

November 9, 2020

Ventura County Board of Supervisors  
c/o Clerk of the Board

Via Email: [ClerkoftheBoard@ventura.org](mailto:ClerkoftheBoard@ventura.org)

Re: Public Comment – BOS Meeting November 10, 2020  
Agenda Items No. 34 and No. 47

Dear Honorable Supervisors,

The Termo Company is an oil and gas exploration and production company with operations in Ventura County. We are proud of the 30 years we have safely produced oil from the County, our relationships with the property owners, and our neighbors. Everyday our employees quietly and conscientiously go about their work, pleased to contribute to the well-being of the County and the State that we call home. As such, we have watched the assault on oil and gas production in Ventura County with growing concern over the last year and wish to raise some salient points regarding two agenda items before the Board on November 10<sup>th</sup>, No. 34 and No. 47.

As the industry has pointed out before, and we will continue to emphasize, extremist environmental groups pushing a policy to eliminate oil and gas production in Ventura County are short-sighted, undermining sustainability efforts, and are causing the perverse effect of increasing global carbon emissions. I encourage policy makers such as your Board to keep in mind that every barrel of oil that is not produced in California, must be imported. Crude oil production in Saudi Arabia and Colombia is not subject to the “best in the world” emissions controls, environmental, and health and safety standards that we have in California. Additionally, the County is exporting dollars and tax revenue in a time of severe unemployment and revenue shortfall. California spent over \$20 billion dollars last year importing over 359 million barrels of oil from overseas. While California will never produce enough to fully support our large economy, we should be encouraging production, not trying to eliminate it.

The final General Plan being considered for adoption (Agenda Item No. 47) with the proposed amendments to Article 2, Section 8107-5 and Article 5, Section 8175-5.7, in addition to recent regulatory changes that impact local oil and gas production, demonstrates the need to correct the record on local production practices. Oil and natural gas production is an integrated process. Operations do not rely on fixed buildings and infrastructure like other industries. Wells and facilities, as critical components of the integrated production process, need to be located, re-located, re-drilled, and deepened from time to time over the course of many years to maintain levels of production. The zoning ordinance amendments will eliminate the ability to maintain existing wells or even add more technologically advanced facilities. Make no mistake, added regulations, or bans on “new” wells affect existing wells too. It is misleading for activist groups to claim these changes will not impact existing production.

Additionally, Agenda Item No. 34 suggests the County plans to introduce policy to further restrict oil and gas production operations by limiting approved permits to 15 years. The impetus behind this

measure is to address climate change locally. Please be aware that carbon emissions and GHG is a global issue. The only policy impacts a decision like this will have is to increase these emissions by moving production overseas. Again, these are short-sighted policies pushed by extremists. A rational energy discussion would recognize the importance of sustainable, local, oil and gas production.

Termo, like our partners in the industry and the tens of thousands of men and women employed in California's energy sector, along with the families that depend on affordable, safe, and secure energy, encourage the Board to reconsider the direction in which it is moving. Enabling local, safe, and well-regulated oil and gas production is better for the environment and the State than relying on imports. We stand ready to participate in this discussion and work with the County on devising a sound energy policy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RC' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Ralph Combs  
Manager, Regulatory and Government Affairs  
The Termo Company