

Key, Lori

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 3:41 PM
To: ClerkoftheBoard
Subject: #47 Read At Meeting - Agenda Item #47

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

As a biologist, Woolsey Fire survivor, and parent of a child with pollution-triggered asthma, I urge a YES vote on item #47 to update antiquated Conditional Use Permits to better protect public, environmental and fiscal health.

Unplugged oil and gas wells can contaminate air and drinking water aquifers with poisonous arsenic, chromium and lead, and with explosive methane, an extremely potent, climate-heating greenhouse gas. People living within a mile of such wells are additionally exposed to cancer-causing benzene and formaldehyde. More than 2,000 unplugged, idled wells are situated in Ventura County.

Despite the considerable dangers, Exhibit A reveals that remediation bonds posted by California's seven largest drillers, accounting for more than 75% of all state wells, average just \$230 for each well that must be decommissioned ... while the average cost to cap just one of those wells, and dismantle the associated surface infrastructure, costs upwards of \$40,000 to \$152,000. This yawning gap makes it far cheaper for oil and gas corporations to forfeit their bonds than to pay for cleaning and capping their wells, saddling residents and taxpayers with the astronomical burden of doing so.

The unacceptably severe health and financial costs of unremediated fossil fuel pollution combine with intensifying heat, drought and wildfire crises that further threaten our water availability, air quality, climate stability, public safety and taxpayer resources. We can no longer allow ANY entity the unchecked and unlimited latitude to expand at our collective expense . Please protect Ventura County; vote YES to amend antiquated CUPs.

Sincerely,

Rose Ann Witt

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]