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### MORE MESA IS BACK ON THE TABLE

EDC was recently hired by the More Mesa Preservation Coalition (MMPC) to help protect one of the largest and most pristine coastal open spaces threatened with development in Santa Barbara County. Currently accessible by the public, More Mesa's sweeping ocean and mountain views, and its unusual geography and wildlife provide an unforgettable experience for the visitor. Located between Goleta Beach and Hope Ranch, this 330-acre blufftop has long evaded development thanks to a vigilant Santa Barbara community.

More Mesa is recognized for its natural beauty and ecological significance. Natural wetlands, oak woodlands, creeks, coastal bluffs, and grassland habitats support a diverse array of plant and wildlife species, many of which are rare, including the site's signature bird of prey: the white-tailed kite. In fact, More Mesa is the most important habitat in all of Santa Barbara County for this uncommon bird. In addition to its ecological importance, More Mesa is widely known for its extensive trail system, which leads across the bluff to a coastal trail and a path down to the beach. On any given day you can see hikers, joggers, bicyclists, bird watchers, artists, and dog-walkers, as well as swimmers, surfers, and sunbathers heading down to the beach.

EDC's work to protect More Mesa spans decades, beginning in the 1980s when EDC represented the More Mesa Foundation in efforts to preserve public beach access and thwart various development proposals. In the early 1990s, EDC helped establish protective policies in the Goleta Community Plan (GCP). These policies limit development potential at More Mesa and designate most of the property as protected environmentally sensitive habitat. The GCP also requires dedication of part of the property as permanent public open space and preserves all of the existing public trails and beach access.

Earlier this year, a new development plan was unveiled for More Mesa. This plan seeks to open new areas to development on the western end and bluff-top portions of the property, and expand development adjacent to existing neighborhoods on the northeast. Of the proposed 38 residential sites, 11 would comprise large estate homes along the east and west sides of the Mesa, and 27 would be clustered on 9 acres on the northern edge of the property. Two of the estate homes are proposed atop the bluff overlooking the ocean.

MMPC hired EDC to help the group evaluate the new proposal and ensure that the County's policies protecting important habitats, views, and trails are respected. At the same time, MMPC is exploring other options to promote the permanent preservation of this important jewel of the coast.





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EnvironmentalDefenseCenter.org

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

After five and a half very fulfilling years as Executive Director, I have decided to retire. The decision is based entirely upon my personal needs and is grounded in EDC's strength and its ability to nurture new environmental leadership.

I'm proud that despite the most difficult economic climate since the Great Depression, EDC has added to its stature. My tenure has seen EDC add an attorney and planner, re-open our Ventura office, create the role of Communications Director, improve our historic Santa Barbara facilities, begin growing a significant endowment, strengthen our Board

of Directors, and continue to build on our 35 years of success with new approaches to long-standing problems. Environmental advocacy continues to grow in importance and the respect it demands. EDC's role empowering community groups with the tools and legal muscle necessary to advance their objectives is now more critical than ever. With robust community support, EDC will continue to assure that protecting natural resources remains a major community priority.

Our Board has taken this opportunity to look carefully at the organization's needs and to pursue a thoughtful process for hiring a new E.D. By the time this newsletter is published, the Board should be close to naming my successor. I thank our volunteer leadership for its many, many hours of dedication in taking on this task.

I have been involved with EDC for more than 30 years. But, these special years in which I was trusted to help lead this organization have been an honor that has intensified my admiration of the organization and the critical role it plays in our community. Every day, EDC's remarkable staff responds to threats and keeps our region the wonderful place we get to call home. I am stepping down as E.D., but my support of this organization will not waiver. It truly takes all of us to sustain the unique and effective leadership EDC provides. Yes, that does mean donating money, which so many of you do generously. But it also means volunteering to help, telling friends about EDC's work, and standing up for what makes our community special. I ask you to join me in filling these important roles in the years to come.

### In Memory of Selma Rubin and Naomi Schwartz



EDC and our entire community have lost two great friends:

**Selma Rubin**, one of EDC's founders, was a visionary, anticipating the need for EDC's environmental expertise, advocacy, and legal skills. She relished our victories – especially saving El Capitan, Ellwood, Carpinteria Bluffs, and the Douglas Family Preserve. Selma always lived her values of being fully engaged, listening carefully, and acting forcefully with total integrity.

