

Opportunity for Fiscal Sustainability

Lad Handelman June 16, 2011

I am Lad Handelman, local resident and co-founder of the educational nonprofit-SOS. I have witnessed you struggling hard and sincerely on which budget cuts to make. This is visibly a painful process for you to have to go through knowing that no matter how much pain there is for you personally, the results of your cuts will cause even more pain to those affected. I would not want your job.

Most of you are aware that none of this would have been necessary had you opted to support offshore oil development a few years ago when the opportunity came up. Expert and objective economic analysts such as Mark Schneipp have demonstrated that property taxes alone from development would bring in \$340 million per year for over 20 years. This injection of \$340 million per year would solve our budget problems and then some.

The record demonstrates that utilizing and enforcing much stricter regulatory requirements has eliminated the cause of the '69 spill. Staying with that regimen and limiting development to slant drilling and/or conventional shallow waters, what happened to cause the '69 spill will never happen again. For 40 years the partnership between industry and government, California style, has had exemplary results and these safe programs are in force and working. The key initial step to start the new development process is only for you Supervisors to state your support.

And yet you sit here today turning your back on this economic solution because of the so-called "risk". You deny us revenue and instead place our community at indisputable risk. You base your opposition to development solely on the risk of another '69 spill even though all statistical and factual evidence points otherwise. To claim this risk as real is total speculation. There is no speculation however that the result of this budget-cutting will immediately increase known and real risks dramatically - and far into the future for as far as we can see. These budget cuts increase the risk of crime and all its consequences, increase the risk of fires spreading out of control along with the increased risk to human life, diminish essential social services and create hardship and suffering for individuals and families - and create even higher costs down the road. There is no speculation that when sources of funding are diminished, government services, public safety and health especially are diminished. All these consequences are set to happen because the County cannot afford to support these services without new revenue.

What I say is that the largest thing we cannot afford is the consequence of continuing to indulge in antiquated rhetoric opposing offshore development. By opposing offshore development and denying us the revenue, you compromise the quality of life and level of safety of all County constituents. There is no speculation that this will be the result. Rather, even though some will always claim there is a risk, I implore you to bite the bullet, to accept the record of proven and safe development so new revenues can soon commence, and we can repair the damage. What we need is fiscal sustainability and offshore development provides that.

People now understand that pollution comes not from platforms but instead from huge underwater oil seeps. They understand that while the damage caused by the '69 spill was severe, it was short-lived and afterwards, the marine environment was back to normal. They have witnessed that the result of oil extraction has been beaches with far less oil tar. Public awareness has changed. The question is how many of you have the courage to change as well. These offshore resources belong to us citizens and not to you legislators or to special interest groups. We look to you to hear our voice, change what you must and allow us the benefit of these resources.

Respectfully submitted, Lad Handelman

Property Taxes / Santa Barbara County

Property Tax Details

- New receipts: 2010-2050
- Peak Years: 2019-2025
- \$ 370 million per year (*constant 2008 dollars*)
- Principal Claimants:
 - Schools 45 percent
 - Flood Control/Water Conservation: 14 percent
 - County General Fund: 23 percent
 - Bond measures: 13 percent
- County General Fund share of peak Property Taxes:
 - 23 percent of \$370 million = \$ 85 million
 - Actual 2007-08 PT receipts = \$ 118 million

Challenges of Ultra Deep-Water Drilling (Gulf of Mexico) vs Conventional Drilling (Santa Barbara Channel)

Deepwater Horizon (BP)*

- 5,000 feet
- Floating drill rigs
 - BOP subsurface
- New fields
 - Larger spill capability
 - Uncertain reservoir characteristics

SOS Comments re: deep-water drilling

- Many unknown conditions
- 50-200 mi. from shore in unprotected waters
- New experience/technology
- Unavoidable risks

Pacific OCS (current)*

- 95 to 1,200 feet
- Fixed drill rigs
 - BOP on surface
- Mostly mature fields
 - Smaller spill capability
 - Known reservoir characteristics

SOS Comments re: Santa Barbara Channel drilling

- Known conditions
- Within 15 miles of shore
- 40 years of safe drilling
- Proven environmental benefits

*Source: Santa Barbara County Energy Analysis of BP Spill_Aug. 2010_ <http://www.countyofsb.org/energy/index.asp>

Brennan, Kaitlin

From: dray murray [dray93013@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2011 4:58 PM
To: Gray, Joni; Lavagnino, Steve; salud carbajal; Wolf, Janet; sbcob
Subject: Budget?

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red

We need to support these vital community services!!

CARES: Cares serves our mentally ill and dually diagnosed. Reducing services to them is a really bad idea as there is no where else for them to go. Cutting out 2 psychiatrists who help assess the mentally ill and dually diagnosed and prescribe Social Security Disability and MediCal benefits would be tragic. There is a good reason the Grand Jury recently focused on the "mentally ill, possibly substance abusing, uninsured, indigent, homeless individuals recycling in and out of jail." We disagree with their next statement "they are also unlikely to qualify for public assistance." Frequently alcohol and drug use is masking a very real mental or physical disability. Many people who have been homeless for years would qualify for Public Assistance if properly diagnosed. Removing that possibility is unwise. Cares has also been severely cut in staff and numerous other ways already such as only having one outreach staff. They serve over 900 clients

2) Treatment Courts: These courts are cost effective because they are successful in reducing recidivism. Thus reducing the burden on so many other County Departments and the community at large. They are also a collaborative effort between Courts, District Attorney, Public Defender, Sheriff's Treatment Program and non-profits. This court works and needs to stay in place!

3) Veterans Service Program: Loss of one FTE and the Lompoc Office will have an impact on our entire County. The remaining employees will spend more time driving around the County and not helping Veterans. More Veterans are returning from combat regularly. We need eligible Veterans returning and who are homeless enrolled in VA benefits programs. Cutting out this service office is the seriously wrong step.

Thank you,

Dray Murray
1554 lisa st
carpinteria, ca 93013

Brennan, Kaitlin

From: Deborah Barnes [lifesaverservices07@yahoo.com]

Sent: Friday, June 17, 2011 8:51 AM

To: 'lifesaverservices07@yahoo.com

Subject: Please restore these positons

The Treatment Courts need the Deputy District Attorney's and the Social Workers to help bring homeless out of our ridiculously over-crowded jail and into programs that are where they truly belong. They are not criminals and need to be re-directed to prevent more of their repeated situations and ticketing that places them in jail

The Social Workers at the Public Defender's Office would mean the withdrawal from all Treatment Courts. We need them to make this work and it has been doing very well. Please vote to keep these Social Workers and the Deputy District Attorney

Thank you for all you are doing right now! You are appreciated.

DEBORAH BARNES
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servng & inspiring urban nomads
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each one reach one
