



Responsible Oil and Gas Development: A Path to a Sustainable Future

August, 2017

CFROG Appeals of oil and gas project in Ventura County –

Since 2013 CFROG in addition to commenting on various issues related to oil and gas operations in Ventura County (injection wells, sumps, flaring, waste disposal, pipelines, etc.) CFROG has filed appeals on **seven** oil and gas projects in Ventura County.

- Two of those appeals are in active litigation.
- Another two of those appeals are currently active appeals set to be heard by the Planning Commission in August and September.

In each instance CFROG, and our appeal partners, have achieved improvements to permits and the permitting process, which have resulted in advancing protections to public health and the environment.

1. **2013 Harth Lease, Upper Ojai – CFROG with Environmental Defense Center -**
Appealed to Planning Commission, voted 3-2 against appeal.
 - a. CFROG successfully advocated for a hydraulic fracturing question on oil and gas permit application. This also means that if an operator plans to frack any of their wells, an additional modification and public hearing is required. Since this appeal all operators have stated there will be no hydraulic fracturing as part of their project.
 - b. CFROG successfully advocated for the use of API numbers for all wells listed in permits in order to properly track wells and their locations.
 - c. CFROG uncovered an oversight by county planning that had allowed an oil operator to drill a well in a pristine forest location without any environmental review – in violation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). CFROG work resulted in the well location being fully remediated.
 - d. CFROG successfully advocated for a Green House Gas emission assessment to be included in each permit review.
2. **2014, Modelo Canyon, near Lake Piru & Hopper Canyon National Wildlife Refuge:**
Filed jointly by CFROG, Center for Biological Diversity and Los Padres ForestWatch.
Appealed to Board of Supervisors but project withdrawn by applicant prior to hearing.

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County of Ventura
Board of Supervisors
PL14-0103
**Exhibit F – CFROG Appeals of Oil and
Gas Project in Ventura County**

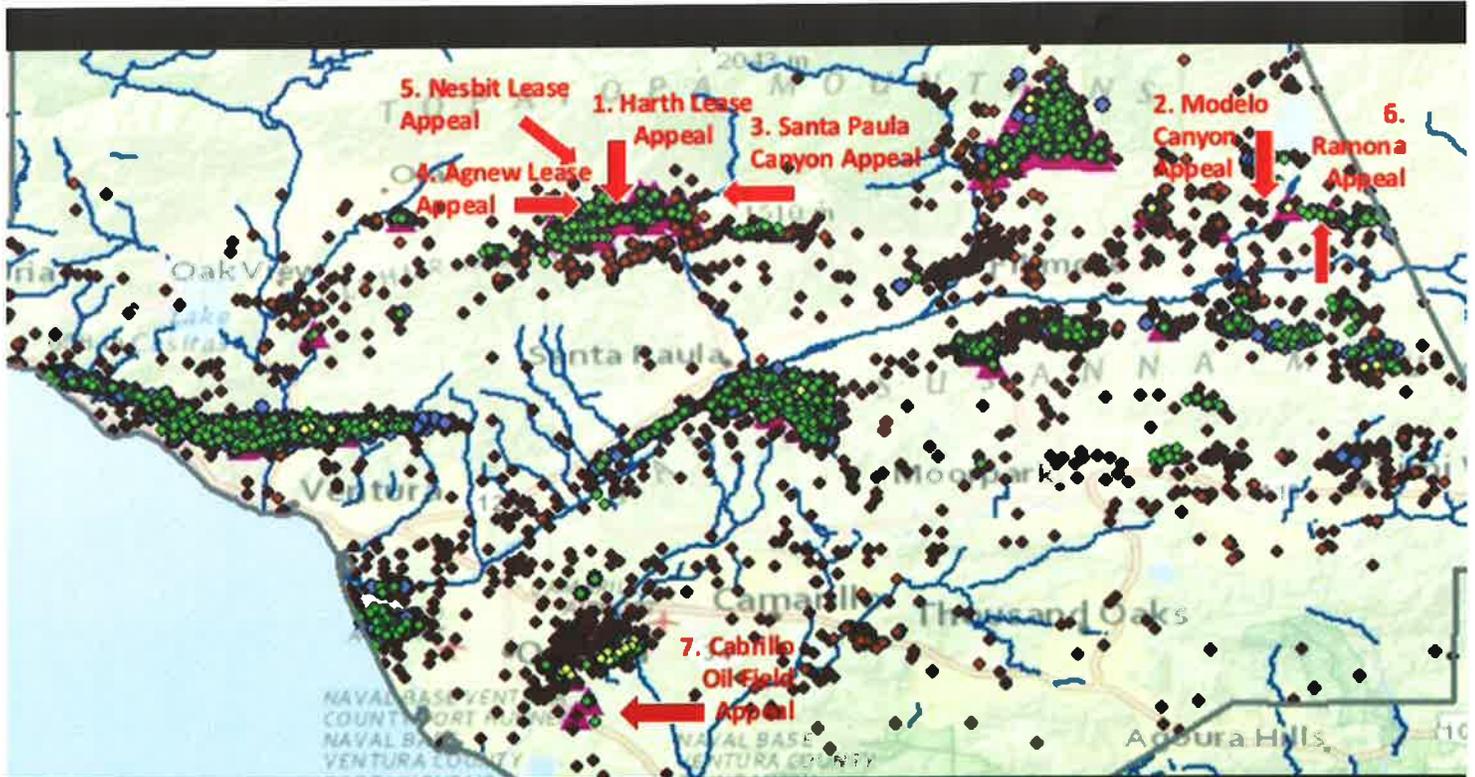
Modelo Canyon cont.

