

From: [Haley Ehlers](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Cc: [LaVere, Matt](#); [Long, Kelly](#); [Lopez, Vianey](#); [Gorell, Jeff](#); [Supervisor Parvin](#)
Subject: Agenda Item 54
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2023 3:38:38 PM

WARNING: If you believe this message may be malicious use the Phish Alert Button to report it or forward the message to Email.Security@ventura.org.

Hello,

I am signed up to speak on Agenda Item 54 but due to agenda and time changes, I may not be available to speak (either on Zoom or in-person). I hope you'll consider my written comment below:

Hello - my name is Haley Ehlers, director of CFROG, an environmental nonprofit serving Ventura County.

I strongly urge you to direct the Planning Division to continue their hard work on analyzing a consistent setback of 2,500 feet between oil and gas drilling and all sensitive receptors and include this in the Work Plan. I know each one of you, the Planning Division, and the County of Ventura itself prioritizes the health and safety of our communities above all else. And the fact of the matter is, the modest setback of 1,500 feet between homes and drilling is not doing enough to protect community members.

Public health research continues to confirm that living within 3,200 feet of an oil well—over double the current Ventura County setback—means you are at higher risk for asthma, cancer, respiratory diseases, preterm births, and early death—impacting young children the most. It is ironic, and frankly devastating, that we celebrated that vulnerable population earlier today but are now considering putting off policy improvements that will be life saving and protect children and families, majority of whom are People of Color, from long lasting health threats.

Swiftly moving forward with this county-level health protection is important for multiple reasons:

First, we've all seen first hand the threat that referendums brought by the Oil Industry pose. Back in 2020, there was consensus across the Planning Division, Planning Commission, and Board of Supervisors that standardizing legacy drilling permits was a commonsense improvement to provide the tools to protect and consider impacts to our communities and environment. But as we all know, that commonsense was beaten out with nearly \$8 million spent by the Oil Industry to scare and lie to voters. The playbook Big Oil developed here in Ventura County will be used across the state now. As we have discussed in many oil and gas hearings recently, the state law is separate from local law. This is an opportunity to strengthen public health protections at the local level and reflect your commitment to health and safety.

Second, the state referendum timeline of 2024 is much too long. It has already been three years since your Board directed the Planning Division to do said analysis. In those years, dozens of wells have already been drilled too close to homes. The direct toxic and dangerous

air pollution will be impacting our communities for decades to come. We cannot allow neighborhood drilling to go on any longer.

Third, if the state law advances, this analysis would help prepare the county with information and logistics necessary to understand how the larger setback impacts our local industry and communities.

We urge you to move the analysis for consistent setbacks to protect public and community health from oil and gas drilling in the 2023-2026 Work Plan.

Thank you,
Haley

--

Haley Ehlers (she/her)

Director

CFROG - Climate First: Replacing Oil & Gas

(805)263-7408 | haley@cfrog.org

www.cfrog.org