

From: [Heather Christena Schmidt](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Agenda Item 66: Oil Settlement
Date: Saturday, September 9, 2023 10:07:57 AM

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My name is Heather Schmidt. I live in Oxnard, in District 3. Our community has experienced some of the greatest hardships and health disparities over the last several years in all of Ventura County, including as a direct result of poor air quality and proximity to oil rigs within our district.

I am writing today to make comment on Agenda Item 66. While I recognize there are requirements to remain involved in the litigation and settlement with involved oil companies, I wanted to take this opportunity to remind the supervisors, as well as our unelected administrators, just who exactly you work for. It can be tempting to think that you work for private organizations, such as the oil companies that are poisoning our community, when your campaigns and lobby activities are funded overwhelmingly by these private firms. However, in reality, you are elected and appointed to serve the best interest of the public, and the public alone.

For this reason, amending language to allow for the oil companies to have leeway on when and how they are required to protect our community is a dereliction of your duties and a departure from the oath you took to be here today. Using weak language in the obligations these oil barons have, such as "when feasible" instead of "must," tells us that you work for them.

Being tough with Big Oil does not cost this community anything. Having boundaries, using firm language, and ensuring your goals are aligned to serve the public, and the public alone, does not harm anyone - not our community members, not jobs, nothing - except for the pocketbooks of your donors; many of whom do not even live in Ventura County anyway. Reducing the language you use in our General Plan to use weak language that goes easy on the people that directly harm your constituents does nothing but document for future generations a word salad of nonsense that does nothing, and proves how ineffectual of leaders you all are choosing to be.

Please do your jobs and create policy that uses the type of language that serves your constituents, or let someone else do the job that understands what the "public" in public service is all about.

Thank you for your time -

Heather Schmidt
Oxnard, CA