

# Toxinformer

Environmental Health Coalition

Volume 24, Issue 1

February, 2005



**What can we do to save our Bay!**

**Plus:**

**Election Wrap-up**

**Barrio Logan's New Vision**

**Why is NAFTA Bad for Our Region**

**Lead Safe Housing Ordinance**

## In this issue:

Election Reflection .....	Page 2
Fishers and their families at risk from polluted fish .....	Page 4
Support the Lead-Safe Housing Ordinance as it moves to the San Diego City Council .....	Page 6
Community builds a solid foundation for new Barrio Logan Vision .....	Page 7
Short Takes .....	Page 8
Guest Editorial .....	Page 10
2004 Annual Report .....	Page 11

## Election Reflection: 'Change doesn't come in a single election'

On November 2, 2004 we found out how true these words are. As we reflected on our editorial of the November issue of the Toxinformer, EHC staff, Board and community leaders were extremely disappointed with the results of EHC's top five state and local propositions. The outcome of these ballot measures won't change, but, as we take a closer look at the voting patterns for this election within our communities, we find that EHC made a difference. Community power is growing, and in future elections will be an even stronger force.

EHC launched a very ambitious election effort. As illustrated by the map, EHC worked in 18 precincts in the communities of Western Chula Vista, West National City and in the City of San Diego in Sherman Heights, Barrio Logan and Logan Heights. These are communities where we have worked for many years, addressing environmental and social justice issues.

Our goals for our first voter empowerment project were to increase voter registration and voting in the targeted precincts, to educate voters, and to win the EHC position on five key propositions.

### Voter Registration

EHC's voter registration efforts were very successful as we registered nearly half of all new voters in our precincts. New voters increased by 5% in the target precincts; this increase was especially significant given that many residents in these precincts are not yet eligible to vote.

### Voter Turnout and Education

EHC's voter turnout and education efforts proved to be very effective. Within all of the EHC precincts there was a higher voter turnout than in the adjacent areas. In the precincts that EHC targeted for this project,

voter turnout was 51.5% of registered voters, in contrast to 45.9% for the adjacent precincts that were not targeted in this effort. Voter turnout for the county as a whole was 75.7%. We have a long way to go to improve

voter turnout and we must continue to identify and eliminate barriers to voting. Issues that might be a factor for voter turnout include location and number of polling places, voting equipment and language barriers.

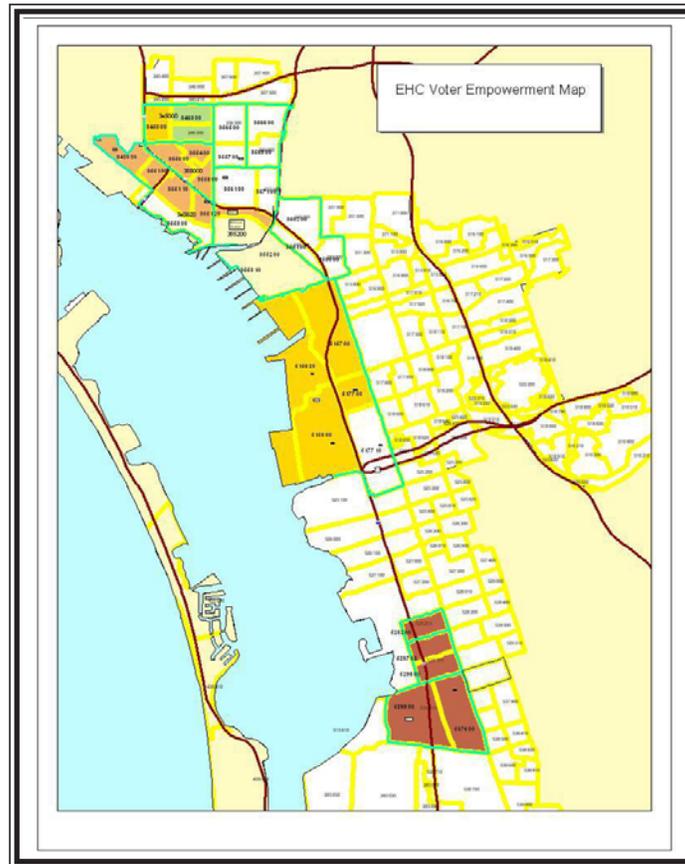
In general, many fewer people vote on propositions than for individual candidates; this may be an indication that propositions are difficult to understand and advertising confuses rather than clarifies the issues. However, in EHC precincts, a greater percentage of the voters who came to the polls voted on the propositions than in the adjacent precincts – perhaps an indication that they were better informed.

### The Vote Results

The results for the propositions in EHC precincts were energizing and reaffirm the common values that we share with our communities: a strong support for health care for all, public health and environmental protection, and truly representative government.

**Proposition 72** would have provided health care for 1.3 million California children and workers. State-wide, this proposition was rejected by a very narrow margin (51%/49%); however when looking at EHC precincts, this measure was overwhelmingly supported (69%), reaffirming that health care is a very important issue in these communities where many working families lack appropriate coverage.

**Proposition 64** was created by multinational corporations looking to severely weaken the citizen's rights to sue for unfair business practices, including polluting the air and water. Major corporations had only their interest in mind when, deceptively, they used the argument of protecting small business to promote



the measure. EHC communities rejected the measure by a 52% to 48% margin. This was largely because EHC members in these communities were aware that our lawsuit to protect children from candies contaminated with lead was filed under the law that would be weakened by Proposition 64. But statewide, deceptive advertising may have misled voters as they ultimately approved the measure 59% to 41%.

Locally, voters in the San Diego City precincts targeted by EHC overwhelmingly rejected the downtown business proposal to create a '**strong mayor**' form of government by a 56% to 44% margin. While approved citywide (51%/49%), it was clear that voters in EHC precincts know the importance of maintaining strong community voices and were aware of the dilution that will be sure to come with this shift in government structure.

