



## LOCAL NEWS...

### Blackwater Outed in Otay

by Raymond Lutz

The memories of our celebratory party in Potrero were still fresh and the extra spring in the step of Stop Blackwater activists was still clearly evident. T-Shirts and bumper stickers had been changed from "Stop Blackwater" to "We Stopped Blackwater."

The party was great, with everyone having a chance to chat and make speeches about our success. Rep. Bob Filner (CA-51) joined us once again and helped us rejoice in glee. I regret to report that, although I intended to video-record the whole event, the cam-



Potrero Planning Group accepts "Stopped Blackwater" award

era was never started correctly, and so there is no recording of our festivities and inspiring speeches. Boo hoo.

Just before I was to give my "glorious" speech to thank everyone and summarize the events leading to that

day, my wife Jill, who had left a bit earlier to go to our son's Lacrosse game, called on an unreliable cell connection and told me she had had an accident. Then the connection was dropped.

Of course, it was then quite impossible for me to even attempt to complete the speech, so I turned the event over to Carol Jahnkow and left with Danny Barger. He drove so I could use the phone on the way down the hill.

I learned that Jill was not injured and that a man had stopped to help her. The airbags had deployed.

Driving down SR-94 from Potrero, through Barrett Junction and then up the grade toward Dulzura, we spotted Jill and the car, moved over to the left side and off the road.

Although shaken up, a bit bruised, and with a slight concussion, Jill was fine. The car was another story.

Apparently her hands-free cell phone rang and flustered her when it fell to the floor. She missed the next left turn in the road, veering off the road and up

*See Local News on page 2.*

## East County Democratic Club

Serving El Cajon, Rancho San Diego, Jamul, Lakeside, and outlying San Diego County since 1965

### OFFICERS:

President	Kristy Mundt
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Tom Lamb (Tent.)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Karen Marie Otter
Treasurer	Raymond Lutz
Secretary	Tina Rynberg

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Membership	Tina Rynberg (Tent.)
Outreach	Tom & Kathy Lamb
Refreshments	Bonnie Rawson
Book Club	Jon Scanlon
Newsletter	Madeline McDowell
Calendar	Gloria Martes

### CONTACT:

Telephone	619-933-1526
Email	<a href="mailto:info@ecdcweb.org">info@ecdcweb.org</a>
Mailing Address:	PO Box 252 El Cajon, CA 92022

### MEETING LOCATION:

Rancho San Diego Library  
11555 Via Rancho San Diego  
El Cajon, CA 92019  
(Unless otherwise noted!)

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL  
IN PROGRESS!**

## WHO KILLED THE ELECTRIC CAR?

*Current Events Theater May Selection*

It was among the fastest, most efficient production cars ever built. It ran on electricity, produced no emissions and catapulted American technology to the forefront of the automotive industry. The lucky few who drove it never wanted to give it up. So why did General Motors crush its fleet of EV1 electric vehicles in the Arizona desert?

WHO KILLED THE ELECTRIC CAR? chronicles the life and mysterious death of the GM EV1, examining its cultural and economic ripple effects and how they reverberated through the halls of government and big business.

With a jump on the competition thanks to its speed-record-breaking electric concept car, GM launches its EV1 electric vehicle in 1996. after the Zero Emissions Mandate (ZEV) required 2% of new vehicles sold in California to be emission-free by 1998, 10% by 2003. It was a revolutionary modern car, requiring no gas, no oil changes, no mufflers, and rare brake maintenance (a billion-dollar industry unto itself). A typical maintenance checkup for the EV1 consisted of replenishing the windshield washer fluid and a tire rotation.

WHO KILLED THE ELECTRIC CAR? is not just about the EV1. It's about how this allegory for failure—reflected in today's oil prices and air quality—can also be a shining symbol of society's potential to better itself and the world around it. While there's plenty of outrage for lost time, there's also time for renewal as technology is reborn. ✌

## SCHEDULE

**12 May 2008** – Important Sunrise Powerlink meeting at Borrego Springs Resort (1-9:30pm)

**13 May 2008** - ECPAC meeting at El Cajon City Council 4th floor meeting room (1pm)

**18 May 2008** - ECDC General Meeting Rancho San Diego Library.

**25 May 2008** - Current Events Theater, *Who Killed the Electric Car?*, Rancho San Diego Library (1:00pm) Video will start promptly at 1:30pm

**31 May 2008** - La Mesa Flag Day Parade, Line up at La Mesa Community Center (8:00am)

**LOCAL NEWS (Cont.)**

a bank, then sliding back down to the road. Luckily it was not a deep canyon or a rock wall.

