



For Release: Tuesday, February 19

Contacts:

Christine Ryerson 569-0885
David Landecker 963-1622 ext. 101
Linda Krop 963-1622 ext. 106

Environmental Defense Center Receives Ryerson Memorial Award

The Jim Ryerson Environmental Memorial Award was presented to Santa Barbara's Environmental Defense Center on Tuesday, February 19, which would have been Mr. Ryerson's 62nd birthday. The award was presented by his widow, Christine, to EDC's Chief Counsel Linda Krop and Executive Director David Landecker, in recognition of EDC's 30 year history of fighting air and water pollution on California's Central Coast.

The award honors the memory of Jim Ryerson, who served as Director of the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District after working for the California Air Resources Board, the U.S Environmental Protection Agency and as District Director of the California Coastal Commission. Ryerson passed away in 2005. He is credited, among many other accomplishments, with spearheading the successful effort to obtain federal legislation allowing Santa Barbara County to control and ultimately eliminate most air pollution impacts of offshore oil drilling.

The award includes a cash prize specifically dedicated to providing stipends to EDC interns who work to enhance air and water quality on the coast. Since its founding, EDC has mentored hundreds of students from UCSB and many other colleges and universities, beginning their careers in environmental protection. Former EDC interns now work for governmental agencies, non-profit organizations and private firms all over the World.

Ms. Krop, who was the winner of the first annual award last year for her many years of work on Ocean Water Quality as EDC's Chief Counsel, began her legal career as an EDC intern. "Jim always had a clear eye on the future and on the implications that our actions today will have to shape it," said Ms. Krop. "It is totally appropriate that this award will train future leaders to carry on Jim's work in assuring a cleaner environment, and we are honored to be recognized as a part of that legacy."