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December 11, 2012

*DRAFT*

(individually addressed to State legislators)

RE: Request for Urgency Legislation Regarding Hydraulic Fracturing of Oil & Gas Wells

Honorable :

Ventura County is highly dependent on local groundwater resources for potable water, and groundwater is the lifeblood of our \$1-billion-plus agricultural industry. Protection of local groundwater aquifers is essential for continuation of economic activity and domestic water supply in this county. Ventura County is a statewide leader in managing and protecting groundwater through groundwater management agencies and the active efforts of multiple water districts and city and county agencies. Many millions of dollars have been invested in this collective effort.

Ventura County cannot afford to take chances with risks to our groundwater supplies. We are therefore concerned that the practice of hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking,” of oil and gas wells is currently unregulated, and possibly undisclosed. Additionally, large amounts of potable water are potentially consumed, and the potential generation of large volumes of toxic wastewater raises questions about disposal methods and impacts.

We encourage the enactment of urgency legislation to require the advance public disclosure of fracking locations and fracking chemicals, the adoption of State regulations to assure the protection of groundwater when fracking occurs, require reporting of the source and amount of water used, and requirements to assure that wastewater disposal does not pose a significant risk to water supplies, people, or natural resources.

Cordially,

John C. Zaragoza  
Chair, Board of Supervisors