



environmental
DEFENSE CENTER

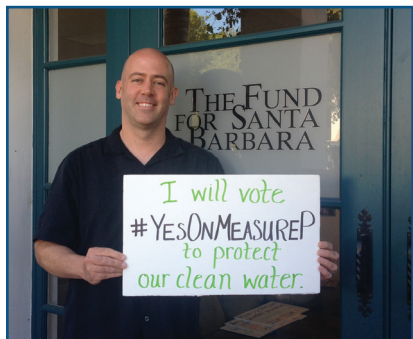


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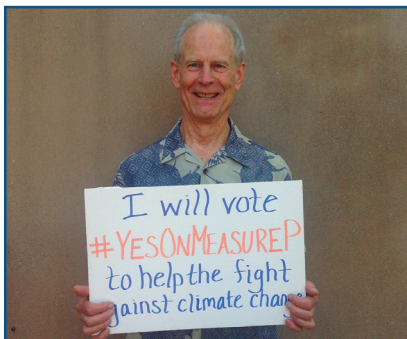
FALL 2014 NEWSLETTER

PROTECT OUR WATER

This year marks the 45th anniversary of the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill. The sickening images of our soiled beaches, oiled birds and many miles of devastation awakened the nation to the dangers of offshore oil drilling. It gave birth to the modern environmental movement, establishing laws to help protect our clean air, clean water, and marine wildlife. The Environmental Defense Center was also founded as a response to this completely avoidable disaster, and to this day we work to protect our precious environment from the risks of irresponsible oil drilling both off and onshore. As the pages that follow demonstrate, with your support, we have accomplished a great deal. However, there remain significant threats we must tackle together.



Geoff Green, Fund for Santa Barbara



Dennis Allen, Allen & Associates



Monique Limon, Santa Barbara School Board



Dave Davis, Community Environmental Council



Orin Cadwell, Tutti Frutti Farms



Owen Bailey & daughter, Environmental Defense Center

YES ON P

For example, today, we have an opportunity to permanently ban some of the riskiest oil drilling practices within Santa Barbara County by passing Measure P on the November ballot. Measure P - the Healthy Air and Water Initiative - will prohibit new fracking, acidization and steam injection of oil wells in Santa Barbara County. These three techniques waste a tremendous amount of water, threaten the quality of our groundwater and clean air, and cause enormous climate impacts. While this initiative will not impact conventional oil drilling and existing operations will be unaffected, passage is critical to ensuring that the south central coast does not once again face a disaster which awakens the conscience of the nation. Please vote YES on Measure P and help us protect the air we breathe and our precious water supply.

SUPPORT SOLAR

EDC supports an alternative vision for our future in which we move away from risky, polluting fossil fuel projects. To that end, we were proud to support Santa Barbara County's first commercial-scale solar project, located in the Cuyama Valley. This project will generate 40 megawatts of clean energy, enough to support 15,600 homes and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 30,000 metric tons annually, all while reducing water use.

We've come a long way since the Oil Spill and we are still making progress together.



Santa Maria Energy

In late 2013, Santa Barbara County approved a new cyclic steam injection oil drilling project called Santa Maria Energy. These 136 wells would have made this the biggest greenhouse gas polluting project in the County, but EDC successfully pushed to have them offset 90% of their emissions. Soon after the project approval, the company announced its intention to drill more than 7,000 new wells. Definitely one to watch!

Tranquillon Ridge

Oil developers have long been seeking to drill into the Tranquillon Ridge oil field located offshore of Lompoc and Point Arguello, in a coastal sanctuary designated as a Marine Protected Area. The current proposal is from Sunset/Exxon, seeking to drill from a site located on Vandenberg Air Force Base.

Vandenberg
Air Force
Base

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Oil + Water Don't Mix. Vote Yes on Measure P

Santa Barbara County voters will have an opportunity in November to ban fracking, cyclic steam injection and acidizing. These techniques waste a significant amount of water, risk polluting our precious groundwater and give off a tremendous amount of climate disruption-causing carbon pollution! Vote Yes on Measure P!

Gaviota

GOLETA

No More Oil at Ellwood, Venoco

For years, EDC and our clients have been working to ensure Venoco does not resume drilling and production operations on the Ellwood Pier (Lease 421), an operation that was shut down in 1994 after an oil spill, and process the oil and gas at the aging and unsightly Ellwood Onshore Facility (EOF). The EOF is located between Sandpiper Golf Course and the Bacara, an area zoned for recreational use near popular areas such as Haskell's Beach and the Ellwood Mesa.

