

Toxinformer

Environmental Health Coalition

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Special Leadership Issue

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Special LEADERSHIP Issue

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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COALITION

Working for a Toxic-Free San Diego

1980-2005

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EDITOR Gabriel G.O. Fabila

TRANSLATORS Claudia Vizcarra Barton
Carla García Zendejas

DESIGN CONSULTANT Mauricio Rams Donated Services

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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COALITION

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

e-mail: ehc@environmentalhealth.org
www.environmentalhealth.org

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EHC

Organizing for Justice

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 which foster a healthy and sustainable quality of life.



THE BORDER ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CAMPAIGN (BEJC) works in solidarity with social justice groups in the border region to promote worker and community right-to-know about the chemicals used by the maquiladoras, to increase their capacity to influence conditions that directly affect their health, and to demand cleanup of abandoned and contaminated sites.



THE CLEAN BAY CAMPAIGN (CBC) unites workers, bayside communities, and conservationists to clean up, restore and protect San Diego Bay as a clean and healthy multi-use water resource capable of supporting a diverse range of activities.

THE RESEARCH AND COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM responds to the needs of residents by providing scientific, technical, and policy information and assistance, and empowering residents with appropriate and effective strategies.



THE TOXIC FREE NEIGHBORHOODS CAMPAIGN (TFN) works with affected residents to promote land use and planning reforms, the relocation of hazardous industries to industrial zones, and the reduction of toxic air contaminants released by industry.



THE CAMPAIGN TO ELIMINATE CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING (CECLP) works with community residents, housing advocates, health officials, and government agencies to eliminate the sources of lead exposure in San Diego County.

STAY INFORMED!

Become a member of EHC today!

Yes, I want to become a member of EHC. I am enclosing my tax-deductible membership contribution of:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Students and Seniors | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Super Supporter |
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EHC Leaders Working for Justice

Here at EHC, we believe that justice is achieved when empowered communities act together to make social change. It is our goal to empower individuals with the ability and authority to achieve the basic human right of a safe and healthy environment through self-determination for themselves, their families and their communities. This idea, part of our mission statement, is what drives our daily work.

Within our community, there are people who have accepted the responsibility to work for this goal. These are our leaders.

In this issue of the *Toxinformer* our theme is leadership and leaders. EHC leaders are people with not one single leadership quality, but rather a set of characteristics and skills. Each individual campaign at EHC has a core group of people who commit to the individual goals of that campaign on top of the goals and mission of EHC; we call them our Community Action Teams (CAT's) and they are EHC leaders.

One of the most important characteristics of an EHC leader is commitment to environmental justice and to EHC as an organization. You will read how the commitment to a safe environment has made it possible for healthy homes to become a reality in neighborhoods in San Diego and National City, and how the residents of Barrio Logan have committed themselves to a better, safer, and cleaner neighborhood and what they are doing to achieve it. You will also read about two members of EHC's Board of Directors and how they are committed to the sustainability of the organization.

Another characteristic is active participation in all efforts toward the goal. As an example of this, we look at the leaders in Colonia Chilpancingo. There, the community leaders have taken upon themselves the task of finding out about the state of their community's health by conducting a survey amongst residents.

EHC Leaders come from all walks of life within the community. They are parents, teachers, homemakers, laborers, students, retirees, and professionals. By working together and bringing their own experiences to the table, the EHC leadership teams are able to build consensus around a strategic plan. They make decisions that are representative of the community as a whole and that create viable solutions toward achieving their goals. You will see how true this is by reading about the Clean Bay Campaign's CAT members and their work toward one clear goal: to clean up, restore and protect San Diego Bay.

Perhaps most important, EHC leaders take action and they know how to win! A common element in the daily work of EHC is that of opposing forces in the fight for environmental and social justice. Sometimes the opponents are big corporations, sometimes they are local business organizations, and sometimes it is our government. But every time EHC comes out victorious, it is because our leaders have had a clear understanding of the power structure and of what it takes to win.

We hope you draw inspiration from the EHC leaders profiled in this issue and become more involved in EHC's efforts to achieve environmental and social justice.

Leadership reaps successes, locally and statewide

Tired, trying not to wake up the rest of her family, Bacilia sneaks through the door and makes her way to the bedroom, she approaches her bed and sits on it. Her husband is jolted by this, but she quickly calms him: "It's ok...everything *will* be ok now." Then she quickly falls into a deep, calm sleep. She sleeps the sleep of a fighter, of someone that just came from an all-day battle and she knows that indeed, with her work and that of other EHC leaders, everything *will* be ok. It's 1:00 am and she just got home from the California Air Resources Board (CARB) hearing in Los Angeles.

