



environmental
DEFENSE CENTER



Laurie Bailey Photography

SPRING 2015 NEWSLETTER

ONE OF THE PRIMARY REASONS EDC EXISTS

April 20, 2015 marked five years since the fatal BP Deepwater Horizon explosion that set off the largest environmental disaster in US history. In the three months that followed, more than 200 million gallons of oil poured into Gulf of Mexico waters, unleashing the environmental devastation which will continue to impact communities and the environment for many years to come. In spite of promises from administration officials, sadly, not much has changed with the way the federal government enforces environmental laws where offshore oil projects are concerned. This includes activities here in the Santa Barbara Channel, where oil companies continue to have their applications – including applications for risky fracking and acidizing projects – rubber-stamped for approval.



Permits for fracking and acidizing from platforms offshore in the Santa Barbara Channel have been granted by the federal government without proper public and environmental review. Photo by Erin Feinblatt

We should hardly be surprised. It has been 46 years since, right here off the coast of Santa Barbara, a blowout at Platform A covered central coast beaches and wildlife in an oily shroud. That disaster - which until Deepwater Horizon was the largest offshore platform oil spill in our nation's history - was caused by federal regulators granting shortcuts and waivers to the oil industry. So, not much has changed in the last half century.

The unfortunate fact is that the oil industry is always one step ahead of the regulators. With endless resources, massive teams of lobbyists in D.C. and in state capitals across the country, and with the incredible speed at which technology now advances, it has always been a challenge for regulators to police this powerful industry.

This is one of the primary reasons EDC exists – to level the playing field and work in the public interest. Late last year, EDC filed a lawsuit against federal agencies for their lack of transparency and failure to enforce environmental laws before permitting offshore fracking and acidizing in the Santa Barbara Channel. As our case has moved forward, Exxon/Mobil and the American Petroleum Institute, the largest oil and gas company trade group, have joined the suit against us. Another David and Goliath battle to be sure, but EDC has been in this position before and in those cases, by the time the dust had settled, we were able to retire 40 offshore oil leases, permanently preserve more than 100,000 acres of open space, and win countless other victories for our central coast communities.

You'll want to stay tuned for this one. There is an awful lot at stake for our communities and our future.

Blue Whales & Blue Skies

Lompoc

AIR POLLUTION FROM CARGO SHIPS

Air pollution knows no boundaries. Ships passing off our shores account for 50% of all nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions, a precursor to smog that is unhealthy for people to breathe. Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties are not in compliance with state standards for ozone, and slowing ships down will make a huge dent in this.

CARGO SHIPS IN SHIPPING LANES

International shipping lanes bring between 4,000 and 5,000 cargo ship transits through the SB Channel region each year. Slowing down cargo ships to below 12 knots (from average speeds of 14-18 knots), will dramatically decrease the odds of fatal collisions with whales while also reducing air pollution.

SAN MIGUEL

SANTA ROSA ISLAND

OUR BUSY CHANNEL

The Santa Barbara Channel looks vast and serene from here on land, but the reality is this is one of the busiest offshore routes in the nation. Figuring out how to manage ship routes to avoid whale collisions is extraordinarily challenging. In addition to the 4,000 to 5,000 cargo ship transits in and out of the ports of LA and Long Beach each year, countless fishing and recreation vessels use these waters. Options are further limited by the almost two dozen oil platforms, naval testing waters, our precious marine sanctuaries, and the Channel Islands themselves.



SHIPPING LANES



OIL PLATFORMS



NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

OUR PROJECT

Working with the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District, EDC has been focusing on developing strategies to slow large cargo ships in the Santa Barbara Channel. Slowing ships will protect endangered blues and other whales, and also lead to significantly cleaner air for people on shore and a reduction in climate disrupting carbon emissions!

