

ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE CENTER

EDC CELEBRATES 35TH ANNIVERSARY !

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Carone Oil Project

Whales & Shipping

Gaviota Coast Plan

*MPAs-New Underwater
Parks*

Santa Rosa Island

*Goleta Heritage
Farmland Initiative*

Sea Otters

*Steelhead Recovery
Plan*

Conejo Creek

Ormond Beach

*Rincon Grubb- Clean
Water Act*

Ag Waiver

Fracking

Ag Futures Alliance

*Ocean Acidification
PSA*

*Raise A Glass - SYV
Event*

*Celebrating Paradise
Saved*

TGIFs

In 1977, a forward-thinking group of individuals, led by J. Marc McGinnes and the Santa Barbara Citizens for Environmental Defense, conceived of the Environmental Defense Center (EDC) as the “link between citizen intention and citizen action.” As the founders noted in the aftermath of the 1969 Santa Barbara Oil Spill,

“If left to their own priorities, government and business, for whatever their reasons, will surely continue to allow the destruction of the natural structure of the planet. Simultaneously they will, apparently, create and build increasingly dangerous energy facilities with less safety testing and less concern for future ramifications.”

In the wake of the Deepwater Horizon tragedy, and others over the years, it is clear that citizen action is as critical now as it was 35 years ago. As our founders believed so passionately, “someone must watchdog the actions of local government and industry.” EDC was formed to empower citizen watchdogs “to protect themselves and their communities” by serving as “the legal action arm of the environmental community,” providing an “environmental law resource center,” “practical training in citizen advocacy,” and “a mechanism by which citizens can participate in the shaping of environmental policies in their community.” Bottom line: “As current environmental laws are breached, or attempts are made to preempt local decision-making, the Center’s litigating function will be activated.”

With the help of our clients and partners, EDC has fulfilled our founders’ dreams by responding to the needs of our community. EDC’s legacy over the past 35 years includes saving more than 100,000 acres of precious open space lands including Hearst Ranch, Ellwood Mesa, Douglas Family Preserve, Sedgwick Ranch, Carpinteria Bluffs, Oxnard Shores, Hammonds Meadow, Ahmanson Ranch, East-West Ranch and more. In addition, we have terminated 40 federal offshore oil leases and defeated three proposals for liquefied natural gas (LNG) projects off our coast. We have tirelessly protected native wildlife and the natural settings necessary for environmental health.

CELEBRATING



PARADISE SAVED

This year holds significant new promise for EDC and our clients. In January, Santa Rosa Island became open to the public open year-round for the first time since it was added to the Channel Islands National Park in 1980, and a new network of marine protected areas was implemented along our coast. We expect to go to trial this year to reverse major development approvals along the Gaviota Coast and at Ormond Beach. We face at least three new offshore oil development threats, in addition to new fracking operations. We will continue our work to protect blue and other whales from ship strikes as they migrate through our region, and to restore steelhead to their historic spawning habitats in coastal creeks and rivers. We will fight air and water pollution that threatens our health and quality of life. We will complete our effort to bring sea otters back to California’s southern coast, and we will continue to educate our community about these and other important environmental issues.

Suffice it say, our work is never done.

Please join us in celebrating our 35th Anniversary, ensuring the sustainability of environmental stewardship on California’s central coast. Your support is what sustains our work.



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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.

EDC STAFF

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Linda Krop *Chief Counsel*
Nathan Alley *Staff Attorney*
Kristi Birney *Marine Conservation Analyst*
Rebecca Flynn *Accounting Manager*
Karen Kraus *Staff Attorney*
Christina McGinnis *O.P.E.N. Program Director*
Brian Segee *Staff Attorney*
Kelley Skumautz *Development Director*
Brian Trautwein *Environmental Analyst*
Betsy Weber *Communications Director*

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From the Desk of David Landecker

EDC: The Second Generation

2012 marks EDC's 35th Anniversary year. A full generation has passed since our wise founders recognized that laws crafted to conserve natural resources provide little or no protection without the dedicated work of experts in environmental law and policy, ready and able to enforce their intent.

