



ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE CENTER

45TH ANNIVERSARY CASE DOCKET (2022)

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.

INTRODUCTION TO CASE DOCKET

In 1969, Unocal's oil spill in the Santa Barbara Channel focused the nation's attention on the inherent danger of irresponsible natural resource exploitation, and made Santa Barbara the birthplace of the modern environmental movement. By 1977, an increasingly complex web of regulations, coupled with growing polluter sophistication, made necessary the creation of the Environmental Defense Center as a public interest law firm, dedicated to defending the health of the environment and the public.

EDC empowers community groups by providing them with the tools to advance their environmental goals and objectives. EDC is the only public interest environmental law firm between San Francisco and Los Angeles, and is often the last hope for local groups seeking to protect their community from development and industrial threats. EDC offers a broad range of services, including educational forums and workshops, citizen activist trainings, advocacy before public agencies, creation of coalitions and other collaborations,

and – where necessary – legal representation in the courtroom. While our cases begin at the local and regional level, they often result in actions or precedents that have far-reaching state and national impact.

The following Case Docket presents selected cases as a chronicle of the 40 year history of EDC's efforts, and sets forth our accomplishments in each of our program area.

- Our **Coast & Ocean Program** has resulted in the termination of 40 offshore federal oil leases, defeat of three offshore oil and liquefied natural gas proposals, preservation of miles of pristine coastline, enhanced protections for the Channel Islands National Park and Marine Sanctuary, put a halt to fracking at offshore platforms, and preservation of historic public beach access.
- Through our **Open Space & Wildlife Program**, we have saved more than 100,000 acres of important wildlife habitat, farmland, public and recreational lands, and promoted the conservation of irreplaceable ecosystems. Often it is what you don't see that provides a testament to our success, as in the preservation of the Hearst Ranch, Fiscalini Ranch, Burton Mesa Chaparral, Haskell's Beach, Devereux, Ellwood Mesa, San Marcos Foothills, Douglas Family Preserve (Wilcox), Carpinteria Bluffs, Sedgwick Ranch, Hammonds Meadow, Canada Larga, Ormond Beach, Oxnard Shores, Ahmanson Ranch, and Newhall Ranch. Our work has also resulted in increased protection for specific keystone species such as blue whales, sea otters, and southern steelhead, as well as ecosystems important to our region, including oak woodlands, chaparral, coastal dunes, wetlands, and watersheds.
- Our **Human & Environmental Health Program** has helped establish new laws and policies that protect our communities from exposure to toxic pesticides. Through litigation, we have also enforced existing laws protecting our air and water quality. More recently, we have emerged as leaders in the fight against global climate change by fighting projects that would increase greenhouse gas emissions and supporting proactive plans to reduce carbon emissions and pursue clean energy solutions.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

EDC is here to serve the needs of our community, providing support to grassroots organizations throughout Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo Counties. EDC does not receive any government funding and relies primarily on community donations.

The EDC has grown and matured only through the collective effort of volunteers, staff, board, and community. You can be part of these wonderful changes. Please make a choice to make a difference, become a member of the EDC, and enjoy special benefits as well as help support our efforts. As a valued EDC member, you will receive invitations to member-only events, action alerts, our newsletter, plus announcements of community events. You can join on our website: www.EnvironmentalDefenseCenter.org. You can also support

EDC CLIENTS AND PARTNERS

In our 45-year history, EDC has represented the following organizations in advocacy before governmental agencies and in litigation in State and Federal courts:

Abalone Alliance
 American Alpine Club
 Audubon Society
 Ballard Improvement and Protective Association
 Beacon Foundation
 Buellton Is Our Town
 California Coastal Protection Network
 California Coastkeeper
 California Native Plant Society
 California Sportfishing Protection Alliance
 California Trout
 CALPIRG
 Camarillo Sustainable Growth
 Carpinteria Creek Foundation
 Carpinteria Creeks Committee
 Carpinteria Valley Association
 Casmalia Elementary School District
 Casmalians Against Pollution
 CAUSE
 Celebrity Homeowners
 Center for Biological Diversity
 Citizens for the Carpinteria Bluffs
 Citizens for Goleta Valley
 Citizens for Responsible Oil and Gas (CFROG)
 Citizens for Responsible Oil Policy
 Citizens for Winchester Canyon
 Citizens to Preserve the Ojai
 Citizens to Stop Toland Landfill
 Citizens Planning Alliance of San Luis Obispo County
 Citizens Planning Association of Santa Barbara County
 City of Calabasas
 Coalition for Voter Approval
 Coalition to Stop Weldon Canyon Dump
 Coastal Alliance on Plant Expansion
 Community and Children's Advocates Against Pesticide Poisoning (CCAPP)
 Community Environmental Council
 Concerned About Oil
 Concerned Citizens of Meiners Oaks
 Concerned Citizens to Save the Wilcox
 Defenders of Wildlife
 Earth Alert
 Environment California
 Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo (Eco-SLO)

Environmental Defense Center
 Environmental Law Foundation
 Environmental Resources Protection Council
 Environmental Working Group
 Fisheries Protection Institute
 Friends of Bonita Street
 Friends of Open Space
 Friends of Sedgwick Reserve
 Friends of the Earth
 Friends of the RanchLand
 Friends of the Santa Clara River
 Friends of the Sea Otter
 Friends of the Ventura River
 Friends of More Mesa
 Gaviota Coast Conservancy
 Get Oil Out!
 Goodland Coalition
 Group Against Outlying Development
 Heal the Bay
 Heal the Ocean
 Isla Vista Recreation and Park District
 John Muir Project of Earth Island Institute
 Keep Sespe Wild
 League for Coastal Protection
 League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara
 Los Angeles Waterkeeper
 Los Padres ForestWatch
 Malibu Road Property Owners Assn.
 Malibu Township Council
 Matilija Coalition
 Mira Monte Homeowners Association
 Monterey Coastkeeper
 More Mesa Foundation
 More Mesa Land Trust
 More Mesa Preservation Coalition
 Naples Coalition
 National Parks and Conservation Association
 Natural Resources Defense Council
 Network
 North County Citizens Coalition
 Northwest Grover Beach Neighborhood Alliance
 Orchard Lane Homeowners Association
 Orcutt Area Advisory Group
 Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations
 Pacific Environment
 Paso-Watch
 Pesticide Action Network
 Physicians Against Casmalia
 Physicians for Social Responsibility
 Protective Association

Rally to Save Ahmanson Ranch
San Luis Obispo Chumash Council
San Luis Obispo Coastkeeper
San Marcos Foothills Coalition
Santa Barbara Alliance
Santa Barbara Channelkeeper
Santa Barbara County Action Network
Santa Barbara County Water Guardians
Santa Barbara Indian Center
Santa Barbara Urban Creeks Council
Santa Clarita Organization for Planning the Environment
Santa Monica Baykeeper
Santa Ynez Citizens
Santa Ynez Valley Alliance
Santa Ynez Valley Concerned Citizens
Save Ellwood Shores
Save Open Space/Santa Monica Mountains
Save Our City
Save Our Coast
Save Our Solvang
Save Oxnard Shores
Save the Mesa
Save the Sunny Fields
Scenic Highway Preservation Committee
Scenic Shoreline Preservation Coalition
Sierra Club
Sierra Club Santa Barbara-Ventura Chapter
Sierra Club Santa Lucia Chapter
Small Wilderness Area Preserves
Stand.earth
Solvang Preservation Alliance
Surfrider Foundation
Surfrider Foundation San Luis Obispo Chapter
Surfrider Foundation Santa Barbara Chapter
Surfrider Foundation Ventura Chapter
Sweetwater Ranch Association
The Otter Project
United Chumash Council
Ventura Citizens for Hillside Preservation
Ventura Coastkeeper
Waterkeepers Northern California
WE-Watch
Wishtoyo Foundation
Yes on Measure P

COAST & OCEAN

Sanctuary, responding to coastal development proposals, fighting offshore oil and gas leasing and development, and preserving public coastal access.

