

## Just Say No to Oil Drilling in Santa Paula Canyon

In addition to the 17 oil wells it already operates in Santa Paula Canyon, California Resources Corporation wants to add 19 new wells to an ecologically fragile ecosystem already under attack from oil drilling, trash and graffiti. What could go wrong!?

Well, we'll never know unless we first conduct a thorough study of these impacts. No such study has EVER been undertaken in the canyon. Here are some things CRC and Ventura County might then learn and acknowledge:

- Potential impacts to steelhead trout
- A condor nest less than two miles from the project site
- Possibly, other condor nests near the site
- Toxic contaminants from the existing and proposed new wells – where do they go? How do they impact fresh water for Santa Paula?
- What will happen to a swimming hole popular with Santa Paula families?
- How will oil operations affect Sisa, a nearby original Chumash village that is considered to be of the “highest significance” by archaeologists?
- What is the risk to the pipeline in the event of a brush fire?
- Why isn't there an automatic shutoff valve in the pipe that carries oil, gas and wastewater across Santa Paula Creek?

The public deserves answers to these and many other questions surrounding oil operations in this fragile and beautiful area before any additional oil drilling activities can be seriously considered. Yet, despite a long history of permit violations in this area, the cumulative effects of oil and gas development in the Upper Ojai Valley haven't been studied by the V.C. Planning Dept. since the mid-1980s.

In my opinion, a greenhouse gas analysis done by the V.C. Planning Dept. is simply inadequate to meet state laws like AB32 and Executive Order B-30-15. Amazingly, no emission reductions are mandated over the proposed 30-year term of the permit.

The sole environmental review of drilling in this area occurred in 1985 – 30 years ago! – and it focused on tanker truck access to and from drilling sites, not concerns such as potential impacts to southern steelhead trout, condors, or potential risks of flood damage and water pollution to Santa Paula Creek. Yet, under CEQA, Ventura County is required to update the 1985 environmental study to incorporate all new information and circumstances that have emerged over the last three decades.

So please have planning staff direct CRC to do a full EIR before even considering this monstrosity.

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