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For Immediate Release

Community Environmental Council Welcomes Laura Capps, Chris Hahn to Board

Community leaders bring new experiences and expertise crucial to getting the Santa Barbara region off fossil fuels

Santa Barbara, CA, December 10, 2013 - The Community Environmental Council (CEC) is proud to announce the addition of two new members to its Board of Directors, both of whom bring a range of experiences and expertise important to the organization's mission and direction.

Laura Burton Capps has spent over 15 years developing strategic communications and issue advocacy campaigns for the nation's highest profile public officials -- including President Bill Clinton, Senator Edward M. Kennedy, and Senator John Kerry's presidential campaign -- as well as to academic and non-profit organizations. She has recently established her own public affairs consulting firm in her hometown of Santa Barbara. Her current work involves national and local issues of immigration reform, child hunger, interfaith education and climate change.

Capps has built a reputation as a respected advocate for environmental and climate issues through her roles as Senior Vice President for Government Affairs and Communications at Ocean Conservancy (2007-2009) and as Communications Director for the Alliance for Climate Protection (2009-2010). She is currently serving her first term on the board of Ocean Conservancy, the nation's largest ocean conservation organization.

She is also on the Board of Trustees for UC Berkeley, her alma mater (1994, History), and was recently appointed as a Commissioner to the Santa Barbara County Commission For Women. She also serves on the board of America's Voice (a national immigration advocacy non-profit), Faith in Public Life (a national progressive faith organization), and the Santa Barbara Committee of Human Rights Watch.

Christopher E. Hahn, J.D. joins the CEC Board with over 20 years of experience in developing a broad litigation and transactional practice in real estate, trust and probate, and business. He received his Juris Doctorate from the University of California at Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law, where he was awarded the Order of the Coif, and he joined the California Bar in 1989. Currently, he is Senior Associate at Allen & Kimbell law firm.

Hahn actively supports the Santa Barbara community, serving as a board member or volunteer at local nonprofits including the Environmental Defense Center, California Rural Legal Assistance, the Braille Institute, and AYSO. He is also a former national champion bicycle racer and enjoys surfing, creative writing, and whichever local league sport his son is playing any given Sunday.

About the Community Environmental Council (CEC)

Since 1970, CEC has led the Santa Barbara region – and at times California and the nation – in creative solutions to some of the toughest environmental problems. Today CEC is focused on eliminating the use of fossil fuels in the Central Coast region in one generation – Fossil Free by '33. Find the CEC on the web at www.cecsb.org, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/cecsb and on Twitter at #CECSB.

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