During April, EHC won two very important victories that bring the Barrio Logan Vision closer to reality (See "Community Builds a Solid Foundation..." *Toxinformer*, February 2005.) And both of them are a direct result of the effective work that EHC leaders have done.

On April 28th the CARB met in El Monte, CA and adopted the "Air Quality and Land Use Handbook," a guidance document that will help environmental justice communities all over the state fight for the separation of industrial facilities and residences or other sensitive land uses, such as schools, day care centers, hospitals. The handbook recommends buffer zones for key polluting facilities like chrome

plating shops. CARB recommends that no sensitive uses be allowed within 1000 feet of a chrome plating facility.

Guadalupe Orozco, EHC leader in Barrio Logan, explains the importance of this in the fight for clean air: "I really believe this is a big step forward on the fight for air quality. In our communities, it's very common to have residents exposed to pollution from industries. This is the first time the State has made it clear –communities and

toxics don't mix." Leaders Bacilia Martinez and Maria Manuela Sánchez, and EHC staff were at this hearing that lasted well into the night. The testimony of Guadalupe and Maria Manuela on their experiences of health effects from air pollution and their work to develop the Barrio Logan Vision and Principles were two of just a few voices of the community that the CARB heard that night. Guadalupe, Maria Manuela and Bacilia have been EHC members for more than 10 years.

EHC has worked to separate industries from homes and schools since 1984, and it was EHC's successful efforts to eliminate the toxic air pollution from Master Plating in Barrio Logan that inspired the handbook. The effort gained strength when environmental justice allies throughout the state joined in the effort. Paula Forbis, Co-Director of the

Toxic Free Neighborhoods Campaign (TFN,) has been a member of the CARB Environmental Justice Stakeholders Group since 2001 and has gone back to the leaders with drafts of the guidance to make certain the community's wishes were incorporated into the final handbook.

On April 4th, the San Diego City Council recognized the air quality problems that Barrio Logan is faced with and took action on one of the sources of air pollution addressed by the handbook. They unanimously passed a resolution prohibiting large diesel trucks over five tons from using Cesar Chavez Parkway and half a dozen other streets in Barrio Logan. EHC leaders began documenting the problem in 1999. They observed and recorded the activities of trucks on their streets. They mapped their neighborhood, identifying the actual land use for every plot of land. They held community forums and planning sessions to obtain input from as many individuals and organizations as possible.

The driving force behind these efforts has been the desire to give power back to the community, where it belongs. With the effort for the community-originated Barrio Logan Vision Plan well on its way to succeed, and these two momentous victories under our belt, it is time now for the leaders to take the next steps. A people's summit will be held to present the Barrio Logan Vision Plan advocate for the adoption of specific measures, prior to completion of the community plan.

If you have not done so, take a look at the Barrio Logan Vision Plan and the accompanying map at www.environmentalhealth.org and show your support by completing the endorsement.





In Chula Vista, opposites DO attract... for a better community

EHC leaders are an interesting and effective mix

What do a labor union member and a retired teacher have in common? Both are EHC leaders working together to ensure that the Chula Vista Bayfront development protects environmental and economic interests. And both serve on EHC's Clean Bay Campaign (CBC) Community Action Team (CAT). It is refreshing to see that very different members of the community can and do work together for the same goal.

Since the inception of the CBC in 1987, EHC leaders and members have been the backbone of the successes of the CBC. From wildlife refuge designations to bay clean up EHC leaders have been instrumental in reaching the CBC goal: "To clean up,

restore and protect San Diego Bay as a clean and healthy multi-use water resource capable of supporting a diverse range of activities."

One such victory was the achievement of a comprehensive land use plan for the Chula Vista Bayfront. A considerable organizing effort was needed to secure the necessary support for this plan, and CAT members went door-to-door doing surveys in their neighborhoods, collecting community input. The results were included in the ultimate land use plan for the Bayfront, which represented the diverse interests of the community, like large open spaces and parks, significant wildlife buffers, and development concentrated in the areas that would maximize economic impact

while minimizing environmental impacts.

Leaders working together combined their efforts and expertise and established a list of Community Criteria for Bayfront Development. They conducted their own community planning, which included research of issues and the collection and dissemination of information to the community. Sharon Floyd, CAT member explains, "Good leadership has been invaluable in creating the very real possibility of a viable win-win situation in the bay front land swap in Chula Vista." Securing the plan for the Chula Vista Bayfront is one victory, but the fight continues and the challenge now is to make sure it is implemented.