Promoted by the Pala Band of Mission Indians and supported by nearly every environmental organization, water agencies and labor organizations in the county, **Proposition B** sought to stop plans to build a landfill in northern San Diego County. The site poses a significant threat to the drinking water provided by the San Luis Rey River and will desecrate Gregory Mountain and Medicine Rock, religious sites still used by the Pala Band. This was perhaps the most perplexing loss we suffered in the propositions. Proposition B opposition was largely funded by the developer of the site, who used scare tactics and confusing wording to frighten south county voters into believing that rejecting this landfill would mean more trash directed to the local landfills. The measure was rejected county wide (64%/36%), but when analyzing the final numbers, we can see that EHC's voter education efforts paid off and as a result, the margin of the loss was 8% smaller (56%/44%) than county wide. Lost in the election debate was ensuring that the County of San Diego comply with state law requiring that at least 50% of all waste be recycled and utilization of the capacity at existing landfills.

EHC continues to work with the landfill opponents to stop the permitting of this landfill. This past December, EHC's Research Director Joy Williams testified before the California Integrated Waste Management Board in Sacramento, urging them to deny the state permit for this facility.

EHC opposed **Proposition A**, the continuation of the TransNet tax. This is because we strongly believe that there was the opportunity for a much better plan to be developed, and that this plan could address some of the concerns of the communities that are most affected by the current transportation situation in the region.

This measure passed overwhelmingly in our precincts and this is a clear indication of how low-income voters are willing to pay their share in order to improve the transportation woes they face. As this new plan is implemented, EHC will work to make certain that urban transit needs are addressed and that the environmental protection promised is indeed a part of the new development of the roads and highways.

## The Long View

Perhaps more important than the outcome of specific election measures is one of EHC's long-term objectives: to empower and motivate community residents to be actively involved in their communities. Voting, while very important, is only one of the ways to be involved. EHC builds community power every day as our organizers work with residents to address issues. Our staff and leaders spoke to nearly 4000 residents during the 3 months prior to the election and it was during these visits that we heard hundreds express their gratitude for EHC's work in the community, along with a strong desire to get involved with our work.

Clearly, change doesn't come in a single election, but we knew that. The hard work of organizing and advocating for justice must go on and EHC got right back to work on November 3.

Our resolve to win justice isn't shaken and our resolve to be smarter and more effective is strengthened.



**EHC's Voter Forum on the propositions. Part of our Voter Education effort.**

## Fishers and their families at risk from polluted fish

### Join EHC as we ask the Regional Board to clean up San Diego Bay

The consumption of fish from San Diego Bay is prevalent among the families of fishers from low-income communities of color of San Diego and that puts them at a high risk of exposure to contamination. This is one of the major findings of a survey of pier fishers done by EHC during the winter and spring of 2004. At an upcoming meeting of the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board, EHC will demand that they order the shipyards to clean up toxic sediments in San Diego Bay to protect the health of these fishers.

That fish from San Diego Bay are contaminated has been documented in numerous studies. Sediments in the Bay have also been shown to be polluted. In a 1990 study by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), San Diego Bay was rated as one of the most contaminated urbanized coastal areas in the nation. What has been missing is evidence that people are consuming fish in quantities that could damage their health. More than 100 fishers were surveyed at the Chula Vista Pier, Pepper Park Pier in National City and the Convention Center Pier in San Diego. According to the survey:

- \* 96% of the fishers were Filipino or Latino
- \* 61% of the fishers, their families or friends consume the fish caught
- \* 35% fed the fish to their children
- \* 31% fished at least weekly and 25% fished daily (4 to 7 times a week)

What the fishers and their families may not know is that, along with their plate of freshly caught fish, they are being exposed to lead, PCB's, copper, mercury, arsenic and other toxic chemicals. A 1990 study, *San Diego Bay Fish Health Risk Study*, states that health risks to fish consumers could be significant, if fish were to be consumed at subsistence rates of 165 grams per day. According to EHC survey results, fish consumption in these communities may well be at this higher subsistence level.

The diverse population of fishers surveyed also demonstrated that people are eating parts of the fish other than the fillets (which is the part of the fish typically analyzed for fish consumption studies) and in some cases the fish is eaten whole. This is of particular importance because contaminants can concentrate in the skin, fat, and internal organs. Additionally, the cooking methods that were most mentioned in the survey were frying and stewing, methods that remove less contaminants from the fish than baking or broiling.

The survey was intended to sample the residents of EHC communities and it is not meant to represent all of the San Diego Bay fishers. The survey clearly shows that the frequency of fishing and of fish eating in our pier fishing population is very different than that of the average person used in many studies. The interest of these populations needs to be taken into account in decisions that impact their health. You can view the full report on the pier fishers survey at [www.environmentalhealth.org](http://www.environmentalhealth.org) or to request a copy, contact Sonia Rodriguez at (619) 474-0220, by email at [soniar@environmentalhealth.org](mailto:soniar@environmentalhealth.org).

### Making the Link: Contaminated sediments lead to contaminated fish

The contamination of the fish in San Diego Bay is the direct result of sediment and water contamination. A key polluting source, San Diego shipyards like Southwest Marine and NASSCO, who for more than 20 years have been illegally dumping wastes into San Diego Bay, are now on the hook for cleanup. In 2001, the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board Regional Board (Regional Board) ordered the shipyards to perform sediment sampling in order to establish cleanup levels. Now, consultants for the shipyards have developed a plan that proposes leaving all of the contaminated sediments in the Bay and performing no cleanup at all. If this happens, it would put the people who fish from the Bay and the wildlife in jeopardy for years to come.



**San Diego Bay is used by many families from our communities, including many that fish for eating.**

## Elected official join EHC demand

EHC, along with the San Diego Bay Council and Assemblymember Lori Saldaña from the 76th Assembly District, is urging the Regional Board to direct the shipyards responsible for the contamination of the Bay to remove more than 1.2 million tons of toxic sediments to protect human health and the environment.