My three children were born and grew to adulthood in the years since EDC was founded. My generation has had some notable successes and some disgraceful failures in our efforts to balance economic advances with protection of our fragile planet. The generation that follows us has learned, through our mistakes, the risks and consequences of environmental degradation. But their leaders, like ours, still minimize or ignore those consequences when they conflict with convenience, politics or profit.

As Linda and I say in our cover article of this newsletter, "our work is never done." Before we hand off this world to our children, let's be sure that they have the tools with which to continue the work our founders anticipated. Preserving EDC is among the most important legacies we can leave.

To that end, and in honor of our second generation, EDC is mounting a drive to raise an endowment, and to encourage "planned giving" from our loyal supporters, to assure that EDC can survive the uncertainties of longevity. This campaign is in addition to our normal membership and annual giving drives.

I hope to leave my children and grandchildren with some measure of security. But my most important gift is what I've done to leave them a world, or at least a community, in which they will want to raise their own families, and which celebrates the natural wonders I have taught them to appreciate and honor.

Sustaining EDC is the best way I know to accomplish that. Please join me in assuring EDC's strength in our second generation.

Special Announcements

EDC's Board of Directors has recently adopted new Executive Committee members: Chris Hahn- President, Peter Schuyler-Vice-President, Ignacio Alarcon -Treasurer, and Lee Heller-Secretary. We would like to express our gratitude to Gail Osherenko for successfully leading the organization as our President for the past four years. Gail continues to be heavily involved with the organization, maintaining her service as a board member and taking the helm as the Chair of our recently formed Endowment Committee.



Gary Hill

EDC would like to thank **Gary Hill** for serving on our Board of Directors for four years from 2008-2011, including service as both Secretary and Treasurer. Gary remains active with EDC, serving as the Chair of our Investment Committee and a member of the Endowment Committee. Gary was extremely helpful in upgrading our legal software, and on bringing his rare combination of skills in business, financial, and legal matters to EDC.



Gail Marshall

Gail Marshall will also be stepping down as a board member having served from 2009-2011. As a former Supervisor, Gail brought EDC her wisdom and experience regarding County issues, particularly related to the third district, including Goleta, Gaviota, and the Santa Ynez Valley. She served on our Program Committee and will continue her service to EDC as a member of our Santa Ynez Valley Steering Committee.

We are proud to announce our new Accounting Manager, **Rebecca Flynn**. She has been a full charge bookkeeper for 30 years, an office manager and controller for a variety of local companies, and most recently has operated her own business as an accountant. Welcome Rebecca, we are excited to have you on our team.



Rebecca Flynn

EDC is also honored to announce a grant award from the Jim Ryerson Environmental Foundation to fund the work of EDC Law Fellow, **Cameron Van Tassell**. Cameron came to EDC after practicing law in New York and is now a licensed attorney in the state of California. We are honored to have him and appreciative of this annual award that allows us to reflect on the life of Jim Ryerson and his environmental stewardship.



Cameron Van Tassell

More Oil Coming To Carpinteria

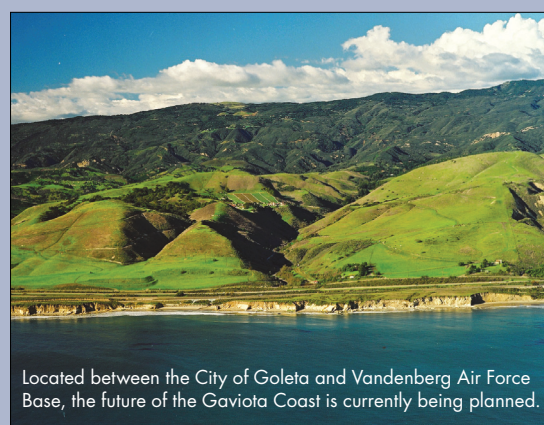
In 2010, voters in Carpinteria rejected Venoco Inc.'s attempt to secure ballot-box approval of the Paredon oil and gas drilling project. EDC and our clients at the Carpinteria Valley Association, Citizens for the Carpinteria Bluffs, Get Oil Out!, and the Los Padres Sierra Club educated the community about the risks of siting a 175-foot drilling rig on the bluffs above Carpinteria's seal sanctuary, and we prevented this ill-conceived project.