**Naomi Schwartz** partnered with EDC for more than 30 years as a California Coastal Commissioner, Senator Hart's Chief of Staff, and a Santa Barbara County Supervisor. EDC named her an "Environmental Hero" in 2005 for her tireless work preserving coastal access, open space, and limiting offshore oil drilling. Naomi is remembered for her graciousness, thoughtfulness, and firm adherence to her principles.



Selma and Naomi's inspiration lives on!

## Special Announcements

We are pleased to announce the newest member of our Board of Directors, **Mark Heintz**. Mark is the Director of Sustainability and Corporate Responsibility at Deckers Outdoor Corporation and also serves on the Board of Directors for the Conservation Alliance. Mark jumped in at full speed and is already an active member of our Development Committee and is assisting with ramping up our corporate outreach.



We also want to thank **Grace Hwang** and **Caryn Bower** who joined the EDC team as our summer law clerks. Caryn, who assisted us with our efforts to protect Ormond Beach during her time here, is now in her second year at New York University School of Law. Grace joined us from the UCLA School of Law and assisted our legal team to establish regulations on fracking at the local, state, and federal levels.

## Make Way For Whales!

Since 2007, EDC has been working to reduce the occurrence of ship strikes of blue, fin, humpback, and other whales found in and around the Santa Barbara Channel. Through legal advocacy and collaboration with a variety of partners, EDC seeks solutions that involve changes to shipping lanes and speed limits. In a positive step forward, the United States has a formal proposal before the International Maritime Organization that would narrow the existing separation between the northbound and southbound shipping lanes in the Channel. This would allow the northbound lane to be moved one nautical mile further away from the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS), a critical "shelf edge" habitat where blue and other whale species congregate to feed in upwelling areas of krill. Additionally, EDC is supporting a proposal by the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District and CINMS to use some of the funds from the California Carbon Cap-and-Trade auction to develop an incentive-based program to financially reward large ships for reducing speeds from 18-22 knots/hour (current speed) to 12 knots/hour along the California coast. EDC will continue our efforts pursuing these and other strategies that protect whales from ship strikes.



Photo by Erin Feinblatt Photography

# Organizing Our Ocean

Gazing seaward it is easy to overlook the many demands we place on our oceans. In the Santa Barbara Channel, an area best known for its biodiversity and recreational uses, we also host commercial interests including oil and gas production, shipping, and fishing. New requests, such as development of offshore renewable energy or proactive actions to protect whales by relocating shipping lanes, may place additional demand for space on our already busy Channel region. Without thoughtful planning, "ocean sprawl" or development in inappropriate locations could happen. Similar to comprehensive land use planning on shore, an all-inclusive planning effort in the ocean can determine areas of compatible use (for example Marine Protected Areas and whale watching) and uses which are incompatible (such as dredging in sensitive fish habitat). When done right, Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP) could provide long term conservation in tandem with sustainable economic development. EDC supports proactive planning processes to determine areas of conservation, restoration, and development that decrease use-conflict within the Channel region, and we will work to ensure that local, state, regional, and federal CMSP efforts consider rational ocean organization.

## Naples: It's Not Over

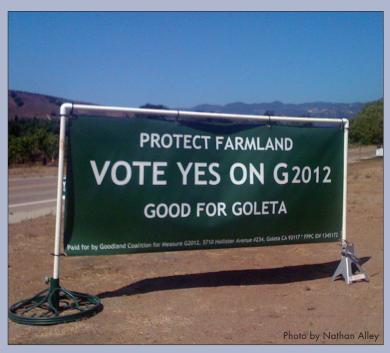
The fight for Naples – already decades in the making – is far from over. In 2012, however, our efforts to preserve this Gaviota gem reached an intensity not seen since 2008, when Santa Barbara County approved a 71-McMansion subdivision on Santa Barbara Ranch.



EDC, Surfrider and the Naples Coalition have divided our time between litigating the 2008 project approvals and exploring opportunities for a public conservation acquisition. But, bad news came in July, when the Santa Barbara Superior Court denied our petition (setting up a likely appeal to the next higher court) and set back the litigation. The good news is this decision was immediately followed by the dissolution of a real estate deal which would have seen a new set of developers take control of Naples. The property is currently owned by the First Bank of Missouri, which foreclosed on the previous owners in 2010 (but has no plans to develop the property itself).

In 2013, EDC will continue to work with our partners and organizations like The Trust for Public Land to identify new strategies and opportunities for acquisition. Meanwhile, First Bank has given the public permission to access Santa Barbara Ranch and our members are encouraged to experience this fascinating property.

