

# ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE CENTER 40 YEARS OF VICTORIES

## GRATITUDE

EDC has a solid foundation. It was built brick by brick, by our founders and predecessors, and passing generations have kept it strong. As the current stewards of EDC's rich legacy, we cannot help but look back in awe at what began as an experiment in 1977. There are far too many people to name, but there is not a day that passes when we are not grateful for their contributions.

Looking back over 40 years of staff, a common theme emerges: brilliant and passionate. Without exception, these talented individuals could have earned far more working in the private sector. We are so fortunate that their dedication to the environment and public interest drove them to work for EDC. A similar thing could be said about EDC's boards and advisory boards. The skill, generosity, and leadership that EDC has seen year after year from these gifted volunteers has been, without question, one of our greatest assets.

We must also celebrate the young people who seek out opportunities to serve as interns and law clerks at EDC, contributing tremendously to the work we do. With the support of these students, our team is far stronger than our staff numbers suggest.

Our clients are another invaluable resource, and we are truly grateful for their work and faith in EDC. Over four decades, we have represented almost 120 nonprofit groups. These partnerships are central to our mission and success.

Finally, EDC keeps our doors open thanks to incredible community support. Our annual budget is more than \$1.2 million; more than half of this comes from individuals who give anywhere from \$25 to \$25,000. Without this generosity, there is no question that EDC could not exist as it does now.

EDC has accomplished so much over our first 40 years through the shared work of so many. We follow in the footsteps of those who came before, continuing this important work to leave our climate and local environment better than we found it. With this foundation and the continued support of our community, there is no saying what EDC can accomplish over the next 40 years.

*Owen Bailey, Executive Director*

*Linda Krop, Chief Counsel*



Owen Bailey, Pearl Lee, Tara Messing, Maggie Hall, Brian Trautwein, Kaleena Quarles, Chloe McConnell, Betsy Weber, Kristen Hislop, Linda Krop, Alicia Roessler

# EDC: STILL VITAL AFTER ALL THESE YEARS



Forty years ago, we first opened the doors at the Environmental Defense Center. This labor of love was a community response to the 1969 Santa Barbara Oil Spill which had devastated our coastline. Back then, we saw big industry and special interests lining up to profit off our precious public resources and needed to ensure we could protect this beautiful place we are so fortunate to call home. We saw the need for an organization, specializing in the new discipline of environmental law, to help preserve what we loved for future generations. That need has not changed.



Each generation of EDC staff, board, and volunteers has made its own mark on our local environment by continuing the important work we started: protecting and enhancing our local environment through education, advocacy and legal action. In the face of a future of proposals for cyclic steam injection oil drilling, fracking, acidizing, climate change and the need to protect remaining local agriculture and open space, EDC is as vital today as it has ever been. Looking back over 40 years, I am so proud of our past accomplishments and excited for the future of EDC.

*Marc McGinnes, Founding Chief Counsel*



## SELMA RUBIN EDC Founder 1915-2012



Selma was always there. She was there when the 1969 Santa Barbara Oil Spill happened. The next year, she co-founded the Community Environmental Council (CEC) and Santa Barbara Citizens for Environmental Defense (SBCED) to ensure effective environmental education and advocacy. When Marc McGinnes approached SBCED with the idea of starting a regional public interest environmental law firm, the Environmental Defense Center, Selma jumped at the opportunity and made sure it happened. Whether the focus was on the environment, social justice, civil rights, or free speech, Selma not only lent her support, but she brought her forceful nature, sage advice, and unwavering commitment.

Selma served on EDC's first Board of Directors and was our Treasurer for many years. When she retired from the Board, she remained on our Advisory Board until her death – keeping us honest, enlightening us with historical lessons, and providing us with her unconditional support. She also housed many EDC law clerks over the years, wearing them out with her tireless energy. She continues to inspire our work to this day, as we strive to meet her high standards for serving our community and protecting our local environment.