OUR STRATEGY

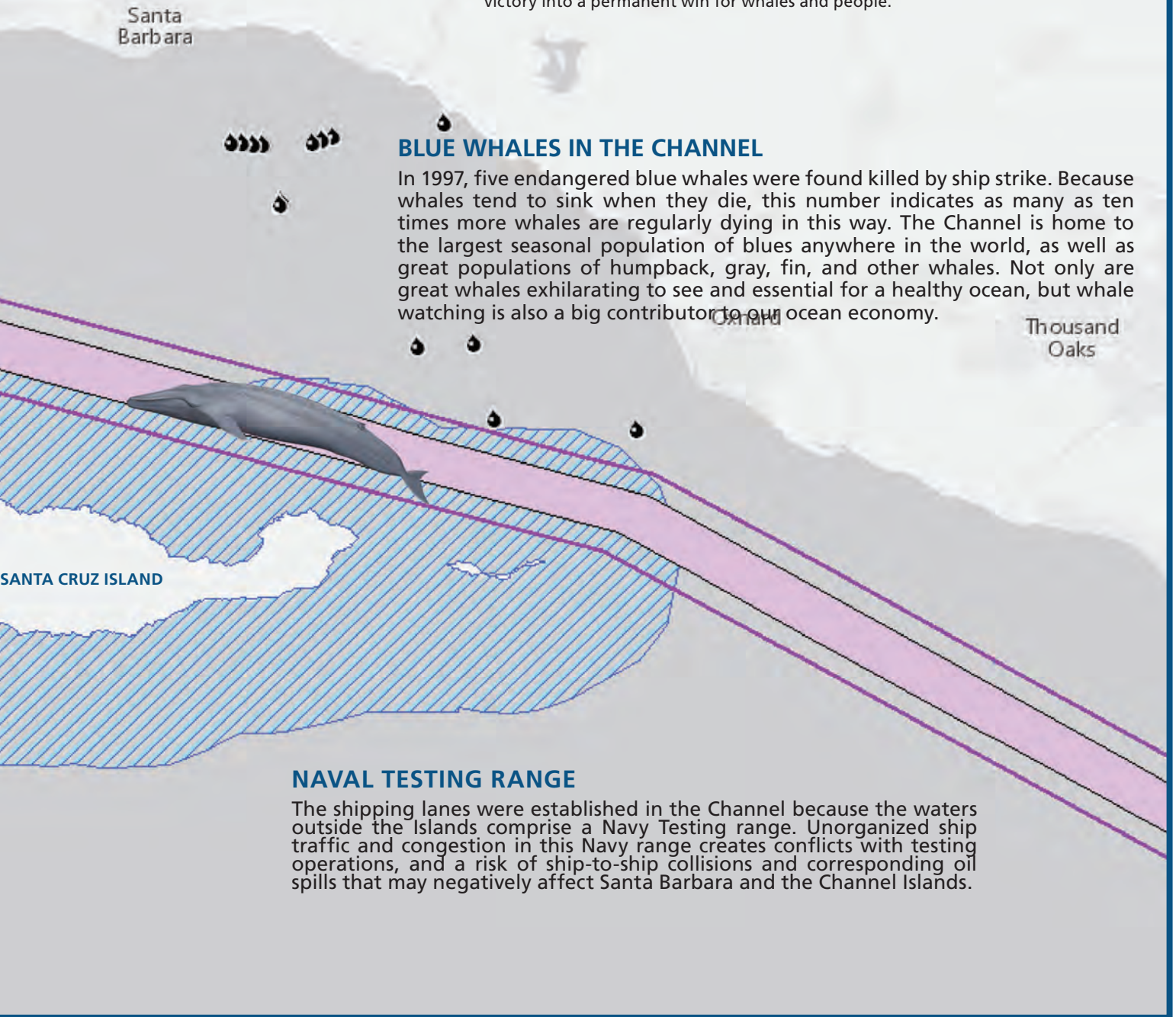
In 2014, EDC and our partners ran a highly successful pilot incentives program to test shipping companies' willingness to slow speeds in the Channel. We are now in the midst of a comprehensive working group process which has been formed to include EDC, the Santa Barbara Air Pollution Control District, the Marine Sanctuary, shipping industry, Navy, Coastguard, and the public to turn this conservation victory into a permanent win for whales and people.

BLUE WHALES IN THE CHANNEL

In 1997, five endangered blue whales were found killed by ship strike. Because whales tend to sink when they die, this number indicates as many as ten times more whales are regularly dying in this way. The Channel is home to the largest seasonal population of blues anywhere in the world, as well as great populations of humpback, gray, fin, and other whales. Not only are great whales exhilarating to see and essential for a healthy ocean, but whale watching is also a big contributor to our ocean economy.

