

My name is Tomas Morales Rebecchi and I'm a Senior Organizer for Food & Water Watch. Myself and dozens of volunteers have knocked on hundreds of doors over the past 2 years, the majority were within a mile or 2 of the project. The overwhelming majority of people we talked to don't want this project or any new oil wells in their area.

That's why over 1,700 local residents and over 20 orgs and leaders have signed our petition to support our appeal of these wells. Including Mayor Pro-tem Ramirez, Councilmember Lopez, Ocean View School District, Ca Nurses Association, Ventura LULAC, UFCW Local 770, CAUSE, MICOP and many more. Some of the local residents are here today but many couldn't make it because of work, family, school or even health issues. So hopefully you will hear their concerns just the same despite their lack of accessibility to this hearing.

I talked to many residents like Maria and Meza Case, who live in the corner closest to the project within 1,700ft, can see the flare from their house at night and have been there for over 15 years. They are not able to make it today but I promised them I'd make their voices heard. They doubted any elected officials are going to listen because they have been complaining about the spraying and nursery for years but no one helps, or they argue over who's jurisdiction it falls into. They are tired of the pollution and oil wells and want to raise their children and grandchildren without worrying about more pollution.

This is Nancy Bernier who also lived in the area closest to the wells for over 30 years. She suffers from COPD and her and her son are sick of seeing more oil wells and flares every time they drive through the Oxnard plain.

There has been a growing amount of evidence over the past decade and even the past couple years since these oil wells have been approved that shows the harms of living near any types of oil wells. There is a growing scientific consensus that there needs to be health and safety buffer zones between oil wells and homes.

Dr Bob Dodge is the President of Physicians for Social Responsibility and will speak to the health effects of living next to any types of oil and gas wells and the report PSR has recently compiled listing over 1,500 peer reviewed studies showing the harms of neighborhood drilling.

SB 4 the same bill that funded the USGS aquifer study that led to the moratorium, also funded a State Study by the CCST to look at the harms of drilling (California Council on Science and Technology) a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization established by the state to provide objective advice involving

science. It found many health hazards in neighborhood drilling and recommended the State implement setbacks for all types of oil drilling.

The report set forth established scientific evidence that the closer a population is to active oil and gas development, the more elevated the risk to that population. Exposure to toxic airborne chemicals can occur up to 2 miles from an active well, and people living within a half mile from an active well are at significantly higher risk of getting sick.

The report emphasizes the need for a science-based minimum setback distance between oil and gas wells and homes, schools, hospitals, and other places where people could be exposed to the harmful chemicals used in oil and gas production.

That study and the growing movement and demand for health and safety buffer zones has spurred the introduction of AB 345 earlier this year which would require 2,500 setbacks from oil and gas. It passed the Natural Resource Committee and Assembly Speaker Lorena Gonzalez who supports the bill plans to get it passed next year.

If these wells are approved today and the law is passed next year then we will have sentenced all the future generation to hazardous living conditions, even though physicians and state scientist advise against it.

We claim to have the strictest environmental laws in California but most other major oil producing states like Colorado, Pennsylvania and Texas have minimum setbacks at the state level. Southlake, Texas has a setback distance is 2,000 feet, Dallas has a 1,500 foot setback to protect homes, schools, hospitals and other facilities.

These oil wells will live on longer than most people involved in this project and will impact generations of kids growing up in the area. Who will clean up the mess when the smaller companies pack up like Peak or Rincon Island?

Just because these antiquated methods for approving wells has been the status quo doesn't mean we have to ignore new health studies, physicians and the voices of the community. I'm asking you to have the courage to deny these wells and go even further and start the process of implementing 2,500ft setbacks at the county level.

We can't wait for the state, and we can't let the oil industry tell us that it's not in our power, just like they did with moratorium. You all have that power and what you decide today will affect generations of Oxnard families.