Furthermore, EHC will ask the Regional Board to protect the subpopulations most affected by the contamination of the Bay when making all decisions regarding cleanup, remediation, and permitting of additional discharges to the Bay.

"I agree with the EHC report: it's time to move forward and safeguard our bay, improve water quality, and protect the health of everyone who lives and visits there" said Saldaña, a long time clean water advocate for the San Diego region. "Together, we will create programs that mitigate the harm done to the bay, and protect everyone who uses it for recreation and sustenance" she added.

The key actions that we are recommending the Regional Board and other regulators to take are as follows:

- 1) Consider the environmental justice impacts in decision-making and implement precaution in all permitting and regulatory decisions.
- 2) Establish protective clean up levels for remediation of toxic sediments in San Diego Bay and protective sediment quality objectives for the State.
- 3) Revise the Fish Consumption Warning for San Diego Bay based on higher consumption levels.
- 4) Update and replace fish warning signs to include Tagalog.
- 5) The Department of Toxic Substances Control in conjunction with the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment should initiate an outreach and education program to educate fishers of the Bay of the risks of consuming Bay fish and some means to reduce the risks.

## Hold the Regional Board Accountable

The mission of the State and Regional Water Quality Control Boards is to preserve, enhance and restore the quality of California's water resources, and ensure their proper allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations. The Regional Board will provide a tremendous benefit to the public by implementing the spirit of its mission and the letter of the laws that it enforces and establish protective clean up limits for San Diego Bay.

There is no other way.

The tentative date set for the Regional Board hearing on sediment clean up levels is April 13, 2005. We will need your support for a clean, healthy bay. Plan on attending this meeting to make your voice heard, and visit our website and print and mail our postcard with your support for our recommendations.

Visit our website at [www.environmentalhealth.org](http://www.environmentalhealth.org) to keep informed about the date of the hearing. Also sign up to receive our email Action Alerts and regular updates on issues of your interest.



**Be sure to go to our website to sign and mail our postcard to show your support for a Clean Bay**

Remember to check at [www.environmentalhealth.org](http://www.environmentalhealth.org) for the date of the hearing!  
Come to the hearing to voice your support

## Support the Lead-Safe Housing Ordinance as it moves to the San Diego City Council

We're one step closer to making official what we've known for years: That children have a right to lead-safe housing. The *Lead Hazard Prevention & Control Ordinance*, (referred to by the community as the Children's Right to Lead-Safe Housing Ordinance) spearheaded by EHC and the city's lead task force will finally go to the floor of the city council for a hearing in March. When passed by the City Council, this ordinance will result in a preventive and proactive strategy to make pre-1978 housing lead-safe.

### WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT - AGAIN

Thanks to all of you who attended the Land Use and Housing Committee on August 4<sup>th</sup>, or contacted your councilmember to support the Children's Right to Lead-Safe Housing Ordinance. The Committee unanimously approved it. Now the ordinance is facing strong opposition from industry groups including the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, the San Diego Realtors Association and the San Diego Apartment Association.

Lead Poisoning is still the number one environmental health threat to children under the age of six, and with your help we can eliminate it by enacting the Children's Right to Lead-Safe Housing Ordinance.

### The Children's Right to Lead-Safe Housing Ordinance will:

- **Require Prevention:** Peeling lead-based paint will be a municipal code violation requiring increased inspections and repair to prevent the poisoning of children.
- **Protect ALL Children in Rental and Owner-Occupied Homes:** Landlords and homeowners will be required to repair lead hazards.
- **Protect Workers:** Establishes clear standards and guidelines for handling lead-based paint and bans unsafe work practices.
- **Increase Enforcement:** Strengthens the enforcement ability of city landlords and owners refuse to comply.

### Please take action NOW!

Contact the Mayor and the San Diego City Council and urge their support for the Children's Right to Lead-Safe Housing Ordinance.

Mayor Dick Murphy  
(619) 236-6330  
[dickmurphy@sandiego.gov](mailto:dickmurphy@sandiego.gov)

District 3 Toni Atkins  
(619) 236-6633  
[toniatkins@sandiego.gov](mailto:toniatkins@sandiego.gov)

District 6 Donna Frye  
(619) 236-6616  
[donnafrye@sandiego.gov](mailto:donnafrye@sandiego.gov)

District 1 Scott Peters  
(619) 236-6611  
[scottpeters@sandiego.gov](mailto:scottpeters@sandiego.gov)

District 4 Tony Young  
(619) 236-6633  
[anthonyyoung@sandiego.gov](mailto:anthonyyoung@sandiego.gov)

District 7 Jim Madaffer  
(619) 236-6677  
[jmadaffer@sandiego.gov](mailto:jmadaffer@sandiego.gov)

District 2 Michael Zucchet  
(619) 236-6622  
[mzucchet@sandiego.gov](mailto:mzucchet@sandiego.gov)

District 5 Brian Maienschein  
(619) 236-6655  
[bmaienschein@sandiego.gov](mailto:bmaienschein@sandiego.gov)

District 8 Ralph Inzunza  
(619) 236-6688  
[rinzunza@sandiego.gov](mailto:rinzunza@sandiego.gov)

#### WHAT:

Support the Children's Right to Lead-Safe Housing Ordinance! Be the voice for children!

#### WHEN:

The hearing date has not been set but we anticipate that it will be in mid March – Check our website at [www.environmentalhealth.org](http://www.environmentalhealth.org) for updated information, or call us at 619-474-0220.

#### WHERE:

San Diego City Council Chambers  
202 "C" St., 12th Floor  
San Diego, CA 92101

For more information contact:

Luz Palomino, Community Organizer  
(619) 474-0220 ext. 141

Email: [LuzP@environmentalhealth.org](mailto:LuzP@environmentalhealth.org)

Please plan to join us at the hearing and a pre-hearing rally to show your support.