Air bag deployment is no laughing matter. The passenger airbag deployed and hit the windshield, breaking it, even though no one was in the seat.

Jill went with ECDC members Garri-  
anne Bradt and Lori Kern-Greenberg (thank you!) to the Grossmont Hospital emergency room and was checked over briefly, but after several more hours in the waiting room, threw in the towel. She went to the family doctor later. One more strike against medical care in America. How sad.

By a month after the event, Jill had recovered, the '03 Camry was declared a total loss, and we had selected and picked up a Prius. Everything was getting back on track.

It was Tuesday, April 22. Residents had just received awards at the Sierra Club dinner on Saturday, and we were still unpacking after Sunday's Earth Day Fair. That's when we heard the news.

The word came in from a person who claimed to be an "ex-friend" of an former Blackwater employee. He used a free yahoo email account with arbitrary name.

He said Blackwater was ready to open their new facility in Otay Mesa and that they had been able to sneak this in without any notice. What?!



*HomeTex building where Blackwater set up secret operation.*

Sure, maybe we were out of the loop. But would it be possible to start such a facility without anyone noticing? I called some reporters to see if they knew anything about it. No one had heard anything. Later that morning, I drove down to the location on Siempre Viva Rd.

The name "HomeTex" was on the front of the building within a few doors of the Cal-Mex border and two doors from the U.S. Border Patrol Otay station. At 61,000 sqft, the building had twenty loading bays on one side and in



*Ventilation equipment for interior secret firing range of "vocational school".*

the last two, a bunch of ventilation equipment more usually found on the roof. Such ventilation equipment is indicative of an indoor shooting range, as fumes from discharges of the firearms must be filtered before being returned to the atmosphere. (Gee, I don't remember any filtering at the Potrero site. I guess that means there are no fumes at all when you fire weapons outside. Right.)

It looks like the tip was confirmed, and Anne Krueger of the Union Tribune called and said Bonfiglio, V.P. Blackwater, admitted that the facility was there.

Permits were obtained under the name "Southwest Law Enforcement" and "Raven Development."

Later that week, on Friday, April 15, Filner hosted a press conference and said this was like "whack a mole" and that we will kick out Blackwater from that site as well. City council member Ben Hueso (district 8) and Council President Scott Peters both had stern words, and vowed to put Blackwater out of business in this town. Hueso had some particularly strong words. I must say this was a breath of fresh air after having almost no elected representatives in Potrero backing us up.

(You can watch the entire press conference at [www.citizenoversight.org](http://www.citizenoversight.org), click on Videos.)

The questions is: Is this the only facility???

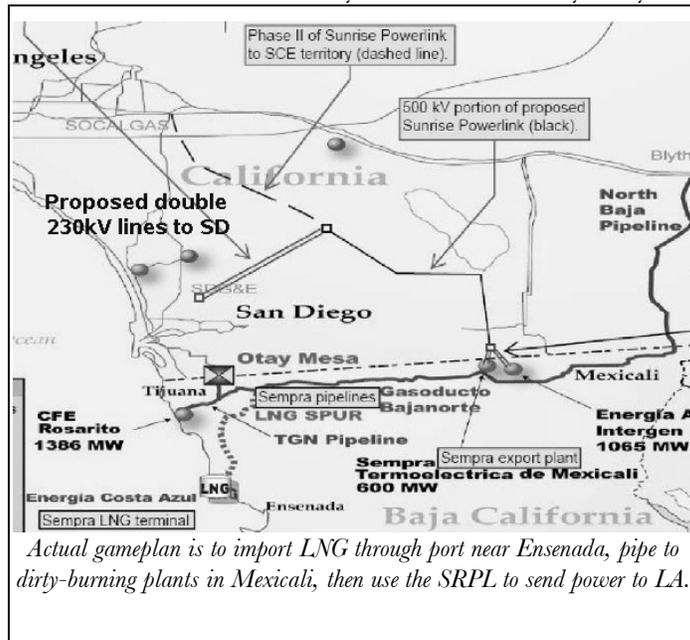
**SRPL Slammed by Residents.**

*by Raymond Lutz*

SDG&E says the Sunrise Powerlink is necessary to supply San Diego with renewable energy from the desert, crossing the Anza-Borrego State Preserve or taking a southern route over privately owned properties.



