

TO: Ventura County Board of Supervisors
VIA EMAIL TO: ClerkoftheBoard@ventura.org
SUBJECT: November 10 Zoning Ordinance Amendments

Honorable Supervisors,

Ventura county's well paying, benefit providing jobs include hundreds of Central Coast oil and gas professionals. We share a commitment to the environment and work every day to ensure that oil and natural gas is produced safely and in compliance with some of the strictest regulations in the world. We urge you to reject the amendments to the coastal and non-coastal zoning ordinances before you today.

The proposed amendments, in addition to recent regulatory changes that impact local oil and gas production, demonstrates the need to correct the record on local production practices. Oil and natural gas production is an integrated process. Operations do not rely on fixed buildings and infrastructure like other industries. Wells and facilities, as critical components of the integrated production process, need to be located, re-located, re-drilled, and deepened from time to time over the course of many years to maintain levels of production. The zoning ordinance amendments will eliminate the ability to maintain existing wells or even add more technologically advanced facilities. Make no mistake, added regulations or bans on "new" wells affect existing wells too. It is misleading for activist groups to claim these changes will not impact existing production.

Local oil and natural gas production is an important part of California's energy future, and has provided a good living for myself, my husband, and my four children, all of whom grew up in Ventura County, but no longer live here due to the lack of good paying, benefit providing jobs. Are you going to kill even more of these such jobs?

California faces an ongoing energy crisis. The state is the fourth largest consumer of oil and gas in the global economy, yet California produces just 28 percent of the oil and gas needed to meet our demand. Did you drive to work today? Are you planning any airplane, train, boat or car trips in your lifetime? Do you have cosmetics, nylon, polyester, pharmaceutical products in your home made from petroleum products? There are over 6000 of them. If you enjoy the benefits of these products, please support the industry that provides them to your home.

The General Plan EIR acknowledges that any oil that is not produced locally will be imported from foreign countries that do not share our commitment to environmental stewardship. We need a stable regulatory system that allows local oil and gas producers to continue to operate in Ventura County in order to help meet the state's diverse energy demands.

Support our local workforce, local economy, and the energy needs of today and tomorrow - reject this extreme and unnecessary policy change.

Sincerely,

Malvina Lerma

Camarillo, CA 93010