

Honorable Supervisors,

Hello, I am submitting comment on behalf of the Coastal Energy Alliance. The CEA is a local organization that educates the public on energy issues and advocates to policymakers to further the successful production, distribution, marketing, and consumption of local energy resources throughout the Central Coast.

We express sincere concern at the attempt to change the approval process for legacy oil and gas permits. Giving the Board discretionary approval creates an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy. This proposal is part of a broad, coordinated effort to shut down oil and gas production in Ventura County through impossible regulations. This policy change, along with the extreme policies in the general plan update, and the changes proposed in item 34 will absolutely result in a production decrease or entire shutdown.

The local oil and gas industry provides more than 2,000 high paying jobs and contributes 50 million dollars in tax revenues that support local public services. Ventura County's economy has been devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic as we saw record unemployment and financial challenges throughout the County. The last thing this County needs is to pass policies that cause more economic and fiscal hardship.

This policy would also infringe on the vested rights of energy producers and would leave the County vulnerable to expensive lawsuits. It is irresponsible for the County to move forward with yet another policy that it cannot afford right now.

The Coastal Energy Alliance urges you to reject the zoning ordinance amendments. Thank you for your consideration.

Jeanne Orcutt, Executive Director  
Coastal Energy Alliance