Acidizing Holly

In 2014, EDC discovered that Venoco was acidizing from platform Holly in state waters just offshore from UCSB. Acidizing is a risky well stimulation technique where hydrochloric and hydrofluoric acids are pumped down a well to increase the flow of oil by dissolving the rock. We are currently working to ensure state regulators recognize the risks this technique poses to our marine environment.

A is for Oil Spill

On January 29, 1969, a blowout on Platform A off Santa Barbara's coast began pouring more than three million gallons of oil into our Channel. The disaster was later determined to stem from federal regulators easing safety rules to benefit the oil industry – a situation which also preceded the 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon disaster in the Gulf. EDC has worked for 37 years to reduce the risk of similar tragedies off the south central coast.

OIL: EDC DRILLS DOWN

California's south central coast has historically been an oil-producing region. The first offshore oil drilling in the world took place from piers reaching into the Santa Barbara Channel from Summerland beginning in the late 1800s. But the terrible 1969 Santa Barbara Oil Spill awakened a broader community of local residents to the threats posed by oil and gas industry activities. The growing awareness of looming climate disruption and the knowledge that there is no way to eliminate the risk of spills has widened that rift and today there is an uneasy coexistence between this polluting industry and a conservation-minded population. The Environmental Defense Center was founded as a response to the 1969 spill and continues to this day, fighting to ensure this kind of tragedy never happens again here.

The Statue of Pardon?

Next to Carpinteria's City Hall, the Carpinteria Bluffs and the harbor seal sanctuary, Venoco would like to construct an oil drilling rig the size of the Statue of Liberty, 175 feet tall. City residents said no once already, voting down Measure J in 2009, but Venoco has submitted a revised plan.

Rincon Grubb

In 2013, EDC reached a landmark agreement with Vintage Production to reduce polluted runoff water from its Rincon Grubb oil field, located in the mountains of Ventura County and draining directly onto popular public beaches from Hobson's to Solimar, and into the ocean. Surfers, swimmers and beach-goers can now enjoy cleaner water.

Ventura County Fracking

EDC worked to help convince the Ventura County Board of Supervisors to address fracking and acidization. Oil operators in the County must now provide prior notice of fracking and use of hazardous materials, the origin and quantity of freshwater used, and the location of wastewater disposal. However, fracking is still taking place under old permits and we continue to remain vigilant.

Upper Ojai Drilling

On behalf of our client Citizens for Responsible Oil and Gas, EDC was able to secure Ventura County's first "no fracking" condition on an approval for new well drilling in the Upper Ojai Valley.

Fracking Our Coastal Waters

Last year, when EDC discovered that oil companies were fracking from platforms in the Santa Barbara Channel neither state nor federal regulators appeared to have any sense of the scope of the issue. EDC has now outlined a number of critical reforms to ensure transparency, disclosure and reasonable environmental review. Following up on our recommendations, the California Coastal Commission is investigating its jurisdiction over such risky practices.



0 2.5 5 10 15 20 Miles

Cartography by A. Raaf

WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW

A WHALE OF A SOLUTION



If cargo ships travel at a slower speed through the Santa Barbara Channel, the number of fatal ship strikes of great whales will be reduced and our air quality will be improved. Photo by John Calambokitis, Cascadia Research

Scientists are not really sure why the largest creatures on earth can't hear and avoid cargo ships which can be larger than 10 football fields in length, but the fact is that, all too regularly, endangered blues and other great whales are killed by ship strikes in the Santa Barbara Channel. If ships slow down, however, the whales' chances of survival go way up – and we on land have the added benefit of breathing less polluted air. This summer EDC and our partners at the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and the Air Pollution Control Districts of Santa Barbara and Ventura County – and with the generous support of the Santa Barbara Foundation – began a Vessel Speed Reduction pilot, an innovative program, providing cash incentives to shippers to get them to slow down. As we review the data, we can already state that we made a big splash with national and regional media attention and were overwhelmed by the participation from the shipping community.

ROCK SOLID FOR FISH AND WATER QUALITY

Protecting our local waters from polluted stormwater run-off is a priority of EDC, and for years we have been trying to work with the owners of the Mosler Ojai Quarry to clean-up the facility's management practices. Unfortunately, it wasn't until EDC and our client, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper, filed a lawsuit challenging the Quarry's violations of the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act that the owners decided to make the required changes. The Quarry, which is located on the Lower North Fork of the Matilija Creek, a major tributary of the Ventura River, is designated as critical habitat for the endangered CA southern steelhead trout and is a primary source of drinking water for Ventura residents. This summer, we reached a settlement agreement with the Quarry, requiring improvements to better manage stormwater, reduce erosion and runoff, and conduct annual inspections of the Creek for impacts to steelhead due to rockfall. The Quarry owners will also donate \$60,000 of rock product to South Coast Habitat Restoration for upcoming steelhead passage projects in the area.

