

Environmental Health Coalition Announces Awardees for its 2014 Annual Event

Celebration recognizing "healthy hood" heroes expecting sell-out crowd

SAN DIEGO, March 27, 2014 – Environmental Health Coalition, an organization fighting toxic pollution in the San Diego/ Tijuana region, announces award winners for its [2014 Awards Celebration: Victory for Healthy Communities](#). On April 10, the local organization will recognize individuals who play critical roles in improving the livability and health of neighborhoods south of the I-8 freeway. This year's awardees include:

- **Spirit of Justice Award:**
 - **Ruth Heifetz**, EHC founding board member and senior lecturer at UCSD School of Medicine; For a lifetime of dedication to raising awareness among students, professionals, workers and residents to the hazards of toxic pollution.
- **Champion Award:**
 - **Alejandra Sotelo-Solis**, City of National City councilwoman; For leadership on the Westside Specific Plan, the implementation of phasing out polluting businesses, adding 201 affordable housing units and more.
 - **Lara Gates**, plan update manager at the City of San Diego; For stewardship of the Barrio Logan community plan update, enabling all stakeholders to find a just outcome to neighborhood land-use issues.
- **Community Award:**
 - **Adriana Alfaro**, EHC leader; For years of dedication to improving Old Town National City and tireless work towards achieving environmental justice in the San Diego region.
 - **Maria Martinez**, EHC leader and promotora; For leading and inspiring community members in Barrio Logan to fight for a healthier neighborhood.
 - [The National City and Barrio Logan Community Action Teams](#); For standing strong as community leaders in National City and Barrio Logan and organizing and empowering other residents to have a voice in the issues effecting their neighborhood.

On the evening of Thursday, April 10, [Pacifica Companies](#) is the Presenting Sponsor for the EHC annual event at the Casa del Prado in Balboa Park from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m., celebrating strides taken to create healthy and safe

communities. The event expects a sold-out crowd of more than 350 attendees, including San Diego's dignitaries, event sponsors, business and community leaders, community members and long-time friends of the Environmental Health Coalition. Guests can expect a fun, interactive and elegant evening of familiar faces, delicious food, music and a beautiful ceremony to honor awardees who are spearheading positive changes in San Diego's neighborhoods.

Other sponsors include: [San Diego County Regional Airport Authority](#), [International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers](#), [MAAC](#), [Port of San Diego](#), [the California Endowment](#), [Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest](#), [the United Food & Commercial Workers Union](#) and [Ryan Brothers Coffee](#).

Tickets to the 2014 Awards Celebration: Victory for Healthy Neighborhoods are [available online](#).

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Environmental Health Coalition (EHC) is a nonprofit organization that empowers residents to advocate for the environmental health of their children, families and neighborhoods. For more information on EHC, please visit www.environmentalhealth.org.