# EDC BY THE NUMBERS



**120+**

Nonprofit groups EDC has represented

**40**

Offshore oil leases terminated by EDC

**3**

Liquefied natural gas terminals off our coast prevented

**2000+**

Volunteer hours per year contributed to assist us in our work

**100,000+**

Acres of precious open space EDC has preserved in perpetuity

**11**

Mighty staff members who work at EDC, to take up the good fight

**19+**

Years of our community TGIF! happy hour series held in EDC's courtyard

**24**

Federal and state Marine Protected Areas established with our support

**5**

Initiatives written protecting our coastline from oil threats, farmland in Goleta and Buellton, and oak trees in Santa Barbara County

# FROM OUR COMMUNITY



I'm grateful to the EDC for speaking up to protect our ocean and open spaces, and preserve what makes Santa Barbara special. Thanks to their hard work and vision, we can celebrate 40 years of environmental success stories.

– *Jack Johnson*



For 40 years, the Environmental Defense Center has been at the forefront of protecting our clean water, air, and community health. Our Central Coast is lucky to have this fiercely dedicated legal team working in the public interest to ensure that future generations will still enjoy the pristine beaches, open spaces, and beautiful views we count on today.

– *Congressman Salud Carbajal*



Effective activism calls for vigilant action. For 40 years EDC has been a powerful watchdog over local issues, acting quickly and effectively to fight those who would profit from exploiting our environment.

– *Yvon Chouinard, Patagonia*



Throughout my time serving the Central Coast in Congress I could always count on the Environmental Defense Center for their expertise and leadership in tackling the important issue of climate change, especially by fighting against dangerous and irresponsible offshore oil drilling and transport. Here's to the next 40 years of environmental protection!

– *Former Member of Congress, Lois Capps*



I can't imagine the Central Coast without EDC—fighting for four decades to protect our region's air, water, and open spaces.

– *Lee Heller*



The State of California would not have a statewide coastal sanctuary except for the Herculean work of Linda Krop and the EDC!

– *Jack O'Connell, Former State Senator*



In Goleta, we can think about "what might have been" if we had not had the invaluable intervention of EDC. This could include mansions on Ellwood Mesa, continued oil barging from the Marine Terminal, and 1200 houses on Bishop Ranch. EDC has been working with local communities for 40 years to protect precious environmental resources. May they continue working with us for another 40 years! – *Margaret Connell, Former Goleta Mayor*



EDC has been at the vanguard of our region's environmental movement for four decades. They're fearless, strategic, and know their subject inside and out. It's no exaggeration to say that without the Environmental Defense Center, the central coast we know and love would not exist.

– *Geoff Green, CEO Santa Barbara City College Foundation*



From protecting whales from fatal ship strikes, to uniting the nonprofit community to protect the Gaviota Coast, to bringing environmentalists and the farming/ranching community together to preserve local agriculture, EDC has consistently proven to be innovative big thinkers working to solve problems for the betterment of everyone across our region.

– *Sharyn Main, Senior Director of Community Investment, Santa Barbara Foundation*



EDC has always been a champion for the coast, whether the focus was on stopping offshore oil development, protecting sensitive coastal habitats, or preserving public beach access. EDC plays a critical role in the protection of California's incredible coast.

– *Dr. Charles Lester, Former Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission*



For the past 40 years, EDC has been instrumental in working on the always-complicated, never-ending, all-encompassing issues related to oil and gas development along our coast. Having worked with EDC for 30+ years, I can testify to the staff's constant, thorough and tenacious work on these issues. For example, EDC was instantly on top of the Refugio Oil Spill in May of 2015--and is still on top of a multitude of post-spill activities. Kudos to EDC on its 40th anniversary! – *Carla Frisk, Board of Directors, Get Oil Out!*



To this day, twenty years after the seemingly hundreds of meetings about development of the Carpinteria Bluffs where Ted Rhodes and I sat next to Linda Krop on the opposite side of the developer's isle, with their army of lawyers and consultants, we wonder, with gratitude at the blessing that the EDC is, not only for defending the environment, but our communities and our dreams of protecting our sacred open spaces. Love you guys, happy anniversary! – *Arturo Tello, President, Citizens for the Carpinteria Bluffs*



Thank you, EDC for working tirelessly for 40 years to protect the Central Coast and consistently reminding us to slow down, breathe deep and think about long term stability over short term gain. Happy anniversary!