## Community builds a solid foundation for new Barrio Logan Vision New Plan currently under review from community and tenants

Springtime is around the corner. New season, new opportunities and ... a new vision for our beloved Barrio Logan! The City of San Diego has failed and repeatedly refused to create a safe and healthy Barrio Logan or to update the antiquated 1978 Barrio Logan Community Plan. EHC's Comité REAL (Residentes En Acción Logan) decided to take charge on the issue. They worked hard to reach consensus on a set of principles to guide redevelopment, and, using these principles, created a new vision for Barrio Logan.

This vision is currently being presented to community members, organizations, and local businesses and Port tenants for feedback and endorsements. The new vision builds on and further refines the planning process led by the City last year. Community residents will then present the principles, and resulting map and vision to City representatives at a summit. We invite you to participate in this process, and later on in the summit, and join us in urging our Representatives to turn the Barrio Logan Vision into a reality.

These principles, embodying key tenets of environmental justice, are:

### ***Ensure Healthy Neighborhoods!***

- Industrial areas must be separated from residential areas.
- New housing should not be built close to the freeway, on 28th Street or on Harbor Drive.
- Truck traffic from the Port and other major industrial facilities, must be redirected away from residential areas and be limited to designated truck routes along Harbor Drive, 28<sup>th</sup> St., 32<sup>nd</sup> St., and Civic Center Drive.
- Sound barriers, such as walls and green belts, should be built along the freeways.

### ***Create Affordable Housing!***

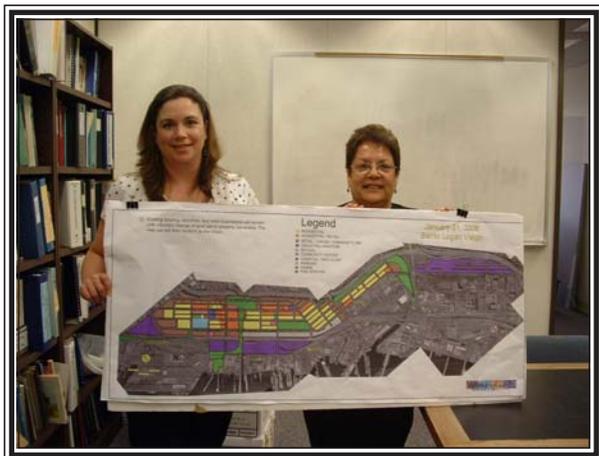
- New rental and for sale housing must be affordable to current residents (those making less than \$40,000 per year.)
- More affordable senior housing should be constructed.

### ***Preserve community character!***

- New buildings should not exceed three stories in height.
- The existing housing stock must be protected, maintained, and rehabilitated.
- Protect community-serving small businesses.

### ***Promote a livable community!***

- New development must include more centrally located community services, more parks, and more recreational and educational centers for all age groups.
- All new development should prioritize the creation and protection of jobs with livable wages and healthcare benefits.



The proposed Map is available on the Internet at [www.environmentalhealth.org](http://www.environmentalhealth.org) or you may receive a copy by calling Maria Moya at 619-474-0220, Ext. 122.

You can provide feedback on the Vision and Principles by phone or via email at: [blvision@environmentalhealth.org](mailto:blvision@environmentalhealth.org).

## Home, Sweet Home

Last December, Environmental Health Coalition relocated to its new offices. If you've visited us since then, you know it was hard work. After being part of Downtown San Diego for more than 20 years, we have moved to National City. Our address is the only thing that changed; we are still concerned with all our key issues and communities and we will continue to fight the good fight from wherever we might find ourselves.

So come visit, we would love to have you. Our new address is:

401 Mile of Cars Way Suite 310  
National City, CA 91950  
Phone (619) 474-0220  
Fax (619) 474-1210

There is no change in our website, email addresses or extension number of staff members.

### Welcome to Our Neighborhood, Thanks for Coming!

By Ted Godshalk

***You are welcome, Ted! We are glad to be here.***

*The following is a Letter to the Editor from a National City resident; it was published in the February 11, 2005 edition of the weekly newspaper "La Prensa de San Diego." (It has been edited for length)*

There are always some people who cheer for a new business when it comes to town. Ribbon cuttings with politicians and Chamber of Commerce members lining up for a photo opportunity at each and every Grand Opening. In National City recently, an organization moved into town with little fanfare, but this move may be more significant in the long run than any hamburger joint, hotel, or car dealer.

The Environmental Health Coalition moved into its new offices at 401 Mile of Cars Way this January after 25 years in San Diego. Founded in 1980 by Diane Takvorian, Ruth Heifetz, and others, the EHC has consistently waged war on hazardous waste and has campaigned for the right of every community to know about health threats.

The EHC focuses its efforts on the San Diego/Tijuana region. Long active in Barrio Logan, the EHC is also currently working with residents in Chula Vista on the Bayfront development and the preservation of the wildlife values along the bay. In National City, Leticia Ayala heads up the Campaign to Eliminate Childhood Lead Poisoning. This program works in partnership with the city's Building Department to identify homes with lead-based paint hazards. In the Colonia Chilpancingo, outside Tijuana, EHC worked with local residents and activists to finalize an agreement with the Mexican government for the cleanup of an industrial lead smelter near the homes of 10,000 people. Safer and healthier neighborhoods result when the EHC gets involved.

EHC has many strong programs that deserve recognition. One program the EHC has had for a long time is

the Promotoras. Trained community members work in their neighborhoods that ring the South San Diego Bay. They are there to listen to the residents when they talk about issues like poisonous fumigation at the port, air quality violations from auto paint shops, and diesel fumes from idling trucks. They are there to help communities solve problems. The Promotoras are here for us! And this is a time when there are very few out there who actually listen to the voices of the community.