Now Venoco is back with a new proposal to "slant drill" from a yet to be determined onshore location into the same offshore oil and gas leases. The "new" project poses many of the same risks as the earlier proposal, and will no doubt elicit the same opposition and passions within the community.

But that is not all. Another oil company, Carone, proposes to drill into a similar field from 45-year old oil platform Hogan. EDC and our clients submitted comments on the scope of environmental review for this project, and a draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) is expected later this year. In our comments, we noted the cumulative effects of the Paredon and Carone projects on Carpinteria and surrounding communities, and the unacceptable risk of an oil spill.

Weigh In On The Future of Gaviota

The Gaviota Coast Plan (GCP) update is actively underway, which means that our community has a wonderful opportunity to participate in crafting a vision to address the future of the Gaviota Coast for the next 20 years. After going on hiatus since November 2011, the Gaviota Planning Advisory Committee (GavPAC), of which EDC is a member providing important policy and planning expertise, is conducting public meetings every two weeks at the Vista de las Cruces School. EDC also sits on two GavPAC Subcommittees who have been deliberating for the last several months to fine-tune recommendations for Agricultural uses and for Trails and Recreation. This is your chance to weigh in on the future of the Gaviota Coast, so please attend meetings and get involved! A Draft Gaviota Plan will be unveiled later this year. For more information, please visit our website.



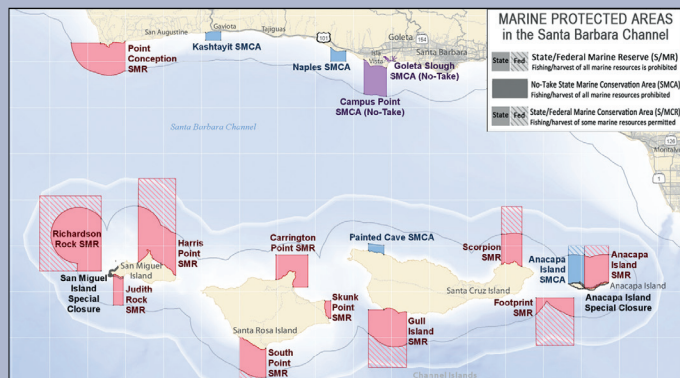
Located between the City of Goleta and Vandenberg Air Force Base, the future of the Gaviota Coast is currently being planned.

Our Ocean's Freeway And the Future of Whales

In a move that could benefit blue, fin, humpback, and other whales, the United States Coast Guard's (USCG) Eleventh District has recommended shifting the location of shipping lanes within the Santa Barbara Channel in an effort to reduce the number of ship strikes on whales. If implemented, the changes would mark the first time that shipping lanes have been altered to protect cetaceans on the west coast.

USCG's specific proposal, made as part of its November 2011 "Port Access Route Study" (PARS) for the Los Angeles and Long Beach harbors, is to move the southbound lane away from the "shelf edge" habitat near the Channel Islands where whale species congregate to feed on krill. If USCG Headquarters accepts the recommendation, then the agency will initiate domestic and international processes to finalize the lane change. EDC advocated for whale conservation throughout the PARS process, and will work to ensure that the proposed lane changes are finalized.