ARCO Ellwood Oil Development

Opposed proposed offshore oil and gas development project; ARCO abandoned proposal to install three new platforms off the coast of UCSB. (1988-1991)

ARCO Golf Course

Filed litigation challenging County and Coastal Commission approvals of coastal golf course project due to project's interference with historic public access and violation of agricultural zoning for the property. (*Surfrider Foundation v. County of Santa Barbara, et al.*, 1995)

Bacara Hotel Expansion

Advocated for protection of coastal habitat, cultural resources and public beach access in response to proposal to build new timeshares at Haskell's Beach. (2010-2012)

Blue Whales

Submitted formal notice challenging failure of National Marine Fisheries Service to implement measures to protect endangered blue whales from ship strikes, entanglement, pollution, and other threats to the species and its habitat; catalyzed implementation and update of Recovery Plan. (2009-Present)

California Coastal Sanctuary Act

Worked on the initiation and passage of the California Coastal Sanctuary Act, which prohibits any further leasing for oil and gas development in state waters. (1994)

Calleguas Brine Line

Requested additional study of impacts to the Calleguas Creek watershed from proposed de-salting plants and pipeline at Ormond Beach. (2000-2001)

Calleguas Creek Watershed Management Plan

Participated in watershed plan process for Calleguas Creek Watershed. (1997-2001)

Capital Condos Project

Filed litigation challenging approval of waterfront condominium project without adequate environmental review. (*Citizens Planning Association, et al. v. City of Santa Barbara*, 2001)

Carpinteria Bluffs

Successfully defeated development plan, resulting in eventual public acquisition and permanent protection of Carpinteria Bluffs. (*Chevron v. California Coastal Commission*, 1996-1998)

Channel Islands Harbor Boating Center

Successfully advocated for an Environmental Impact Report for a proposed boating center in Channel Islands Harbor that would have eliminated an important blue heron colony. (2002) Subsequently filed a lawsuit challenging Ventura County's approval of the project; the California Coastal Commission required Ventura County to amend its plan before proceeding with the project. (*The Beacon Foundation v. County of Ventura*, 2004)

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

Represented the Conservation community on the Sanctuary Advisory Council and established the Conservation Working Group to monitor and respond to Sanctuary management issues; advanced recommendations for improved resource protection, enhanced water quality, protection of marine mammals, and boundary expansion. Published reports on underwater noise, open ocean aquaculture, water quality, ocean acidification, and ship strikes. Successfully advocated for establishment of marine reserves ("no take" zones) around the Channel Islands. (1999-Present)

Channel Islands Plants

Achieved listing and critical habitat designation for 16 endangered plant species surviving on the Northern Channel Islands. (*EDC v. Babbitt*, 1996-1997)

Chevron Debris Mounds

Urged California Coastal Commission and State Lands Commission to require complete cleanup and removal of toxic debris mounds left offshore Summerland after Chevron removed the "4-H" Platforms. (1998-Present)

Chevron Platform Abandonment

Secured additional mitigation of air pollution impacts from the abandonment of four oil platforms. (*Get Oil Out! v. State Lands Commission*, 1996)

Chevron Point Arguello Tankering

Forced strict conditions on oil tankering by Chevron; tankering was terminated in February, 1994, because the company did not satisfy its permit conditions. (1991-1993)

Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary

Supported designation of new sanctuary to protect cultural and ecological resources, connecting the Monterey Bay and Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuaries. (2020-Present)

Del Playa Seawall

Successfully convinced Santa Barbara County to deny proposed seawall project in Isla Vista due to adverse impacts on beach access (1992); subsequently defeated similar proposal before the California Coastal Commission. (1998-1999)

Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant

Challenged approval of a nuclear power plant in San Luis Obispo County; co-defended the Abalone Alliance and certain individuals from SLAPP (Strategic Lawsuit Against Public

Participation) lawsuit brought against project opponents; won lawsuit, including sanctions and fees. (1978-1980)

Douglas Family Preserve (Wilcox Property)

Achieved permanent protection of bluff top property, preserved public access, and defended SLAPP lawsuit. (*Concerned Citizens to Save the Wilcox v. Santa Barbara Capital*, 1987) Subsequent efforts led to public acquisition of property in 1996. Advocated for deed restrictions and covenants for public use and enjoyment. (1997)

Duke Power Plant

Opposed expansion of Duke Power Plant at Morro Bay due to impacts to Morro Bay Estuary. (2001-2002)

East-West Ranch

Preserved one of the largest coastal bluffs in San Luis Obispo County, located in Cambria, by convincing the California Coastal Commission to deny a proposed residential development project. (1997-98) Subsequently, EDC client Friends of the RanchLand secured acquisition of the entire ranch for public use and access. (2000)

El Estero Wetlands

Forced City of Santa Barbara to halt bulldozing coastal wetlands and required city to restore wetlands. (2000)

El Estero Sewage Treatment Plant

Secured additional interim treatment of effluent until permanent treatment facilities were completed. (1987-1988)

Ellwood Mesa

Advocated before public agencies and filed litigation that resulted in the protection of coastal environmentally sensitive habitat areas (Monarch Butterfly groves, native grasslands and vernal pools) and preservation of historic public access. (*Save Ellwood Shores, et al. v County of Santa Barbara*, 1989-2001) Subsequently negotiated land swap that permanently protected the entire Ellwood Mesa and Butterfly groves by transferring development to the adjacent Santa Barbara Shores Park property near Hollister Avenue. (2001-2005)

Entrada de Santa Barbara

Won lawsuit requiring City to prepare an Environmental Impact Report for the Entrada project, a massive time-share development that would drastically change the character of the Santa Barbara's unique Waterfront area. (*Citizens Planning Association, et al. v. City of Santa Barbara*, 1999-2002)

Exxon Oil Exploration

Achieved additional mitigation measures for proposed offshore seismic survey; enhanced protection of gray whales and other marine mammals. (1995)

Exxon Platform Development

Challenged settlement agreement between Exxon and Santa Barbara County; secured zero air pollution emissions from new offshore platforms. Established basis for local regulation of offshore sources, subsequently incorporated into the federal Clean Air Act. (*Citizens Planning Association v. Board of Supervisors*, 1986)

Exxon Tankering

Lawsuit forced revocation of federal permit allowing oil tankering offshore California. (1997)

ExxonMobil Platform Restart and Trucking

Defeated proposal to restart platforms that were shut down due to the pipeline oil spill and transport the oil to refineries by truck; intervened in litigation to help defend County's denial. (2015-Present)

Gaviota Coast

Served on founding Board of Directors of the Gaviota Coast Conservancy; worked with GCC to protect the rural undeveloped areas of the Gaviota Coast, from Coal Oil Point to Point Conception; successfully advocated for adoption of the Gaviota Coast Plan, which secured protections for environmentally sensitive habitats and wildlife, agriculture, cultural resources, scenic views, and public trails. (1994-2019)

Gaviota Processing Facility

Enforced a permit provision that allows the County to require that the oil and gas facility be decommissioned and removed. (1999-2002)

Goleta Beach

Forced County to remove illegal seawall in 2000; subsequently defeated County proposal to construct a permeable groin on the beach; advocated for alternative that protects the public beach, access, and sensitive wildlife, and prevents erosion to downcoast areas. (2000-2017)

Goleta Sanitary District

Sought full secondary treatment of wastewater to protect ocean water quality. (2002)

Hammonds Meadow Trail

Protected coastal resources and access rights to Hammonds Meadow. (*United Chumash Council v. Santa Barbara County*, 1982-1984) Achieved dedication of public access trails to beach in Santa Barbara County. (*Surfrider Foundation v. Mutual Savings and loans*, 1986-1989) Subsequently sued to restore adjacent public access trail. (*Surfrider Foundation v. Lilienstein*, 1996-2009)

Haskell's Beach/Hyatt Hotel

Won published court of appeal ruling expanding state-wide requirements for consideration of alternative sites for development, and forced Santa Barbara County to consider

alternative locations for Hyatt Hotel project as means to reduce environmental impacts. (*Citizens of Goleta Valley v Board of Supervisors*, 1985) In the second case, California Supreme Court clarified law regarding analysis of alternative sites. (*Citizens of Goleta Valley v. Board of Supervisors*, 1988) Settled third lawsuit with Hyatt, protecting important cultural and biological areas and establishing a \$5 million land trust for preservation of open space in the Goleta Valley. (*Citizens of Goleta Valley v. Board of Supervisors*, 1990)

Hearst Ranch/ San Luis Obispo County North Coast Area Plan

Led successful opposition to massive development proposed by the Hearst Corporation for San Luis Obispo's North Coast. (1997-1998) Subsequent efforts resulted in conservation easement over most of the Ranch. (2002-2004)

Jalama Creek Wetlands Restoration

Secured relocation of campsites out of creek bed and obtained restoration of wetlands (1990-1992)

Liquefied Natural Gas – Cabrillo Port, Oxnard/Malibu

Defeated BHP Billiton's proposal to construct a massive LNG terminal offshore Ventura and LA Counties. (2004-2007)

Liquefied Natural Gas – Clearwater Port, Carpinteria/Ventura

Successfully opposed proposal by NorthernStar to construct an LNG terminal offshore Carpinteria and Ventura. (2007-2010)

Liquefied Natural Gas – Point Conception

Defeated proposed LNG facility at Point Conception; protected cultural resources under Native American Religious Freedom Act and state and federal environmental review statutes. (*S.B. Indian Center v. Public Utilities Commission and related actions*, 1977-1982)

Marine Reserves and Marine Protected Areas

Successfully advocated for marine reserves ("ocean wilderness areas") within the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (2000-2007); supported establishment of marine protected areas along the California mainland coast as implementation of the State's Marine Life Protection Act. (2009-2010)

Measure A85 (Santa Barbara County Oil Initiative)

