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April 9, 2019

TO: Ventura County Board of Supervisors

Supervisor Steve Bennett via email to steve.bennett@ventura.org

Supervisor Kelly Long via email to kelly.long@ventura.org

Supervisor John Zaragoza via email to john.zaragoza@ventura.org

Supervisor Linda Parks via email to linda.parks@ventura.org

Supervisor Bob Huber via email to supervisor.huber@ventura.org

Rosa Gonzales via email to clerkoftheboard@ventura.org

Re: Opposition to Item 46 on the Board of Supervisors Agenda 4-9-19

Dear Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors,

VC CoLAB opposes item 46 added a the last minute to the Board of Supervisors' agenda, targeting local oil producers based on a misinterpretation of a United States Geological Survey Report.

The agenda item, if passed, would direct the Planning Division to create a new interim ordinance limiting the practice of steam injection in the County, purportedly to protect potable groundwater aquifers. But the USGS report states the opposite facts, and this course would likely subject the county to another set of lawsuits.

In a direct quote from USGS study author Celia Z. Rosecrans, "The results of our sampling found we had no evidence or no detections of petroleum hydrocarbons, inorganic constituents, or isotopes that indicate that we had oil field water mixing with the groundwater overlying the oil field." (see [Citizens Journal article entitled CFROG blatantly misrepresents USGS findings in Oxnard](#)).

The agenda item would also direct the Planning Division to study amendments to the County's zoning ordinances to require discretionary approval of new development under what they deem to be "antiquated" oil and gas permits. This action attacks previously approved conditional use permits, potentially placing the entire permit process in jeopardy.

A reliable permit process system is absolutely necessary for businesses in the County to operate. If the County can change conditions at will after a permit is issued, the process will break down, businesses will close, and more lawsuits will be filed.

Oil and gas permit applications are already subject to a rigorous vetting and approval process through the Ventura County Planning Division. This is in addition to the over 25 local, state, and federal agencies that oversee oil and gas production activities. Local oil and gas producers operate under the most stringent safety, labor and environmental standards in the world. The system works and strikes a balance between protecting the environment and allowing the industry to produce the energy California uses right here in Ventura County.

VC CoLAB believes that this last minute addition to the Board of Supervisors agenda is a direct way for the County to limit the opportunity for opposition dialogue and scientific facts to be presented at a hearing. We believe that supporters of item 46 on the 4-9-19 agenda were likely notified prior to the regular agenda release on 4-4-19, biasing public input to this item.

This attempt to direct the Planning Division into creating ordinances, like the Wildlife Corridor ordinance, will lead to direct loss of future county tax revenue and a waste of County resources on unnecessary legal fights. This sacrifice of the economic viability of the County for a runaway philosophical agenda, ignores the primary purpose of County Government to provide important services to County residents.

I strongly encourage you to vote NO on this harmful ordinance and protect jobs for working families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lynn Gray Jensen".

Lynn Gray Jensen

Executive Director

CC: jeff.barnes@ventura.org