There are promises to new initiatives from the EHC; there is much work to be done. I heartily encourage the Environmental Health Coalition's new work in the area of land use planning. The organization recognizes that many of the issues they struggle with are tied into land use. I welcome the EHC to participate in the Old Town Specific Area Plan we are working on in National City. This organization has shown that it respects the wishes and values of the communities it works with. It has never imposed a vision on anyone, always trying to bring about a consensus with all stakeholders. I think that National City will benefit from many of the resources the organization offers. With over 20 staff people and a dedicated Board of Directors, EHC is larger than many of the small businesses in town and provides an economic benefit to the community as well. But some benefits are not measured in tax increment. Quality of life will always be important around here, and for anyone who believes in working to preserve it, I will cheer for them, ribbon cutting or just quiet launch in a new location

*Ted Godshalk can be reached at [paradisecreek@mac.com](mailto:paradisecreek@mac.com)*

## Environmental Justice Progresses in California

As the Toxinformer goes to press, we are pleased to report a major victory for environmental justice. For the first time ever, the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) has agreed to use cumulative impacts assessment and a precautionary approach to guide their work. A full report will be posted on the EHC website and in the next issue of Toxinformer. Also, EHC's Executive Director, Diane Takvorian, was unanimously elected to serve as Co-Chair of CalEPA's Environmental Justice Advisory Committee.



EHC at the meeting that started it all. September 2003 in Oakland, California.

## Late breaking news

Senator Joseph Dunn, D-Garden Grove, introduced Senate Bill 985 on February 22. Titled 'Adulterated Candies: Preventing Lead Poisoning,' the bill would require the State Department of Health Services to regulate lead in chili, tamarind, and other ingredients in candy suspected of containing lead. The bill would also require the department to test candy, to issue related health advisories, and to order local health officials to remove contaminated candy from store shelves. Check out our website for more information.

## New Year, New Place, New Faces

You've probably seen us around, maybe even talked to us, but we want to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves.



**Georgette Gomez**  
She joins EHC as Community Organizer for the Clean Bay Campaign. Before joining EHC, Georgette was a crisis counselor.



**Tony LoPresti**  
He is the Policy Advocate for EHC's Campaign to Eliminate Childhood Lead Poisoning. He's been very active within the Fair Trade movement in California.



**Gabriel Fabila**  
He is the Media Relations/ Communications Associate. He comes from a public relations agency and has a marketing background.



**Yeni Linqui**  
Yeni was Community Liaison for a "before and after school" program in the Lawndale Elementary School District. She is the new Community Organizer for the Campaign to Eliminate Childhood Lead Poisoning.

**We're glad to join EHC's fight for Environmental Justice!**

## THE REAL PRICE OF "FREE" TRADE

The Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA) and the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) are in the final stretch before presentation to Congress. Both should be rejected because, in their current form, they undermine basic labor and environmental rights.

DR-CAFTA and the FTAA would expand the failed 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) model to 34 countries in the Americas. At its ten-year anniversary, the verdict on NAFTA is in: it is an economic, social, and environmental failure! Those of us living in the San Diego/Tijuana border region have seen NAFTA's promises broken. Free trade translated into growing poverty, increased social inequality, economic instability, labor rights undermined and severe environmental degradation.

NAFTA failed to create sustainable economic development. As U.S. manufacturing collapsed, low-paying service jobs increased in San Diego by almost a third. The initial boom in jobs in Tijuana has ended as factories leave Mexico for lower-wage countries, taking with them over 240,000 factory jobs.

NAFTA also failed to create prosperity. San Diego's pockets of poverty more than doubled. Locally, 35,000 more children live in poverty today than in 1989. In Tijuana, full-time workers in the maquiladoras average pay of only \$75 a week and are forced to live in squatters settlements without access to running water, sewage, electricity or garbage service.

Our experience in the San Diego/Tijuana crossborder region is a lesson for the future. Congress should reject any trade agreement that does not include the following fair trade principles:

- **Enforceable environmental protections**
- **Compliance with International Labor Organization health, safety and wage standards**
- **Protection of human, labor and environmental rights over investor rights**
- **Compliance with established democratic governance, including transparency and public participation**
- **Transfer economic resources to reduce inequality between trading partners**

Trade that creates poverty, pollution, instability and injustice is not "free." By defeating DR-CAFTA and the FTAA, Congress will fulfill its obligation to defend basic economic and environmental rights and build prosperity and security.

Rep. Bob Filner  
51<sup>st</sup> Congressional District

Diane Takvorian  
Executive Director, Environmental Health Coalition

**Download a copy of Environmental Health Coalition's new report, *Globalization at the Crossroads: Ten Years of NAFTA in the San Diego/Tijuana Border Region*.**

This report documents the urgent need to replace the NAFTA model of free trade with fair trade agreements that include enforceable environmental protections, protect labor rights, hold corporations accountable, defend democracy and reduce inequality.

Please download the report from [www.environmentalhealth.org](http://www.environmentalhealth.org) or contact us for print copies, for a presentation on globalization or to join our Fair Trade Campaign.



## Annual Report - 2004 - Reporte Anual

### Message from the Executive Director

As Environmental Health Coalition begins its 25th year, we are energized by the strength and perseverance of EHC leaders and community members as they fight for environmental justice. Obstacles become challenges; temporary setbacks are springboards to action; accomplishments are celebrated with the understanding that there is much more to do.

EHC has grown steadily over the years. We have just moved into a larger office in National City and now have more than 30 staff and promotoras, and Community Action Teams comprised of 50 leaders working in Barrio Logan, Sherman Heights, National City, Chula Vista and Tijuana. More than 2,000 members have placed their faith in EHC this year to help them achieve a more healthful and just world. It is to them that I dedicate this annual report.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Diane Takovian".

### Who Is EHC?

Environmental Health Coalition is dedicated to environmental and social justice. We believe that justice is achieved when empowered communities act together to make social change. We organize and advocate to protect public health and the environment threatened by toxic pollution. EHC supports efforts that create a just society and which foster a healthy and sustainable quality of life.

