

JEAN AUER AWARD

Since founding Environmental Defense's California office in 1971, **Thomas J. Graff** has led Environmental Defense's efforts to protect and restore California rivers and wetlands.

Tom is a past member of the Bay Delta Advisory Council, the University of California's Agriculture and Natural Resources Advisory Commission, the National Research Council's Commission on Geosciences, Environment and Resources, and the Colorado River Board of California. Graff has also been a lecturer at the University of California's Boalt Law School and a visiting professor at Harvard Law School. He received his LL.M. from the London School of Economics and his J.D. from Harvard Law School.

Tom Graff played a central role in Congress' passage of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act of 1992, in the signing of the San Francisco Bay/Delta Accord of 1994, in the fashioning of California State Proposition 204 in 1996. He has helped shape the state's water policy, pioneering water-marketing arrangements that allow thirsty farms and cities to meet their needs without building dams.

In the early Days, Tom was David fighting Goliath. More recently colleagues have called him Obi-Wan Kenobi. A leading player in state water politics once referred to Tom as "the brains of California's environmental movement." *California Lawyer* magazine just calls him "The Godfather."

While best known for his water work, Tom's position as Regional Director has required him to be a leader in other fields as well, including transportation, energy and oceans. In all endeavors, he employs a strict "beneficiary pays" philosophy: If we can just charge the right price for the use of natural resources, we will have not only a sustainable environment but a strong economy as well.

Tom has been a mentor to many over the years, both within and outside of Environmental Defense. He always makes time to help someone out, whether it is to celebrate the passage of global warming legislation on Treasure Island with Governors Schwarzenegger and Pataki and Mayor Newsom or to proofread a colleague's draft letter for diction, spelling and content. Those

who have visited Tom's office have marveled his towering, open-air filing system that at times seems to leave only a narrow pathway to his desk.

Perhaps the only rivals to those stacks of historic documents are his massive dual rolodexes that seem on the verge of bursting if one more name is added.

Tom's example of commitment to excellence and hard work is an inspiration for all. He gets his priorities right, however, he is a dedicated husband father, and most recently, grandfather. And, of course many a meeting has been postponed so Tom can get to the A's game on time.

The Award Committee forgives Tom for those A's games, as we know that over the last 36 years, the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary has had no defender more stalwart, or more effective, than he. We are pleased to present the 2007 Jean Auer Award to Tom Graff.

Jean Auer was a vigorous proponent of balanced water policy. She was a dynamic leader, and in her early 30s became the first woman to sit on the California State Water Resources Control Board. She later served as Chair of the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board. While on the Board of the Water Education Foundation, she helped found the Water Leaders program, an effort to inform and engage up-and-coming young men and women in California water issues. She worked tirelessly for many years as Facilitator of the Environmental Water Caucus, a coalition of environmental organizations advocating for water protection and standards to restore the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary. She also served on the City Council and as Mayor of the City of Hillsborough. She was the Water Chair and later President of the Commonwealth Club of California.