Drafted ballot measure that inspired new County oil policies requiring consolidation of onshore processing facilities and stricter transportation and air quality regulations. (1985)

Measure A96 (Santa Barbara County Voter-Approval Oil Initiative)

Drafted and defended successful ballot measure requiring voter approval of new oil and gas development projects outside of established consolidated industrial sites in Santa Barbara County. (1996-1997)

Mission Creek Lagoon Breaching

Stopped decades-old Santa Barbara City practice of breaching and draining the Mission Creek and Laguna Channel estuaries, which threatened endangered steelhead and tidewater gobies. Secured management plan to enhance estuary habitats. (1999)

Mobil Clearview Project

Raised environmental and safety issues regarding Mobil's proposed slant drilling project next to sensitive ecological areas and UCSB, leading Mobil to abandon the proposal after three years of community opposition and the passage of Measure A96. (1993-1996)

Mobil Ellwood Gas Plant

Gas processing plant temporarily shut down, clean air laws enforced, and new air pollution control system required to address odor problems and Hydrogen Sulfide risks. (1995-1997)

Molino Gas Project

Convinced proponents to relocate gas drilling project to one of the County's designated industrial sites; secured additional protection for the endangered Gaviota Tarplant populations; and obtained landmark agreement to fully mitigate air quality impacts to zero. (1995-1996) Project was subsequently abandoned by proponent. (2003)

More Mesa

Represented various groups in successful opposition to proposed development at More Mesa, a 300-acre undeveloped coastal property hosting wetlands and rare white-tailed kite habitat; also defended the public's right to continue using historic coastal trails and beach access, and secured environmentally protective policies in Santa Barbara County's Goleta Community Plan. (1979-Present) Blocked development that would have destroyed vernal pool. (1998)

Naples

Successfully blocked initial attempt to conduct piecemeal environmental review for large coastal subdivision; subsequently opposed proposal that would have destroyed nationally significant visual, biological, cultural, and agricultural resources on the Gaviota Coast (1999-2008); filed lawsuit to overturn County's approval of inland development (*Naples Coalition, et al. v. County of Santa Barbara*, 2008-2014); continued opposition to coastal and inland development. (Ongoing)

North Shore Mandalay

Challenge to residential development proposed for only known location of the Ventura Marsh Milkvetch, once deemed extinct, resulted in additional protections for the Milkvetch. (*California Native Plant Society v. City of Oxnard*, 1999-2001) Subsequently, filed lawsuit challenging Coastal Commission and City of Oxnard approvals of the North Shore at Mandalay Bay project to enforce the habitat protection provisions of the Coastal Act; reached settlement requiring additional on-site conservation measures and establishment of off-site populations of the Ventura Marsh Milkvetch. (*California Native Plant Society, et al. v. Coastal Commission*, 2002-2003)

Ocean Acidification

Published report to raise awareness and promote policies to address increasing acidification of our oceans; achieved endorsements by all thirteen National Marine Sanctuary advisory councils and received the NOAA's Sanctuary "Partner of the Year Award;" produced Public Service Announcement for national distribution. (2008)

Oceano Dunes

Filed lawsuit to protect threatened and endangered species from harm as a result of off-highway vehicle use at Oceano Dunes State Park. (*Sierra Club v. Rusty Areias*, 2000-2002) Secured settlement agreement with State Park establishing an exclosure area for the protection of snowy plover and California least tern, and secured funding for critical volunteer program and long-term study of plover. (2001-2004)

Offshore Fracking and Acidizing

Filed lawsuit that resulted in settlement agreement requiring environmental review before permits for fracking and acidizing can occur for oil platforms offshore southern California. (*EDC v. BSEE*, 2014-2016) Subsequently challenged adequacy of environmental review as well as failure to protect threatened and endangered species in vicinity of offshore fracking and acidizing operations; obtained court injunction prohibiting offshore fracking and acidizing. (*EDC, et al. v. BOEM*, 2016-Present)

Offshore Oil and Gas Air Emissions

Supported legislation, then sued to prompt promulgation of federal regulations for control of air pollution from Outer Continental Shelf (offshore oil and gas) sources. (*EDC v. EPA*, 1990-1993)

Offshore Oil and Gas Leasing

Stopped the lease of 40,000 acres of offshore oil development. (*Fisheries Protection Institute v. State Lands Commission*, 1983) Successfully opposed subsequent federal leasing proposals offshore California. (1991-2022) Won precedent-setting case in 2002 canceling the renewal of 36 undeveloped oil leases off the coast of Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties until adequate environmental, state, and public review is conducted. (*State of California v. Norton*, 1999-2002) Won second case when Federal government still failed to conduct full environmental review of the leases. (*League for Coastal Protection, et al. v. Norton*, 2004-2005) Convinced the California Coastal Commission to reject the lease renewals, leading to their termination. (2005) Sponsored state legislation prohibiting new infrastructure that would support new drilling in federal waters. (2018)

Offshore Oil Platform Discharges

Convinced Coastal Commission to add requirements to permit covering discharge of drilling muds and cuttings from platforms in the Santa Barbara Channel, to ensure adequate protection of ocean water quality. (1999-2001) Filed lawsuit challenging EPA's failure to update expired permits for twenty-two Federal oil platforms located offshore

central and southern California; EPA responded by adopting a new General Permit that included stricter water quality standards. (*Our Children's Earth, et al. v. U.S. EPA*, 2004)

Offshore Wind

Working to ensure that planning, siting, and project decisions regarding offshore wind avoid or minimize impacts to wildlife; responding to proposals offshore Morro Bay and Vandenberg Space Force Base. (2016-Present)

Ormond Beach

With a coalition of other Ormond Beach advocates, successfully opposed proposals for a massive Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facility and construction of a new road through a wetland to serve the Halaco facility. (2002)

Achieved new protections for Ormond Beach wetlands through update to City's General Plan. (2008-2011)

Won lawsuit challenging approval of plan to construct 1,500 homes as part of the SouthShore development proposal. (*Sierra Club, et al. v. City of Oxnard*, 2008-2012)

Oxnard Shores

Protected open space and public access at Oxnard Shores. (*Save Oxnard Shores v. Ocean Front Lot Owners*, 1982-1989)

Pacific Vehicle Processing

Won appeal of the approval of a vehicle storage project located adjacent to wetlands in the Ormond Beach area; convinced City of Oxnard to require environmental impact report. Proposal was subsequently withdrawn. (2002-2003)

Parker Waterfront Hotel Project

Successfully challenged proposed hotel on grounds that the project would negatively impact views, parking, and affordable housing. (1997)

Plains All American Pipeline

Led community and state-wide response to oil spill from Plains All American Pipeline on the Gaviota Coast; developed new laws and regulations to help prevent oil spills and ensure more timely and effective response; worked to ensure full restoration of the beach and marine environments. (2015-2021)

Point Conception

Negotiated access to and use of federal land at Pt. Conception for religious ceremonies on behalf of the Santa Barbara Indian Center. (1978)

POOL/Carone Oil Project

Helped defeat proposal to slant drill from a federal platform offshore Carpinteria; leases were terminated and transferred to the California Coastal Sanctuary. (2012-2019)

Port Hueneme Coastal Plan

Challenged City of Port Hueneme's coastal plan update that was approved without adequate environmental review, and obtained additional coastal protection policies. (*Sierra Club v. City of Port Hueneme*, 1998)

Project Clean Water

Supported establishment of Project Clean Water objectives in Santa Barbara County and participated in Project's work on wetlands and riparian restoration, septic systems, policy review and pollution reduction. (1999-Present)

Puente Peaker Power Plant

Defeated application before the California Energy Commission for a new peaker power plant proposed on the Oxnard coast. (2014-2019)

Rigs-to-Reefs

Led successful state-wide effort to defeat legislation that would have allowed oil companies to leave their platforms in the ocean when production ceases rather than remove them and clean up the marine environment. (1999-2003) Subsequently secured environmental safeguards and requirement for public process in legislation that passed in 2010 and prevented amendments that would have weakened environmental protections. (2010-18)

Santa Barbara Channelkeeper

Launched the Santa Barbara Channelkeeper, a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and restoring the Santa Barbara Channel and its watersheds through citizen action, field work, education, and enforcement. (1999-2001)

Santa Barbara City Desalination Plant

Obtained preparation of environmental impact report for analysis of City's proposed supplemental water supplies. (1990)

Santa Rosa Island

Achieved settlement that protected the Channel Islands National Park's resources by phasing out private grazing and hunting operations, and enhanced monitoring and protection for endangered plant species. (*National Parks and Conservation Association v. Kennedy*, 1996-1998) Successfully enforced compliance with settlement agreement, including an end to hunting operations and opening of the Island for public use and enjoyment. (2008-2011)