EHC's work is focused primarily around four campaign areas:

- The **Border Environmental Justice Campaign** works to reduce toxic pollution caused by maquiladora industries in Tijuana and to promote fair trade and globalization for justice.
- The **Campaign to Eliminate Childhood Lead Poisoning** works to eliminate sources of lead exposure to protect children's health.
- The **Clean Bay Campaign** works to cleanup, restore and protect San Diego Bay and bay tidelands from industrial and Naval polluters and development activities.
- The **Toxic-Free Neighborhoods Campaign** organizes in communities of color to advocate for the prevention of toxic pollution from industrial and mobile sources.

### Mensaje de la Directora Ejecutiva

Al comenzar nuestro 25° año, en la Coalición de Salud Ambiental (EHC por sus siglas en inglés) estamos energizados por la fuerza y perseverancia de los líderes de EHC y de los miembros de la comunidad cuando luchan por la justicia ambiental. Los obstáculos se convierten en retos; los reveses provisionales son trampolines para la acción; los logros se celebran en el entendimiento de que hay mucho más por hacer.

EHC ha crecido de manera estable a través de los años. Recién nos mudamos a una oficina más grande en National City y ahora entre personal y promotoras contamos con más de 30 personas así como con los Equipos de Acción Comunitaria que constan de 50 líderes trabajando en Barrio Logan, Sherman Heights, National City, Chula Vista y Tijuana. Más de 2,000 miembros han puesto su fe en EHC este año para ayudarlos a lograr un mundo más justo y sano. Es a ellos a quien dedico este reporte anual.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Diane Takovian".

### ¿Quién es EHC?

La Coalición de Salud Ambiental esta dedicada a la justicia ambiental y social. Creemos que la justicia se logra cuando las comunidades empoderadas actúan unidas para lograr el cambio social. Nos organizamos para abogar por la protección de la salud pública y el ambiente que está amenazados por la contaminación toxica. EHC apoya los esfuerzos que crean una sociedad justa y que fomenten una calidad de vida sana y sustentable.

El trabajo de EHC se enfoca en cuatro áreas de campaña:

- La **Campaña Fronteriza Para la Justicia Ambiental** trabaja para reducir la contaminación tóxica causada por la industria maquiladora en Tijuana y para promover el comercio justo y la globalización para la justicia.
- La **Campaña para Eliminar el Envenenamiento por Plomo en los Niños** trabaja para eliminar la exposición a las fuentes de plomo para proteger la salud de los niños.
- La **Campaña para una Bahía Limpia** trabaja para limpiar, restaurar y proteger la Bahía de San Diego y las marismas de los contaminadores industriales y navales así como de actividades de urbanización.
- La **Campaña para Barrios Libres de Tóxicos** organiza comunidades de color para abogar por la prevención de contaminación tóxica proveniente de fuentes industriales y móviles.

# Annual Report - 2004 - Reporte Anual

## What did EHC achieve in 2004?

By building a base of empowered communities, EHC achieved tangible and positive changes that improved the quality of life for all residents and that protected the environment. In 2004 EHC:

### Eliminated Toxic Hazards

- Clean up began on **Metales y Derivados**, an abandoned toxic waste site in Colonia Chilpancingo, Tijuana. EHC and our Tijuana affiliate, the Colectivo Chilpancingo Pro Justicia Ambiental, signed a landmark agreement with Mexican officials to finish the cleanup within five years.
- The **South Bay Power Plant** received an updated water discharge permit setting a timeline for eliminating toxic discharges into San Diego Bay.
- 92 homes were made **Lead-Safe** in San Diego and National City through the efforts of EHC's Community Organizers and Promotoras.
- Reductions in **diesel emissions** took place in Barrio Logan as new parking and truck rerouting regulations will keep trucks away from homes and schools.



### Promoted Environmental Justice

- Chula Vista mid-bay front** plan developed by EHC and a labor/community coalition will promote responsible and appropriate development and preserve and restore valuable habitat.
- Children's Right to Lead-Safe Housing ordinance** advanced when the City of San Diego's Land Use and Housing Committee unanimously approved the ordinance in August.
- Globalization at the Crossroads**, a report documenting 10 years of NAFTA in the San Diego/Tijuana region, calls for a halt to trade agreements that result in economic instability, poverty and worker and environmental injustice.

### Empowered Leaders and Residents

- The People's Vision for Barrio Logan**, setting forth basic principles for future development was completed by the TFN Community Action Team.
- Voter Empowerment**. In the 18 precincts canvassed by EHC, voter registration increased 5% and voter turnout exceeded all adjacent precincts.
- Power through partnerships**. EHC launched a partnership with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers for a San Diego Apollo Project dedicated to promoting sustainable energy options to replace the South Bay Power Plant and provide good jobs.



## Que logró EHC en el 2004?

Al construir una base de comunidades empoderadas, EHC logró cambios tangibles y positivos que mejoraron la calidad de vida para todos los residentes y eso protegió al medio ambiente. En el 2004 EHC:

### Eliminó Riesgos Tóxicos

- La limpieza comenzó en **Metales y Derivados**, un sitio de desechos tóxicos abandonado en la Colonia Chilpancingo en Tijuana. EHC y nuestro afiliado en Tijuana, el Colectivo Chilpancingo Pro Justicia Ambiental, firmaron un histórico acuerdo con las autoridades Mexicanas para terminar la limpieza en un plazo de cinco años.
- La Planta Termoeléctrica de la Bahía Sur** recibió una actualización para su permiso de descarga de aguas, fijándoseles una fecha límite para la eliminación de las descargas tóxicas a la Bahía de San Diego.
- 92 hogares se convirtieron en **Libres de Plomo** en San Diego y National City a través de los esfuerzos de los Organizadores Comunitarios y las Promotoras de EHC.
- Se lograron reducciones en las **emisiones de diesel** en el Barrio Logan con nuevas regulaciones para el estacionamiento y el cambio de rutas de camiones, lo cual mantendrá a los camiones alejados de las casas y las escuelas.

