

David M. Rodriguez
P.O. Box 1362
Camarillo, CA 93012

April 7, 2019

Supervisor John Zaragoza
800 S. Victoria Ave. L#1860
Ventura, CA 93009

Dear Supervisor Zaragoza:

As you know I have been an elected leader in LULAC and currently serve on the California LULAC State Board. I am writing to you today as a private citizen because item number 46, an ordinance to prohibit the drilling of new oil and gas wells or the re-drilling of existing oil and gas wells, was placed on the agenda very recently and therefore did not provide Oxnard LULAC members with an opportunity to develop a position either for or against. We were not informed that an issue of such importance to local employment would be heard this week.

The issue for the Latino community to consider is first and foremost employment and economic attainment for wage earners. About one third of oil and gas workers on the central coast are Latinos. Although economic forecasts in Ventura County remain positive, it is the Latino workers whose weekly earnings must be more than sufficient to live in an expensive region and ensure that they can live the American dream and help their families prosper.

From my perspective, it's all about jobs.

The undeniable fact is this industry provides good, high-paying careers for people of diverse ethnicities and varying educational backgrounds. They employ tradesmen, with six-figure earning potentials which furthers the economic stability of the Latino community, especially in Oxnard.

A key tenet of the organization I have served in for over 37 years is simply the improvement of the economic condition of the Hispanic population. This proposal seems to ignore that principle and therefore doesn't fully consider the needs of your constituents.

I also want to comment on the mis-information this is being shared by some about our water supply in Oxnard. Many, without consulting the Latino community, claim to act on our behalf. I am aware of the US Geological Survey position that our water in Oxnard and Ventura County is safe, and not contaminated by local oil and gas production activities.

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Finally, there are over two dozen agencies that oversee and regulate oil and gas production in California. I am comfortable that these career professionals, some of them LULAC members, act in a manner that protects the public while enhancing employment opportunities and industry growth.

I sincerely hope you will consider a NO vote on item 46.

Sincerely,



David M. Rodriguez

Copies:

Supervisor Steve Bennett
Supervisor Bob Huber
Supervisor Kelly Long
Supervisor Linda Parks
County CAO Mike Powers