Sea Otters

Urged U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to stop enforcing "no otter zone" south of Point Conception and allow sea otters to re-inhabit their historic range. (2005-2009) Filed lawsuit that resulted in agreement requiring the Service to take steps to terminate "no otter zone"

and reinstate full protections for sea otters. Final rule abolishing “no otter” zone adopted in December 2012. (*The Otter Project, et al. vs. Salazar*, 2009-2012) Defended legal challenges brought by commercial fishing groups. (*California Sea Urchin Commission, et al. v. Jacobson*, 2013-2018; *California Sea Urchin Commission, et al. v. Bean*, 2014-2018)

Watershed Program

Brought together local planning, environmental, educational, and scientific groups, as well as landowners and agriculturists, to work on issues involving water quality, wetlands, creeks, steelhead, development, and planning. (1998-Present)

Subsea Well Abandonment

Secured mitigation of air quality impacts caused by offshore well abandonment program through \$450,000 contribution to Santa Barbara APCD’s Innovative Technologies program. (*Get Oil Out! v. State Lands Commission*, 1996)

Surfers Point

Helped develop plan to minimize beach erosion from bike path project. (2001-2004)

Taylor Ranch

Preserved coastal open space, prevented development of State University (*Environmental Coalition v. Board of Trustees*, 1989-1990)

Tranquillon Ridge Oil and Gas Project

Successfully advocated for rejection of proposed slant oil and gas drilling project off Santa Barbara’s coast that would have allowed the first state oil lease since the 1969 oil spill. (2002) Subsequently attempted settlement agreement that would have ended oil production from four offshore platforms and hundreds of onshore wells, in addition to providing 4,000 acres to the public for access and habitat protection. (2006-2010)

UCSB Campus Point Seawall

Helped stop Campus Point seawall project. (1999)

UCSB North and West Campus Housing

Protected environmental sensitive habitat on the University’s West Campus. (*Freeman et al. v. Regents*, 1984-1985) Successfully protected wetlands and other sensitive habitat from development at UCSB’s North and West Campuses, next to Devereux Slough. (1998-2006)

Venoco Ellwood Oil Development

Represented a coalition of environmental groups in efforts to phase out operations at Venoco’s Ellwood onshore oil and gas facilities. Ended barging from the Ellwood Marine Terminal. (1999-2011) Successfully forced withdrawal of Venoco’s proposal to “slant drill” from Platform Holly and resume oil production on the Ellwood pier. Leases were subsequently terminated and added to the California Coastal Sanctuary. (1997-2017)

Venoco Paredon Oil Development

Successfully fought proposal to slant drill into an offshore state lease from an onshore site next to Carpinteria City Hall and the Carpinteria Bluffs; garnered support from City Council and subsequently helped clients defeat Venoco's attempt to circumvent the Council via a ballot measure. (2007-2010) Subsequently secured termination of the application and transfer of the offshore lease to the California Coastal Sanctuary, where it will be permanently protected from any further threats of offshore oil development. (2010-2018)

Ventura River: RV Park

Opposed approval of RV park in the flood zone and sought enforcement of permit and Coastal Act violations. (1992-1999)

Ventura Shellfish Enterprise Project

Secured withdrawal of proposed offshore aquaculture project that would have circumvented state environmental and public health protection laws. (2020-2021)

Whales and Shipping

Responded to fatal blue whale ship strikes by developing stronger management measures for the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary; also advocated for new regulations to protect whales by requiring reduced ship speeds and moving shipping lanes away from important whale feeding grounds and migratory routes; achieved International Maritime Organization (IMO) approval to move shipping lanes; helped develop Vessel Speed Reduction program to protect whales from risks and impacts of ships; and continued work in support of US regulations to move lanes, expand areas to be avoided, and slow ships down. (2007-Present)

OPEN SPACE & WILDLIFE

EDC's Open Space & Wildlife Program Area seeks to enhance and enforce protections for endangered species, habitats, watersheds, and agricultural lands.

Agricultural Futures Alliance (AFA)

Helped form cooperative alliances in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties to support the long term sustainability of our regional agricultural industry, while addressing important environmental, economic, and social equity issues. (2000-2013)

Developed a proposed buffer ordinance to protect agricultural lands from encroaching urban development. (2009-2013)

Ahmanson Ranch

Filed lawsuit challenging Ventura County's approval of a proposed new town in the Santa Monica Mountains that would have destroyed habitat for California red-legged frog and

San Fernando Valley Spineflower. (*Rally to Save Ahmanson Ranch, et al. v. County of Ventura*, 2001-2003) Property was subsequently purchased and preserved as publicly accessible open space.

Alamo Pintado Creek

Achieved reinstatement of open space easement protecting a riparian corridor along Alamo Pintado Creek in Los Olivos. (1996)

Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Wetlands Permits

Advocated for increased protection for wetlands and other natural resources in Army Corps Nationwide Permits. (1997-1999)

Arroyo Burro Trail

Filed litigation on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara against various landowners to preserve historic public hiking; case resulted in permanent protection for portions of the historic trail. (*County of Santa Barbara v. Anderson and Gadbois, et al.*, 1977-1983)

Arroyo Linda

Challenged proposed annexation of land to City of Arroyo Grande that would have converted agricultural land to industrial uses. (1999-2001)

Atascadero Creek

Secured wetlands enhancement and permanent protection along a coastal riparian corridor in Santa Barbara County. (*EDC v. Army Corps of Engineers*, 1993-1994)

Atascadero General Plan Update

Filed suit challenging the City of Atascadero's approval of amendments to its General Plan that would intensify development and density in Atascadero. Settlement resulted in changes to the General Plan, including a resource map identifying habitat within the City and interim creek set back protection. (*ECOSLO v. City of Atascadero*, 2002)

Bailey Avenue, Lompoc

Settled lawsuit requiring City to reconsider approval of General Plan Update that would have set the stage for potential annexation of approximately 300 acres of prime farmland for development. (*Santa Barbara County Action Network v. City of Lompoc*, 2010-2013)
Responded to subsequent application for annexation. (2021-Present)

Ballard Canyon

Preserved prime agricultural land from development. (1985)

Bee Rock Quarry

Secured erosion control measures to protect Hilton Creek and steelhead from sedimentation. (1999)

Bishop Ranch

Defeated proposal to re-zone large agricultural property in Goleta to residential use. (2011)

Bixby Ranch

Worked to ensure enforcement action and restoration after Ranch owners destroyed sensitive habitats in violation of the California Coastal Act. (2014-Present)

Bonita Street, Santa Maria

Secured reduction in project size to conform to neighborhood; revised City environmental review guidelines. (*Friends of Bonita Street v. City of Santa Maria*, 1989-1990)

Box Canyon

Investigated cumulative impacts from proposed development in a biologically sensitive canyon with numerous special status species in Ventura. (2001)

Braun-Cavaletto

Established precedent of requiring traffic fees to mitigate project impacts. (*Citizens Planning Association v. County of Santa Barbara*, 1981-1982)

Buellton Urban Growth Boundary Initiative

Increased protection for Santa Ynez Valley farmland by drafting successful land use initiative that requires voter approval to modify City's urban limit line. (2007-2008)

Burton Mesa Chaparral

Preserved 5,000 acres of endangered chaparral habitat that was ultimately purchased by the State. (*La Purisima Audubon Society v. County of Santa Barbara*, 1989) Subsequently challenged proposed Kelly-Gausman development adjacent to Burton Mesa Chaparral lands. (*La Purisima Audubon Society v. County of Santa Barbara*, 1991)

California Red-Legged Frog

Won protection for the California Red Legged frog, forcing U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to list it as a threatened species. (*EDC v. Babbitt*, 1995-1996) Achieved additional protection by demonstrating that water diversions from Alder, Fox, and McCoy Creeks jeopardized important habitat.