Cabrillo Oilfield Expansion Health & Community Risks

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food&water watch



Organizations and Leaders In Support of Our Appeal

- Carmen Ramirez, Mayor Pro-Tem Oxnard
- Vianey Lopez, Oxnard City Councilmember
- Ventura County LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens) District 17
- UFCW (United Food and Commercial Workers) Local 770
- California Nurses Association
- Greater Oxnard Organization of Democrats
- CAUSE (Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy)
- MICOP (Mixteco Indigena Community Organizing Project)
- CEJA (California Environmental Justice Alliance)
- 350 Ventura County Climate Hub
- Sierra Club Los Padres Chapter
- Lideres Campesinas
- Center for Biological Diversity
- Showing Up for Racial Justice Ventura County
- Community Environmental Council
- UCSB Environmental Justice Hub
- Los Padres Forest Watch





Meza and Maria Case

15 year residents of
Oxnard Pacific Mobile
Home Estates

Live within 1,700 feet
of an oil-well pad

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Nancy Bernier

Has COPD

Has lived in Oxnard
Pacific Mobile Home
Estates for 30 years

Tired of seeing new
wells around her home
on the Oxnard Plain



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Babies Born Near Oil and Gas Wells Are Up to 70% More Likely to Have Congenital Heart Defects, New Study Shows

Researchers at the University of Colorado studied pregnant women who are among the 17 million Americans living within a mile from an active oil or gas well

by Julia Conley, staff writer



17 Comments

food&water watch

Robert Dodge, MD

Board of Directors PSR

PSR



**PHYSICIANS
FOR SOCIAL
RESPONSIBILITY**

U.S. AFFILIATE OF INTERNATIONAL PHYSICIANS FOR THE PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR

**WE MUST PREVENT
WHAT WE CANNOT
CURE**

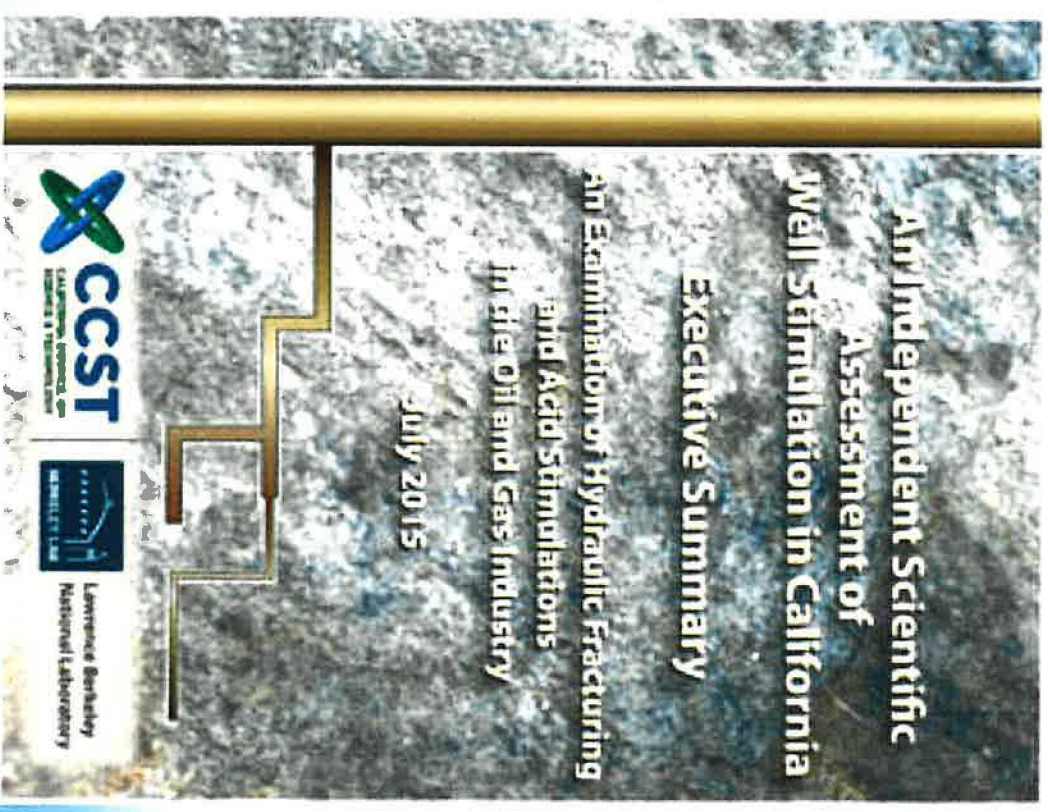
Mobilizing health professionals on issues that
represent the gravest dangers to human health.

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Non-Partisan State Funded Study on Oil Drilling in CA

- SB4 funded the CCST (California Council on Science and Technology) to study the impact of oil and gas drilling on communities.
- CCST Recommendation: Prohibit all oil and gas drilling and production close to homes, schools, hospitals, or other sensitive receptors.



AB 345 CA Setbacks Bill

- Require 2,500' setbacks from oil and gas.
- Passed the Natural Resource Committee.
- Assembly Speaker Lorena Gonzalez, who supports the bill, plans to get it passed next year.



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