

**Gaines, Lori**

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**From:** Jan Dietrick <jdietrick9@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 7, 2019 3:45 AM  
**To:** ClerkoftheBoard, ClerkoftheBoard  
**Subject:** Comment Sea Level Rise Adaptation Strategies

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Dear County Supervisors,

The 350 Ventura County Climate Hub endorses in general the comments of Surfrider Foundation. The exception would be that there seems limited utility to the recommendation to "Identify Triggers" or to entertain an incremental strategy about implementing planned retreat. We urge attention to the very recent speed with which climate impacts are accelerating. We heard one of the scientists contracted by the county for these studies say multiple times to use nothing short of the 75 year modeling in planning for the next couple of decades. That could still be conservative. We agree with the second to last comment from Surfrider Foundation to "plan for alternatives for critical infrastructure that may be damaged under an extreme sea level rise scenario, known statewide as the H++ scenario. This recommendation comes from the Ocean Protection Council's 2018 report, Rising Seas California: An Update on Sea-Level Rise and was also adopted in the California Coastal Commission's 2018 Sea Level Rise Guidance Science Update". There is currently and obviously little evidence of a departure from business as usual with regard to climate change mitigation; the current trajectory may have already baked in feedbacks driving the most aggressive SLR models.

To adapt to the biggest impacts of drought and flooding, there is a need for water resiliency that requires stormwater capture by every means (contouring practices to slow, spread and sink rain water high in the watershed, and diversions and underground storage) during severe rain events. We need to be aggressive and creative with massive investment to capture rain water for ecosystem restoration and the continuing use of land for agriculture. We have recommended in the General Plan Update Water Supply Element that stormwater captured in storage diversions and tanks can be made available to land managers as a reward for the practice of ecologically based agricultural practices with radical water conservation. There is an urgent need to avoid risky development in floodplains. Managing rain to support vegetation for carbon sequestration re-establishes small water cycles that restore the synergistic relationship between rain and vegetation, particularly trees through riparian areas.

Watershed management planning is missing from the General Plan Update draft and is the only approach that assures the outcomes recommended in the Surfrider Foundation comments. We support the Surfrider Foundation comment about **Restore Watershed Processes**, though there appears to be a typo on the 7th line of page 2. We believe it might have meant to read "in order to ensure community *resilience* (not *reliance*) as well as adequate coastal sediment supplies into the future." The goal of resilience to maximize water supply is a top priority but we would include a much heavier emphasis on the role of stormwater capture as briefly defined in the paragraph above.

Sincerely,

Jan Dietrick Policy Team Leader  
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September 6, 2019

Ventura County Board of Supervisors  
800 S. Victoria Ave.  
Ventura, CA 93009

**RE: Item #33 Board of Supervisors Work Session on Sea Level Rise Impacts, Vulnerabilities, Adaptation**

Dear Chair Bennett and Supervisors,

Ventura County has proven to be very vulnerable to climate events, from the fires that devastated our western and eastern communities to the gradual tearing away of coastal infrastructure by ocean events. Climate First: Replacing Oil & Gas (CFROG) commends the county's proactive approach to planning for sea level rise and the solicitation of public comment for a work session on the best strategies to protect public assets.

As a watchdog organization focused on the oil and gas industry, we have a particular interest in how these changing conditions affect the aging infrastructure used to transport fossil fuels.

A recent Ventura County Grand Jury report following the 2015 Refugio Oil Spill maintained that the county "does not have a thorough understanding of the state of the total crude oil pipeline array within the county."

As the county's Adaptation Strategies Report detailed, "storm damage along Old Coast Highway could also have repercussions for the entire North Coast if erosion exposes a gas or oil line, ruptures a wastewater line, or damages an electric line."

The Grand Jury recommended that the Board of Supervisors "require the development of an annual report which summarizes the state of the crude oil pipelines within the county. This report should identify those pipelines with risks discovered during testing, as well as the risks associated with pipelines that have not been tested/verified by a third party or observer as required by the governing regulations. It should also identify those pipelines not in compliance with the conditions imposed by the Conditional Use Permits and summarize the spill events and their causes since the last report."

To our knowledge, such a report has not been produced. Yet it could yield critical knowledge on how to protect communities from inland spills as well as prevent a catastrophic coastal rupture which could impact a major travel corridor.

We are also cognizant of how storms have the potential to spread contaminants from coastal drilling facilities to nearby sensitive habitats such as those near McGrath State Beach.

We urge the county to take further action to protect our communities from the proven dangers of oil- and gas-line ruptures which will be worsened by the impact of sea level rise.

Sincerely,

**Marie Lakin, Executive Director**  
**Climate First: Replacing Oil & Gas**