Along with this new phase in the Bayfront development, CBC leaders look forward to

their next challenges that include advocating for a visionary and sustainable energy plan in Chula Vista.

Their leadership in that project, could very well set a new standard at state level for a community that advocates sustainable energy generation that is clean, local, and that also creates good jobs. EHC Leader Lupita Jimenez says: "Chula Vista is in the forefront of progressive cities whose leaders see the future as requiring energy efficiency if they are to survive and prosper. The alliance of labor and environmental interests brings them the impetus and knowledge to make this city a leader in becoming a self-sustaining municipality."

Keep informed of the CBC leaders' efforts and victories by visiting www.environmentalhealth.org

CORRECTION

We would like to issue a correction to an article in the February issue of the **Toxinformer**.

In the article titled "Fishers and their families at risk from polluted fish" some figures were erroneously stated.

- It is 96% of fishers who are Filipino or Latino, not 94%

- The statement that reads, "62% of the fish caught were consumed by the fishers, their families or friends" should instead read "61% of the fishers eat the fish they catch or give it to their families or friends"

We apologize for this error.

Editorial Staff, The Toxinformer

Community Promotoras are advocates for children's health

250 Healthy Home assessments complete

When Marta Cortez walks down the streets of Sherman Heights, she's filled with optimism. "There is still a lot to be done, but you can now see the changes, and most of all you see smiling children, and parents who have taken action." She is part of a team of seven *Promotoras de Salud Ambiental* (environmental health advocates,) who are working to achieve healthy homes in San Diego and National City. Along with EHC's campaign to Eliminate Childhood Lead Poisoning (CeCLP)

they have completed two hundred and fifty Healthy Homes assessments and ninety-two homes have been certified as lead safe in San Diego and National City.

In 1995 EHC embarked on an environmental health and justice empowerment project for women in the communities where EHC is most active. Over 200 women participated in *Salud Ambiental Latinas Tomando Acción* or SALTA Project (Environmental Health, Latinas Taking Action) because they had strong concerns about the

impacts of pollution on the health of their families, and particularly their children. The main purpose of the SALTA training was to create leaders who could effectively take action to protect the health of their families. The resulting trained women are known as *Promotoras*.

The original SALTA focused on many sources of pollution in the community and the home. It was so successful that it has been adapted for specific problems- air pollution, border pollution and globalization, land use

and lead poisoning. Most recently, CeCLP adapted it for its Healthy Homes project funded by the Alliance for Healthy Homes. The promotoras who have graduated from this program are Martha Cortez, Florida Lozoya, Rosa Morales, Maria Radilla, Maria Coronel, Argelia Estrada and Maria Robles

This Healthy Homes training program combines elements of the original curriculum—household toxics, pest control, indoor air pollution, and sources of lead—with training of the *promotoras* on assessment tools to identify and eliminate health hazards in homes in San Diego and National City neighborhoods. The results are that EHC and the promotoras have partnered with those same cities for lead hazard control programs, improved housing code enforcement and better lead paint policies. The promotoras do the inspections and help residents make the necessary changes themselves or enroll them in city programs such as weatherization and lead hazard control.

"Learning how to check homes for hazards, explain the problems to residents in ways they can understand, help tenants understand and exercise their rights, and work on policy changes were certainly challenges for us *promotoras*," said Argelia Estrada, promotora. The result of the training is that now, the promotoras are very efficient and strong leaders in the fight for healthy homes.

The work of the promotoras in the community extends beyond the SALTA program. The larger objective of the program and of the CeCLP is to provide a healthy living environment for children. These leaders are accomplishing that objective every day—step by step.





Community-based research must be accountable to those who provide the information

EHC Colectivo Leaders Build Knowledge and Community Power

Knocking on a stranger's door can be scary. 'Will they answer the door?' 'Will I be able to get them to talk with me?' 'Will they be mad at me?' Questions like these buzz around in the minds of the members of the Colectivo Chilpancingo Pro Justicia Ambiental as they approach each door in their community. Pushing aside their reservations, they knock, and the conversations begin. Thus, the first ever health survey of Colonia Chilpancingo residents is under way.

A group of five Colectivo Chilpancingo members are going door to door, from family to family, conducting a health survey of about 300 families in the "colonias" Chilpancingo and Murua, and the adjacent Nueva Esperanza neighborhood along the Rio Alamar, in Tijuana, Mexico. The Colectivo is EHC's affiliate in Tijuana and the aim of the project is to document illnesses and increase involvement in issues affecting the health of all members of the community.