– *Glen Phillips, lead singer and founding member of Toad the Wet Sprocket*



Our friends at EDC never forget that we are all part of nature and depend on Mother Earth for our lives and health. While others would exploit, poison and destroy our natural resources, EDC works tirelessly to protect our natural Heritage which belongs to all of us, saving our common future. I am so grateful.

– *Carmen Ramirez, Oxnard Mayor Pro Tem*

# EDC: 40 YEARS OF ENVIRONMENTAL VICTORIES

Over the last four decades, EDC and our clients have won some of the most significant environmental victories for our tri-county region. This timeline can't possibly accommodate the comprehensive list of EDC wins, but provides a glimpse of many of the most memorable successes across our storied history. Like all that EDC does for our communities, climate, and environment, these victories were possible due to the support and generosity of people throughout the south central coast and the tireless work of our nonprofit clients and partners.



**OIL SPILL PLATFORM A**  
Led to the birth of environmental movement, Earth Day, and key environmental protection laws

**MORE MESA**  
EDC began helping protect one of the most pristine and largest remaining open spaces threatened with development in Santa Barbara County



**HAMMONDS MEADOW PROTECTED**  
Successful lawsuit protected the Meadow and public access trail to the beach

**MISSION CREEK**  
EDC initiated work to revitalize creek and protect endangered steelhead trout

**SECURED PROTECTION FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES**  
EDC secured specific protections for Steelhead, Tidewater Goby, Snowy Plover, California Tiger Salamander, Red-Legged Frog, among others



**CALIFORNIA COASTAL SANCTUARY ACT**  
EDC helped craft bill prohibiting any new oil and gas leases in State waters

**WILCOX (DOUGLAS FAMILY PRESERVE) PROPERTY SAVED**  
EDC helped fight development and negotiate sale of Wilcox property to Trust for Public Land

**CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY**  
EDC represents conservation community on the Sanctuary Advisory Council



**CARPINTERIA BLUFFS PRESERVED**  
After years of litigation and advocacy, Carpinteria Bluffs preserved as public open space

**FOUNDED SANTA BARBARA CHANNELKEEPER**  
SBCK, founded as an EDC program, was later spun off to become an independent nonprofit organization



**STEELHEAD HABITAT PROTECTED**  
Helped ensure Steelhead protection, across all Southern California streams

**SB COUNTY OAK PROTECTION PLAN ADOPTED**  
EDC lawsuit against Kendall Jackson for clear cutting 850 oak trees led to SB County oak tree ordinance



**40 OFFSHORE OIL LEASES RETIRED**  
EDC court victory led to unprecedented termination of federal oil leases

**DEVEREUX SLOUGH AND COAL OIL POINT RESERVE**  
EDC secured protection of sensitive habitat next to Devereux Slough and Coal Oil Point Reserve



**FARMLAND PROTECTION**  
EDC begins working alongside the agricultural community to preserve local farmland

**DISCOVERED ONSHORE FRACKING**  
EDC uncovered fracking in Santa Barbara County, leading the way to the first CA local fracking ordinance

**VICTORY FOR LOMPOC FARMLAND**  
EDC settled lawsuit requiring City to reconsider General Plan update, protecting 300 acres of prime farmland at Bailey Avenue



**PROTECTING CLEAN WATER**  
EDC prevented water pollution from industrial sites including: Multi-Chem, Rincon Grubb oil and gas field, A-1 Metals, General Magnaplate, South Mountain oil field