NAVAL TESTING RANGE

The shipping lanes were established in the Channel because the waters outside the Islands comprise a Navy Testing range. Unorganized ship traffic and congestion in this Navy range creates conflicts with testing operations, and a risk of ship-to-ship collisions and corresponding oil spills that may negatively affect Santa Barbara and the Channel Islands.



WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW

SUSTAINING FARMING IN GOLETA



The South Patterson Triangle, farmed by John Givens, is one of the farms in the Goleta Valley threatened to be rezoned from ag to residential use. Photo by Erin Feinblatt

Local agriculture in Santa Barbara County is a \$3 billion dollar industry, and our produce is sent all over the world. Unfortunately, critical farmland is being threatened by urban development, and the Goleta Valley is no exception, with some of the few remaining farms being threatened with rezoning from ag to residential uses under the management plan that will determine how the Valley will be used for the next 15-30 years. Some of these properties happen to be actively farmed by local favorites - Lane Farm and John Givens Farm included - providing fresh produce at our local farmers' markets and grocery stores, creating jobs for our community members, and offering immense human and environmental health benefits. As the County finalizes its plan for the land use management of the Valley, EDC will work to ensure these properties are protected as farms, so community members in Santa Barbara County and beyond continue to have fresh, healthy, local produce on our tables.

NAPLES: CHANGING HANDS BUT (HOPEFULLY) NOT CHANGING THE LAND

For more than 15 years EDC has been working to protect the irreplaceable coastal habitats, views, agricultural and cultural resources of Naples, the crown jewel of the Gaviota Coast. In 2008 a proposal for 71 mansions was approved by the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors - a project that if allowed would set an adverse precedent for the Gaviota Coast. The Naples property was recently sold by First Bank of Missouri to Standard Portfolios, a company represented by Matt Osgood, the original developer for the property who went bankrupt in 2010. Despite the change in ownership, EDC continues to work with our clients at Surfrider to ensure permanent protection of Naples for all the community to enjoy.

Community participation has been essential every step of the way to keep Naples in its current, undeveloped state. In the coming months, EDC, our clients at Surfrider Foundation and other concerned organizations will reach out with ways you can make a difference. Together we will preserve this iconic coastal spot.



While Naples recently changed hands after being sold by First Bank for \$44.5 million, EDC and Surfrider will continue our work to preserve this open space in perpetuity for the public to enjoy. Photo by Erin Feinblatt

THE LITTLE ENGINE THAT COULD



Our team at EDC has always been small but mighty, but in early 2015 we kicked it up a notch with some extra horsepower: **Chloe McConnell**, our new Administrative & Development Associate, and law fellow, **Cameron Goodman**. Born and raised in Jamaica, Chloe eventually made it to California and graduated from Chapman University with a degree in Environmental Science and Policy. She brings to EDC experience gained while interning with the Jamaica Environment Trust and most recently working as a Civic Engagement Assistant at Chapman conducting environmental outreach. Chloe's smile is infectious and her energy is just what we need to help our team continue to execute exciting events like our TGIF! happy hours, Green & Blue, and to keep our office running smooth.

EDC staff first had the opportunity to have Cameron assist us with some clean water investigations through his participation with the UCLA Environmental Law Clinic in 2014. Impressed with his work, we were delighted to have Cameron join us full time in January, completing his last semester of law school with his clerkship. He has proven to be a critical member of the team assisting with litigation on offshore fracking and endangered steelhead trout in Hilton Creek. So much so, we are looking forward to welcoming him back this fall as a law fellow for another year.

RUN-ON RUNOFF

Storm water runoff is rain water that flows off roads, buildings, and other hard surfaces, often picking up pollution and contaminating our creeks, rivers, and ocean. It is the prime cause of beach closings around the country and is responsible for fouling tens of thousands of miles of streams and hundreds of thousands of acres of lakes, ponds, and reservoirs. In addition, sediment-laden runoff from forest roads threatens drinking water supplies and kills fish and other aquatic life.