### Measure G: On the Ballot this November



This November, voters in the City of Goleta can take a significant step toward protecting urban agricultural lands by voting "yes" on Measure G, the *Goleta Heritage Farmlands Initiative*.

EDC drafted the Initiative for Goleta's Goodland Coalition which then led a successful campaign to qualify Measure G for the 2012 ballot. If passed, Measure G will require a vote of the people before certain agricultural parcels may be rezoned for non-agricultural uses. Measure G does not prohibit development but gives Goleta residents the power to shape important land use decisions. Similar initiatives have been adopted elsewhere in California, including Ventura and Buellton, where EDC drafted the 2008 Buellton Urban Growth Boundary Initiative.

Goleta's General Plan was finalized in 2006 and developers have already tried to run roughshod over parcels that have been designated "ag" for decades and may prove critical for local food production. For example, Measure G is a direct outgrowth of our 2011 efforts (with the Goodland Coalition) to protect Bishop Ranch from being rezoned from ag land for development.

## Protecting Prime Ag Land in Ventura County

EDC's efforts on behalf of client Camarillo Sustainable Growth (CSG) to save more than 650 acres of prime farmland and two perennial creeks in Camarillo continued with our submittal in September of extensive legal and technical comments on the Conejo Creeks Properties Specific Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report.

In its entirety, the proposed development encompasses 740 acres and consists of 2,500 homes and 1.7 million square feet of commercial and industrial development. It would result in over 41,000 new commutes per day on congested Highway 101, destroy one of the two last remaining pieces of prime farmland in the City, and may eliminate rare species of turtles, snakes, fish, and birds which currently live along Conejo Creek.

EDC's lawyers and planners are engaging a botanist, a wildlife biologist, a hydrologist, a traffic engineer, an air quality consultant, and a river scientist to evaluate the proposed project's environmental damages.

This legal and scientific effort, coupled with the community organizing by our client, CSG, present a formidable obstacle to the developer's plans to pave over our agricultural lands, pollute the public's creeks, and destroy rare wildlife species that call the area home.

EDC staff addressing the Camarillo Planning Commission with a packed house at the hearing on September 18. Left to right: Brian Trautwein, Christina McGinnis, Brian Segee. Photo by Jesse Swanhuyser.



If the Conejo Creek Properties Project were to be approved, Camarillo would lose 650 acres of important farmland. Photo by Bob Merrilees.



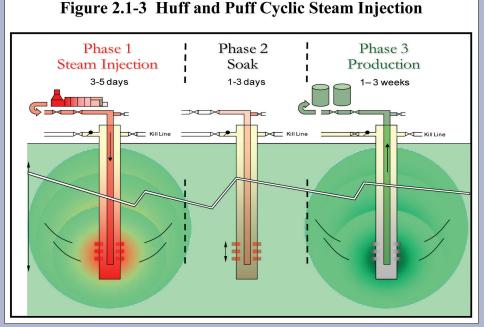




## Just Say No to Huffing and Puffing

Santa Barbara County officials have forecast that the number of applications to drill locally (onshore) for oil and natural gas will rise significantly in the coming years as high prices and techniques like hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") make way for the extraction of resources formerly thought to be unrecoverable. In Santa Barbara, the trend has been exacerbated by the use of a technique called "cyclic steam injection" (also referred to as "huff and puff" or "steam soaking").

Since 2011, EDC has tracked Santa Maria Pacific's proposal to bring a large "huff and puff" operation to an area between Lompoc and Orcutt. The Santa Maria Energy Project would consist of more than 100 new production oil wells and is expected to produce 85,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions per year. EDC is working with SBCAN, PUEBLO, Get Oil Out!, and the Sierra Club to review a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Project.



(1) injection of steam; (2) closing the well to allow the rock and oil to absorb the heat; and (3) opening the well and allowing oil to flow to the surface as a result of the increased pressure and temperature. Image from Santa Maria Energy Project DEIR.

## How Many Times Do We Have to Say "What the Frack?!"

Fracking is quickly becoming the predominant technique for producing oil and gas throughout the United States, and California is no exception to that trend. Unfortunately, no one except the oil companies currently knows exactly where and when wells are being fracked here, because state law does not require industry to disclose any information regarding their frack jobs to regulators or the public. While the Western States Petroleum Association (WSPA) claims that major oil companies fracked at least 628 wells in California in 2011, the true number is likely higher because WSPA relies on voluntary reporting and its membership includes only a portion of the companies in operation.

