

Key, Lori

From: Ashwin Manthripragada <Ashwin.Manthripragada.325484815@p2a.co>
Sent: Friday, November 6, 2020 12:03 PM
To: ClerkoftheBoard
Subject: Read in Meeting, please! Protect Our Environment

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Dear Ventura County Supervisors,

The environment is part of us. The actions we take now will ensure that we are healthy now, and that our children are healthy for many generations to come. Historically, the US has always recognized the value of progress, for our health and environment, as well as for our economy. We need to make sure that we update our systems--including our regulatory permits!-- so that we don't allow extractive industries to cause generational destruction. We in Ventura County can pave the way for renewable energy. The first step is, however, to phase out drilling and fracking, especially if they are done without the careful oversight to protect our community, our climate, and our public lands.

I'm writing in support of efforts to amend the County's Zoning Ordinances so that your Planning Division and the public will 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 and little to no consideration of nearby natural resources and communities. Antiquated permits present a grave risk to the environment, our climate, precious water supplies, and public health.

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