The Colectivo wants to learn about the health status of the community, the jobs people do, how long they've lived there, and about the concerns people have about the health of their families and, they want to build the power of the community to make change happen. Their commitment to EHC and to environmental justice is very clear; they share a strong belief that communities have the right to a healthy environment without risks to human health caused by pollution generated by the maquiladora industry near by.

(Read EHC's report "Globalization at the Crossroads" available on the web at www.environmentalhealth.org/CoverGlobalizationReport.html.) Once the Colectivo members decided the health survey would meet their needs, they requested the assistance of EHC's research staff to help develop the questions and a system to analyze the information collected. Members of the Colectivo enthusiastically

participated in trainings that enabled them to conduct the survey effectively and professionally, which included learning to use Global Positioning System (GPS) equipment to identify the location of houses on "unofficial" streets.

Joy Williams, EHC Research Director believes, "Community-based research must be accountable to those who provide the information." Thus, the Colectivo will share the results with all the people who participate in the survey and will hold meetings to discuss the implications of the survey and find solutions for the health problems that are highlighted.

Yes, knocking on doors can be scary, but as Lourdes Luján, Colectivo leader, says, 'I got over that!' In the end, the survey will offer the members of the Colectivo an opportunity to talk to many people they might not otherwise meet, and find out more about people's lives and concerns, which is truly what a real community is about.

World Social Forum 2005

Jorge Osuna, Policy Advocate for the Border Environmental Justice Campaign (BEJC), attended the World Social Forum (WSF) in Brazil as part of the Grassroots Global Justice delegation, an alliance of US grassroots groups that organizes to create a power agenda for the disadvantaged.

Jorge had the opportunity to represent EHC's position on the impacts of trade in the San Diego-Tijuana crossborder region and to take advantage of the WSF to develop his knowledge and skills around environmental and social justice issues. EHC strongly believes that the mentoring of new leaders is essential to the continuance of the fight for Environmental and Social justice; and opportunities such as this enable people to gain the necessary experiences to grow and become effective leaders. Here is his account of that memorable trip.

By JORGE OSUNA

After five days, the Fifth World Social Forum concluded on January 31, 2005 in Porto Alegre, Brazil. During this time delegates from the five continents had the opportunity to present their realities, demands and visions in opposition to those of the political and business leaders attending the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland at around the same time. I traveled along with a delegation of U.S. groups that included, among others, great organizations like Farm Labor Organizing Committee, Jobs with Justice, New Voices on Globalization, Southwest Organizing Project, and the United Electrical Workers.

The motto of the forum for this year was "Another World Is Possible," and in keeping with that idea, the WSF functioned as a space where people presented alternatives to development, governance and new modes of making

politics as well as the economic alternatives we have as individuals.

In marking the beginning of our delegation's participation in the WSF we performed a "unity/power of the people" exercise, which consisted of linking arms with people from the delegation to form a human chain until all of us were linked with one another. Because of the size of the room, and the fact that we were about 80 people in that room, the end result was not exactly a circle, but rather, it was an odd shaped chain



Photo by Tatiana Cardiel, 2005. Used by attribution, non-commercial, no derivative works 2.0 permit.

of very diverse, living connections, much like the WSF would prove to be in the upcoming days.

For many, the WSF allowed us to build solidarity in our everyday efforts against our common foes, such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and neoliberal governments around the world. There were more than 2,000 workshops and presentations and although the magnitude of the event made it impossible to hear and see everything, I could feel unity against certain modalities affecting the Global and Social South (The developing nations of the southern hemisphere); I listened to stories of violations of human rights, about struggles that had become desperate screams of impotence. I heard about the extermination of entire peoples and cultures to give way to the homogenization and control of markets within countries and regions. But in the end, it was inspiring to see that activists, human right defenders and people with common causes around the globe can unite to create and maintain ties of support.

I also had the chance to give a presentation on EHC's report "Globalization at the

Crossroads: Ten Years of NAFTA in the San Diego/Tijuana border region" to a group of organizers from El Salvador. In turn, I learned from them how they organize workers in the maquiladora zones or "Zonas Francas." And how difficult it is for them to express their frustration because a repressive government system has been set in place to protect, by judicial means, the corporations that are devastating their social and natural environment.