To combat this pollution, EDC, working with the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) filed a lawsuit against the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) more than a decade ago. Our lawsuit resulted in a federal appeals court decision ordering the agency to strengthen storm water protections. Unfortunately, the agency has failed to do what the court demanded.

So, EDC has rejoined with NDRC to file a lawsuit challenging the EPA's failure to act. This time, we seek clear deadlines for the EPA to update its storm water program related to urban sources and forest roads, and to finally reduce the threat of water pollution on public health, wildlife, and recreation.

EDC filed a lawsuit against the EPA to prevent pollution from storm water, the nation's largest cause of water pollution. Photo courtesy of City of Santa Barbara Creeks Division.

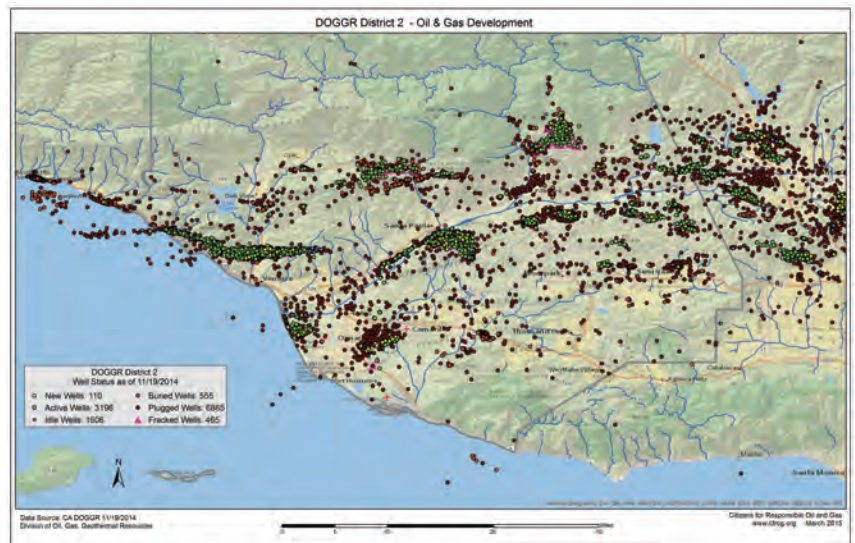


VENTURA COUNTY'S FAILURE TO ACT ON FRACKING

Ventura County has been unlawfully neglecting to apply local land use and environmental laws to oil and gas projects. Between 2012 and 2014, nearly 95% of well drilling in the County, or more than 400 wells, was conducted without environmental review or application of new County notice and reporting requirements for hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") and acid well stimulation ("acidizing"). Both fracking and acidizing, so-called "well stimulation" techniques used to access oil, have stirred enormous controversy over recent years for being both risky and under-regulated.

The oil and gas wells in question are located in both densely populated urban areas and largely undisturbed natural areas. These 400+ wells operate under "antiquated" permits that were in many cases first issued in the 1940s, 50s, and 60s! Because of the vague language in these old permits, the County has essentially decided that oil companies are allowed to drill as many wells as they want, wherever they want, without additional discretionary review.

EDC has provided the County with a series of recommendations for how to amend their process, but is prepared to take legal action if insufficient changes are made.



This map shows all oil and gas wells in Ventura County, including fracked wells. Map Courtesy of Citizens for Responsible Oil and Gas, www.cfrog.org, March 2015.

OJAI OR BUST

While EDC has had a Ventura County office since the 1990s, we are delighted to kick off a new beginning in Ojai. Shortly after relocating from Ventura early in March, EDC staff kept our doors open late one evening and, along with more than 50 friends, clients, and supporters, celebrated our continued commitment to protecting the precious environment of Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo counties. Of course, in typical EDC fashion, tasty food, beer, and wine were indeed consumed. But more importantly, we were all consumed in lively conversations about the victories we have achieved together and the challenges that lie ahead in Ojai and throughout Ventura County.



EDC'S BOARD, NEVER BORING

EDC is thrilled to announce our new Board officers. This hard-working, passionate, inspiring leadership team has been in place since the start of the year and has already made a big difference for our organization and our communities!