New Underwater Parks Dot Our Coast



The New Year was kicked off with meaningful action and commitment to the future health of the ocean. With the help of EDC's education and advocacy efforts, a new series of underwater parks, Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), went into effect on January 1st. These parks will help California's marine ecosystem recover from years of stress from fishing and other human activities. Located next to many existing onshore parks and beaches, MPAs are great places to kayak, surf, dive, and watch birds and wildlife. Get out and enjoy our local MPAs at Point Conception, Gaviota State Beach, Isla Vista, Goleta Slough, and Naples Reef.

Map courtesy of Santa Barbara Channelkeeper

Santa Rosa Island Now Open to Public Year Round

More than 30 years after its designation as part of Channel Islands National Park, Santa Rosa Island is for the first time open to the public year round and being managed for the protection of its natural resources. The second largest California Island, Santa Rosa is home to extraordinary biological diversity, including the endemic Santa Rosa Island Fox and the Torrey Pine, as well as large colonies of seabirds, seals, and sea lions. Santa Rosa is also renowned for its world class archeological and paleontological resources, including the most complete known specimen of the extinct pygmy mammoth, which once roamed the island and stood only four to six feet tall.

Although the National Park Service purchased Santa Rosa Island from its former private owners for \$30 million in 1986, it then issued permits authorizing those former owners to continue their cattle grazing and trophy hunting business within the new National Park. On behalf of the National Parks Conservation Association, EDC sued to stop these damaging practices. In 1998, we reached a groundbreaking settlement ending the cattle grazing, while providing for a more gradual removal of the non-native elk and deer, and restoration of full public access to the Island, by the end of 2011.



Santa Rosa Island Photo by Claire Fackler, NOAA National Marine Sanctuaries

The Value of Goleta's Farmland

In fall 2011, the Goleta City Council rejected a proposal which would have paved the way for up to 1,200 homes on the historic Bishop Ranch. EDC represented the newly-formed Goodland Coalition, a diverse group of Goleta residents who value agricultural lands in and around the City of Goleta. When Goleta was incorporated a decade ago, residents opted to include Bishop Ranch within City limits in order to maintain control over the 240-acre agricultural property.

In February 2012, EDC assisted the Goodland Coalition by drafting the Goleta Heritage Farmland Initiative which, if passed, would require a vote of the people of the City of Goleta before any large urban parcels, including Bishop Ranch, could be zoned out of agriculture. The Initiative would ensure that citizens have a say over the quality of life in Goleta.

EDC is also participating in protecting farmland in the Eastern Goleta Valley. The Board of Supervisors recently initiated the Eastern Goleta Valley Community Plan update for environmental review. EDC is working to ensure that large blocks of agricultural land in the Goleta Valley are retained into the future.

Sea Otters Are Making a Comeback

Acting under a legal settlement with EDC and The Otter Project, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has proposed to finally declare the "no otter zone" a failure, allowing threatened southern sea otters to naturally reclaim their historic ocean habitats south of Point Conception. EDC and The Otter Project spoke in support of the proposal at public hearings in Ventura, Santa Barbara, and Santa Cruz, as well as submitted detailed written comments.

Although FWS has issued draft proposals declaring the program a failure since the early 1990s, it never finalized those proposals, leading EDC and The Otter Project to sue FWS in 2009 for unreasonably delaying the decision. Under the resulting legal settlement, FWS must now issue a final decision on whether to terminate the "no otter zone" by December 2012. In the meantime, look out for otters in the kelps beds: there have been sightings along the southern California coast recently in Santa Barbara, Ventura, and even as far south as San Diego.

Help for Endangered Steelhead on the Way - Plan Provides Roadmap for Recovery



The Santa Ynez River's southern steelhead population plummeted by 99% following construction of Bradbury Dam. The River once boasted runs of 30,000 steelhead. Now there are less than 100.

In an effort to reverse this decline in the Santa Ynez River and throughout southern California, federal scientists just released a final Steelhead Recovery Plan. The Plan identifies the Santa Ynez River, Ventura River, and Mission Creek as central to steelhead recovery. EDC is leading efforts to recover these steelhead populations.