Unfortunately, two bills intended to bring some oversight to the practice failed to pass through the California legislature this year. AB 591, which would have required disclosure of chemicals used in fracking, and SB 1054, which would have required oil companies to provide advance notice to surface landowners prior to fracking or other oil development, were both defeated by the oil industry and its lobbyists. Although California has long been regarded as the nation's environmental vanguard, even states such as North Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming have enacted basic reporting and notification rules where we have none.

In the absence of state legislation, the state Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) has recently initiated a process to develop new fracking regulations. EDC participated in DOGGR's "scoping" workshops for the rules this summer, and will provide detailed comments and recommendations on the draft rules expected to be issued this fall on behalf of its clients at Carpinteria Valley Association, Los Padres Sierra Club, Santa Barbara County Action Network, and Get Oil Out!

## Ag Waiver, Waived?

Since 2008, EDC has been working with the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board to update regulations governing agricultural waste discharges (the "Conditional Waiver"). These regulations implement federal and state laws to protect drinking water, wildlife, and recreational activities. After more than three years of delay and contention, the Regional Board finally adopted a revised Conditional Waiver in March 2012. The revised Waiver requires some individuals to monitor surface and groundwater quality which will help the Board identify ongoing and potential sources of contamination. Unfortunately, representatives of large-scale industrial agriculture have petitioned the State Water Resources Control Board to review the revised Waiver provisions; this may effectively delay its implementation for up to an additional two years. EDC will continue working to ensure that necessary protections are afforded to human health and the environment as soon as possible.

### Thank You for Making "Celebrating Paradise Saved" a Spectacular Success!

Huge thanks to all our enthusiastic supporters and attendees of *Celebrating Paradise Saved*, EDC's annual benefit event! On Sunday, June 3rd, hundreds of people gathered at Rancho La Patera & Stow House, enjoyed fabulous drinks & food, auctioned generously, and feted ENVI Award honorees Deckers Outdoor Corporation and Scott Bull. Proceeds from *Celebrating Paradise Saved* help EDC sustain its efforts to safeguard our quality of life on the central coast through our education, advocacy, and legal support programs. Thank you!

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Photos (this page): Santa Barbara Channelkeeper's Executive Director Kira Redmond, EDC Chief Counsel Linda Krop, and EDC Board member Angela Antenore. Photos by

Photos (next page/clockwise): Paradise Saved Event. Dan Weber, Merry Goetz, and Steve Willson serving libations. Mingling at the event. Left to right: EDC staff, David Landecker and Nathan Alley stand with the 2012 Environmental Heroes, Mark Heintz and Scott Bull. All Photos by Coast Photography.











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Thank you!

### TGIF: See You Next Year

We have wrapped up another season of successful TGIFs with perfect weather and hundreds of faces coming together for some fun in our courtyard. Many thanks to all our stellar volunteers, season underwriter, event sponsors, musicians, and food and beverage donors. These events wouldn't happen without your help. We'll see you next May!

# SEASON UNDERWRITER: Citrix Online

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Dan Weber, Jenn Kono, Holly Bradbury, and Monica Reynolds enjoying the TGIF scene. Photo by Coast Photography



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### EDC Community & Events

## Gallery 113 Art Exhibit to Benefit EDC

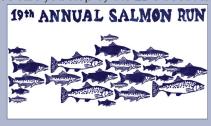
Stop by Gallery 113 to view paintings from Santa Barbara favorites including Oak Group Artists Meredith Abbott, Whitney Abbott, Marcia Burtt, Chris Chapman, Erika Edwards, John Iwerks, Larry Iwerks, Manny Lopez, and Skip Smith.

Dates: October 1-27 Gallery 113

La Arcada Courtyard ~ 1114 State Street, Suite 8 ~ Santa Barbara, CA 93101

### Visit EDC at the 19th Annual Salmon Run

On October 21, Patagonia will host the 19th Annual Salmon Run, a certified 5K course on a flat dirt road along the Ventura River. Proceeds from this year's race will benefit Friends of the Ventura River, a non-profit coalition (of which EDC is a member) dedicated to protecting the Ventura River watershed. Register online at race360.com or at Great Pacific Iron Works and be sure you stop by the EDC booth and say hello.



# Thanks to our sustaining members

Sustaining members pledge monthly gifts to EDC and we send special thanks to this group for ensuring regular, reliable, and environmentally responsible revenue to support our work.

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