(from left to right)
Angela Antenore, Secretary,
Alicia Roessler, Vice President,
Owen Bailey, Executive Director,
Lee Heller, President,
Judy Pirkowitch, Treasurer
Photo by Erin Feinblatt



Katy Allen

EDC is also pleased to welcome our newest Board Director, Katy Allen. EDC is proud to add Katy's years of nonprofit work for the environment and wild creatures and her rich life experience to our organizational leadership. We're excited to have Katy as a second-generation EDC leader, following in the footsteps of her beloved mom, Jan Montgomery.

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Our Sustaining Members are these wonderful people who have made a commitment to EDC with an automatic, recurring gift. A monthly donation of any amount provides EDC with steady, reliable funding that ensures we can remain strong to protect our communities, our health, and our environment for years to come. If you see any of these folks on the street, stop and thank them for their incredible support...or better yet thank them by joining as a sustainer yourself!



Anonymous
Harriet Arita
Laurie & Owen Bailey
Janet Blevins
Joyce & Roland Bryan
Robert Burke
DeAnne Carr
Frank DePasquale
Mary Dodd
Elizabeth Gaspar
Donna & Ron Griffin
Anne & Tom Heck
Amy Hermann
Debra Holt
Janice Keller
Sharon Landecker

Rachel Livsey &
Jeffrey Leeson
Sheila & Michael Lunsford
Gail & Rocky Marshall
Stephanie Moret &
Derek Booth
Lessie Sinclair Nixon
Gregory O'Dea
Victoria &
Randall Ondracek
Kathy & Sheldon Pfeifer
Daniel Richards
Gregory R Scott
Timothy Wilder
Sheri Wright

STEWARDSHIP CIRCLE

All of us at EDC would like to extend a very special thank you to EDC's Stewardship Circle, each of whom has contributed at least \$1,000 over the last year to support our organization and without whom we would be far less able to effectively protect the Santa Barbara Channel, clean water, open space and wildlife and to take aggressive action on climate disruption.



Rae and Dan Emmett. Photo by Erin Feinblatt



Richard & Paula Whited. Photo by Erin Feinblatt

Katy & Gary Allen Allen Construction Laurie Ashton & Lynn Sarko Angel & George Avery Amy & Glenn Bacheller Michael Behrman, MD Kevin Billingshurst Charles M Blitz Vicki Blum & David Lebell James S. Bower Foundation Melissa Bower Susan Bower Bren School of Environmental Science & Management Cecilia Brown Nancy Butler Francis & Richard Francis Julia Wynn Carr & Lee Carr Celeste Chang & Hans Cole Heidi Chesley & Paddy McMahon Chirman Family Fund Malinda & Yvon Chouinard Clif Bar Family Foundation Coastal Fund Hal Conklin Margaret & Joe Connell Marni & Michael Cooney Crawford Idema Family Foundation Lesley Cunningham	Dancing Tides Foundation Jean Lange Davis & David Davis Adrianne & Andrew Davis Deckers Brands Del Mar Global Trust Elizabeth B Denison Dipaola Foundation Diyana Dobberteen Joy & Steven DuPuis Daniel Emmett & Henri Bristol Rae & Dan Emmett Environment Now Renee Fairbanks The Fenton Family Charitable Fund First Solar Vasanti & Joel Fithian Jill Forman Jeff Frank Amanda & Frank Frost Fund for Santa Barbara Debbie & Daniel Gerber Perry Gibson & Kenneth Kraus The Gildea Foundation Alice Gillaroo & Susan Jorgensen Rodney Gould Susan Harris & Paul Junger Witt Laurel & Mark Heintz Lee Heller Juliane Heyman Helena & Gary Hill Tania Israel & David Landecker Bernice James &	Glen Mowrer BL Jones Ove W. Jorgensen Foundation Michelle & Bruce Kendall Arthur Kennedy Paula Kislak Lehrer Family Foundation The Looker Foundation Cindy & Steven Lyons Marisla Foundation Gloria & John McManus Montecito Bank & Trust Frank Morgan Maryanne Mott Anna & Gary Nett Lessie Sinclair Nixon Norcross Wildlife Foundation, Inc. Gregory O'Dea Taryn & Tim O'Neil Gail Osherenko & Oran Young Overall Family Foundation Carol & William Palladini Nancy Parker & Cindy Hawkins Joan Pascal & Ted Rhodes Sarah & Michael Paskin Patagonia Julie Levy & David Pierce Debra & John Piot Marjorie Popper & John Evarts Jessica Earnst Powell & John Powell Resources Legacy Fund Roger S. Firestone Foundation	Barbara & Jerry Rubin Robert Ruby Christine Ryerson Santa Barbara Foundation Barbara Savage & Robert Ornstein Schlinger Foundation Jean Schuyler Jean Silva & Phil Seymour Judy & Jack Stapelmann Suzanne & John Steed Lisa Stratton & Peter Schuyler Nola & Carl Stucky Gail & David Teton-Landis Tomchin Family Charitable Foundation Lila Trachtenberg & George Handler Mia & Brian Trautwein Union Bank of California Sally Warner-Arnett & Dr. G. William Arnett John Watson Melinda & Dr. Robert Wax Caprock Fund of Tides Foundation - Kappy Wells Dana White Paula & Richard Whited Diane & Mike Wondolowski World Viz Yardi Systems, Inc. Katharine & Robert Zappala Mary Ziegler Jules Zimmer Seyburn Zorthian & Marc McGinnes
--	--	--	---