California Tiger Salamander

Filed three lawsuits against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services for failing to list the salamander under the Endangered Species Act. The tiger salamander was granted full protection as an endangered species in September 2000. (*EDC v. Babbitt*, 1998-2000) Successfully opposed subsequent effort to down-list the species to "threatened" and reduce its protective status. (*Center for Biological Diversity, et al. v. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*, 2004-05) Successfully challenged U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's failure to designate critical habitat for the Santa Barbara County population of the California tiger salamander. (*EDC vs. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*, 2002-2003)

CALMAT

Successfully challenged use of abandoned gravel pits for groundwater recharge in Ventura County. (*Environmental Coalition of Ventura County v. Calmat*, 1997-1998)

CALTRANS Highway 101 Freeway

Opposed extensive grading work in native coastal scrub habitat along Highway 101 in Ventura. (2000)

Camarillo Regional Park

Filed lawsuit that reversed Ventura County's approval of a golf course and outdoor concert arena due to inconsistencies with the County's General Plan. (*California Native Plant Society, et al. v. County of Ventura*, 1997-1999)

Camp 4

Conducted environmental assessment and appealed fee-to-trust application for 1,400-acre property in the Santa Ynez Valley (2013-2017)

Canada Larga Valley (Ventura Hillsides)

Convinced City of Ventura to exclude 800-acre valley from Westside Community Planning Project, which would have allowed annexation and major development in area known for outstanding bird habitat. (2010-2011)

Carnevale

Successfully convinced City of Carpinteria to require a full Environmental Impact Report for residential development proposed next to Carpinteria Creek and to move development away from the Creek. (2001-2002)

Carpinteria Creek Policies

Shaped update of Carpinteria Local Coastal Plan, including policies for protection of sensitive habitats like creeks and wetlands. (2001-2002)

Casitas Dam

Responded to Bureau of Reclamation's seismic retrofit of Casitas Dam, which would have resulted in large-scale habitat loss, air quality impacts and adequacy of mitigation associated with. (1999-2000)

Cathedral Oaks Road Extension

Persuaded County of Santa Barbara to construct a narrow bridge over El Encanto Creek instead of burying Creek in a long culvert. (1997-1998)

Chaparral Policies

Worked to ensure adequate protection of important chaparral habitat in Santa Barbara County foothills from destructive clearing practices. (2006-Present) Secured policies protecting chaparral habitat in the Eastern Goleta Valley Community Plan. (2011-2018)

City of Santa Barbara Creek Policies

Advocated for large creek setbacks to be included in the City of Santa Barbara's update of its creek protection policies. (2000-2001)

Conejo Creek

Convinced City of Camarillo to reject proposal to develop 2,500 homes that would destroy prime farmland and harm an important wildlife corridor along Conejo Creek. (2011-2014)

County Campus Solar PV Project

Secured additional protection for sensitive coastal sage habitat including a conservation easement over the planned habitat mitigation area. (2011)

Creekside Residential Development

Stopped project that would have destroyed wetlands near Devereux Slough in Goleta. (1998-1999)

Dalidio Shopping Center

Opposed major shopping center development on agricultural lands containing endangered species in San Luis Obispo. (2001)

Devil's Canyon Creek

Secured protections for native trout and endangered species harmed by creek water diversion in Los Padres Forest. (1995)

Duff Mesa

Opposed Village Estates Specific Plan and drafted referendum on development project in Solvang. (1990-1991)

Fairy Shrimp

Filed litigation that resulted in listing of several species of freshwater shrimp as endangered and threatened. (*EDC v. Babbitt*, 1994). Intervened to uphold the scientific basis of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service action. (*BIA v. Babbitt*, 1995-2002)

Forde Industrial Park

Filed suit against City of Grover Beach that resulted in additional mitigation for an industrial park near a state Monarch Butterfly Preserve. (*Northwest Grover Beach Neighborhood Alliance v. City of Grover Beach*, 2002)

Gap Fire Hydromulch Contamination

Identified plastic and shredded latex gloves in 4,000 acres of hydromulch spread over the Gap Fire burn area to reduce erosion. Worked with agencies to ensure exclusion of contaminants in subsequent hydromulching efforts. (2008-2009)

Gateway Development

Convinced the Ventura City Council to deny the approval of a project that violated “City Smart Growth” principles and would have caused traffic congestion and safety impacts in a residential neighborhood. (2000-2001)

General Conservation Plan for Oil and Gas Activities in Santa Barbara County

Opposed plan that would allow oil drilling despite harm to endangered and threatened species. (2018-Present)

General Plans

Forced City and County of Santa Barbara to seek extensions from the state to bring their general plans into compliance with state mandates, and to refrain from approving projects until they came into compliance. (1977)

Gibraltar Dam

Challenged adequacy of environmental impact report raising Gibraltar Dam (*Montecito Water District, et al., v. City of Santa Barbara*, 1988)

Glen Annie Golf Course

Successfully negotiated mitigation measures to replace habitat to be lost by the construction of the golf course in the Goleta foothills. (*Santa Barbara Urban Creeks Council, et al. v. County of Santa Barbara*, 1994-2002)

Goleta Creeks

Secured enhanced protection for Goleta creeks through zoning ordinance and development of a Creek and Watershed Management Plan (2018-2020)

Goleta Heritage Farmlands Initiative (Measure G)

Drafted successful ballot measure requiring voter approval prior to conversion of major agricultural lands in the City of Goleta. (2011-2012)

Goleta Valley Community Plan

Secured protective designation for environmentally sensitive habitat areas, including at Ellwood Mesa and More Mesa. (1992-1993) Advocated for stronger ag land and habitat protection policies in subsequent General Plan Update. (2011-2017)

Goleta Water District: Water Basin Management Plan

Secured environmental impact report analyzing Goleta’s water basin management plan. (*Citizens for Goleta Valley v. Goleta Water District*, 1987)

Goleta Water District: Water Service Agreements

Challenged a series of Water Service Agreements involving exchange of wells for meters; upheld voter approved ordinance and forced payment of funds to Goleta Water District.

(Citizens for Goleta Valley v. Arroyo Vista Partners, 1988; Citizens for Goleta Valley v. Goleta Water District, 1989-1991)

Goleta Water District: Wright Suit

Intervened in groundwater basin adjudication to protect ratepayer and public interest, secured full compliance with the state and local environmental statutes and voter approval requirements. *(Wright v. Goleta Water District, 1989)*

Heritage Ridge

Sought changes in development proposal to protect Los Carneros Creek and environmentally sensitive habitat. (2021-Present)

Heritage Valley Parks

Filed lawsuit resulting in additional review of proposed residential and levee project along the Santa Clara River. *(Friends of the Santa Clara River v. City of Fillmore, 2002-2003)*

Highway 101 Widening

Participated in broad community coalition that promoted alternatives to proposed freeway widening project in southern Santa Barbara County. (1996)

Hilton Creek

Filed lawsuit that resulted in improved flows and protection for endangered steelhead in the Santa Ynez River system. *(California Trout v. U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, 2014-2015)*

Lake Casitas Water Project

Provided comments on proposed recreational developments for Lake Casitas approved without environmental review. (2001-2002)

Lake Piru Quagga Mussels

Provided recommendations to protect Lake Piru and downstream waters from harmful quagga mussels. (2016)

Lompoc Motorsports

Raised environmental concerns regarding proposal to construct large drag strip and multi-track racing facility next to the Santa Ynez River. (2015-2016)

Lompoc Prison

Stopped construction of a prison expansion project in Lompoc pending environmental review. (2001)

Lompoc Wind Energy Project

Secured additional mitigation measures to protect birds and other wildlife from impacts of wind energy project. (2007-2008)

Los Carneros Reservoir

Negotiated additional measures to control erosion and protect and restore habitats for reservoir project proposed in the foothills above Goleta. (2000-2001)

Los Carneros Wetlands

Protected wetlands from proposed development. (1986-1995)

Los Padres National Forest Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Use

Reversed decision allowing ORV use in blunt-nosed leopard lizard habitat area. (1980) Objected to construction of proposed Badlands Trail near native American community and through sensitive habitat areas. (1996) Secured the closure and relocation of Snowy Trail away from wetlands and arroyo toad habitat. (1991-1996)

Los Padres National Forest Logging and Clearing Projects

Filed lawsuit to prevent commercial logging and vegetation removal atop Reyes Peak, an area that contains critical habitat for the endangered California Condor and is home to other sensitive wildlife, rare plants, old-growth conifer forests, and a unique “sky island” ecosystem. (2022-Present) Opposed plan to log and clear more than 235,000 acres of wildlife habitat in the Los Padres National Forest. (2022-Present)

Los Padres National Forest Oil and Gas Development

Assisted local residents in securing adequate community involvement and environmental protection in Quatal Canyon seismic testing oil exploration project. (1992) Opposed Oil and Gas Leasing Plan for Los Padres National Forest. (2001)

Los Padres National Forest Target Shooting

Secured injunction prohibiting target shooting in undesignated areas, thereby protecting wildlife (including endangered California Condors) and waterways; subsequently reached settlement providing protections for forestlands. (*Los Padres ForestWatch v. U.S. Forest Service*, 2018-2020)

Lot Line Adjustment Ordinance

Supported Santa Barbara County in adopting an ordinance to eliminate development on small fractional lots, thereby preserving important agricultural lands. (2001)

Mackie Mountain

Preserved 17 acres of open space in residential subdivision development and secured revisions to County groundwater element in the general plan. (*Friends of Open Space v. County of Santa Barbara*, 1983-1993)

Maritime Chaparral Plants

Filed lawsuit that resulted in the listings of four plants unique to Southern California's coast. (*Southwest Center for Biological Diversity v. Babbitt*, 1995)

Matilija Dam Removal

Advocated for removal of Matilija Dam to restore steelhead, replenish beach sand, and provide recreational access to Los Padres National Forest. (2000-Present)

Measure B, City of Santa Barbara

Supported legislation to increase the hotel bed tax to raise \$2 million per year to clean up creeks in the City of Santa Barbara. (2000)

Measure E, City of Santa Barbara

Successfully defeated Board of Realtors' attempt to vacate City growth control ordinance. (*Santa Barbara Board of Realtors v. City of Santa Barbara*, 1989)

