



November 9, 2020

Ventura County Board of Supervisors
c/o County Clerk
800 S Victoria Ave
Ventura, CA 93009

Anthony Mireles
*Business Manager
Secretary Treasurer*

RE: Coastal and Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance Amendments Item # 34

Guillermo Ceja, Jr.
*President
Field Representative*

Dear Chair Long:

Alex Mireles
Vice President

I am submitting comment on behalf of Local 585, an affiliate of LiUNA—the Laborers’ International Union of North America. We are proud to advocate for local construction and energy jobs throughout Ventura County.

Andy Castillo
Field Representative

We oppose the amendments to the coastal and non-coastal zoning ordinances before you today. As the state transitions to a new energy future, it should not come at the expense of a local workforce.

A report just released by the [State Building & Construction Trades Council](#) suggests that “average pay rates in green jobs...are between 30 percent and 45 percent lower than the average pay rate for oil and gas industry jobs in comparable counties.” So the hundreds of local workers would “transition” out of oil industry employment would see significant pay cuts, and that’s assuming there are adequate local green jobs to absorb them, and adequate resources to train them, which do not exist.

To be clear, we are leading the way in green jobs and are on the front lines building the utility scale wind and solar projects in the state. I am constantly advocating for training programs in the clean energy industry because they currently do not exist in Ventura County. I chair the “Clean Green Committee” on the Workforce Development Board to create partnerships and pathways to a clean energy future. But I will not make working families jump into the deep end of the clean energy pool without a life jacket – good pay and benefits, comparable to what they are earning in the oil and gas industry. A forced career change to a job that pays less is simply unacceptable.



In the wake of a global pandemic and economic devastation, we need to be united when it comes to protecting the livelihood of blue-collar workers and their middle-class families.

We hope you take our views into consideration as you vote on this item.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony Mireles".

Anthony Mireles
Business Manager, Secretary-Treasurer
Laborers, Local 585