**VOTERS PASS MEASURE G**  
EDC authored Measure G, so Goleta agricultural land can't be rezoned without a public vote

**ORMOND BEACH WETLANDS SAVED**  
EDC blocked development and convinced Oxnard to adopt plan to permanently protect wetlands



**EDC LEADS NATION AGAINST OFFSHORE FRACKING AND ACIDIZING**  
EDC's latest lawsuit focused on federal agencies' failure to consider impacts on the marine environment



**PHILLIPS 66 OIL TRAIN PROJECT DENIED**  
SLO Board of Supervisors voted to deny project to bring oil trains across the CA coast

- 1969
- 1977
- 1979
- 1984
- 1989
- 1991
- 1991
- 1992
- 1993 TO 2005
- 1994
- 1994
- 1996
- 1996
- 1997
- 1998 TO PRESENT
- 1998
- 1998
- 1998 TO 2008
- 1999
- 1999 TO PRESENT
- 2002
- 2003
- 2003
- 2003
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- 2005
- 2005
- 2006
- 2007
- 2008
- 2010
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- 2011
- 2011
- 2011
- 2011 TO 2017
- 2012
- 2012
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- 2012
- 2012
- 2012
- 2014
- 2014 TO PRESENT
- 2015
- 2017



**ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE CENTER OPENS**  
Created in response to the 1969 Oil Spill by Marc McGinnes, Selma Rubin, and so many others

**VENTURA RIVER**  
EDC began working to protect this critical Ventura County waterway



**VICTORY FOR BURTON MESA**  
More than 5,000 acres of Burton Mesa chaparral permanently preserved

**CASMALIA CLASS I LANDFILL**  
EDC helped shut down hazardous waste dump

**GAVIOTA COAST**  
EDC helped found Gaviota Coast Conservancy to protect this majestic coastline

**MEASURE A**  
EDC drafted ballot measure requiring voter approval of new oil and gas developments

**SEDGWICK RESERVE PROTECTED**  
Prevented sale and subdivision of 6,000-acre ranch, now part of the UC Natural Reserve System



**HEARST RANCH SAVED**  
More than 80,000 acres preserved on Hearst Ranch and East-West Ranch

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROJECT**  
EDC project to protect farm workers and communities from exposure to toxic pesticides led to strengthened methyl bromide regulations and safer schools and parks



**PREVENTED DEVELOPMENT OF NAPLES**  
EDC has fought development of this iconic coastal open space

**HALACO MADE SUPERFUND SITE**  
EDC lawsuit against toxic site along Oxnard coast led to plant shutdown and federal clean-up

**AHMANSON RANCH PRESERVED**  
Successful lawsuit prevented Ventura County from creating a new town in the Santa Monica Mountains



**ELLWOOD MESA PERMANENTLY PROTECTED**  
After 20 years of advocacy and litigation, Ellwood Mesa was saved from development



**LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS PROJECT DEFEATED**  
EDC helped defeat world's largest mining corporation's proposal for gas terminal off Oxnard's coast

**VOTERS REJECTED PAREDON OIL PROJECT**  
EDC helped stop Venoco's initiative to allow new oil drilling in Carpinteria



**ENDED OIL BARGING IN CA**  
Successfully ended oil barging from the Ellwood Marine Terminal – the last such operation in California

**STOPPED CANADA LARGA DEVELOPMENT**  
Convinced Ventura not to annex 800-acre valley of outstanding bird habitat for major development



**HELP EXPAND MARINE PROTECTED AREAS**  
EDC helped expand MPAs to cover more than 350 square miles along California's coast



**SEA OTTERS ALLOWED TO RETURN HOME**  
EDC lawsuit ended disastrous "no-otter" zone policy, allowing sea otters to return to our coast



**HELPED TO REDUCE FATAL SHIP STRIKES OF WHALES**  
With partners, launched program to protect blue whales from ship strikes and protect clean air onshore

**RESPONDED TO PLAINS ALL AMERICAN OIL SPILL**  
EDC led environmental response to Gaviota oil spill and continues to lead effort to fully restore coast to pre-spill conditions