



environmental
DEFENSE CENTER

Laurie Bailey Photography

FALL 2013 NEWSLETTER

The Environmental Defense Center's annual June event at Rancho La Patera and Stow House brought together a who's who for the environment. Public officials, nonprofit friends and partners, supporters and volunteers all came together to celebrate what we have accomplished together over the last year and to honor some of the community leaders who made these victories possible.

This event has always been a reminder of how EDC is unique. We work in the public interest, representing charitable organizations trying to protect our region's environment. EDC is your voice; we represent your values and make sure that your concerns are heard. Big oil companies can send teams of lawyers and lobbyists to make their case anywhere, anytime. You have EDC. And you know that when EDC takes a case, we are in for the long haul – sometimes we work on the same issue for years, even decades, to get to a successful conclusion.

We have heard from so many of you how this was one of EDC's best events yet (and you know how many great events EDC produces!). But between the music and fun, the reuniting of old friends, the great food, wine and beer there was a serious message: **There is important work yet to be done, and we need your help!**

Thank you for being a part of this event... and our community!



EDC's June event brought together more than 400 friends and supporters to celebrate and reflect on the work we still have in front of us. Photos by Coast Photography

EDC'S WORLD



THE KEY TO EDC'S WORLD

1. Monitoring oil and gas development in Ventura County
2. Stopping expansion of Carone offshore oil project
3. Protecting marine sanctuary resources
4. Raising awareness of Ocean Acidification
5. Protecting underwater parks
6. Avoiding whale/ship collisions
7. Reviewing offshore renewable energy projects
8. Working to balance coastal and ocean uses
9. Banning use of single use bags
10. Ensuring cleanup of Chevron debris mounds
11. Protecting Gaviota Coast
12. Protecting beach and park at Goleta Beach
13. Preserving Naples
14. Retiring offshore oil leases
15. Protecting Ormond Beach Wetlands
16. Ending no-otter zone
17. Assuring the removal of oil production infrastructure near Ellwood
18. Assuring no new oil production on Ellwood Pier
19. Ensuring no slant drilling from Carpinteria to offshore
20. Protecting prime agricultural land from unwise development
21. Protecting chaparral and related habitat
22. Protecting farmland and stopping Camarillo sprawl
23. Helping restore Mission Creek
24. Protecting More Mesa from development
25. Ensuring full environmental review at Mosby park
26. Building bridges to save agricultural land
27. Protecting urban agricultural and natural resources
28. Protecting endangered Steelhead
29. Conducting volunteer creek clean-ups and monitoring watershed health
30. Protecting water quality from polluted run-off
31. Ensuring strict environmental review and regulation of fracking
32. Ensuring cleanup of Halaco superfund site
33. Cleaning up Ojai Quarry run-off
34. Ensuring clean water on coast from Rincon Grubb oil production
35. Curbing carbon emissions
36. Reducing GHG emissions and addressing sea level rise
37. Defeating Vandenberg slant drilling project
38. Providing community environmental referrals



Oil companies have been fracking from platforms in our Channel. Photo by Erin Feinblatt

NO MORE GRUBBIN'

Surfers, swimmers and friends of the coast rejoice, as popular Ventura County beaches from Hobsons to Solimar will soon be both safer and cleaner! Earlier this summer EDC celebrated a victory where a large oil and gas company agreed to reduce polluted storm water that drains from its Rincon Grubb facility directly onto popular beaches and into the ocean. The victory also calls for additional monitoring and scrutiny and includes a precedent-setting requirement that the oil company must alert EDC before it attempts any fracking!

DIRTY WATER : FRACKING IN OUR CHANNEL

Hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, is on everyone's mind these days. The petroleum industry has been trying to find new ways to force oil from the ground and one of the latest techniques involves forcing chemicals, sand and large quantities of water at high pressure to shatter the rock far beneath our feet. Recently, EDC discovered that oil companies are doing the very same thing in the waters off our coast – and largely without any regulation or environmental review! There are so many unanswered questions around this practice, including the impact of releasing the resulting chemical soup directly into the Santa Barbara Channel. It is simply unreasonable for fracking to face less environmental scrutiny and regulation than other methods of oil drilling. Check out EDC's website for more information.

