

Environmental Health Coalition to Honor Leaders of Clean Bay Campaign
Former City Councilmember Donna Frye will present awards at May 22 event

SAN DIEGO, May 7, 2012 – Environmental Health Coalition (EHC), an organization that for 32 years has campaigned to improve the health and environment for low-income communities in the San Diego/Tijuana region, will honor four leaders whose collective efforts over several decades resulted in regulatory decisions that will clean up San Diego Bay and improve its surrounding communities.

Presented by Pacifica Companies on May 22, EHC's 2012 Awards Celebration, "A Clean Bay Victory" will recognize Laura Hunter, EHC's clean bay campaign director; Dan McKirnan, EHC's board member and clean bay campaign chair; and Marco Gonzalez and San Diego Coastkeeper, allies in the clean bay campaign.

A jewel for all of San Diego County, San Diego Bay attracts tourism and business from across the globe and provides sustenance for local families. However, years of neglect and poor planning have polluted the bay with more than 20 different toxins and an unjust built environment. Each award recipient played an integral role in the community-wide efforts that resulted in major environmental victories including the decommissioning of the South Bay Power Plant, the adaptation of the Chula Vista Bayfront Master Plan and the cleanup of toxic pollution at the bottom of San Diego Bay.

"EHC has dreamed about this celebration for more than 20 years," said EHC Executive Director Diane Takvorian. "These leaders we are honoring have dedicated immeasurable amounts of time and resources to help us correct the toxic pollution, discriminatory land use and unsustainable energy policies that degrade the health and quality of life for the communities living around San Diego Bay."

EHC's 2012 Awards Celebration kicks-off with A VIP reception at 5:30 p.m. at the Star of the Sea Event Center along the harbor in downtown San Diego. The Berkeley Ferry Boat at the Maritime Museum of San Diego will host the main event from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m., where guests will enjoy catered hors d'oeuvres from The Wild Thyme Company and former City Councilmember Donna Frye will present the awards. To purchase \$45 general admission tickets and \$100 VIP access, please visit EHC's website at www.environmentalhealth.org/clean-bay-victory.

Those interested in joining Presenting sponsor Pacifica Companies or Platinum sponsors Unified Port of San Diego and Bruce and Betsy Gill can visit the same website or download a sponsorship packet. A full list of event sponsors and community partners including EHC's Health Heroes sponsors ASI Hasting Heating, Air and Solar; Blue Summit Wealth Management; Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest; San Diego County Regional Airport Authority; San Diego LGBT Community Center; San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council; Scott Peters and Lynn Gorguze; and Steve and Cheryl Peace is available online.

For more information on the event and EHC, please visit

<http://www.environmentalhealth.org>.

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