



environmental
DEFENSE CENTER

Laurie Bailey Photography

SPRING 2013 NEWSLETTER

Imagine standing on the bluff top at Ellwood Mesa surrounded by 299 large luxury homes. Gazing out at the Channel Islands, an oil barge departs the Ellwood Marine Terminal, polluting its way through the Channel, posing a risk of oil spills and sending a sickening noxious odor throughout Coal Oil Point Reserve and surrounding neighborhoods, as it transports low grade oil from Platform Holly.

Obviously none of this is what you see when you look down the coast at Ellwood and this is due in large part to the work of the Environmental Defense Center (EDC). For 36 years, EDC has been the environmental watchdog for the south central coast of California, ensuring the protection of the scenic views, our coast and ocean, public access, clean water and the threatened plants and animals that make our region such a special place to live and visit. But of course that is only part of the story. EDC succeeds because of the more than 90 different partner organizations we have worked with over the years - the organizations which hire us to take on these issues - and more than anything, because of you!

When you visit the Ellwood Mesa, its butterfly grove and spectacular open coastal bluff, or when you go whale watching and chance upon a blue whale passing through the Santa Barbara Channel, we hope you stop for a moment and think, "I helped save this." Because you did.

Without your regular support, EDC could never have been able to keep fighting for Ellwood, year after year, in the face of deep-pocketed and powerful opposition. And your generosity was equally essential in getting the International Maritime

Organization to recently agree to move shipping lanes to lessen the chance of a collision with migrating blue whales. And it is your support again that will allow us to finally protect the Ormond Beach Wetlands, protect clean water and communities from fracking and win permanent protection for Naples, More Mesa and much more.

If you look at the size of our staff, EDC is not a large organization. But if you judge EDC by our victories, you will see that we have accomplished more for the south central coast's environment than any other single group. There is much more to do, but together we can finish the job and truly protect paradise. To get there we do need your help and hope we can count on you to ensure EDC has the necessary support to carry us through the next 36 years and beyond.



Members of several environmental and community organizations wave goodbye to the last oil barge leaving the Ellwood Marine Terminal. Photo by Betsy Weber.

EDC: YOUR SUPPORT MAKES OUR SUCCESSES



Without EDC, California's south central coast would look a lot different. For 36 years, EDC has been the community watchdog ensuring the preservation of our region's ecological heritage, in the face of enormous development pressure. Using our legal expertise to enforce our nation's environmental laws as the foundation for our work, we empower community groups by providing them with the tools necessary to advance their environmental goals and objectives. Despite more than a generation of work protecting Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo's environment, there is much more to be done. For two generations EDC has stood up to powerful interest groups. With your support EDC will continue to fight for clean water, open space, and a healthy coast and ocean.

EDC BY THE NUMBERS

36 YEARS EDC HAS BEEN PROTECTING
THE TRI-COUNTY ENVIRONMENT

92 NON-PROFIT COMMUNITY GROUPS EDC HAS REPRESENTED

100,000+ ACRES OF PRECIOUS OPEN SPACE EDC
HAS PRESERVED IN PERPETUITY

40 OFFSHORE OIL LEASES EDC HAS TERMINATED

10 MIGHTY STAFF MEMBERS WHO WORK
AT EDC TO KEEP UP THE GOOD FIGHT



photo by Robert Perry

SEA OTTERS COMING TO A KELP BED NEAR YOU

Perhaps you have heard about a recent sea otter sighting in a kelp bed just off our coast. Or better yet, maybe you have been lucky enough to see one yourself! The decades old “no otter zone” that prohibited sea otters from living in water from Pt. Conception to the Mexican border has finally been ended, thanks to the lawsuit and legal settlement between EDC, The Otter Project and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Now, the charismatic sea otter is allowed to cross that imaginary line and roam free in Southern California waters for the first time in a quarter century. Keep your eyes out!

ORMOND BEACH

Marking a significant step forward in the community’s attempts to protect the Ormond Beach Wetlands, EDC won a major legal victory overturning the City of Oxnard’s approval of 1,545 housing units and the paving over of vast open spaces. The wetlands, which are located in Oxnard between Port Hueneme and the Point Mugu Naval Base, support numerous rare plants and wildlife, including more than 200 species of migratory birds. Our work on behalf of the Sierra Club and Environmental Coalition will continue in hopes of restoring Ormond Beach to one of the largest preserved coastal wetlands in southern California.



photo by Jim McComb



photo by Robert Perry

GREAT WHALES AND CARGO SHIPS

We are extremely lucky to have the largest seasonal population of blue whales in the world, along with orcas, humpback, gray and fin whales, living just off our coast in the Santa Barbara Channel. Unfortunately, ship strikes are a primary threat to recovering whale populations, and nowhere is the conflict more apparent than in the Channel. In 2007, there were an abnormal number of whale deaths due to ship strikes and EDC took up the cause by working in partnership with local, state, national and international agencies. Because of EDC’s involvement, the U.S. Coast Guard for the first time will move shipping lanes on the West Coast away from areas where whales feed. Now, EDC and our Partners are focused on reducing cargo ship speeds to better protect whales while also improving air quality and decreasing GHG emissions.

