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We are most fortunate to live so close to the ocean. The cares of our day just seem to disappear when we hear the soothing rhythm of waves lapping at the shoreline. A Baja storm is approaching and hopefully it will stir the ocean so that we are able to listen to the music of the waves when we lay our head on the pillow at night as it brings to us the ocean's scented air to breathe. After a recent rain when pollutants had been washed out of the sky, Catalina, an isle 26 miles away, was visible across the water and up coast the Palos Verde Peninsula shone brightly in the morning sun. Walking on the ocean's path in the early morning has a transformational effect... seldom is there a cry from a baby strolling with her mother... laughter and vigorous conversation can be heard from people walking together... some solitary visitors seem lulled into a state of deep inner peace. We are most fortunate to live so close to the ocean.

Only a short distance away there is another world, a world of busy people preoccupied with the duties and responsibilities the day brings. As they drive Coast Highway, they must have eyes only for the cars about them. Their minds drift away from the task at hand and to the business of the day. There is that report that is overdue, the problem with a person at the office, concern about falling sales, a child who is not doing well in school, and there is that relic of a past age looming above our beautiful beach and the ocean. My son recently sent me the video below. It illustrates in a visual way the two worlds of our lives.

<http://vimeo.com/51430433>

Ever since the Edison plant was built in Huntington Beach 54 years ago, we have had to live with its noise and pollution in the name of progress. Progress is now our friend as we look to AES and Edison's retirement of these industrial units. Such industries now are not dependent upon the ocean for cooling water. They can be placed in industrial zones and away from neighborhoods. We are at a rare moment in our history in which we have a choice. Let's get industry away from our coast, away from our ocean. Let our neighborhoods be for people to be free from this noise and pollution and a place where our health and the health of our children is not at risk. Convenience is no reason to risk our health. Now is the time for Huntington Beach and California to make a decision for the people.

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