dizzying array of permitting hearings continue for the “Santa Barbara Ranch” project on the Naples coast, EDC and Surfrider are staying on the front lines to protect this natural treasure. The proposal involves construction of dozens of mansions, associated outbuildings and roads on the Gaviota coast, leapfrogging existing urban boundaries. Santa Barbara Ranch threatens rare and sensitive coastal wildlife habitats, archaeological sites sacred to the Chumash, and would convert productive agricultural lands

The project also lacks a stable water supply. Reliance on the State Water Project, groundwater, and the Dos Pueblos Creek Diversion all risk exposure to the whims of climate change and drought. In addition, creek diversion threatens endangered steelhead and red-legged frogs. In July the Department of Fish and Game contacted landowners, stating that the Dos Pueblos Creek Diversion lacks permits and must cease. Consequently, the project’s water supply is even more tenuous.

The County Planning Commission also continues to deliberate on a proposed Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) ordinance, which could operate to remove development entitlements from Naples. The Commission will make its recommendation to the Board of Supervisors this fall. Expect a second round of engagement at the Board in late fall or early winter.

Bacara Hotel Proposes Expansion

The Bacara Hotel seeks approval from the City of Goleta to change the City’s General Plan to allow the development of 62 new timeshare units next to the existing Hotel at Haskell’s Beach. Bacara’s proposal to amend the General Plan would set a precedent by weakening environmental standards in the City. It would also allow development to occur in areas currently protected because they contain a former Chumash Village and environmentally sensitive sage scrub habitat, and because they provide public access to the beach. These areas were specifically deemed off limits to development when the Hotel was approved in the 1980’s. At that time, EDC represented Citizens for Goleta Valley and helped secure \$5 million for coastal land acquisition. EDC is closely monitoring the new proposal, along with Citizens and the Santa Barbara Chapter of Surfrider Foundation.

O.P.E.N. Opens at EDC

The Open-Space Preservation Educational Network (or OPEN) is a new project of EDC that seeks to gather information from community groups, agriculturalists, environmentalists and others about potential land use preservation strategies meant to protect open spaces and agricultural lands in Santa Barbara County. Made possible by a grant from The Gildea Foundation, the OPEN program will inventory County planning documents that influence development at the “urban-rural interface” while also identifying additional opportunities to strengthen protection of open spaces and farmlands. The project is designed to engage community members and diverse stakeholders as advocates for range and agricultural land preservation. EDC’s Environmental Health Project Director Eric Cárdenas will head up the program’s community outreach efforts, supported by the community planning expertise of Christina McGinnis, M.U.P.



Christina McGinnis

Landmark Agreement Limiting Oil Development

(continued from page 1)

This agreement came about following a proposal by PXP to expand its existing production from Platform Irene by slant drilling into the Tranquillon Ridge Field. PXP is already draining the Tranquillon Ridge Field with its existing wells, but sought permission to drill further into that field. EDC and our clients initially opposed PXP’s project because it would have significantly expanded the life of the existing facilities, resulting in additional risks and impacts. A similar proposal to develop the Tranquillon Ridge Field, by Nuevo Energy Company, was opposed by environmental groups and denied in 2002 by the County of Santa Barbara. The County Planning Commission approved the proposal on April 21. Further hearings with various County and State agencies are scheduled for this summer and fall.

EDC Works to Protect Whales in the Santa Barbara Channel

Last fall, five blue whales died in the Santa Barbara Channel. Experts confirmed that at least three of the whales were struck by ships. The unprecedented rash of deaths in such a short timeframe led the National Marine Fisheries Service to designate an “Unusual Mortality Event.” Blue whales are federally protected under the Endangered Species Act because their population remains at a fraction of what it was before industrial whaling in the 20th Century.

In response, the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary’s Advisory Council established a committee, which includes EDC Chief Counsel Linda Krop, to develop measures to prevent additional ship strikes. Due in part to her influence, the committee has focused on reducing ship speeds in the Channel. Slower ships reduce the likelihood of whale collisions, and are less likely to kill whales if a strike occurs.

Krop also asked the Sanctuary and other federal agencies to protect whales by: (1) alerting mariners immediately that the summer blue whale season has begun, and asking them to reduce their speeds through the Channel; and (2) ensuring that all whales, not just blues, are protected from ship traffic. Additionally, EDC continues to publicize the other environmental benefits of slowing ships, including reductions in air pollution, noise, and greenhouse gas emissions.



Photo by NOAA, CINMS

Paredon: A Massive Drilling Rig in Downtown Carpinteria?

