

# On the 20 year General Plan 9/9/19

By not making climate change and a Climate Action Plan part of the 20-Year General Plan, what this political body has done is shirk all responsibility and accountability for what action or inaction it will take on climate change. The Board continues to misunderstand this point: It is not oil but water which sustains us. And all the unlimited energy we hold at our fingertips is carbon-free wind and solar energy. The Board knows there is a way out of this crisis, yet it continues to hob-nob with big oil and carry on business as usual.

Icon journalist Edward Morrow, when warning us about McCarthyism, said that if we don't stand up, "a nation of sheep will beget a government of wolves." Today, those wolves begetting us, and which this body fails to stand up to are the fangs of the fossil fuel industry.

Climate change transforms all our oil exploration into a destructive death wish, and the immediacy of climate change renders our wars for oil unwinnable. War is dependent on oil as jet fuel. 60% of our oil production is used just for war, and so the wars we make over there will lead to our destruction over here. War in Syria assisted in the destruction of the Bahamas. War in Libya assisted in causing the Wolsey and Thomas Fire. War in Iraq has caused climate heat and migration from South America. War only adds to our carbon footprint. That, in turn, causes an increase in floods, intense hurricanes, tornadoes, and climate fires here in California. It is why the U.S. is 2 degrees warmer than it has been. 2 degrees more heat means our physical and mental health is now in jeopardy. Climate change changes everything and means if we engage in war anywhere we harm ourselves everywhere. Global warring IS global warming.

If there is an Armageddon, it will be by our own hand, our own stupidity, misdirection, and lapse of stewardship. And that translates to we can no longer pretend we are doing something about climate change while allowing the continued increase of fracking wells in Ventura County. The methane released from fracking is 84 x more powerful than CO2 emissions because methane more effectively keeps heat and emissions on the earth's surface. You can't lose weight while eating cake, and you can't cut CO2 levels by being the 3rd largest oil fracker in California. This hypocrisy tells the public that their local politicians would rather cater to their campaign contributors and destroy the world than do something of substance about the most important issue of our time, the survival of life on this planet.

If this body, passes the buck on climate change and continues to refuse to implement the Climate Action Plan within the 20-Year General Plan, you will affectively ignore the impact of climate change on every facet of business and life in our county. This inaction will cause harm and personal injury to every person in the County. And further, it will condemn all of us and our children to a conflagration of suffering in our future.

It is why we don't need more high-tech drilling inventions for deeper and wider fossil fuel production. The technology we more desperately need is for this Board to implement the machinery of community, working in unity to end fossil fuels and resolve our climate crisis.

With fires burning months in the Boreal Forest, record-breaking heat in Europe, fires raging from Alaska to the Amazon, and Greenland melting, Climate change is no longer an exaggerated threat, or a future threat, or even an imminent threat. It is our current reality. In fact, the only debate about climate change is: if we are already too late. And so I urge the Board to recognize their 3-2 vote favoring the Paris Accords and take action in your own back yard. That means incorporating the Climate Action Plan into the general plan.

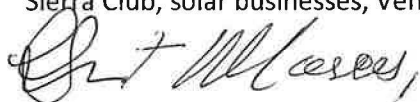
Yes, it is true, oil companies provide jobs and revenue. They are greasy grimy dirty jobs in oil fields and on oil platforms that keep good people away from their families for weeks and months on end while questioning the work they are doing. Yet solar and wind technologies can provide many more good-paying jobs right now, and they are cleaner, safer, healthier, local, renewable jobs which permit workers to return home to their families at the end of the day, feeling great about the work they are accomplishing. And renewables will provide, in long-term, even greater revenues for our County. Changing jobs to renewables should be a no-brainer but for the lobbyists of big oil.

Do not listen to these fracking company McCarthyites who threaten our jobs if we refuse to destroy life on earth. Wake up and stand up now. Your failure to do so would be a dereliction of your duties, and proof you have again chosen to serve wolves of big oil rather than the people of our community. I for one will not bau like a sheep, but bear witness to your actions. As Greta Thunberg has said, "For way too long, the politicians and the people in power have gotten away with not doing anything to fight the climate crisis, but we will make sure that they will not get away with it any longer." And people in Ventura County will no longer let our Board of Supervisors get away with it any longer either.

With honesty and respect,

Grant Marcus, retired registered nurse, and first responder to the Thomas Fire.

CC: CARB, Governor Newsome, CFROG, VenturaCounty350Hub, GreenNewDeal, Extinction Rebellion, Sierra Club, solar businesses, Ventura County

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Grant Marcus", written in a cursive style.