The Mission Creek Steelhead Recovery Project, spearheaded by EDC, will restore steelhead access to spawning grounds. This project also brought \$2 million into our local economy. The Recovery Plan concludes that recovering steelhead will bring in up to \$5 billion over the next 100 years.

For 50+ years two concrete flood control channels have prevented steelhead's winter migration up Mission Creek to spawning grounds. This channel is being retrofitted so steelhead can complete their journey. Photo by Brian Trautwein.

Gaining Ground at Ormond Beach



We are happy to report a milestone accomplishment for Ormond Beach: the Oxnard City Council has adopted its final 2030 General Plan, and most of the land identified in the State Coastal Conservancy's Ormond Beach wetland restoration plan is now designated by the City for "resource protection." Prior drafts of the 2030 Plan proposed significant urban development in areas the Coastal Conservancy wants to purchase and restore, including the Halaco Superfund site and the Agromin waste-compost industrial facility. Reclaiming these areas instead for wetland restoration will expand wetland habitat and reduce threats, like fire and hazardous waste releases, to wetland habitat and wildlife.

Adoption of the 2030 Plan marks great progress in our goal to permanently protect and restore the Ormond Beach wetlands, but we are not quite there. The 2030 Plan still leaves one of the last open spaces in Ormond Beach available for urban development and fails to phase out obsolete, ocean-polluting power plants. The City may make critical choices about these remaining issues this year. EDC represents Sierra Club and the Environmental Coalition of Ventura County to ensure the City's decisions do not interfere with the permanent protection and successful wetland restoration at Ormond Beach.

Although the status of the power plant and land immediately north of it is still up in the air, most of what you see here is now designated for "resource protection" in Oxnard's 2030 General Plan. Photo by Kurt Preissler.

Camarillo Farmland, Wildlife Threatened

EDC Teams with New Client to Safeguard Ventura Open Space

The largest residential development recently proposed in Ventura County would pave over prime farmland, block wildlife corridors, mar scenic views to and from the Conejo Mountains, and create gridlock on local streets. Dubbed the Conejo Creek Properties Project, this 2,500-home urban sprawl proposal would gobble up 740 acres, displacing valuable agricultural lands which could otherwise provide fresh, nutritious fruit and vegetables to our communities.

Even worse, the site sits right in Camarillo's 100-year flood plain, necessitating a massive public works flood channel -- right next to habitat for rare birds and wildlife.

EDC represents Camarillo Sustainable Growth (CSG) -- a non-profit dedicated to protecting open space and the quality of life in this charming town. Our team of experts will scrutinize environmental reports this spring and will work diligently with CSG to safeguard the community's air, water, and land from this poorly-sited and environmentally-damaging development.

The Clean Water Act Enforced

Rincon Grubb Oil Field Notified to Clean Up Its Act

Oil fields such as Rincon Grubb contain a diverse array of "point sources" contributing to water pollution. Runoff from road networks, drill pad and reserve pit construction, well drilling, well completion and stimulation (such as fracking), and other activities can include conventional pollutants such as suspended solids, oil and grease, as well as nonconventional, toxic, or hazardous pollutants such as chlorides, benzene, arsenic, and lead. Since enrolling under the state's CWA "Industrial General Permit" five years ago, Vintage/Occidental has reported levels of total suspended solids and other pollutants orders of magnitude above water quality standards and violated their permit in several other respects.

In February, EDC notified Vintage Production Company, a subsidiary of Occidental Petroleum, of its intent to sue the company for chronic violations of the Clean Water Act (CWA) at its Rincon Grubb oil field, located in the steep coastal hills of northwestern Ventura County. Storm water from the 4,235-acre field runs off into coastal creeks flowing directly into the Pacific Ocean from Seacliff to Solimar, affecting heavily used public beaches.