Venoco plans to drill for oil and natural gas in downtown Carpinteria. The company’s proposed Paredon project would require construction of a 175 foot drilling tower at a site bordered by City Hall, the Arbol Verde neighborhood, the Carpinteria harbor seal sanctuary, and protected open spaces on the Carpinteria Bluffs. A proposed Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has been sent back to the City’s consultant for revisions. The EIR describes 11 significant and unavoidable impacts, and EDC has identified several areas that require additional review including impacts to the seals, water quality and noise levels in the area. The Carpinteria Environmental Review Committee will meet again this fall to revisit the EIR. EDC represents a coalition of groups who are concerned about Paredon: the Carpinteria Valley Association, Citizens for the Carpinteria Bluffs, Get Oil Out! and the Sierra Club Los Padres Chapter.

State Releases Environmental Analysis of Venoco’s Ellwood Oil Project

The Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Venoco Ellwood “Full Field” Project was released on June 24. Venoco seeks to expand drilling from Platform Holly into an area that is currently protected as part of the California Coastal Sanctuary, thanks to an agreement forged by Venoco’s predecessor, ARCO.

EDC represents Sierra Club, Get Oil Out!, Citizens Planning Association, and Citizens for Goleta Valley in opposition to this proposal. Sierra Club, who participated in the ARCO agreement, seeks to enforce its protections. Our clients are also concerned about the continued use of Platform Holly and the Ellwood Onshore Processing Facility, which are both over 40 years old. As noted in the EIR, this project would threaten areas of environmental and public importance, including Ellwood Mesa, Sandpiper Golf Course, Devereux Slough and Coal Oil Point Reserve, and Haskell’s Beach.

The Draft EIR identifies 13 “Class I,” or unavoidable impacts, including impacts from potential oil spills and gas leaks. The EIR finds that if the project is not approved, an equivalent or greater amount of energy can be achieved through energy efficiency, wind, solar, geothermal and biogas. If the project is approved, the EIR finds that the environmentally superior alternative would require Venoco to process its oil and gas at the Las Flores Canyon consolidated processing site. EDC will submit comments on behalf of our clients and participate in hearings this summer.



Coal Oil Point Reserve. Photo courtesy of L. Krop



Snowy Plover at Coal Oil Point Reserve. Photo courtesy of L. Krop

Farmworkers Lead Non-Toxic Tours



EDC Volunteers: Mariana Perez, Norma Pulido, Aurora Roman and Roselia Vargas



Norma Pulido giving a non-toxic demonstration in her home.

Recently, EDC worked with residents of a farmworker housing complex in Santa Maria to educate neighbors about the use of least toxic cleaning materials in a home setting. On Sunday, June 29th, thirty residents from Los Adobes de Maria attended the Non-Toxic Tour, visiting apartments on-site and viewing live demonstrations on how to use basic household ingredients – vinegar, baking soda, and hydrogen peroxide – for a majority of their home cleaning needs.

The event was facilitated by farmworkers, eager to demonstrate the effectiveness of non-toxic home cleaning products, after months of training and leadership development by EDC staff. Unfortunately, conventional cleaners often contain potent chemical agents that can harm the environment and human health, leading to headaches, respiratory illness and other ailments. While farmworkers have little control over what types of pesticides are used in agricultural settings, the decision on what is used at home is theirs. In order to encourage the actual use of alternatives, all participants received a gift bag containing sample products and instructions for use.

The event was covered by Latino Today and KPMR Univision, a Spanish television station, aiding our efforts to raise awareness about EDC and environmental health issues among the Latino community.

Second Chance for Fairview Gardens

Blessed with fertile soils and a workforce housed on-site, the Center for Urban Agriculture at Fairview Gardens remains one of the last vestiges of Goleta's historic agricultural past. Up until recently, Fairview's existence had been threatened by permitting and safety issues, as well as concern from neighbors.

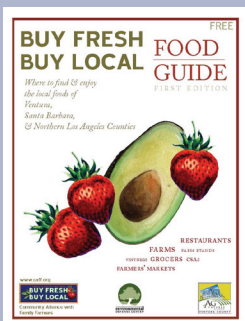
After hearings in front of the Goleta Planning Commission, City Council and testimony from dozens of supporters including EDC, the City granted Fairview Gardens time to come into compliance with city code by upgrading farmworker housing facilities and related farm infrastructure.

EDC supports the City's decision in allowing Fairview to continue operating while making necessary upgrades. The farm's Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) project, farmworker housing model and other on-site educational activities are invaluable as EDC and our allies seek to develop a comprehensive regional food system.



For his long term commitment to improving human and environmental health among farmworkers and low income populations, EDC program director **Eric Cárdenas** received the **Working Families Award** from the Santa Barbara County Action Network (SBCAN). The ceremony was held in April in Santa Maria, where other recipients included Joan Leon (Looking Forward award), John Buttny (Social Justice award), The Guadalupe Dunes Center (Environmental Protection award) and Connie Geiger (Giving Back to Community award).

