

Batinica, Meighan

From: James Aidukas <sakudia@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 7:56 PM
To: Batinica, Meighan
Subject: Fwd: Please Read Out Loud at Planning Commission - Item 7 CASE NUMBER PL20-0052

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This was sent to my home email. Please forward this to all. Thank you!

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Fonzo, Amy L** <Amy.Fonzo@crc.com>
Date: Tue, Jul 28, 2020 at 10:26 AM
Subject: Please Read Out Loud at Planning Commission - Item 7 CASE NUMBER PL20-0052
To: mindy.fogg@ventura.org <mindy.fogg@ventura.org>, philbranco@gmail.com <philbranco@gmail.com>, sakudia@gmail.com <sakudia@gmail.com>, earl.mcphail@ventura.org <earl.mcphail@ventura.org>, jim.king@ventura.org <jim.king@ventura.org>, commishrod@aol.com <commishrod@aol.com>
Cc: planning.PCCComments@ventura.org <planning.PCCComments@ventura.org>, COB <clerkoftheboard@ventura.org>

Honorable Planning Commissioners,

The move to require discretionary review of legacy (time invested) Conditional Use Permits is an intentional strategy to undermine the regulatory structure of over 25 agencies at the state and local level of government and clear the way for Board members to pick and choose projects based on personal and political preferences of what is supposed to be a non-partisan position. Subjecting CUPs to additional Ventura County review and approval adds unnecessary time and wasteful taxpayer dollars to all parties involved and infringes on vested rights which has proved to be unlawful in different areas of our state. If approved, this "taking" will position the County in a vulnerable state of negative consequences by attempting to override CalGEM's authority, eliminate subsidized income of royalty owners (who are mostly seniors) and destroy an industry and the jobs associated with it all within the period of a global pandemic.

I strongly urge the Planning Commission to oppose this ordinance change and work with the oil and gas industry in a collaborative manner to provide sensible solutions for all.

Amy Fonzo
Public Affairs Manager



CALIFORNIA
RESOURCES CORPORATION

P.O. Box 725

County of Ventura
Board of Supervisors
Case No. PL20-0052
Exhibit 26 - Emails read during Public
Comment

Batinica, Meighan

From: mary spencer <marysp0481@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 5:11 PM
To: PC Hearing Comments
Subject: Please Read Out Loud at Planning Commission-Item 7 CASE #PL20-0052

Unemployment in Ventura County is at an all time high. In this pandemic we should be looking to keep & create jobs, not loose them. Every job counts as we look toward economic recovery. The oil industry is highly regulated by the State & the Federal Government. The oil industry contributes tax revenues that support vital County services. The County should not be allowed to pick & choose projects not based on objective facts and data. The oil and natural gas industry are essential services during the pandemic. Thank you, Mary Lee Spencer

Batinica, Meighan

From: Jessica Wichard <jess465630@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2020 8:40 PM
To: PC Hearing Comments
Subject: Oil

I wanted to send a note as a resident of Ventura County that I support the county's efforts to improve oversight, public transparency and environmental review for new oil wells approved under antiquated permits. Please fight for our interests!!!

Batinica, Meighan

From: Peter Johnson <peterwyattj@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 8:48 AM
To: PC Hearing Comments
Subject: Item 7 "Read at Meeting"

I fully support updating oil and gas permitting to standards that will protect Ventura County's environment. Furthermore, the County must implement an aggressive plan to end *all* production and refining of fossil fuels, and invest in renewable energy. New construction must be dense, and, just as important, *walkable*. The best way to reduce fossil fuel emissions is to take cars off the road, and close fossil fuel burning power plants. Improving public transit, especially by implementing new rail, and improving existing service, is also a must.

Batinica, Meighan

From: Ron <ron@rinconvitova.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 8:56 AM
To: PC Hearing Comments
Subject: Item 7 "Read at Meeting" CASE # PL20-0052 – discretionary permitting for oil operations

Dear Planning Commissioners,

The climate system is running amuck from burning fossil fuels. I am expressing my right to leave my grandchild a livable world. It is absurd to say that someone who owns or operates one or more oil wells has a vested right to drill more. That is not the intention of the doctrine of vested rights. It should have been questioned before now. This amendment needs clarity that a vested right does not apply to expansion of oil operations on a property.