Occidental, or "Oxy", is California's largest oil and gas producer and is leading the industry's efforts to develop oil in the Monterey Shale through the use of fracking. In 2011, Vintage/Oxy disclosed its fracking of a well at Rincon Grubb, the only such disclosure made to date in Ventura County. There has also been a history of oil spills at the field, including a March 2011, spill which oiled the beach between Hobson and Faria County Parks.

Vintage/Oxy has 60 days from the date of EDC's notice letter to comply with the CWA, or face a civil lawsuit.



Rincon Grubb oil and gas field. Photo courtesy of Santa Barbara Channelkeeper/Lighthawk

Water Quality Matters – Let's Keep the Discharge Out of It

Water quality in agricultural areas on the Central Coast has been in troubling decline for years. In 2008, the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board began a process to update the region's Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands. The Conditional Waiver implements federal and state laws to regulate discharges from agricultural lands and thereby protect drinking water, wildlife, and recreational activities that rely on clean water. EDC, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper, San Luis Obispo Coastkeeper, and Monterey Coastkeeper have been working together to improve the Conditional Waiver program. In general, we support four principles introduced by the Regional Board: (1) eliminate toxic discharges of agricultural pesticides; (2) reduce nutrient discharges to surface waters and groundwater; (3) minimize sediment discharges from agricultural lands; and (4) protect aquatic habitat, including riparian areas and wetlands, and adequate buffer zones. The Regional Board will consider proposed revisions to the Conditional Waiver in Spring 2012.

EDC Says "No Fracking Way"

When Venoco fracked two oil wells near Los Alamos last spring without prior notification to landowners or county regulators, it set off a firestorm of controversy and a series of hearings by the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors. Through these hearings, the importance of a local response became clear due to numerous exemptions and loopholes under state and federal law. Recognizing this importance, EDC helped convince the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to require detailed planning and full environmental analysis for all future fracking proposals, making the County the first in California to specifically address fracking.

EDC also continues to advocate for improvements to AB 591, a state bill that would require disclosure of chemicals used in fracking. AB 591 was weakened significantly by amendments last year, and in January EDC wrote to bill author Bob Wieckowski on behalf of clients Carpinteria Valley Association, Los Padres Sierra Club, Santa Barbara County Action Network, and Get Oil Out!, asking him to restore the bill's initial requirements of requiring disclosure of all chemicals prior to fracking.

EDC's work to address fracking has helped raise local awareness and garnered press in major media outlets including the Los Angeles Times and NPR. We are also keeping busy with public education outreach including recent panel discussions hosted by Rep. Lois Capps, the League of Women Voters, and the Ventura Film Society.

Farm to Fork Series Educates the Masses

The last year has been an exciting and productive one for the Santa Barbara and Ventura Agricultural Futures Alliance (AFA) groups. The AFA, which EDC co-founded, comprises a wide segment of both the environmental and agricultural communities joined by the common goal of finding ways to protect agriculture into the future. Most recently, the Santa Barbara AFA completed its "Farm to Fork" series, designed to educate residents about local farming practices from the perspectives of production, processing, distribution and the consumer, among others. EDC helped organize public forums as well as two bus tours. The Ventura AFA recently conducted an "Agricultural Summit" that was attended by over 250 people to address various issues related to agriculture. The AFA is trying to engage the public on how agriculture operates and the challenges it faces. For more information, please visit EDC's website.



Photo courtesy of
Santa Barbara Ag Futures Alliance



A packed house at Ventura AFA's "Agricultural Summit". Photo Courtesy of John Nichols Gallery

Two Sips of Spring

Raise A Glass

Join EDC and the Santa Ynez Valley Host Committee as we "Raise a Glass" to Richard and Thekla Sanford of Alma Rosa Winery for Richard's induction into the Culinary Institute of America's Vintner's Hall of Fame and steadfast stewardship of the environment and natural resource protection.