All of these experiences have helped me become more aware of how universal our struggle really is. It showed me how we need to unite and understand the true meaning of solidarity to share in the solutions. I will bring that spirit to my work within the recently formed EHC Coalition for Fair Trade and hope to establish that cross collaboration found at the forum with the organizations in this coalition.

I would like to thank EHC for this opportunity, and GJJ for organizing the delegation to the WSF.

The WSF is, without doubt, a hope where minds from all over come together with the interest of turning around the world that many powerful voices tell us is inevitable.

ACTION ALERT

- **Call Susan Davis and demand she take a stand now in the CAFTA debate!**
- **The Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) is a faulty model for free trade!**

WHAT

PLEASE CALL CONGRESSWOMAN Susan Davis today at 619-280-5353

TELL CONGRESSWOMAN Susan Davis to

TAKE A STAND NOW AND COMMIT TO VOTE NO ON CAFTA.

It is modeled after NAFTA, which brought more poverty, economic instability, worker injustice and environmental degradation to our region. CAFTA is a threat to democracy, just like NAFTA.

Support trade agreements that, at a minimum, contain enforceable environmental protections, conform to International Labor Organization standards, give precedence to citizens rights over investor rights, defend democracy through transparency and public participation, and include a transfer of resources to reduce inequality between signatory nations. The CAFTA agreement does not do any of these things.



➤ **San Diego Fair Trade Coalition is asking for your support to stop the free trade agenda. The fate of CAFTA will send a signal about all future trade negotiations, including the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), which would cover the hemisphere.**

WHY

➤ Our local Congresswoman Susan Davis is a key swing vote on CAFTA. We need her commitment now to vote NO on CAFTA.

➤ CAFTA could be sent to the U.S. Congress for approval any time now. Congress can only vote yes or no.

➤ The blueprint for CAFTA is the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA.) NAFTA undermined democracy and failed to reduce economic disparities. CAFTA would extend to Central America and the Dominican Republic the NAFTA economic model, giving corporations more rights than citizens.

WHO

➤ **SAN DIEGO FAIR TRADE COALITION** convened this spring to address urgent trade issues and includes organizations in the labor, environmental, migrants' rights, peace and justice, environmental justice and the faith communities.

➤ **SAN DIEGO FAIR TRADE COALITION:**

Activist San Diego, American Friends Service Committee, Center on Policy Initiatives, Colectiva Feminista Binacional, Democratic Socialists of America, Environmental Health Coalition, Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers DL 725-LL1125, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 569, North County Coalition for Peace and Justice, Raza Rights Coalition, San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, San Diego Baykeeper, San Diego Maquiladora Workers Solidarity Network, Sierra Club, UNITE HERE Local 30 and San Diego WTO Alert.

The Colin Rodríguez Griswold Memorial Fund



COLIN RODRÍGUEZ GRISWOLD
1979-2005

EHC is honored to have been selected by the Rodríguez-Griswold family to establish a fund, which would continue his interests and deep concern with environmental issues in the U.S./Mexico border region. The "Colin Rodríguez Griswold Memorial Fund" will subsidize internships for high school and college students working on environmental issues in the border region and help EHC nurture a new generation of environmental justice leaders.

We invite you to join Colin's family and friends in honoring his life by making a donation to this fund.

If you wish to donate online, through our secure web server:

Go to Environmental Health Coalition's web page at www.environmentalhealth.org, and click on "The Colin Rodríguez Griswold Memorial Fund" link and follow the instructions there.

If you would like to donate by regular mail:

Write a check to "Environmental Health Coalition" with the notation "Colin Rodríguez Griswold memorial fund."

Mail to: Environmental Health Coalition, 401 Mile Of Cars Way, Suite 310, National City, CA, 91950.

With an Irish-American father and a Mexican-American mother, Colin Rodríguez Griswold was bilingual and bicultural. A longtime resident of San Marcos, he spent an equal amount of time on either side of the border and traveled widely in Latin America. He had a deep love for Brazil, and besides speaking fluent Spanish, he was also fluent in Portuguese. While an undergraduate student at UCSD, Colin was also a deejay on a radio program that featured his keen enthusiasm for Rock en Español. Many of you will remember him by his on-air name: "Café con leche."

While pursuing his Masters Degree in Business Administration at SDSU, Colin worked with the Southwest Consortium for Environmental Research and Policy where he became a leading figure in a project to measure the effects of hazardous wastes and air and water quality in the border region.

Working with government officials in Mexico City, the Pan American Health Organization, and local townspeople, this then 23-year-old developed ways of measuring and improving health along the entire U.S./Mexico border. A week after he was killed, the U.S. and Mexican governments met in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, to adopt a series of protocols largely created by this young man.