Mira Monte

Won lawsuit challenging subdivision Environmental Impact Report for failure to consider new information regarding the presence of wetlands and rare plants that would be harmed by proposed development; established new state-wide precedent for consideration of new information in environmental review reports. (*Mira Monte Homeowners Association v. County of Ventura*, 1983-1985)

Mission Creek

Successfully opposed channelization of Lower Mission Creek in Santa Barbara and helped develop plan for natural alternative. (1991-2002) Secured setback for hotel expansion project to protect Creek. (1999) Won litigation requiring additional environmental review of a rock retaining wall along historic Mission Creek. (*Santa Barbara Urban Creeks Council v. City of Santa Barbara*, 1999-2000) Conceived and advanced proposal to modify 1.2-mile-long concrete flood control channel to be able to pass migrating steelhead. (2000-2013)

Mosby Recreational Fields Project

Blocked illegal conversion of agricultural land near the Santa Ynez River to active recreational development including a paintball operation, ball fields, and remote-controlled car track. (2013-2014)

Newhall Ranch

Challenged approval of 21,000-home Newhall Ranch project and secured additional environmental analysis of impacts on water supply and quality and ecological resources. (*Sierra Club, et al. v. County of Los Angeles*, 1999-2003)

Nipomo Mesa

Settled lawsuit challenging San Luis Obispo County's decision to allow an exceedance of the County's Growth Management Ordinance without conducting environmental review. (*Save the Mesa v. County of San Luis Obispo*, 2000)

Nyborg Estates

Modified Solvang gateway project to reduce environmental impact; secured payment of \$50,000 for improvement of City park and recreational facilities. (*Santa Ynez Valley Concerned Citizens v. City of Solvang*, 1987-1991)

Oak Park

Filed lawsuit challenging the failure of a mitigation program for a rare plant species (Braunton's milkvetch) at the site of an approved residential development in Oak Park. (*California Native Plant Society v. County of Ventura*, 1998-2003)

Oak Tree Protection (Kendall-Jackson)

Filed lawsuit against Santa Barbara County regarding the clear cutting of 850 oak trees near Los Alamos under a County-issued grading permit (*Sierra Club v. Santa Barbara County*, 1998-2000) Participated in a consensus building process that resulted in an ordinance protecting oak trees and habitats in rural Santa Barbara County. (1997-2003)

Open-Space Preservation and Education Network (OPEN)

Launched program to preserve agricultural lands within Santa Barbara County by focusing on the planning process and General Plan updates, and by responding to specific threats; initiated outreach to ranchers and farmers to find common ground and strengthen policies that protect farmland and related open space in the County. Helped draft Ag Buffer Ordinance for Santa Barbara County. Forged alliance of agricultural and conservation interests in favor of stronger policies preventing sprawl and conversion of ag lands. (2008-Present)

Orcutt Community Plan

Achieved improved policies through lawsuit against the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors for inadequate environmental review of the Orcutt Community Plan; won additional protections for biological and water resources. (*Orcutt Area Advisory Committee v. County of Santa Barbara*, 1997-2001)

Parker Ranch

Opposed residential development in southeastern Simi Valley that would annex almost 100 acres of oak woodland habitat and relocate rare spadefoot toads. (2000)

Pepperdine

Represented groups concerned with extensive grading and development on Pepperdine campus. (*Malibu Township Council v. California Coastal Commission*, 1990)

Perfect Park, Isla Vista

Successfully defended the Isla Vista Recreation and Park District (IVRPD) against challenge to environmental review conducted to protect historic public parkland. (*St. Athanasius Church v. IVPRD*, 1990-1992)

Plam Mission Meadows Winery

Successfully forced full environmental review of proposed winery at Sunny Fields; proposal was eventually withdrawn. (2002-2003)

Rancho La Laguna

Effectively advocated for full environmental impact report for proposed rural subdivision that posed threats to farmland and habitats. (2010) Subsequently convinced Santa Barbara County to protect farmland and deny project. (2014-2017) Helped defend County's action in court. (*Rancho La Laguna v. County of Santa Barbara*, 2017-Present)

Rancho San Marcos

Filed litigation challenging approval of golf course on agriculturally-zoned land in the Santa Ynez Valley. (*Scenic Highway Preservation Committee v. County of Santa Barbara*, 1991-1994)

Rocky Pointe

Opposed residential development proposal in Simi Valley based on concerns related to wetlands, rare plants, aesthetics, and policy consistency. Site was ultimately acquired for preservation. (1999-2000)

Rosemary Lane Extension

Convinced developer of multiple tracts in foothills of Arroyo Grande to redesign an access road to avoid endangered plants, wetlands, a creek, and other habitats. (1998-1999)

San Antonio Creek / VAFB

Successfully stopped Vandenberg Air Force Base from clearing over 50 acres of high quality riparian habitat along San Antonio Creek, home to various rare species. (1997-1998)

San Antonio Creek / Ventura River

Halted damaging flood control project on Ventura River tributary approved without environmental review. (*Friends of the Ventura River v. County of Ventura*, 1995-1996) Secured environmental review and revegetation for bank stabilization project. (*Friends of the Ventura River v. Ojai Valley Sanitary District*, 1996)

San Fernando Valley Spineflower

Filed lawsuit challenging the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's failure to protect the San Fernando Valley Spineflower, formerly believed to be extinct. Court rejected the Service's rationale for its failure to protect the Spineflower. (*California Native Plant Society v. Norton*, 2001-2005)

San Jose Creek Flood Control and Fish Passage Project

Secured inclusion of fish passage element in City flood control project; worked to restore steelhead in Creek. (2009-Present)

San Marcos Foothills

Helped defeat large residential project proposed for one of the most biologically rich sites on Santa Barbara County's South Coast. (1998-1999) Subsequently responded to new development proposal that achieved additional protection of more than 200 acres of important habitats and open space. (2004-2005) Worked with the County to develop and implement San Marcos Foothills Management Plan. (2007)

Sandpiper Residential Project

Secured additional protections for wetlands, native grasslands, and Devereux Creek threatened by proposed residential development in Goleta. (2002)

Santa Barbara City College

Obtained increased protection for natural and archaeological resources. (1989)

Santa Barbara County Agricultural Policies

Successfully advocated for consideration of environmental impacts of proposed agricultural operation expansion in County's Agricultural Element. (1991) Defeated proposed county ordinance to allow clustered residential development on agricultural lands. (1998) Forced County to conduct public review of all proposed changes to agricultural policies, thereby revealing full potential for conversion and development on agricultural lands. (2007)

Santa Barbara County Conservation Element

Secured preparation of groundwater resource plan. (*Friends of Open Space v. Board of Supervisors*, 1983-1994)

Santa Barbara County Flood Control District Annual Maintenance Program

Required County to comply with state environmental review laws and mitigate impacts caused by County's flood control maintenance activities. (1990-1992; 2001)

Santa Barbara County Rural Resource Policies Update

Advocated for protection of sensitive habitats as part of Santa Barbara County's update of its land use policies. (1999-2002)

Santa Margarita Ranch

Ensured that a proposal to plant a 3000-acre vineyard included protections for endangered species habitat and Native-American burial sites. (*San Luis Obispo Chumash Council v. County of San Luis Obispo*, 1999-2000)

Santa Paula Creek (East Area One)

Negotiated settlement requiring study of flood threats and consideration of further protections for important steelhead creek in eastern Ventura County. (2011)

Santa Ynez Community Plan

Secured long-term plan to preserve rural lands in Santa Ynez Valley by reducing the potential for subdivisions on agriculturally-zoned lands. (2008-2009)

Santa Ynez River

Obtained wetlands protection for flood control projects along the Santa Ynez River. (*EDC v. Army Corps of Engineers*, 1992-1993)

Successfully challenged water rights permits to protect public trust rights, including protection of endangered steelhead trout, on the Santa Ynez River (1992-2019); opposed Bureau of Reclamation's Petition for Reconsideration. (2019-Present)

Seeking updated protections for steelhead under the Endangered Species Act to address impacts caused by operations of Bradbury Dam on Lake Cachuma/Santa Ynez River. (2018-Present)

Santa Ysabel Ranch

Settled suit challenging County of San Luis Obispo's approval of the Santa Ysabel Ranch development, resulting in increased protection of oak woodland habitat. (*PasoWatch v. County of San Luis Obispo*, 2002)

Sedgwick Ranch

Successfully stopped proposed sale of 6,000-acre ranch at the foot of Figueroa Mountain in the Santa Ynez Valley, resulting in permanent protection of the Ranch as part of the University of California Natural Reserve System. (1990-1997)

Solvang

Achieved settlement that reduced impacts by decreasing size of proposed development. (*Santa Ynez Citizens v. City of Solvang*, 1987)

Solvang Urban Growth Boundary Initiative

Increased protections for open space and agricultural resources by drafting successful land use initiative that requires voter approval to modify City's urban limit line. (2019-2020)

