



PRESS RELEASE

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Contacts:

Linda Krop, EDC: 805-963-1622

Kira Redmond, SBCK: 805-452-8647

LOCAL GROUPS CLAIM VICTORY AT END OF LNG PROJECT

Clearwater Port application terminated after company fails to submit required information to permitting agencies

SANTA BARBARA, CA---The Environmental Defense Center (EDC) and Santa Barbara Channelkeeper (SBCK) celebrated today after learning that the application for NorthernStar's Clearwater Port Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) project was terminated by the California State Lands Commission. The application, which would have allowed construction of a massive LNG terminal offshore Carpinteria and Oxnard, had been suspended since October 2007, following extensive comments submitted by EDC and SBCK.

"This is the second time in three years we have stopped an LNG project off our coast," said Linda Krop, Chief Counsel of the EDC. "The Clearwater Port LNG proposal threatened the Santa Barbara Channel with a major source of air and water pollution and harm to migrating whales and other sensitive wildlife. The LNG terminal would have been located adjacent to the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, and LNG tankers would have travelled within Sanctuary boundaries."

"The termination of the Clearwater Port LNG application is great news for the Santa Barbara Channel," said Kira Redmond, Executive Director of Santa Barbara Channelkeeper. "This project would have brought upwards of 150 supertankers (each the length of three football fields) to our Channel every year, threatening our coast with pollution and numerous other health and safety risks."

On October 17, 2007, EDC and SBCK submitted a lengthy list of objections to the State Lands Commission and U.S. Coast Guard. These objections, along with other comments, led to the suspension of the application for the Clearwater Port project on October 23, 2007. As part of the suspension, NorthernStar was required to respond to 416 "data gaps" identified by the Commission and Coast Guard. Many of these gaps were identified by EDC and SBCK.

When two years passed and NorthernStar had still failed to respond to the voluminous data request, EDC asked the State Lands Commission to terminate the Clearwater Port application. The Commission subsequently sent a letter to NorthernStar on December 3, 2009, giving the company 90 days to submit the required data. NorthernStar did not respond adequately, and the Commission terminated the Clearwater Port application on

March 10, 2010. The Commission released its termination letter to EDC and SBCK today, March 16, 2010 (see attached).

LNG is natural gas that is produced in other countries and “supercooled” to approximately -260°F, so that it can be condensed into a liquid form for trans-oceanic shipping. LNG is a fossil fuel produced from on- and offshore drilling, just like other oil and gas supplies. Most LNG is imported from Asia and the Pacific Rim. LNG is a significant driver of global climate change, given the lifecycle of overseas extraction, trans-oceanic shipping, domestic refinement back into natural gas, and eventual combustion as fuel.

“LNG is not the answer to our energy demands,” cited Krop. “LNG is dangerous, polluting and a major contributor to global climate change. By stopping this project, we can pursue a path towards more a more sustainable, clean energy future.”

“Stopping this project is critical to protecting the incredible biodiversity of the Santa Barbara Channel,” noted Redmond. “The Clearwater Port LNG project would have threatened marine life by generating pollution and underwater noise, requiring the intake of millions of gallons of seawater each year, and increasing risks of collisions with ships.”

Santa Barbara Channelkeeper hired EDC in September 2007 to help them evaluate and respond to the Clearwater Port proposal. EDC had previously represented the California Coastal Protection Network in defeating BHP Billiton’s proposed Cabrillo Port LNG project offshore Oxnard in Ventura County.

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The Environmental Defense Center protects and enhances the local environment through education, advocacy and legal action, and works primarily within Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo counties. Since 1977, EDC has empowered community based organizations to advance environmental protection. Program areas include protecting coast and ocean resources, open spaces and wildlife, and human and environmental health.

The Santa Barbara Channelkeeper is a non-profit environmental organization devoted to protection and restoration of the Santa Barbara Channel and its watersheds through citizen action, education, field work, and enforcement. SBCK is a member of the international Waterkeeper Alliance, co-founded by Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., as well as the California Coastkeeper Alliance, a coalition of the 12 California Waterkeepers.