A settlement reached with the Quarry will result in less pollution of Matilija Creek and reduced impacts to the endangered steelhead trout. Photo by Ben Pitterle, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper





EDC WATERSHED PROGRAM

As part of EDC's watershed program, this year we are conducting 11 creek clean-ups, all taking place in Goleta. Santa Barbara Channelkeeper, the Urban Creeks Council, and some dedicated volunteers have joined us in San Pedro, Las Vegas, San Antonio, and Maria Ygnacio Creeks to get down and dirty and remove nearly 500 pounds of trash out of our creek beds.

CONEJO CREEK FARMLAND SAVED

As you drive back from Los Angeles, summiting the pass just outside of Camarillo and starting the descent down the Conejo Grade, looking out over hundreds of acres of beautiful farmland, you know you're almost home! The Conejo Creek Project would have allowed over 620 acres of this prime farmland to be paved over for 2,500 tract homes and 1.5 million square feet of industrial buildings, causing severe environmental impacts including traffic, pollution, and interference with wildlife corridors. However, after years of work by EDC and our clients at Camarillo Sustainable Growth, hundreds of citizens showed up to overflow hearing rooms in recent months urging the Camarillo City Council to deny a rezoning of the ag land necessary for the project to proceed. The unanimous vote to deny an amendment which would have allowed industrial and residential use on land zoned for agriculture was celebrated by hundreds of citizens whose quality of life has been preserved.



City Council's vote killed a proposal to pave over 620 acres of prime farmland to build 2,500 tract homes and 1.5 million square feet of industrial buildings at the bottom of the Conejo Grade. Photo by Tom Giles

SUMMER LAW CLERKS

Two extra smiles, eight extra legs, and lots of quality work! It has been a pleasure having Tara Messing and Ann Gong (along with her 16 year old golden retriever, Angel) join our team as law clerks this summer. Thanks in large part to the annual award from the Jim Ryerson Environmental Foundation, EDC has been able to attract high caliber clerks like Tara, a student at the University of Maryland Law School, and Ann, from Lewis and Clark Law School.



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Russ & Laura McGlothlin and Neil Dipaola. Photo by Erin Feinblatt



Adrianne & Andy Davis. Photo by Erin Feinblatt



Alex Size, Lisa Stratton and Peter Schuyler. Photo by Erin Feinblatt



Heidi Chesley with Toad the Wet Sprocket. Photo by Erin Feinblatt



Rae and Dan Emmett. Photo by Erin Feinblatt



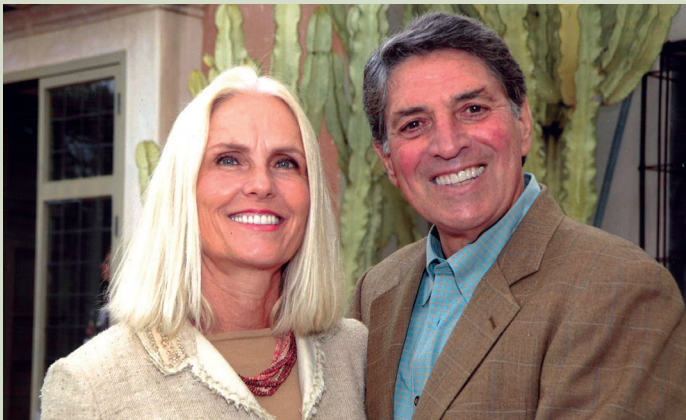
Pat Shewczyk. Photo by Erin Feinblatt

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BOB ORNSTEIN & BARBARA SAVAGE ON LEAVING A LEGACY



"We care deeply about our natural environment and want it preserved for future generations. That's the legacy we want to leave behind and that's why we have made a commitment to the Environmental Defense Center. EDC has been working for more than 37 years to protect our beautiful coastline, clean water, and climate. I hope you will consider joining us in supporting EDC with a Planned Gift to ensure that this special place we call home will remain beautiful, clean, and safe for those who follow us."

For more information contact EDC's Development Director, Beth Pitton-August at 805-963-1622.



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.



Linda Krop, Jack Johnson, Nicole DiCamillo

At a sold out show at the Santa Barbara Bowl, hundreds of Jack Johnson fans stopped by our table to take action and commit to vote #YesOnMeasureP, the ballot initiative to ban risky drilling techniques like fracking, acidizing, and cyclic steaming. Thank you Jack and crew for inviting us to be part of All At Once, your social network connecting non-profits to community members to take action! What a night!