Buy Fresh, Buy Local Food Guide Coming Your Way



EDC has recently teamed up with the Ag Futures Alliance of Ventura County (VCAFA) and the Community Alliance for Family Farmers (CAFF) to develop the 1st Edition Food Guide for Ventura, Santa Barbara and northern Los Angeles Counties.

With support from the Colombia Foundation, the guide will raise awareness of local agriculture in our region by identifying local food resources – including farmers, farmers' markets, restaurants, retailers and more – and providing consumers with all the information they need to make the most of each season's harvest. Seasonality charts, farmers' market schedules, seafood resources and more will all be included.

50,000 copies of the guide – slated for release in September 2008 – will be distributed free of charge at retail outlets, farmers markets, bookstores, and a variety of other locations throughout Ventura, Santa Barbara, and northern Los Angeles Counties. Stay tuned!

THANK YOU FOR MAKING THIS YEAR'S AUCTION THE MOST SUCCESSFUL IN EDC'S HISTORY!

EDC would like to thank everyone who helped to make our 15th Annual Benefit Auction and Environmental Hero Awards an enormous success! 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 2008 Environmental Heroes, Kim and Jack Johnson and California Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi. Also honored at the event were Anna and Sarah Schwab of the Tree Amigos, who both received our Environmental Youth Hero Award.

The proceeds from this event will help us continue our work protecting and enhancing the local environment through education, advocacy, and legal action.

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Karen Kraus



Kim and Jack Johnson receive the 2008 Environmental Hero Award. Photo by Jonas Jungblut



Environmental Youth Heroes Sarah and Anna Schwab with Congresswoman Lois Capps. Photo by Ryan Schwab



Thekla Sanford, Andrew Davis, Lt. Gov John Garamendi, and Richard Sanford. Photo by Jonas Jungblut



Mike McGinnis, Christina McGinnis, Jim Hodgson, Sharyn Main. Photo by Jonas Jungblut



Jack Johnson and Zach Gill warm up at the EDC Auction. Photo by Kristi Curtis

Thanks to Everyone for Making EDC's 2008 TGIF Season a Success!

EDC's infamous Thank Goodness Its Friday gatherings continue to be a success as we have had a record-breaking year in attendance! We enjoy seeing all the familiar faces of our supporters and look forward to the new ones to come.

We would like to thank all of our sponsors, food and beverage donors, musicians and countless volunteers for contributing to the success of our 2008 TGIF season. We encourage you to show your appreciation to all our food and beverage donors by supporting these local businesses.



EDC founder Selma Rubin and CEC employee Megan Birney. Photo by Mike Weber

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Bruce Goldish
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Acoustic Messengers

And remember, the TGIF season is not over yet! On **September 12** GOOI, Trust for Public Land, Santa Barbara Audubon, and More Mesa Preservation will be sponsoring with Bruce Goldish providing live acoustic music. Our Fall Feast is on **October 10** and is sponsored by the Surfrider Foundation, the Coastal Fund, and the Naples Coalition and live music will be provided by Acoustic Messengers. This event will be catered by the Big Easy Catering Co.

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.

Join Us for an Evening of Inspiration at the Wild & Scenic Environmental 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 adrenaline 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 Environmental Film Festival on Thursday, November 13th in downtown Santa Barbara. Check our website for details on venue, show times and tickets or contact Betsy Weber at bweber@edcnet.org.

SCAPE Art Exhibit to Benefit EDC a Big Success



EDC would like to thank S.C.A.P.E. (Southern California Artists Painting for the Environment) for their presentation of Preserving Our Legacy—Open Space and Wildlife, a two-day juried art exhibit and sale which benefited EDC on July 19 and 20. S.C.A.P.E. sold 20 paintings at this show which was located at La Arcada in downtown Santa Barbara and donated 40% of the proceeds to EDC. S.C.A.P.E. is a non-profit group whose mission is to raise money to protect open spaces, increase public awareness of environmental and conservation issues, and to promote camaraderie among Southern California landscape artists. You can learn more about S.C.A.P.E. at www.s-c-a-p-e.org.



New EDC Website Under Development, and We Need Your Help!

EDC is currently building a brand new website from the ground up to help keep you better informed and better connected to protecting the local environment. Stay tuned for a release in early fall! In the meantime, do you have photos of local open spaces or wildlife EDC could use for the site? Contributing photographers will be credited on the site, and fully appreciated! Please email shiva@edcnet.org or call 963-1622 if you can help.



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