

Key, Lori

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2020 1:39 PM
To: ClerkoftheBoard
Subject: OBJECTION TO CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS FOR OIL COMPANIES IN VENTURA COUNTY

Dear Sir/Madam: I have just recently been informed that Ventura County is considering allowing oil company operators to continue to have or obtain Conditional Use Permits which allows for the unlimited and unregulated right to drill new oil wells, expand production and use extreme and high risk techniques such as fracking and cyclic steam in our area without proper review and oversight by the county officials and by community pollution watchdog groups.

I live in the Upper Ojai Valley and have witnessed firsthand the damage and extremely harmful pollution that oil companies have willful and maliciously caused in this area for decades without proper oversight by the county government. This destruction and environmental harm is caused by greedy oil companies and their contractors without any regard to the well being of the residents of this valley and of the entire county. Oil companies and their contractors create extreme hazards on our rural roads due to the giant trucks, drills and large equipment that they transport. Additionally, the toxic fumes from the drilling and fracking operations here constantly foul our air with poisonous gasses and the chemicals they inject into our underground water aquifers are harmful to both humans, crops, farm animals and wildlife and are ruining our precious (and limited) water sources. Have you reviewed the cancer rates in our area recently? Are you aware of the statistics as to the health risks that fracking and oil drilling impose on local residents?

All oil and gas operations in Ventura County should be held to the strictest safety and environmental standards and should be constantly monitored and shutdown if they are not compliant with health and safety regulations. We can't continue to expand oil operations indefinitely under antiquated Conditional Use Permits. These permits were handed out decades ago, before our current understanding of the public health, safety, and climate impacts of oil production. PLEASE PROTECT THE CITIZENS OF OJAI, UPPER OJAI AND VENTURA COUNTY. More and more people are moving here and the health risks are increasing on a daily basis due to the oil and gas industry activities here.

All oil companies and energy industry contractors should be subject to and regulated by the same OR GREATER land use rules and regulation that everyone else has to follow. Additionally, with the escalating climate crisis and the pollution in our communities, we can't accept that any person or corporation has an unlimited right to expand in ways that pollute our land, air, or water and ruin our health, livelihoods and the safety of our families and property.

All new drilling and expanded extraction should require a new permit and full compliance with current health, safety and environmental standards. PLEASE PROTECT YOUR COMMUNITY.

I hereby reserve all of my rights and remedies, as well as the rights and remedies of all citizens of Ventura County, in this and all other matters involving oil and gas production in Ventura County.

Emily Hay

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