### Promovió Justicia Ambiental

- El plan para **la parte central de la Bahía** de Chula Vista desarrollado por EHC y una coalición trabajadores/comunidad promoverá un desarrollo responsable y apropiado y conservarán y restaurarán el hábitat valioso.
- La Ordenanza del Derecho de los Niños a un Hogar Libre de Plomo** avanzó, al aprobarse unánimemente en agosto por el Comité de Uso de Suelo y Vivienda.
- Globalización en la Encrucijada**, un reporte que documenta 10 años del TLC en la región San Diego/Tijuana, llama a detener los tratados comerciales que resultan en inestabilidad económica, pobreza e injusticia laboral y ambiental.

### Empoderó a Líderes y Residentes

- El Plan del Pueblo para Barrio Logan**, que propone principios básicos para el futuro desarrollo fue completado por el Equipo de Acción Comunitaria TFN.
- Empoderamiento de Votantes**. En los 18 distritos en que trabajó EHC, el registro de votantes se incrementó en un 5% y la asistencia a las urnas fue mayor que en todos los distritos colindantes.
- Poder a través de Asociaciones**. EHC lanzó una asociación con la Hermandad Internacional de Electricistas (IBEW por sus siglas en inglés) para formar el Proyecto San Diego Apollo dedicado a promover opciones sustentables de energía, reemplazar la Planta termoeléctrica de la Bahía Sur y proveer buenos empleos.

# Annual Report - 2004 - Reporte Anual

## What does EHC hope to achieve in 2005?

EHC is proud of the accomplishments of the past 24 years, but often, our communities succeed in taking two steps forward, only to be pushed back one step by the forces of greed. We will not turn our backs on the struggle for environmental justice, but will continue to work to:

### Eliminate Toxic Hazards

- Secure adequate funding for the completion of [Metales y Derivados](#) cleanup. The community will continue to pressure the government to come up with the funding needed to complete the clean up.
- Ensure that the approved water discharge permit for the [South Bay Power Plant](#) be sustained. Duke Energy has appealed the permit seeking to continue to pollute San Diego Bay but EHC will fight to uphold it.
- Win passage of the [Children's Right to Lead-Safe Housing Ordinance](#) by the San Diego Council, creating an effective way to eliminate lead hazards in all of San Diego.
- Gain approval by the Regional Water Quality Control Board for protective cleanup levels and order the shipyards and navy to remove [toxic sediments in San Diego Bay](#) to protect the fisheries and those who eat the fish.



### Prevent Future Environmental Injustice

- Gain adoption of [cumulative impacts and precautionary policies](#) to guide all California Environmental Protection Agency departments' decision making.
- [Defeat CAFTA](#), the Central American Free Trade Agreement based on the flawed NAFTA model, and promote a fair trade policy.

### Empower Leaders and Residents

- Community and redevelopment plans will be [led by each community](#), and will recognize the relationship between land use and environmental health.
- Based on our popular education empowerment model SALTA, EHC leaders will complete a new training, [Salud Ambiental, Líderes Tomando Acción \(Environmental Health, Leaders Taking Action\)](#).
- [Empowered voters](#) will join EHC and other progressives to win local and state agendas for justice.
- Each campaign will conduct [community-based, activist research](#) — community health surveys, neighborhood mapping, pollution monitoring — to support their demands for social change.

## ¿Que espera lograr EHC en el 2005?

EHC está orgullosa de los logros de los últimos 24 años, pero por lo general nuestras comunidades tienen éxito en dar dos pasos hacia adelante, solo para retroceder uno, presionadas por las fuerzas de la ambición. No daremos la espalda a la lucha por la justicia ambiental, sino que continuaremos trabajando para:

### Eliminar Riesgos Tóxicos

- Asegurar el financiamiento adecuado para concluir la limpieza de [Metales y Derivados](#). La comunidad seguirá presionando al gobierno para que otorgue el financiamiento necesario para completar la limpieza.
- Asegurarnos que se mantenga el permiso aprobado para la descarga de aguas de la [Planta Termoeléctrica de la Bahía Sur](#). Duke Energy ha presentado una apelación al permiso, buscando seguir contaminando la Bahía de San Diego pero EHC luchará para que se mantenga.
- Lograr la aprobación de la [Ordenanza del Derecho de los Niños a Un Hogar Libre de Plomo](#) por el Consejo de la Ciudad de San Diego creando un medio efectivo para eliminar los riesgos por plomo en todo San Diego.
- Obtener la aprobación de la Junta Regional para el Control de Calidad del Agua para establecer niveles de protección de limpieza y que se obligue a los astilleros y a la naval a que retiren [sedimentos tóxicos de la Bahía de San Diego](#), para así proteger a los pescadores y a aquellos que comen el pescado.

### Prevenir Futuras Injusticias Ambientales

- Obtener la adopción de políticas de [impactos acumulativos y enfoques preventivos](#) para orientar las decisiones de todos los departamentos de la Agencia de Protección Ambiental de California.
- [Derrotar al CAFTA](#), el Tratado de Libre Comercio de América Central, que se basa en el deficiente modelo del Tratado de Libre Comercio de América del Norte (TLC) y promover políticas de comercio justo.

### Empoderar a Líderes y Residentes

- Los Planes comunitarios y de desarrollo serán dirigidos [por cada comunidad](#), reconociendo la relación entre uso de suelo y salud ambiental.
- Basándonos en nuestro modelo de empoderamiento SALTA para la educación popular, los líderes de EHC terminarán un nuevo entrenamiento, [Salud Ambiental, Líderes Tomando Acción](#).
- [Votantes Empoderados](#) se unirá a EHC y a otras fuerzas progresistas para lograr agendas locales y estatales que promuevan la justicia.
- Cada campaña llevará a cabo [investigación activista basada en la comunidad](#) —encuestas de salud comunitaria, mapeo de colonias, monitoreo de contaminación — para apoyar sus demandas de cambio social.