- a. CFROG considers this a victory in that pressure from our appeal resulted in the applicant withdrawing a project that would have reactivated the Modelo Oil Field after being abandoned for 20 years, without environmental review.
 - b. CFROG uncovered the failure of the applicant to provide - and planning staff to require – a clear and correct description of the drilling location.
 - c. Extensive changes to the permit, mitigation measures modified at the Planning Commission hearing as a result of the appeal, including conditions related to micro-trash (condor protection) and limiting hours of oil tanker truck traffic – recorded in minutes (minutes from Sept. 24, 2014 Planning Commission hearing).
3. Santa Paula Canyon: Filed jointly by CFROG, Center for Biological Diversity and Los Padres ForestWatch. Appealed to Board of Supervisors, litigation pending.
- a. This appeal has already resulted in additional protections for California Condors on drill sites as part of standard permit conditions.
 - b. Signage improvements and landscaping conditions.
 - c. Following this appeal county staff began to correctly tell Planning Commissioners and Supervisors that an entire CUP is before them for review when a modification/renewal is being requested.
4. Agnew Lease, Upper Ojai: Appealed to Board of Supervisors, litigation pending.
- a. CFROG uncovered the “map error” by planning staff that put project outside of the Ojai Valley Area Plan resulting in project not being properly assessed according to the OVAP. This resulted in the Planning Director negating the original approval. Planning Director appeal fees were fully refunded to CFROG. *without CFROG reviewing and appealing this case that map error would not have been noticed and would have resulted in the OVAP being totally ignored.
5. Nesbit Lease, Upper Ojai: Appealed to Board of Supervisors, Board refunded ½ of appeal fee.
- a. CFROG Appeal to BOS resulted in the abandonment of a waste water injection well that was injecting into a non-exempt aquifer to be abandoned. County was not going to require this condition without pressure from CFROG. ***This aquifer should NEVER have been allowed to be injected into!***
 - b. Site plan for project had been omitted from staff report documents, resulting in a permit modification being removed from the record presented to the public. CFROG work ensured that vital piece of information was included in project record.
 - c. Appeal to BOS resulted in planning staff writing in a condition requiring the abandonment of the injection well prior to the issuance of a zoning clearance to drill other wells.

- d. CFROG provided information to the county regarding the ongoing investigations being conducted by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board involving injection wells and sumps throughout Ventura County. CFROG also pointed out that county planning had stated there are no sumps in the county, when in fact VC APCD has several hundred permits issued for sumps in oil fields for air emissions and there is no agency at any level of government responsible for tracking the integrity of sumps and whether they pose a risk to ground and/or surface water.

Current Active Appeals:

- 6. **Ramona Oil Field, behind Piru:** filed jointly with Los Padres ForestWatch to Planning Commission.
- 7. **Cabrillo Oil Field Expansion, Oxnard:** filed jointly with Food & Water Watch to Planning Commission
 - a. CFROG comments submitted at Planning Director hearing resulted in trucks being prohibited from driving on Dodge Road - directly in front of a mobile home park.



CFROG Appeals of Oil & Gas Projects 2013-2017