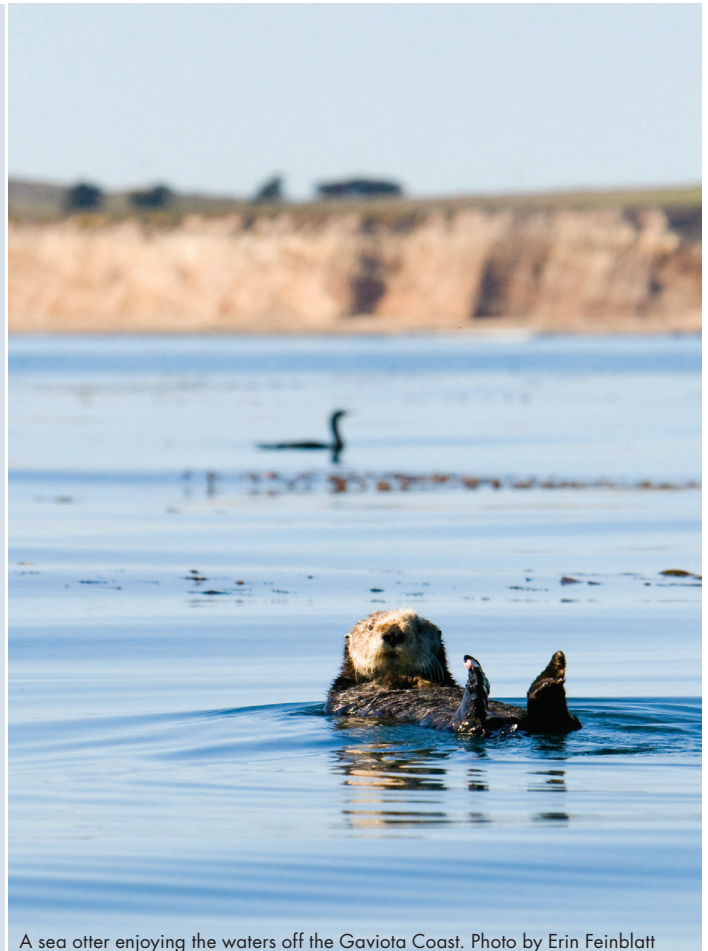


Local Rincon surfer Trevor Gordon enjoying the surf. Photo by Branden Aroyan

WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW

OTTERLY IRRATIONAL

At the end of 2012 EDC celebrated a significant victory when our lawsuit successfully ended the federal government's failed policy of forbidding sea otters from entering their native southern California range. Sadly, this is not the end of the story as a coalition of fishing groups has filed a suit to force the reinstatement of the "no-otter zone." But EDC and our clients are ready, willing and able to win this again - and with your help, sea otters will be coming home soon.



A sea otter enjoying the waters off the Gaviota Coast. Photo by Erin Feinblatt



Gaviota Caves. Photo by Erin Feinblatt

GAVIOTA COASTING

The Planning Commission is reviewing a draft Gaviota Plan and EDC is leading the way to ensure that Santa Barbara County delivers a positive vision for the future of the environment and Gaviota farmland. Working with our allies, we are focused on ensuring a legacy of preservation for the agricultural community, for habitat and for future generations.

QUARRY QUANDRY

EDC and our clients continue to be very concerned about the failure of the Mosler Rock Ojai Quarry's owners to clean up their act – or at least their site. Runoff from this Ventura County rock mine is seriously polluted, far in excess of the federal standards, and causing real danger to clean water and wildlife, including endangered steelhead trout. EDC and SB ChannelKeeper attempted to work with the quarry's owners for many months but finally, as a last resort, have had to file a law suit for the quarry's violations of the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act.