**IF YOU INVESTIGATE, YOU DISCOVER** their true game plan: To import Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) from Indonesia and other Asian sources using their new Baja port, piping the NG to plants in Mexicali. Those plants in Mexicali generate electricity from the relatively dirty-



burning gas (unlike the natural gas in our homes) out of the jurisdiction of the EPA. (But smog does not understand international borders!) Then the electricity is imported to the US, where the proposed SRPL will transmit it to a station near Warner Springs using either a northern route through Anza-Borrego State Park, or a southern route through Cleveland National Forest and private lands. From there, Sempra Energy plans a connection to the LA market, where the power will be sold to discourage distributed renew-

ables, such as rooftop solar and other technologies.

SDG&E is playing bait and switch. They desperately want to reduce rooftop solar (low profits, low emissions) and put in yesteryear's transmission line solution (high profits, polluting!) using fossil fuels from politically unstable sources.

At events in San Diego, Pine Valley, Borrego Springs, Julian, and Ramona, residents slammed the idea, with no one but industry insiders speaking for it.

Then, SANDAG approved the project, stating that it satisfied one of their criteria, a bit like saying that an elephant is just like a rat because they both have tails.

Next big event: May 12 at Borrego Springs Resort will be a quorum of CPUC commissioners, starting at 1:30 pm. Please be present if possible!

## Fast Fence Fiasco

by Raymond Lutz

The Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff is desperate to build the border fence before the administration changes at the end of the year. Suddenly, it has become necessary to waive all environmental laws to build a fence that will have questionable benefit, particularly in San Diego county where it will be all but impossible to close the final ten-mile gap between the Tijuana and Tecate fences.

The ten-mile gap is in the area of Marron Valley, where the Tijuana river snakes back and forth across the border, and in one place, runs along the border for about a half mile. To install any fence in this area is asking for an environmental disaster or one that is

removed by the force of a one heavy rain. In the end, undocumented workers desperate to feed their families won't mind walking another half mile to the new end of the fence (through the preserve area), building a ladder, cutting through or digging under the fence. So the fence is all talk and little substance.

Why do we need to waive the normal process of environmental review, using the REAL-ID act to ignore obvious and substantial environmental damage? It can only be one more example of a bogus contract for work that will have almost no effect on the problem while wreaking havoc on the environment, probably lining the pockets of a contractor-friend of the Bush administration.

They have been flying under the radar with almost NO public review. **CONSTRUCTION WILL START ON THE EXTENSION WITHIN A MONTH!**

At the same time, we heard of the \$20 million boondoggle of the electronic fence system that did not seem to meet the needs of the Border Patrol. That was only the tip of the nearly \$900 million project contracted to Boeing. Apparently, it was so bad that absolutely nothing was right about the system. You'd think that for \$20 million, you'd have quite an impressive system... oh, I forgot about all the lunches and travel involved. It's just one more example of a mis-managed project by the Department of Homeland Security... the same guys who did such a great job on Katrina, according to our fearless leader.

I hope we are not ready to entrust our environment to that fine-tuned bureaucratic machine without any review. At

least the Sierra Club is taking them to court. I hope it works.

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Please send any comments to

[newsletter@eccdweb.org](mailto:newsletter@eccdweb.org)



## President's Message



Well spring is upon us and it will be June 3 before we know it. Now is the time to get behind the local candidates of your choice and help them in any way you can. Do phone banking, letter stuffing, prescient walking or just plain old everyday donate.

Lets hope it is a good time for Democrats.

I would like to ask anyone living with in the city limits of El Cajon to step up to the plate and help with two petitions. We at ECDC and Councilmember Dick Ramos of the El Cajon City Council are trying to get two items on the November Ballot. One is for term limits and the other is for Campaign Contributions limits.

We need people who will do some prescient walking and get your neighbors to sign these petitions. If I get 45 people to volunteer we would each have to collect 100 signatures. If 90 people volunteered the each person would only have to collect 50 signatures.