CELEBRATING WITH YOU AT GREEN & BLUE!



We look forward to seeing you!

June 7, 2015, 2:00-5:00 PM
Rancho La Patera & Stow House
Food – Drinks – Live Music – Silent & Live Auctions –
Acoustic set by Glen Phillips, Lead singer of
Toad the Wet Sprocket
www.EnvironmentalDefenseCenter.org/GB.



environmental
DEFENSE CENTER

906 Garden Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

111 W. Topa Topa Street
Ojai, CA 93023

EDC STAFF

Owen Bailey, Executive Director
Kristi Birney, Marine Conservation Analyst
Nicole Di Camillo, Staff Attorney
Rebecca Flynn, Accounting Manager
Maggie Hall, Staff Attorney
Linda Krop, Chief Counsel
Chloe McConnell, Administrative & Development Assistant
Beth Pitton-August, Development Director
Brian Segee, Senior Attorney
Brian Trautwein, Environmental Analyst & Watershed Program Director
Betsy Weber, Communications Director

EDC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lee Heller, President
Alicia Roessler, Vice President
Judy Pirkowitsch, Treasurer
Angela Antenore, Secretary
Katy Allen
Hans Cole
Daniel Emmett
Richard Francis
Mark Heintz
Gary Hill
Gail Osherenko
Peter Schuyler

EDC ADVISORY BOARD

Bruce Anticouni
Michael Behrman, M.D.
Susan Bower
Yvon Chouinard
Niel Dipaola
Paul Franz
Joyce Howerton
Craig Madsen
Marc McGinnes
Lessie Sinclair-Nixon
Bob Ornstein
Bill Palladini
Pauline Abbe (In Memoriam)
Harriet Miller (In Memoriam)
Selma Rubin (In Memoriam)
Herman Warsh (In Memoriam)

EDC LAW CLERKS, INTERNS & VOLUNTEERS

Kim Asbury, *Intern*
Cameron Goodman, *Law Clerk*
Tia Hannah, *Volunteer*
Anthony Hickling, *Intern*

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: Too Much of a Good Thing = GREAT!

SAVE *the* DATE **tgif!**

05.08.15 07.10.15 09.11.15 10.09.15

environmental
DEFENSE CENTER

It's hard to believe that EDC has been hosting TGIF here in our charming downtown Santa Barbara courtyard for more than 17 years. As they say, if you have a good thing, why change it, right? Ok, there has been some change. TGIFs started as a small gathering of EDC staff and friends gathered around our picnic table with a bag of chips and some beers. Now, often referred to as one of the best happy hours in Santa Barbara, TGIF brings 200-300 friends from throughout the south central coast for a fun evening with live music, beer, wine, food, and an opportunity to mingle with some of the movers and shakers from our regional environmental organizations and local businesses. While the TGIF season was kicked off on May 8th, you definitely have not missed out. Mark your calendar for 5:30-7:30PM on July 10, September 11, and October 9 and stop by to join the fun!