The Ojai Quarry, located near Highway 33 on North Fork Matilija Creek, discharges chronic amounts of sediment and frequent rockslides into the creek during storm events, polluting our water quality and wildlife habitat. Photo credit: Santa Barbara Channelkeeper courtesy of Lighthawk



MISSION : LOWER EMISSIONS

EDC, our clients and our partner organizations had a good day this spring when we convinced the Santa Barbara County Planning Commission to take a harder look at the Santa Maria Energy Project, which would use high-pressure steam injection to extract oil from 136 onshore wells to access oil. The project would be one of the largest climate-change-causing greenhouse gas emitters in our region if left unchecked. There is still a long way to go, but EDC achieved a preliminary victory in our effort to make sure polluters are held accountable and the County sets a reasonable standard for this and future projects.

CARPINTERIA SAYS PARE-DON'T!

Three years ago, 70% of Carpinteria voters said 'NO' to Measure J, Venoco's *Paredon Oil & Gas Project* to slant drill from a 175-foot-tall rig next to City Hall, the harbor seal haul-out and sanctuary, Carpinteria Bluffs and the Arbol Verde neighborhood. Well, there's bad news: they're back! Luckily, EDC and our clients haven't gone anywhere, and we remain vigilant to ensure this proposed Statue of Liberty-sized rig and associated oil development will not threaten Carpinteria's people and environment.



Venoco hopes to slant drill from a 175-foot-tall rig near the Carpinteria Bluffs and the harbor seal sanctuary. Photo by Linda Krop

THANK YOU GENEROUS SUPPORTERS!

Stewardship Circle

February 1 - August 15, 2013

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|--|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Janice Keller | Vasanti & Joel Fithian | Paula Kislak | Barbara N. Rubin |
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| Earth Share of California | Arthur Kennedy | Unitrust | |

For Contributions Made February 1-August 15, 2013

(Includes both financial and in-kind support)

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 7 Day Nursery | Kristi Birney | Adrienne & Mark Chaconas | Diyana Dobberteen | Fresco Café |
| Whitney Abbott & Murray McTigue | Karen & Bob Blackburn | Channel Islands Outfitters | Mary Dodd | Sarah Fretwell |
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| Anaheim Marriott | Dennis Bozanich | Gary Clark | Educated Car Wash | Elizabeth Gaspar |
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| The Bikini Factory | | Teresa Di Agostino | Laura Francis | |
| Megan Birney | | Disneyland | Christine Fredericks | |
| Robin Birney | | | Gerri French | |

For Contributions Made February 1 – August 15, 2013

| | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|---|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Joan Hartmann & James Powell | Thomas Stone | Stacey Otte | San Marcos Farms Honey Co. | Touring & Tasting |
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| Heal the Ocean | Jeremy Lindaman | Paradise Found | SB County Action Network | Deby Tygell |
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| Healthy Pet | LOA Tree | Nancy Parker | Santa Barbara Rock Gym | Ann Veazey |
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| Kanaloa Seafood | Allan Morton | Randal Riev | Spoon | Reeve Woolpert |
| Anthony Kar | Catherine Mullin | Michelle Rivara | Harris Sprecher | Pete Woolson |
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environmental
DEFENSE CENTER

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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.

TGIF! We're Not Done Partying Yet



Maybe you have only made it to one, or maybe you made it to none, but either way you are in luck. Our TGIF! season is not over yet, so mark your calendar for September 20 and October 11. Grab your friends and come enjoy beer, wine, food, live music and a chance to hear about the latest environmental happenings in our communities. And remember, the October 11th event wraps up the season as the Fall Feast, offering a complete dinner with Big Easy Catering dishing up the main entrees and Duo Catering preparing the side dishes made with local organic produce.

When you are ready to think about your bequest, EDC can help you leave a legacy of a healthy environment. Contact us for more information.

STAY ENGAGED!