FARMLAND FOR OUR LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM

Maintaining and improving the local food system continues to be a high priority for our communities. However, as farming becomes less profitable and land continues to grow in value, development of prime agricultural land remains a threat to a sustainable food system. EDC is proud to have authored Measure G, on behalf of the Goodland Coalition, which passed when more than 71 percent of Goleta’s voters said “YES” last November. This ensured that large parcels zoned for agriculture may not be rezoned without a majority public vote.



photo by Nathan Alley

WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW

OLD FRIENDS MAKE GREAT ALLIES – A ‘STOP LNG’ REUNION AT EDC!



EDC Chief Counsel Linda Krop, new Executive Director Owen Bailey and former Staff Attorney, now EDC Board member, Alicia Roessler worked together for years to successfully stop BHP Billiton's Liquefied Natural Gas terminal from being built in the Santa Barbara Channel.

EDC CELEBRATIONS: PICK YOUR PARTY!

COME ONE, COME ALL. TGIF! SEASON IS HERE!

You may know tgif! as the best happy hour in town, which it probably is! But more importantly it is described as “the place to be” and a “who’s who of the environmental community.” Join us for another season of these renowned community-building events in our historic downtown courtyard. Take the opportunity to network with 200-300 people and hear about the latest environmental issues and happenings throughout our region while enjoying New Belgium beer, local wines, scrumptious hors d'oeuvres, and some rocking live music. Purchase your season pass, tell your friends, mark your calendar, and come hang out with the EDC crew. EnvironmentalDefenseCenter.org/tgif

May 10, July 12, August 9, September 20, October 11

5:30-7:30PM

Cost: \$15



MAY 10 | JULY 12 | AUGUST 9 | SEPTEMBER 20 | OCTOBER 11



celebrating paradise saved



CELEBRATING PARADISE SAVED

On Sunday, June 2nd we are looking forward to celebrating the beauty of our region in the gardens of the historic Rancho La Patera & Stow House in Goleta. Join us for an exquisite afternoon of fine food provided by SBB Gourmet Catering, wine from The Ojai Vineyard, brews from New Belgium Brewing, and live entertainment. There will be a silent and live auction with hundreds of eco products, local wines, vacation packages and more. The afternoon will conclude with a short program featuring the presentation of EDC's 2013 ENVI Award to the Oak Group and their founding member Erika Edwards, and the Los Padres Sierra Club.

Celebrating Paradise Saved is an event not to be missed. To find out more about our various levels of sponsorship and ticket prices, or to make your reservation contact EDC at 963-1622 or visit EnvironmentalDefenseCenter.org/CPS.



Photos by Kristi Curtis

PROTECTING GAVIOTA COAST AGRICULTURE

EDC's Open-space Preservation Education Network (OPEN) program has been bringing together the agricultural and conservation communities to help preserve ag land in Santa Barbara County. This year, the OPEN program produced a short film: *Gaviota Agriculture: Three Stories*, which you can watch on the homepage of our website.

OPEN has already won significant victories in protecting open-space ag land – like the Ag Buffer Policy which EDC championed to ensure that space is preserved as a buffer protecting ag land from development and communities from pesticides. By using our expertise to help establish community plans and continuing to focus on building bridges between the diverse communities who love this land, EDC is also working to preserve Gaviota for future generations.

FRACK ATTACK!

A few short years ago, hydraulic fracturing or “fracking,” was all but unknown outside of the oil and gas industry. Today communities across America are waking up to threats caused by industry blasting open underground rock with a high pressure mix of unknown chemicals, sand and water. The risks to our drinking water, public health, wildlife habitat, clean air and communities are really just beginning to be documented as the oil and gas industry has set its sights on Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties.

While the State and Federal Governments have yet to establish much regulation of this dangerous drilling technique, EDC helped Santa Barbara County become a leader by putting in place some of the most effective public oversight anywhere. However, there are even newer technologies being put in place and other counties still have a long way to go. EDC will remain vigilant, continue our work on the local, state, and federal level, and is committed to fight back, protecting people and the environment.

At the end of 2012, EDC said farewell (but not goodbye) to newly retired Executive Director, David Landecker - seen here with the painting by Oak Group artist, Whitney Abbott presented on his departure by the EDC Board and staff.



THANK YOU GENEROUS SUPPORTERS!



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8. Sandy Lejeune, Eve Rinehart 9. Peter
Schuyler, Ann Lippincott, Ned Emerson 10. EDC
Stewardship Circle members enjoying the beach
at Rincon 11. EDC Board & staff retreat at Arroyo
Hondo Preserve

For contributions made September 1, 2012 – January 31, 2013



\$500-\$999

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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.

STAY ENGAGED!



“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.”