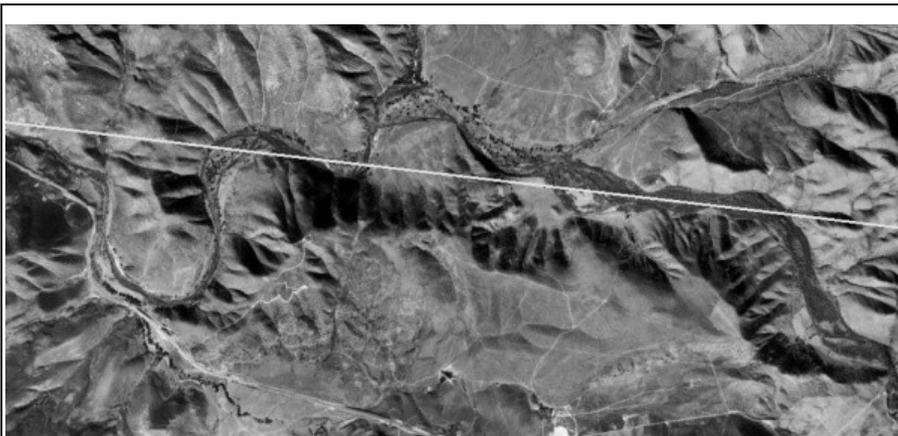
Please contact me ASAP to get your copies of the petitions. I will bring them to you and pick them up when they are complete.

Also, we need to find a new newsletter editor. Raymond has been doing this work but he says he will have to let someone else have the pleasure of creating the newsletter as he must attend to his campaign to win the 77<sup>th</sup> Assembly District seat.

You will need to be a good writer as well as being able to put the articles into a form suitable for printing.

Call me at 618-933-1526 or E-mail me at [kdm6@cox.net](mailto:kdm6@cox.net).

Kristy Mundt, President. ✌



*Tijuana River snakes across the border in Marron Valley.*

# EAST COUNTY PROGRESSIVE

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PO Box 252  
El Cajon, CA 92022  
www.ECDCweb.org

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## ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

### ECDC MEMBERSHIP FORM

*(Don't miss any future issues!)*

	Single	Dual/Couple
Student/Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20
General	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Sustaining	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Sponsoring	<input type="checkbox"/> \$125	<input type="checkbox"/> \$200
Patron	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250	<input type="checkbox"/> \$750

Newsletter Only  \$10 (free if member).  
 I am a Democrat  
 I am not a Democrat but wish to join as  
a non-voting Associate  
 Please send newsletter as email (PDF).  
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label is incorrect, see corrections --->  
*if you contribute over \$100 per year:*  
Employer / Occupation:

\_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

May, 2008

Page 4

## MORE TID BITS

### Lakeside Parade a Blast

Although the wait in line was difficult in the hot sun (make sure you have a vehicle in the future for walkers, the Lakeside "Western Days" parade turned out well for the Democrats. Mike Lumpkin rode horseback and Ray Lutz walked down the street, sometimes running between handshakes. "Don't be nuts, vote Ray Lutz" chanted Lutz as he shook some hands. "What is your party affiliation?" some attendees asked. "Democratic" -- "Well in that case, we'll take your stuff!"

In other words, the reception was not as cold this time around, and residents were interested in the all electric vehicle driven by Kristy (thank you Kristy, we love you!!)

The parade was a great way to meet residents in the Lakeside area. We should plan to participate every year!

### Don't miss La Mesa Flag Parade, May 31.

As in earlier years, we will be participating in the La Mesa Flag Parade on May 31. Staging for the parade is on the street and parking areas near the community center. Line up starts at 9:30. The parade is an easy walk, but sometimes the sun is still quite intense. Hats and sunscreen are recommended.

### Anderson "Cuts and Runs"

The League of Women Voters and the American Association of University Women organized a debate for the candidates in the 77<sup>th</sup> Assembly District race. Unfortunately, when Joel Anderson noticed that his opponent was ready for a spirited face-off, he high-tailed it and the hosts of the event decided to cancel.

However, they had been promoting this event for quite a long time and almost no one heard it had been canceled.

"Let's turn this into lemonade," Lutz said, suggesting to Marge Carlson that we reserve the room and conduct a separate meeting. Veterans for Peace agreed to be the nonprofit host, and Lutz will present "Stop Blackwater" and COPS.

With Blackwater back in town, the event should turn out to be interesting.

### Jeremy Scahill to Return

Although the details are still sketchy, we are working to bring Jeremy Scahill back to town, probably on June 11.

Jeremy will be speaking about Blackwater, of course, with the paperback edition of his bestselling book, updated to include the September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Nishoor Square massacre in Baghdad.

Mark your calendar now and we'll have details later.

### El Cajon Considers ECPAC

Hush-hush meeting, 1pm May 13<sup>th</sup> in the 4<sup>th</sup>-floor conference room. Will this be another give-away to CCT?