Oil in the ground will become stranded assets. Holders of mineral rights should read industry forecasts. Your royalties were great while they lasted. The only sector with more job security than oil field workers is health professionals. You have over 5,000 wells to close.

Part of the legacy of our history of oil extraction is the likely association with asthma, cancer, heart disease, depression, low birth-weight babies and more. These impacts cannot be tracked by just testing water and air pollution. People living hundreds of feet from oil wells experience chronic exposure over years. New drilling permits must be reviewed in context of toxic exposures and sampling methods that OSHA would do in a factory.

The new General Plan supports projects and workforce development so that, if oil field workers don't want to keep cleaning up the fields, there will be increasing choices of good jobs in the clean energy industries.

CEQA, common law, and the public trust provide the standards for deciding if an operator should be allowed to drill another well.

Ron Whitehurst

Batinica, Meighan

From: Jack Breuker <jack.vcei@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 7:13 AM
To: PC Hearing Comments
Subject: Agenda Item 7 - Please Read into the Record On Someone's Behalf

Submitting the comment below on behalf of **Yvonne Carr**, not as myself. Please read it into the record as her comment.

Hello, my name is Yvonne Carr and I am a longtime Oxnard resident now retired. I am a concerned royalty owner who depends on the success of the local oil and gas industry.

Royalty payments are crucial to the income of my family, and those of over 12 million others throughout the United States. It allows me to supplement the limited income I get from social security, allowing me to enjoy retirement here in Ventura County. The continued attempts to regulate Ventura County's oil and gas industry out of the county endangers our local economy, local jobs, tax revenues, and source of income to everyday people like me. Given the economic downturn and budget shortfalls Ventura County currently faces, now is not the time to reject the oil and gas industry.

Please take this into consideration, and vote no on the agenda item before you today.

Jack Breuker

Batinica, Meighan

From: Stephanie Caldwell <stephanie@ventura-chamber.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 9:24 AM
To: PC Hearing Comments
Subject: Comments on Agenda Item #7

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Good morning,

Subjecting CUPs to an additional review and approval by the Board of Supervisors adds unnecessary red tape that ultimately impacts our local workforce. Now more than ever, every job counts as we look toward economic recovery. Unemployment in Ventura County has reached record highs with more than 100,000 people filing for unemployment insurance or pandemic unemployment assistance. Ventura County ranks 53 out of 56 in prosperity when compared to like-sized regions according to the Brookings Institute, policies like this directly impair resident's ability to prosper.

This is part of an orchestrated effort to shut down all oil and gas operations in Ventura County and with it, the diverse workforce. The local industry supports more than 2,000 high paying jobs for working families. The oil and gas industry contributes \$56 million in tax revenues that support vital services like education, social services and public safety.

I urge you to deny this action. Thank you.

Stephanie Caldwell

President & CEO



Ventura Chamber of Commerce

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Tel (805) 643-7222 x14 | Fax (805) 653-8015

stephanie@ventura-chamber.org

www.VenturaChamber.com



Batinica, Meighan

From: John Watson <johnwatson560@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 11:11 AM
To: Fogg, Mindy
Cc: PC Hearing Comments; ClerkoftheBoard
Subject: Please Read out Loud at Planning Commission – Item 7 CASE NUMBER PL20-0052

I live in Newbury Park and have been an oil royalty owner for four generations. I hold the county's economy, environment and mineral rights with equally high regard.

I am concerned about the proposed amendments to zoning regulations, particularly how it affects the vested rights of property owners. I am also concerned about the County's financial health as you address revenue losses resulting from COVID.

Today's proposed policy will result in needless permitting lawsuits, more appeals and a costly drain on County resources. The County faced 42 appeals challenging oil production permitting decisions between 2011 and 2017, costing the County Planning department hundreds of thousands in taxpayer funds to administer each year. No appeals were successful. If the Board of Supervisors moves to adjust the permitting processes for existing oil operations, it will open the County to additional appeals, leading to increased waste of taxpayer funds and a massive slowdown in the permitting process.

