

October 20, 2015

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

RE: Local Businesses Support the Protection of Santa Paula Canyon

Dear Chair Long and Members of the Board:

As residents and local business owners, we understand the importance of protecting open space, clean water, and outdoor recreation in Ventura County. Natural areas like the Los Padres National Forest sustain our quality of life, boost tourism, create jobs, and are one of the main reasons why so many of us live and work here.

We share a deep concern about an oil company's proposal to drill up to 19 new oil wells along the Santa Paula Creek Trail between Ojai and Santa Paula. It's one of the most popular hiking trails in our region, and for good reason – its waterfalls, swimming holes, hiking trails, scenery, and campsites are truly one of the most important natural treasures in our County.

People come from throughout southern California to visit Santa Paula Canyon, and when they do, they shop at our stores, purchase our products, stay at our hotels, eat at our restaurants, and support our farms, ranches, and vineyards. Simply stated, protecting Santa Paula Canyon also protects our local economy.

On the other hand, doubling the amount of industrial development in this highly sensitive canyon will place it at greater risk of oil spills, noise, pollution, and visual blight. Approving these wells at the gateway to the Sespe Wilderness, the Punch Bowl, and countless other backcountry destinations would be an economic and environmental disaster.

On behalf of our companies, our employees, and their families, we urge you to not approve these wells during your hearing on October 20. Instead, we call on your Board to require that a full Environmental Impact Report be prepared to adequately evaluate the risks and impacts of oil development. We also urge you to require the oil company to comply with the terms of its current permit, including installing drought-tolerant native landscaping to screen the existing wells from the hiking trail, and improving the safety of the pipeline across Santa Paula Creek with a suspension bridge and automatic shut-off valves to guard against spills. These items – which have been on the books for more than thirty years but never implemented – should be completed before considering whether to approve any new wells.

Thank you for your service to the County, and for keeping Santa Paula Canyon a pillar of our economic and environmental health.

Barbara Bowman, Inc.

Barbara Bowman, President
Ojai

Beat City Records

Jack Davis, Owner
Ojai

Betty Belts

Donna von Hoesslin, Owner
Ventura

Blue Iguana Inn & Suites

Julia Whitman, Owner
Ojai

Capital Mortgage Services

Therese A. Hartmann, Senior Loan Officer
Ojai

Carol Gravelle Graphic Design

Carol Gravelle, Owner
Camarillo

Coldwell Banker Property Shoppe

Joan Roberts, Broker Associate/Realtor
Ojai

Delicate Productions, Inc.

Smoother Smyth, Owner/CFO
Camarillo

Down Home Furnishings

Anne Carper, Owner-Proprietor
Ojai

EcoPAS

Steve Colome, CEO
Irvine

Emerald Iguana Inn

Julia Whitman, Owner
Ojai

The Farmer and the Cook

Steve Sprinkel & Olivia Chase, Owners
Ojai

GoOjai.com

Robert & Susan Evans, Owners
Ojai

Gourley Insurance Agency, Inc.

Michael Gourley, President
Ventura

Human Arts Gallery

Hallie Katz, Owner/Proprietor
Ojai

Juniper Ridge

Hall Newbegin, President/CEO
Oakland

Kathy Lottes Consulting

Kathy Lottes, Principal
Ojai

Kerry Miller Designer/Builder, Inc.

Kerry Miller, President/CEO
Ojai

Kish Rigging, Inc.

Ed Kish, CEO
Moorpark

Mano Farm

Shawn Fulbright, Owner
Ojai

Marche Gourmet Delicatessen

Gay Martin and Patricia Cluche', Owners
Ojai

Mirador Strategies, Inc.

Dave Boyden, President
Ojai

Naturalist for You

Joel Robinson, Director/Head Naturalist
Santiago Canyon

NextGen Engineering

Bill O'Brien, PE, Principal
Oak View

Nomad Gallery

Leslie Clark, Owner
Ojai

The Oaks at Ojai

Cathy Cluff, President/CEO
Ojai

The Ojai Playhouse Theater

Khaled Alawar, Owner
Ojai

The Ojai Retreat

Ulrich Brugger, Founder and Director
Ojai

OVA Arts

Patty McFall, Co-Owner
Ojai

Papa Lennon's

Jeff & Kasey Lennon, Owners
Ojai

Patagonia, Inc.

Hans Cole, Director of Campaigns & Advocacy
Ventura

Primavera Gallery

Sheryl Alawar, Owner-Proprietor
Ojai

Rainbow Bridge Natural Foods

Ernest Niglio, Owner/Partner
Ojai

RAINS

Jan & Alan Rains, Owners
Ojai

Real Cheap Sports, Inc.

Tim Coates, Owner
Ventura

The Refill Shoppe

Michelle Stevens, President/CEO
Ventura

Seasons Catering

Gabrielle Moes, Owner & Executive Chef
Ventura

Sterling Books

Eileen Sterling, Owner
Ojai

Studio Landscape

Kathleen Nolan, ASLA, President
Ojai

Tartaglia Fine Art

Danna Tartaglia, Owner
Ojai

Toad&Co

Gordon Seabury, CEO
Santa Barbara

Topa Topa Brewing Co.

Jack Dyer, Co-Founder
Ventura

Trails by Potter

Stacy & Ian Potter, Owners
Ojai

The Ultimate Pet Spa

Liza Cole, Owner/Operator
Ojai

Whitman Architectural Design, Inc.

Marc Whitman, A.I.A., LEED, NCARB,
Principal
Ojai