# Annual Report - 2004 - Reporte Anual

## Financial Statement / Estado financiero as of June 30, 2004 / a partir del 30 de junio de 2004

## Board of Directors / Mesa Directiva

Beatriz Barraza, President, *Colaborativo SABER\**  
Sharon Kalemkarian, Esq., V.P., *Ashworth, Blanchet, Christensen & Kalemkarian*  
Margaret Godshalk, Secretary, *National School Dist.*

Tony Pettina, MA, Treasurer, *San Diego Community College Dist.*

Albert Huang, *EHC Staff Representative*

Patty Bailey, *MAAC Project*

Jerry Butkiewicz, *San Diego/Imperial Counties Labor Council*

Jaime Cota, *CITTAC*

Marta Flores, *Logan Heights Family Health Center*

Clarice Gaylord, Ph.D., *U.S. EPA, Retired*

Ruth Heifetz, MD, MPH, *UCSD School of Medicine*

Mark Mandel, *Dana Alexander, Inc.*

Michael Martinez, *Community Activist*

Dan McKirnan, Ph.D., *Community Activist*

Jay Powell, *Community Activist*

Molly Rhodes, *HERE Local 30*

*\*Affiliations are listed for identification purposes only; las afiliaciones son mencionadas únicamente para propósitos de identificación*

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES / ESTADO DE ACTIVIDADES

### OPERATING SUPPORT AND REVENUE / INGRESOS

Foundation and Grant Revenue / Ingresos por contratos y subsidios	\$2,408,431
Contributions/Other - Contribuciones/Otros ingresos	65,296
<u>Total support &amp; revenue / Total de ingresos</u>	<u>\$2,473,727</u>

### EXPENSES / GASTOS

Program Expenses / Gastos de Programas	\$1,294,874
Management & General / Servicios de apoyo	278,815
Fundraising / Recaudación de fondos	34,799
<u>Total expense / Total de gastos</u>	<u>\$1,608,488</u>

NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR / ACTIVO NETO AL INICIO DE AÑO \$850,239

### NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR / ACTIVO NETO A FIN DE AÑO

Unrestricted / no restringido	\$794,646
Temporarily Restricted / temporalmente restringido	920,832
<u>Total Assets / Total activos</u>	<u>\$1,715,478</u>

## Supporters/Apoyos

EHC's strength comes from its members—individuals who contribute their energy and money to help us achieve environmental justice in the San Diego/Tijuana area. We thank all of you who helped make 2004 such a successful year, especially the more than 50 individuals who participate as members of the Community Action Teams.

La solidez de EHC se debe a los miembros—individuos que contribuyen su dinero y energía para ayudarnos a lograr la justicia ambiental en el área de San Diego/Tijuana. Agradecemos a todos ustedes que nos ayudaron a hacer del 2004 un año tan exitoso, especialmente a los más de 50 miembros de los Equipos de Acción Comunitaria.

We also thank the following funders for their confidence in our work. También agradecemos a los siguientes subvencionistas por confiar en nuestro trabajo.

### Private foundations:

Alliance for Healthy Homes  
Beldon Fund  
The California Endowment  
The California Wellness Foundation  
Marguerite Casey Foundation  
CompassPoint  
Nathan Cummings Foundation  
Environmental Support Center  
Frances Fund  
French American Charitable Trust  
Homeland Foundation  
Hewlett Foundation  
James Irvine Foundation  
Mitchell Kapor Foundation  
McKay Foundation  
Needmor Foundation  
New York Community Trust  
New World Foundation  
Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation

Rockefeller Foundation  
San Diego Foundation, Orca Fund  
San Diego Foundation, Civil Society  
San Diego Foundation, Environment  
Solidago Foundation  
Tides Foundation  
Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program at Shelter Rock  
Waitt Family Foundation

### Government grants:

National Institute for Environmental Health  
City of National City, Lead Hazard Control Program  
City of San Diego Planning Department  
San Diego Housing Commission, Lead Hazard Control Program  
US EPA Environmental Justice Grant Program

## Staff / Personal

Diane Takvorian, *Executive Director*

Sonya Holmquist, *Associate Director*

Lilia Escalante, *Fiscal Manager*

Patricia Hipolito, *Office/Human Resources Mgr*

Veronica Garcia, *Office Assistant*

Michelle Rodriguez, *Executive Assistant*

Gabriel G.O. Fabila, *Media Relations/Communications*

Joy Williams, *Research Director*

Melanie McCutchan, *Research Associate*

Amelia Simpson, *Director, Border Environmental Justice Campaign (BEJC)*

Magdalena Cerda, *Organizer, BEJC*

Jorge Osuna, *Policy Advocate, BEJC*

Martha Cervantes, Guadalupe Lujan, Lourdes Lujan, *Promotoras, BEJC - Colectivo Chilpancingo Pro Justicia Ambiental*

Leticia Ayala, *Director, Campaign to Eliminate*

*Childhood Lead Poisoning (CECLP)*

Luz Palomino, *Organizer II, CECLP*

Yeni Linqui, *Organizer, CECLP*

Tony LoPresti, *Advocate, CECLP*

María Coronel, Martha Cortez, María A. Estrada,

Flerida Lozoya, Rosa Morales, María Robles, María Radilla, *Promotoras, CECLP*

Laura Hunter, *Director, Clean Bay Campaign (CBC)*

Sonia Rodriguez, *Organizer, CBC*

Georgette Gomez, *Organizer, CBC*

Albert Huang, *Policy Advocate, CBC*

Paula Forbis, *Co-Director, Toxic Free Neighborhoods Campaign (TFN)*

Randa Baramki, *Co-Director, TFN*

María Moya, *Organizer II, TFN*

Rosa María Angeles, *Organizer, TFN*

Francisca Jiménez, *Organizer, TFN*