

March 10, 2006



Dear Friend,

**Is your health, and your family's health, for sale to the highest bidder in Sacramento?**

BHP Billiton corporation of Australia, the **largest mining company in the world**, was among the top 10 corporate spenders in the state Capitol last year. BHP has spent **millions of dollars** pitching their (totally unprecedented) proposal to build a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal off the coast of Ventura County. And it turns out BHP wasn't alone – **4 of the top 10 lobbying firms in Sacramento were pushing LNG.**

**The Environmental Defense Center (EDC)**, as the only public interest environmental law firm between Los Angeles and San Francisco, **is successfully taking on BHP.** EDC successfully "stopped the clock" on an otherwise accelerated (and greased) approval for the project. As a result, we had time to discover that **the new BHP facility would be the single largest air polluter** in Ventura County – spewing out twice as much choking smog as the next biggest polluter! There are many other significant safety and environmental concerns as well.

In spite of strong local opposition, the **Bush and Schwarzenegger Administrations are trying to jam this project through.** President Bush's Environmental Protection Agency recently retracted its initial concern over the air quality impacts to Ventura County residents by reaching the **astonishing conclusion that BHP's smog would blow offshore** to the Channel Islands – **against the prevailing wind currents!** On this basis, EPA decided to exempt BHP's project from important clean air rules. In addition, Governor Schwarzenegger announced his support for BHP's project last September – a full six months before the state performed its environmental review (but only a few days after sharing expensive cigars with Australia's Prime Minister).

In true **David vs. Goliath** fashion, EDC is prepared to take on this industrial giant. Fortunately, because of our unique skills and experience, **we won't need millions of dollars to defeat them. But it will take financial support from the community.** EDC has several attorneys and leading environmental scientists working to ensure that we put forward the best case possible. **Government decision makers will decide the fate of this project by the end of this year.** EDC's projected 2006 budget for this case is approximately \$250,000 – we need your help.

**Please send your tax-deductible contribution to EDC today** – our community's health depends on it.

Sincerely,

Cameron Benson  
Executive Director

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