Solvang Water Wells

Filed protest with State Water Board to protect endangered steelhead from increased water pumping in the Santa Ynez River. (2016-Present)

Southwestern Arroyo Toad

Filed litigation that resulted in the listing of the Southwestern arroyo toad as an endangered species. (*EDC v. Babbitt*, 1993)

Southwestern Willow Flycatcher

Obtained endangered listing for the Southwestern willow flycatcher. (*EDC V. Babbitt*, 1993)

State Water Project

Drafted ballot measures for communities in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties opposed to the importation of State Water. (1991-1992) Secured settlement with water agencies requiring them to allocate new water supplies to replenish groundwater overdraft before serving new development. (1992)

Steelhead Trout

Filed suit against the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service over the failure to fully protect endangered steelhead trout in southern California; reached settlement requiring NMFS to reconsider its decision not to list steelhead occurring above man-made dams and barriers. (*EDC v. Evans*, 2000-2005) Advocated for protection of local creeks and rivers via NMFS' designation of Steelhead critical habitat. (1999, 2005) Advocated for improvements to Southern Steelhead Recovery Plan. (2007-2012) Convinced California Fish and Game to consider closing waterways currently open to steelhead fishing. (2011-2012)

Substandard Size Lots

Protected Santa Barbara County rural areas by successfully supporting an ordinance to eliminate potential for development of substandard size lots. (2001)

Tajiguas Landfill

Modified proposed landfill expansion project in a coastal canyon to include consideration of alternative waste technologies, avoid and mitigate habitat destruction, and increase recycling efforts and water testing. (1998-2001)

Tidewater Goby

Filed lawsuit that resulted in the listing of Tidewater Goby as an endangered species. (*EDC v. Lujan*, 1992-93) Successfully challenged U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's failure to prepare a recovery plan for the Goby. (*EDC v. U.S. Dept. of the Interior*, 1999-2003) Opposed proposed down-listing of Goby to Threatened status. (2010) Advocated expansion of critical habitat. (2011)

Toro Canyon Community Plan

Advocated for larger creek setbacks, full protection of sensitive habitats, and other measures to be included in Toro Canyon Plan. (1999-2001)

Tree Protection

Forced County to restrict tree pruning practices. (*Scenic Shoreline Preservation Coalition v. County of Santa Barbara*, 1988)

Twitchell Dam

Filed lawsuits in state and federal courts to force water district to operate dam in manner that will protect and restore steelhead in the watershed. (*San Luis Obispo Coastkeeper, et al. v. Santa Maria Valley Water Conservation District* and *San Luis Obispo Coastkeeper, et al. v. Bureau of Reclamation*, 2017-Present)

Unarmored Three-Spined Stickleback

Brought a lawsuit to protect critical habitat for the Unarmored Threespine Stickleback, a federally listed endangered freshwater fish species. (*Center for Biological Diversity v. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*, 2002-2006)

University of California Santa Barbara

Required additional mitigation measures for biology, housing, and traffic in 1990 Long Range Development Plan. (1990-1991)

Achieved realignment of Mesa Road to protect the Goleta Slough and surrounding environmentally sensitive habitat. (1997)

Forced UCSB to relocate planned 800-bed San Rafael Dorm out of wetlands on a coastal bluff. (1997-99)

Reached agreement in which University agreed to scale down and re-site development to avoid sensitive native grassland and wetland habitats next to the Devereux Slough and Coal Oil Point Reserve. (1998-2006)

Vandenberg Air Force Base

Negotiated relocation of commercial space launch facility to avoid leapfrog industrial development of coast. (1995)

Vandenberg Air Force Base: MX missile

Forced Air Force to comply with federal environmental review laws regarding waste disposal, road construction and monitoring. (1977-1982)

Vandenberg Peat Bog Fire

Ensured that the least environmentally damaging methods were used to address a peat bog fire in Barka Slough wetlands at Vandenberg Air Force Base. (2000)

Ventura River Diversion

Preserved instream flows and steelhead spawning grounds. (*Friends of the Ventura River v. City of Ventura & Casitas Water District*, 1984)

Ventura River Habitat

Brought a series of cases to preserve, protect and enhance habitat in lower Ventura River. (1986-1994)

Ventura River Watershed Monitoring

Supported Santa Barbara ChannelKeeper in launching program to enhance and restore Ventura River through community participation in volunteer monitoring and restoration program. (2000-2001)

Ventura Visioning Project

Participated in Ventura's Comprehensive Plan update process to improve environmental protection policies. (1999-2000)

Vernal Pool Wetland Species

Filed suit that forced the Fish and Wildlife Service to establish listing and designate critical habitat for five vernal pool wetland species. (*Southwestern Center for Biological Diversity v. Babbitt*, 1996)

Weldon Canyon

Enjoined ballot measure that would have permitted the development of massive landfill in Ojai. (*Coalition to Stop Weldon Canyon Dump v. Dean*, 1994)

Western Snowy Plover

Brought lawsuits against U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that resulted in the listing of the western snowy plover and protection of critical habitat. (*EDC v. Babbitt*, 1994-2000)
Opposed subsequent efforts to de-list the plover. (2004-2006)

Convinced the Coastal Commission to require additional protections for snowy plovers at the Coal Oil Point Reserve in Goleta and Vandenberg Air Force Base. (2001-2002)

Wild and Scenic Rivers

Prevailed in litigation requiring management plans for three Wild and Scenic Rivers in the Los Padres National Forest. (*Center for Biological Diversity v. Derby*, 2001-2002)

Winchester Canyon

Brought action opposing illegal water meter for M. Timm Development Company in Winchester Canyon. Showed that water was wasted to establish "high level of historic water use" for agriculture. (*Citizens for Winchester Canyon v. Goleta Water District*, 1987)

Woodlands

Filed and settled lawsuit to enforce San Luis Obispo County's growth management ordinance. Secured major funding to support local environmental groups. (*Save the Mesa v. County of San Luis Obispo*, 2002)

ENVIRONMENTAL & HUMAN HEALTH

EDC's Environmental & Human Health Program Area is focused on combating air and onshore water pollution, and promoting alternatives to pesticides and other toxic substances.

A-1 Metals & Auto Salvage

Brought successful Clean Water Act enforcement action against facility that discharged pollutants into the Salinas River. (*California Sportfishing Protection Alliance v. A-1 Metals and Auto Salvage*, 2014-2015)

Aera Oil Project

Helped defeat proposal to use risky cyclic steam injection to drill hundreds of new oil wells in area supporting valuable oak trees and other natural resources. (2017-2020)

Agricultural Run-Off (Agricultural Waiver)

Through our Central Coast Environmental Health Project, EDC participated on Regional Water Quality Control Board stakeholder group that developed recommendations to enhance water quality practices for agricultural operations as a means to reduce polluted discharges. (2003-2004) Subsequently achieved enhanced water quality protection measures in renewed Ag Waiver Order, and defended such measures before the State Water Resource Control Board (2008-2012)

Air Quality Plans

Worked to strengthen and enforce the air pollution control plans in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. (1987-97) Forced reclassification of Santa Barbara County to federal “serious” designation, thereby requiring imposition of greater protection for public health. (*EDC v. Marcus*, 1997)

Assembly Bill 947 (Pesticides and Schools)

Co-sponsored bill, limiting pesticide use near schools, that was signed into law. (2000-2002)

“Buy Fresh, Buy Local” Food Guide

Published food guide to educate consumers and promote local, sustainably grown food and the retailers and restaurants who sell and serve such products. (2008)

California State Implementation Plan

Filed lawsuit that forced the EPA to formally adopt statewide air quality plans. (*EDC v. Marcus*, 1996)

Casmalia Resources

Defeated expansion and secured closure of Class I hazardous waste facility, advocated for testing and compliance with regulations, strengthened clean-up standards. (1987-1992)

Cat Canyon Aquifer Exemption

Opposed proposal to remove aquifer from protections under the Safe Drinking Water and allow oil companies to inject toxic wastes that could contaminate drinking water for 150,000 people, including in disadvantaged communities. (2019-Present)

Cuyama Metam Sodium Spraying

Responded to pesticide drift incident in northern Santa Barbara County where school had to be evacuated as a result of children suffering pesticide-induced illness. (1999)

Central Coast Environmental Health Project

Launched Tri-County Environmental Health Project focusing on education of farmworkers, schools, health care providers and communities regarding the risks of pesticide exposure; continued advocacy for alternatives to toxic chemicals and pesticides. (1998-2008)

City of Santa Barbara Integrated Pest Management

Led coalition of groups in successful effort to convince the City of Santa Barbara to adopt a least-toxic Integrated Pest Management (IPM) policy for City-owned properties, parks and departments. (2001-2004)