WHAT: Raise A Glass

WHEN: Tuesday, May 8, 2012, 6:00-8:30pm

WHERE: Avant Tapas & Wine, 35 Industrial Way, Buellton, CA

TICKETS: \$100 Per Person, Includes Dinner & Drinks

EDC offers various levels of event sponsorship and ticket prices, each with a unique array of benefits. Please visit www.EnvironmentalDefenseCenter.org or call 805-963-1622 for more information.

Host Committee: Nancy Byrne, Mary Jane & Ed Edalatpour, Carol Ann & Timothy Elwell, Bob Field, Alice Gillaroo & Susan Jorgensen, Deborah Hall, Joan Hartmann & Jim Powell, Gail Marshall, John Poitras, Barbara & Russell Radom, Judi & Rick Stauffer, Donna & Patrick Will, Jefferson Woeste & Bruce Cleveland



Richard Sanford (pictured here with his wife Thekla) of Alma Rosa Winery was recently inducted into the Culinary Institute of America 2012 Vintners Hall of Fame

CELEBRATING



PARADISE SAVED

Celebrating Paradise Saved

Save the date for EDC's annual benefit event, *Celebrating Paradise Saved*, on Sunday, June 3rd at Rancho La Patera & Stow House in Goleta. Be one of Santa Barbara's finest who will join us for an exquisite afternoon of fine food & wine, live entertainment, silent and live auctions, and a short program featuring the presentation of EDC's ENVI Award.

WHEN: June 3, 2012, 2:00-5:00 pm

WHERE: Rancho La Patera & Stow House, 304 N. Los Carneros Rd, Goleta, CA

Celebrating Paradise Saved is an event not to be missed! EDC offers various levels of event sponsorship and ticket prices. To find out more or to make your reservations for either event, please contact Kelley Skumautz, Development Director, at kskumautz@edcnet.org or 805-963-1622 x103.

Changing Ocean Chemistry-What Shellfish Will Be On Your Plate?

In April, EDC will debut a Public Service Announcement (PSA) about the chemical changes taking place in the oceans as they absorb increasing atmospheric CO₂, thus, becoming more acidic. The PSA will highlight how changes to our ocean chemistry are happening now and will have devastating consequences for fishermen and women, the animals they harvest, and the shellfish we eat. Collaborating with our partners at the National Marine Science Foundation, the National Marine Sanctuaries, and ocean advocates, this PSA will be available through the web and TV. Follow EDC's work on this topic on our updated ocean acidification webpage.

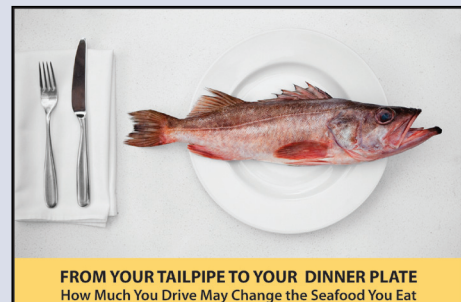


Photo by Erin Feinblatt Photography



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EDC Community & Events

See You at TGIF!

The much anticipated TGIF season is here at last. Please mark your calendar and notify your friends about what has become known as the best happy hour in town. Come enjoy the warm summer evenings in our historic downtown courtyard where hundreds of members of our local community gather over tasty hors d'oeuvres, a variety of local wines, beer from New Belgium Brewing Company, and raffle items from many local businesses, all for just \$15. We are proud to be offering a season pass again this year for \$80 which will give you entry into all five TGIFs (including the Fall Feast where you will be served a full meal and is a \$20 value) and one raffle ticket per event. For more information on TGIF or to purchase a season pass please contact Betsy at bweber@EnvironmentalDefenseCenter.org.



Photo by Gary Cartzdafner

TGIFs 2012
May 11 • July 13 • August 10
September 14 • October 12



Events Calendar 2012

April 14
Earth Day Festival, Ventura

April 21 & 22
Earth Day Festival, Santa Barbara

May 8
Raise A Glass

May 11
TGIF

June 3
Celebrating Paradise Saved

July 13
TGIF

August 10
TGIF

September 14
TGIF