County Counsel has already concluded that the County's ability to impose new conditions on legacy special use permits is very limited. The vested rights doctrine only allows the County to apply narrowly tailored conditions on legacy permits with a compelling reason. Revoking vested rights of so many with no evidence of the above conditions is an overstep of policy. It is inappropriate to circumvent the existing process by giving the Board of Supervisors authority to approve or deny projects that are already established.

I hope you take my view as a Royalty Owner into consideration.

John Watson, 91320

Batinica, Meighan

From: Adrienne Coryell <acoryell@cagop.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 11:55 AM
To: PC Hearing Comments
Cc: Young Republicans
Subject: Agenda Item Number 7 - Please Read Aloud

Chair White and Honorable Planning Commissioners,

I am opposed to this effort to strip local oil and gas operations of their Conditional Use Permits.

This move is nothing but a political power grab by some members of the Board of Supervisors and part of a concerted effort to shut down all oil and gas operations in Ventura County.

Every level of government has declared that local oil and gas operations are an essential service during the COVID pandemic. With 13.5 percent unemployment in Ventura County, every job counts right now and we can't afford to be passing more job-killing regulations.

Our local economy and thousands of local workers will suffer further hardship if you continue down this path.

Please, reject this radical policy proposal.

Adrienne Coryell

Batinica, Meighan

From: bev <bevg@hvwonline.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 12:10 PM
To: PC Hearing Comments
Subject: CASE NUMBER PL20-0052

Comment:

I need to call the Commissions attention to a report produced by the County. The County hired Dan Tormey with Catalyst Environmental to review the USGS Fox Canyon area data and determine whether groundwater contamination was an issue. Mr. Tormey's memo of May 2019, revised October 2019, states:

the USGS groundwater monitoring study results "do not indicate that oil and gas operations have impacted groundwater quality." And, furthermore, Catalyst "did not identify ongoing threats to the groundwater quality" from oil and gas activities.

This expert report was submitted to the Commission for your review in association with an item for the March 19, 2020 Planning Commission hearing, which has been postponed.

Thank you.

Bev

Beverly Gutierrez

Batinica, Meighan

From: Al Adler <aba@abaenergy.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 12:39 PM
To: PC Hearing Comments
Subject: RE: Item 7 discussion-Please disregard last email and replace with this

LAST edit – so sorry!! Please use this one.

A lot of staff testimony stated today that merely changing a permit from ministerial to discretionary is minor in nature.

Please remember that the reason many of us are concerned is that the one data point Ventura County has which discredits that thesis is that of Renaissance Petroleum, who just went through a discretionary process, was given a recommendation of approval By staff, and then was denied by the Board of Supervisors with no technical reasoning.

That is a big concern, not only from a decency standard, but that from a 14th Amendment standpoint.

Al Adler

From: Al Adler
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 12:37 PM
To: 'PC Hearing Comments'
Subject: RE: Item 7 discussion-Please disregard last email and replace with this

Use the one you just replied to.... I'll cut and paste the correct text below for clarity. I am very sorry I had a few typos on my phone. Thanks for your patience.

A lot of staff testimony stated today that merely changing a permit from ministerial to discretionary is minor in nature.

Please remember that the reason many of us are concerned is that the one data point Ventura County has which discredits that thesis is that of Renaissance Petroleum, who just went through a ministerial process, was given a recommendation of approval By staff, and then was denied by the Board of Supervisors with no technical reasoning.

Batinica, Meighan

From: Leslie Purcell <lesliepurcell@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 12:48 PM
To: PC Hearing Comments
Subject: Agenda Item 7, "Read at Meeting"

The 350 Ventura County Climate Hub Policy Team supports the recommended zoning modifications to require discretionary permits and other regulations for new oil and gas operations. Communities around oil fields have the right to be protected from hazards associated with oil operations.

Environmental justice and conservation of nature must be considered in a review of any drilling of wells. For example, the Sespe Oil Field is near Fillmore's water supply and critical wildlife habitat. The drilling moratorium in the Cabrillo Oil Field, due to contamination of the groundwater, is another instance where environmental review is needed. Strengthening the zoning ordinance for oil production is long overdue. This will hopefully prevent further groundwater contamination. CEQA review would reference the likely-to-be-adopted new policies in the General Plan Update to ban flaring and establish 2500 ft. setbacks from sensitive receptor sites such as schools, etc. We would urge the setback to extend to all homes and businesses. We also urge the County to require adequate clean-up bonds and insurance to ensure proper closing and remediation of over 2,000 idle wells and future well closings.