At the time of his death, Colin was pursuing a PhD in Management and Public Policy at the University of Arizona. Saddened by the environmental impacts of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), Colin was positioning himself to play a leading role in improving environmental conditions when the Central American and Latin American Free Trade Agreements (CAFTA and LAFTA) come to be negotiated in the future.

The loss of this wonderful and dedicated young man has, of course, brought deep sorrow to his family and friends. To continue the work he began, they have created the "Colin Rodríguez Griswold Memorial Fund" with the Environmental Health Coalition in order to subsidize internships for high-school and college students living on either side of the border and concerned with environmental issues.

Colin died in a car accident in Tucson, AZ, early in the morning of January 22, 2005, when a speeding car being chased by the police ran a stop sign and struck his car. Colin, 25 years old, died instantly at the scene. This tragedy ended the life of a promising young man who was deeply involved with environmental issues along the U.S./Mexico border.

Board members extend their legacy beyond EHC

EHC leaders distinguish themselves in every aspect of their lives, so it is not surprising to find that their peers and other organizations often recognize them as well

A TRAILBLAZER OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Ruth M. Heifetz, M.D., M.P.H., was inducted into the San Diego County Women's Hall of Fame of The Women's History Museum as a 'Trailblazer' of environmental justice in March 2005. The purpose of the annual induction of women into the Hall of Fame is to make women's actions and accomplishments visible in San Diego, and Ruth's accomplishments are many – including being one of the founding members of EHC.

25 years ago while working in the field of workers' health and safety, she became concerned about the ailments suffered by workers who handled toxic chemicals every day in their jobs. Her scientific nature made her ponder how these same chemicals could be affecting the communities nearby.

At that time there was no organization in the area able to tackle these problems. Along with other trailblazers in the community, the Coalition Against Cancer was born (the name was changed later in 1980 to Environmental Health Coalition.) Ever since, she has been part of the Board of Directors, the body that guides EHC work.

Building on her commitment to workers' health, she fought for workers' right to know about the chemicals they were exposed to, and then to



expand that right to everyone. As part of EHC's Right to Know Campaign, she helped all San Diegans get the right to know about local polluters in their communities in 1983. But having seen the damage done to workers' health from the exposure to toxic chemicals, she recognized that knowing about the risks was not enough. From promoting pesticide reduction policies to fighting for the cleanup of San Diego Bay to educating women about the impacts of toxic chemicals, preventing harm has always been her priority.

Ruth explains that her greatest accomplishment "has been to be part of a great collective of people united by the same

cause and the same ideals, working towards the same goal: Environmental and Social Justice."

HOW COOL IS COOL?

In April 2005, the San Diego-Imperial Council of Girl Scouts selected Beatriz Barraza, President of the EHC Board of Directors, as one of the "10 Cool Women" of 2005. Bea joined the EHC Board of Directors in 1991.

As a child, Bea worked in the farm fields throughout California. She experienced first hand how workers were constantly being exposed to pesticides and from this personal experience her concern about the long-term consequences of pesticide exposure was born. Bea volunteered her time at EHC and while doing that, she found EHC to be a great resource for her personal health as well as for her work with pregnant women and their families at the North County Health Project. Her groundbreaking work in training women promotoras to educate their own networks of family and friends about personal health issues inspired EHC to expand the concept to environmental health through the Salud Ambiental, Latinas Tomando Acción training program.

Bea's definition of leadership is very inspiring: "Leadership to me is no big secret



or mystery. It happens every day when an individual discovers there is a threat to the health of their family or community. That discovery leads to the dream of 'What Might Be?' When individuals and community members ask themselves 'how can environmental health be accomplished?' that is when leaders emerge." When asked about her greatest accomplishment at EHC, she quickly answers: "Showing up and staying committed!" Beatriz Barraza was recognized during the Council's Volunteer Celebration and Annual Meeting on Tuesday, April 19, 2005.

As you can see, Ruth and Bea both have a clear commitment to the EHC and environmental justice and they continue to lead and inspire a new generation of young people eager to fight for justice.

A community is like a ship; everyone ought to be prepared to take the helm.

Henrik Ibsen



“TIME IS NEUTRAL AND DOES NOT CHANGE THINGS. WITH COURAGE AND INITIATIVE, LEADERS CHANGE THINGS.”

Jesse Jackson



Sólo es posible avanzar cuando se mira lejos. Solo cabe progresar cuando se piensa en grande.

José Ortega y Gasset

