

# ANNUAL REPORT

Environment Now  
Selected Program Achievements  
2005



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2515 Wilshire Boulevard • Santa Monica, CA 90403 • 310.829.5568 • fax 310.829.6820  
[www.environmentnow.org](http://www.environmentnow.org)



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## COASTAL PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS

### MAGDALENA BAYKEEPER LAUNCHED

Environment Now helped launch the Magdalena Baykeeper, the second Waterkeeper program on the Baja Peninsula. Magdalena Bay, the largest wetland ecosystem on the west coast of the Baja California Peninsula, is one of the ten most important wetland systems in North America. The bay is threatened by constant and uncontrolled overexploitation of resources, industrial discharges, residential and industrial runoff, and considerable accumulation of solid waste.

### REGIONAL WATER BOARD REJECTS WEAK STORMWATER PLAN

As a result of the efforts of program partner Natural Resources Defense Council and local advocacy groups, the Regional Water Board rejected a weak stormwater management plan submitted by Monterey region municipalities. The plan was the first to be submitted in response to the new National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System stormwater permit policy passed in 2003, requiring smaller cities to apply for permit coverage. The Water Board's rejection of the first plan raises the bar for future plans.

### WATERKEEPERS FORCE CITIES TO UPGRADE POLLUTING SEWAGE SYSTEMS

Waterkeepers throughout California further their push to hold cities accountable for sewage spills. Orange County Coastkeeper reached a settlement with the City of Garden Grove requiring the City to spend \$48 million over the next fifteen years to upgrade its sewage system. Similarly, San Diego Coastkeeper along with Surfrider Foundation reached a settlement with San Diego requiring the City to invest more than \$1 billion in maintaining its sewage system over the next ten years. San Francisco Baykeeper is also fighting the City of Richmond to force a similar commitment.



## FRESHWATER PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS

### ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP EXPOSES WASTEFUL WATER SUBSIDIES

Program partner Environmental Working Group (EWG) produced two new studies that expose wasteful Central Valley Project water subsidies to farmers. EWG found that pricing inequities from these federal subsidies result in financial benefits to farmers that encourage the harmful over-consumption of water.

### NEW MODEL DEVELOPED TO EVALUATE LOCAL WATER SUPPLY POTENTIAL

The University of California, Santa Barbara and program partner RAND Corporation developed a computer model to evaluate the water conservation potential in the South Coast area. Their forthcoming study evaluates water supply planning and highlights opportunities for Southern California to maximize local water supply capacity.

## FOREST PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS

### KEY VICTORIES ADVANCE PROTECTION OF THE GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT

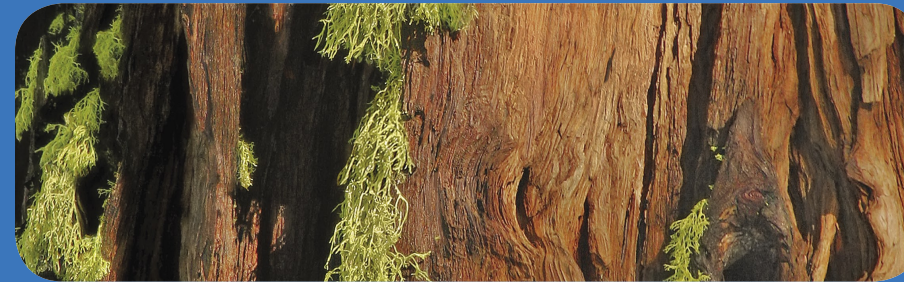
Three program partners won legal battles in the war to protect the Sierra Nevada. The John Muir Project, Sequoia ForestKeeper, and the Sierra Nevada Forest Protection Campaign stopped two large logging projects—the Saddle Fuels Reduction Project and the Ice Project—and demonstrated that the current Giant Sequoia Monument Management Plan violates federal law. These important legal victories are likely to improve the final management plan. A lawsuit challenging the validity of the management plan is still pending.

### NO LIVESTOCK GRAZING ALLOWED IN GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT

As a result of the advocacy of several conservation groups, including program partner Sequoia ForestKeeper, the Tule River District Ranger, who oversees the Monument, withdrew his decision to allow livestock grazing on nearly 37,000 acres within the Giant Sequoia National Monument.

### STUDY CHALLENGES SCIENCE USED BY THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE

John Muir Project's executive director, Chad Hanson, completed a study of post-fire growth in white fir trees. The study proves that not only do the majority of mature white firs survive fires, but also that these trees recreate the scorched portions of their crowns. Hanson's study suggests far greater fire-resilience than the U.S. Forest Service predicted. The *International Journal of Wildland Fire* confirmed that it will publish Hanson's report.



## SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS

### CHINA SHIPPING COMPANY REDUCES USE OF DIRTY DIESEL FUEL AT THE PORT OF LOS ANGELES

Program partners Natural Resources Defense Council and Coalition for Clean Air have ensured successful implementation of the China Shipping settlement at the Port of Los Angeles. Instead of running on dirty diesel engines while docked at the port, seventy percent of the company's ships now "plug in" to electric power. Additionally, all yard tractors run on alternative fuels.

### JUDGE UPHOLDS ALL SEVEN FLEET RULES AIMED AT REDUCING AIR POLLUTANTS

Thanks to the work of program partners Natural Resources Defense Council and Coalition for Clean Air, Judge Florence-Marie Cooper validated the South Coast Air Quality Management District's seven fleet rules. The District created these rules to reduce both toxic and smog-forming air pollutants by gradually shifting public agencies and certain private entities to alternative fuel and lower emissions vehicles. All seven fleet rules remain in effect pending appeal.

### CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD SLASHES DIESEL POLLUTION

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) unanimously approved two strong rules—the auxiliary engine regulation rule and cargo handling equipment rule. These rules curb pollution from ships and cargo-handling equipment by requiring them to burn safer, cleaner fuels, effectively slashing three-fourths of the dangerous diesel pollution released at California's ports. Program partners Natural Resources Defense Council and Coalition for Clean Air worked with CARB to craft these rules.