

Janet Miller Wall  
[REDACTED]  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91361-1841  
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November 9, 2020

County of Ventura  
Board of Supervisors  
800 South Victoria Ave  
Ventura, CA 93009

Re: Support for Agenda Item 47

Dear Ventura County Board of Supervisors:

Thank you for carefully considering Item 47 on your agenda today in response to the USGS study of groundwater quality in local potable groundwater aquifers caused by oil and gas exploration and production operations. Ensuring that oil and gas operations follow the best safety and environmental standards is a crucial action on your part which will protect our region's environment today and for future generations. Allowing operators to continue expanding operations indefinitely under old Conditional Use Permits will continue to threaten Ventura County residents' health, safety and environment.

Ventura County residents and decision-makers deserve an up-to-date and clear picture of oil and gas operations in our County. A lack of regulatory oversight for permits issued 50-75 years ago, prior to modern environmental regulations, not only threatens public health but undermines efforts to address the biggest challenge of this century – *fighting climate change*. We have a moral obligation to future generations to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and eliminate polluting practices. Requiring discretionary review of new drilling or expansion will give our County the oversight needed to ensure that all new and/or expanded oil and gas operations are in compliance with the County's current oil and gas regulations as well as other applicable environmental, health and safety standards.

Item 47 aligns with the 2040 General Plan Update which emphasizes the need to protect environmental resources while supporting businesses that incorporate sustainable environmental operations. I urge you to approve the proposed zoning ordinance amendments to establish a single, consistent permitting process for all new oil and gas development proposals, regardless of the age of the original underlying permit.

Thank you for considering my comments in your discussion today.

Sincerely,



Janet Miller Wall