



Industry vs the Planet

A Christian Perspective on Reconciling Environmental Stewardship with Industrial Advancement

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Industry vs. the Planet: Reconciling Environmental Stewardship with Industrial Advancement

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A Fundamental Challenge

- Inherent tension between balancing industrial activity with protection of natural resources
- A polarizing topic for many
- Fundamentally political
- Often dominated by strong impressions

A Personal Journey

- Beginnings at Mines
- Essay: *"Protecting San Diego Bay – a unique resource"*
- Career path managing environmental issues
- Work at San Diego Bay remains a useful example

Negative Perceptions of "Industry"



Positive Perceptions of "Industry"



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Positive Perceptions of “the Planet”



Negative Perception of Environmental Laws

From Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), aka "Superfund". U.S. Code, Title 42, Chapter 103, Subchapter I, Sec. 9602.

(a)The Administrator shall promulgate and revise as may be appropriate, regulations designating as hazardous substances, in addition to those referred to in [section 9601\(14\) of this title](#), such elements, compounds, mixtures, solutions, and substances which, when released into the environment may present substantial danger to the public health or welfare or the environment, and shall promulgate regulations establishing that quantity of any hazardous substance the release of which shall be reported pursuant to [section 9603 of this title](#). The Administrator may determine that one single quantity shall be the reportable quantity for any hazardous substance, regardless of the medium into which the hazardous substance is released. For all hazardous substances for which proposed regulations establishing reportable quantities were published in the Federal Register under this subsection on or before March 1, 1986, the Administrator shall promulgate under this subsection final regulations establishing reportable quantities not later than December 31, 1986. For all hazardous substances for which proposed regulations establishing reportable quantities were not published in the Federal Register under this subsection on or before March 1, 1986, the Administrator shall publish under this subsection proposed regulations establishing reportable quantities not later than December 31, 1986, and promulgate final regulations under this subsection establishing reportable quantities not later than April 30, 1988."

(b)Unless and until superseded by regulations establishing a reportable quantity under subsection (a) of this section for any hazardous substance as defined in [section 9601\(14\) of this title](#), (1) a quantity of one pound, or (2) for those hazardous substances for which reportable quantities have been established pursuant to [section 1321\(b\)\(4\) of title 33](#), such reportable quantity, shall be deemed that quantity, the release of which requires notification pursuant to section 9603(a) or (b) of this title.

([Pub. L. 96-510, title I, § 102, Dec. 11, 1980, 94 Stat. 2772](#); [Pub. L. 99-499, title I, § 102, Oct. 17, 1986, 100 Stat. 1617.](#))

Negative Perceptions of Government 'Interference'

BUREAUCRATS



YOU CAN RUN, BUT THEY WILL FIND AND REGULATE YOU

Scriptural Wisdom: The Planet

- Humankind charged with caring for Creation
 - Genesis documents its essential goodness
 - Genesis 2:15: *And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and keep it*
 - Psalm 24:1: *The earth is the Lord's and all it holds, the world and those who dwell in it*
- Setting the stage for our ongoing appreciation of nature and the environment

Scriptural Wisdom: Industry

- Value of labor and tending the land
 - Proverbs 28:19 – Those that work the land will have plenty to eat, but those with worthless pursuits will have plenty of poverty.
- Regular appearance of construction and building
 - Build an ark – exact specifications included
 - Temples, altars, rock quarries, etc.
 - Use of construction as basis for teachings
- Again – setting the stage for the industrialized world we see today

Environmental Values

- Balanced ecosystem
- Beauty, recreation, and inspiration
- Civilizational stability
- Sustainable resources

Industrial Motives

- Provision and distribution of resources
- Jobs, income and profit
- Innovation and ambition
- Sustainable resources

Importance of San Diego Bay

- Natural habitat
- Marine life
- Recreational value
- Scenic beauty
- Working industrial waterfront
- U.S. Navy
- Marine cargo facilities
- Ocean research



History of Pollution in San Diego Bay



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A Coordinated Cleanup Process

- State of California Water Board
- Port and City of San Diego
- Working industrial shipyards
- Surrounding community



Cleanup Activities on San Diego Bay

- Removed accumulated sediments from selected areas
- Clean, habitat-ready sand layer
- Protected water quality
- Worked around shipyard operations
- Will continue monitoring in the future
- Keeping the community informed



Dredging



Placing sand



Sampling and testing



Keys to success

- Avoid “polarization”
- Collaborative approach between regulatory and industrial parties
- Thoughtful application of science up-front
- Community involvement
- Funding framework (who pays)
- Realistic expectations on all sides

Thank You