Climate Change

Required full disclosure of greenhouse gas emissions from new industrial and development projects; advocated for full mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions from new projects; achieved stronger environmental review requirements for addressing emissions from new projects; submitted comments on land use and transportation plans to help achieve reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from motor vehicle use; supported local, regional, state, and federal policies to address climate change. (2006-Present)

Conoco Oil Exploration

Forced County of Santa Barbara to prepare full Environmental Impact Report for exploratory well drilling in the bed of the Santa Ynez River near Lompoc. (*Celebrity Homeowners v. Conoco*, 1988)

ERG / Terracore Oil Project

Helped defeat proposal to drill hundreds of new oil wells in Cat Canyon, thereby protecting groundwater, biological resources, and public health and safety. (2017-2020)

Farmworker Education and Trainings

Provided education to thousands of farmworkers to help them reduce the risk of exposure to pesticides. Trained farmworkers to educate peers in the field. (1998-2008)

Fox Canyon Landfill

Identified and forced correction of creek bank erosion that unearthed and sent contaminated soil and trash into Arroyo Burro Creek. (1999)

Halaco Engineering Company

Filed a citizen enforcement suit against Halaco Engineering Company, a metal smelting facility located next to Ormond Beach in Oxnard, for violating environmental laws intended to protect public health. (*Santa Barbara ChannelKeeper, et al. v. Halaco Engineering Co.*, 2000-2006) Secured facility closure and supported clean-up, including designation as a federal Superfund site. (2006)

General Magnaplate

Negotiated settlement agreement with electroplating and metal finishing facility to reduce polluted discharge into the Santa Clara River. (2015-2016)

Goleta Sanitary District Water Treatment

Opposed waiver of Clean Water Act requirements for wastewater treatment plan. (2002)

Hydraulic-Fracturing

Successfully advocated for Santa Barbara County regulations governing the process of hydraulic fracturing or “fracking;” worked to achieve stronger state laws and regulations. (2011-Present)

Hydro Systems

Secured installment of state-of-the-art air pollution equipment to control toxic styrene emissions in Simi Valley. (*HydroSystems v. City of Simi Valley*, 1988)

Inland Waters Plan Litigation

Successfully challenged the State Water Resources Control Board’s adoption of the Inland Waters Plan for failure to comply with the federal Clean Water Act and state Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act requirements for ensuring adequate limits on toxic pollutants. (*WaterKeepers Northern California, et al. v. State Water Resources Control Board*, 2000-2002)

Juan Soria Elementary School

Helped secure denial of Oxnard School District’s request to annex a school site that would have exposed students to pesticides from adjacent agricultural operations. (1999-2001)

Lead Paint

Settled case regarding lead hazards in apartments that required landlord to provide proper warning to his tenants, perform lead testing of rental properties, provide blood screening for tenants, and abate lead hazards in buildings. (*Environmental Law Foundation v. Pini*, 1997-2000)

Leaking Underground Fuel Storage Tanks

Enhanced Santa Barbara County enforcement program to detect and remove leaking tanks. (1988)

Local Toxic Hotspots Rules

Supported enhanced notification and reduction of public exposure to airborne toxic chemicals in Santa Barbara. (1993-1996)

Lompoc Regional Wastewater Reclamation Plant

Filed lawsuit to stop toxic wastewater discharges into Miguelito Creek and Santa Ynez River. (2020-Present)

Measure P (Santa Barbara County Anti-Fracking Initiative)

Represented group proposing initiative that would ban enhanced oil development practices, such as fracking, in Santa Barbara County. (2014)

Medical Trainings

Educated hundreds of health care providers in the proper diagnosis, treatment and reporting of pesticide-related illnesses. (1998-2008)

Methyl Bromide

Participated in state-wide coalition and conducted public education campaign regarding methyl bromide and other pesticide usage issues in San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. Appealed proposed use permits to protect neighbors and schools. (1994-1998) Stopped application of methyl bromide on strawberry field near residential neighborhood. (1997) Won lawsuit challenging state regulations for failing to incorporate adequate environmental and public health safeguards. (*EDC, et al. v. Department of Pesticide Regulations*, 2001-2008)

Moorpark

Successfully challenged airport plan on toxic waste site based on inadequate environmental review. (*Protective Association v. City of Simi Valley*, 1980)

Mound Elementary School Spraying

Responded to pesticide drift incident at Mound Elementary school in Ventura County where school had to be evacuated and shut down due to children and staff illness. This incident led to the eventual passage of AB 947. (2000)

Multi-Chem

Obtained settlement agreement requiring industrial facility located next to Ventura River to comply with Clean Water Act requirements for managing and reporting chemical-laden stormwater runoff. (2011-2012)

Ojai Quarry

Brought action under Clean Water Act that forced quarry to reduce pollution and sedimentation in a tributary to the Ventura River. (2012-2014)

Pacific Coast Energy Company (PCEC)

Prevented proposal to drill 96 cyclic steam injection wells in the Orcutt Hills. (2016) Settled litigation requiring control of runoff to prevent pollution from reaching protected waters. (*EDC v. PCEC*, 2018-2020)

Petrochem Refinery

Stopped expansion of oil refinery near Ojai; won precedent-setting court of appeal ruling requiring analysis of cumulative air impacts from offshore oil and gas facilities. (*Citizens to Preserve the Ojai Valley v. Ventura County*, 1983-1985)

PetroRock Oil Project

Helped defeat proposal to drill hundreds of new oil wells in Cat Canyon, thereby protecting groundwater, biological resources, and public health and safety. (2017-2020)

Phillips Petroleum

Successfully challenged improper issuance of emissions reduction credits to Phillips Petroleum. (1988)

Phillips Rail Spur Project

Defeated proposal to transport tar sands crude oil by rail to the Santa Maria Refinery in Nipomo; defended County's denial of project in court. (*Phillips 66 v. County of San Luis Obispo County*, 2015-2017)

Port Hueneme SWEF

Raised safety issues related to the Navy's Surface Warfare Evaluation Facility (SWEF) at Port Hueneme. Thwarted Navy proposal to conduct low altitude jet flights just offshore of Port Hueneme. (1995-2002)

Rincon Grubb Oil Field

Clean Water Act enforcement action against operators of 4,000-acre onshore oil field in northern Ventura County resulted in settlement requiring best management practices and reduced run-off. (2012-2014)

Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District Community Advisory Committee

Sat as appointed member; opposed relaxation of air pollution control rules. (1995-1997)

Santa Barbara County Petroleum Code

Successfully advocated for revised regulations governing oil drilling operations in Santa Barbara County, in response to rash of spills at sites owned by Greka. (2007-2011)

Santa Maria Energy

Secured mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions from large onshore oil cyclic steam injection project; effort resulted in strongest local greenhouse gas emission standards in the State. (2012-2014)

South Mountain Oil Field

Filed lawsuit that resulted in changes at onshore oil production field and reduced water pollution in the Santa Clara River. (*EDC v. California Resources Corporation*, 2016-2017)

Stormwater Phase II Rule

Filed lawsuit that resulted in court order directing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to provide better public notice and participation requirements before issuing

permits for stormwater discharges from municipalities and construction sites, and to ensure agency review of Notices of Intent to discharge. (*EDC, et al. v. U.S.EPA*, 1999-2003) Filed second lawsuit to ensure compliance in the form of new regulations. (*EDC, et al. v. U.S. EPA*, 2014-2015)

Southern California Edison Merger

Successfully opposed merger of Southern California Edison and San Diego Gas and Electric companies on environmental grounds. (1989-1991)

Sweetwater Ranch

Focused attention on pollution from oil wells located on private lands. (1988-1990)

TMDL Litigation

Joined lawsuit against EPA challenging the failure to require the adoption of Total Maximum Daily Loads for impaired water bodies in California. (*San Francisco BayKeeper, et al. v. Environmental Protection Agency*, 2000-2002)

Toland Landfill

Represented Citizens to Stop Toland Landfill in their campaign to tighten landfill permit compliance, minimize off-site water contamination and reduce dust/litter impacts on adjacent properties. (2000)

Filed and settled lawsuit to stop unlawful discharges of pollutants from landfill in Santa Paula to O'Leary Creek, which ultimately flows into the Santa Clara River. (*EDC v. Ventura Regional Sanitation District*, 2016-2017)

Upper Ojai Oil Wells

Represented local group in opposition to new drilling in Upper Ojai oil field; secured commitment to refrain from fracking. (2013)

Uranium Mining in Los Padres National Forest

Convinced the U.S. Forest Service to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement. (1980)

Ventura County Air Quality

Forced promulgation of Federal Implementation Plan (air quality regulations) for Ventura County. (*Citizens to Preserve the Ojai v. EPA*, 1987-1995) Secured \$750,000 air pollution control system on Ventura power plants. (1987-1996)

Ventura County Oil Permits

Responded to practice of County allowing new oil development based on antiquated permits; our legal argument led County to impose moratorium halting such practice. (2013-2019)

Zero Emission Vehicles

Opposed relaxation of California's schedule to phase in electric vehicles. (1996)