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DOCUMENTARY TO REVEAL FACTS OF THE AMERICAN COAL INDUSTRY

Coal Country Film Takes a Dramatic Look at Modern Coal Mining

(Ojai, Calif. ~ July 8, 2010) Since long before the Gulf oil spill dominated headlines, an equally compelling drama has been taking place, year in and year out, in the coal-rich hills of the United States. The Ojai Valley Green Coalition will spotlight this complicated issue with its July 24 screening of the documentary film *Coal Country*.

While California's attention is drawn to the Gulf, 10 percent of Southern California Edison's power is currently coming from coal. With the possibility of reduced offshore drilling, that percentage may very well increase, which makes coal mining a very timely issue. The film, written, produced, and directed by Phylis Geller with executive producer Mari-Lynn Evans, examines the economic and social effects as well as the catastrophic environmental consequences of the modern coal mining that feeds the ever-growing need for electricity.

Coal Country brings into sharp focus many little-known yet monumental changes to the once pristine and peaceful region. It uses compelling footage and the personal stories of miners, residents, and coal company representatives whose day-to-day lives are affected while feeding our nation's hunger for power. According to the film's website, we need to understand the meaning behind promises of "cheap energy" and "clean coal." "Are they achievable?" it asks, "and at what cost?"

According to the film's producers, these personal stories explore the true cost of coal and the search for an alternative fuel source. The stories also pose the question of whether coal industry opponents are really protecting the earth or standing in the way of affordable energy.

It's a war going on within our own borders. Which side are *you* on? See the July 24 screening at the Ojai Theatre, 145 E. Ojai Avenue, at 4:30 P.M. and find out. You will not go away untouched. For more information about the movie, go to <http://www.coalcountrythemovie.com/>.

This screening is being sponsored by REC Solar, Nutiva, and Serendipity Toys. There will be a \$10 suggested donation at the door.

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