We are working to make a Ventura County General Plan achieve net zero emissions as soon as possible. This is a step in the right direction. Today, we urge the Planning Commission to approve these zoning modifications for the health and safety of Ventura County residents and the environment.

Thank you.

Leslie Purcell, 350 Ventura County Climate Hub Policy Team.

Batinica, Meighan

From: Jan Dietrick <jdietrick9@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 12:57 PM
To: PC Hearing Comments
Subject: Item 7 "Read at Meeting" CASE # PL20-0052

I want to thank County Counsel Jeffrey Barnes for describing the research to clarify that the Doctrine of Vested Rights does not apply to the drilling of new wells on a pad. It makes common sense, but having the input of independent legal experts can unify everyone going forward.

Jan Dietrick

Batinica, Meighan

From: Mayra Zurita <Mayra.Zurita.148525861@p2a.co>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 1:16 PM
To: PC Hearing Comments
Subject: Item No. 7: CASE NUMBER PL20-0052: Protect Our Communities and Environment from Antiquated Oil Appro

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Dear Planning Commissioners,

I'm writing in support of efforts to amend the County's Zoning Ordinances so that your Planning Division and the public can have better oversight over new oil wells and facilities. In Ventura County, thousands of oil wells operate under antiquated permits and more continue to be drilled without an evaluation of environmental impacts. They require little consideration of nearby natural resources and communities. Antiquated permits present a grave risk to the environment, our climate, and public health.

All new wells in Ventura County should abide by the same modern standards. Oil companies should not be allowed to drill an unlimited number of wells, for an unlimited amount of time, and without any evaluation of impacts to public health and the environment.

Please vote to amend the Zoning Ordinance to ensure that new wells and facilities under antiquated permits are subject to environmental review and public notice and hearings.

Regards,

Batinica, Meighan

From: Lousen, Kendall P CIV USN NAVB VCTY PT MUGU CA (USA)
<kendall.p.lousen@navy.mil>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 11:34 AM
To: PC Hearing Comments
Cc: Lousen, Kendall P CIV USN NAVB VCTY PT MUGU CA (USA)
Subject: PL20-0052 READ AT HEARING [NBVC COMMENTS]
Attachments: smime.p7s; ATT00001.txt; ATT00002.htm

Commissioners –

A quick introduction to you, my name is Kendall Lousen and I'm the Community Planning Liaison Officer for Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC).

We call attention for Staff to reconsider approving the zoning text amendments for Oil and Gas Exploration and Production Operations in unincorporated Ventura County; for the project areas include NBVC military operations which needs to be corrected before a vote to adopt Item #7 is rendered today.

It is imperative NBVC's military readiness operations and missions conducted at San Nicolas Island, Point Mugu, Port Hueneme, Laguna Peak, and other sites in the County are protected from off-base encroachment activities; and with that, our comments are as follows.

- The proposed zoning text amendments to Article 7, Section 8107-5 of the Ventura County Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance (NCZO) and Article 5, Section 8175-5.7 of the Ventura County Coastal Zoning Ordinance (CZO) suggest NBVC's military operations are public property that is/will become available to the County and Oil Developers to establish oil and gas exploration and production sites on NBVC.
- It appears on Exhibits 2-9, NBVC is annexed into the Maps of Project Areas – Applicable to NCZO and CZO areas of consideration for amending the unincorporated areas to allow establishment of siting New Oil and Gas Exploration and Production Operations on NBVC.
- We urge Staff to remove NBVC from Exhibits 2-9, for this will ensure NBVC military readiness operations are not constrained by County's Oil Development/Permitting Regulations for new and existing oil and gas exploration and production sites.

Again, thank you for your time and welcoming NBVC the opportunity to review and provide our comments to Ventura County Planning Staff and Commissioners.

--
V/r,

Kendall P. Lousen ("Kenny")
Community Planning Liaison Officer

Naval Base Ventura County, PWD
311 Main Road, Bldg. #66
Point Mugu, CA 93042-5033