

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
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Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 2/26/2004
Department Name: Planning and Development
Department No.: 053
Agenda Date: 4/13/2004
Placement: Departmental
Estimate Time: 10 minutes
Continued Item: YES
If Yes, date from: 3/23/2004

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Valentin Alexeeff, Director
Planning and Development Department

STAFF CONTACT: Larry Appel, Supervising Planner
Development Review – North, 934-6261

SUBJECT: Amendment to Chapter 25 "Oil and Petroleum Wells" of the Santa Barbara County Code, and appointment of the Petroleum Administrator

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Conduct the first reading of an ordinance (included herein as Exhibit A), proposing to amend Section 25-1 of Chapter 25, "Oil and Petroleum Wells," of the Santa Barbara County so that the Board of Supervisors may appoint an individual to the position of Petroleum Administrator without the need to amend Chapter 25; and
- B. Appoint the Director of Planning and Development to also serve as the Petroleum Administrator pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 25 of the County Code.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan: This item primarily aligns with Goal No. 1 – Efficient Government: an efficient government able to anticipate and respond effectively to the needs of the community.

Executive Summary and Discussion: The County adopted Chapter 25 into the Santa Barbara County Code in the 1950s to regulate oil and petroleum wells and ancillary lease equipment. In 1980, the County amended Section 25-1 of Chapter 25, explicitly identifying the Director of Public Works as the Petroleum Administrator. Day-to-day administration was then carried out by the County's Building Official and Public Works staff assigned to the Building and Safety Division.

In 1994, the Building Official position, along with the Building and Safety Division, was reassigned to the Planning and Development Department. This reassignment also administratively shifted the position of Petroleum Administrator to the Planning and Development Director. However, the designation of the Public Works Director as Petroleum Administrator remained codified in Chapter 25.

This recommended amendment to Section 25-1 of Chapter 25 eliminates the need to amend Chapter 25 in the future if and when the Board of Supervisors decides to reassign the position of Petroleum Administrator to another County department or office. Staff also recommends formally appoint the Director of Planning and Development as the Petroleum Administrator.

Mandates and Service Levels: This item assures that the codified assignment of positions and responsibilities to administer components of the County Code is consistent with administrative assignments of such positions and responsibilities through County reorganizations, the annual budget process, or any other means. This item does not impact service levels, since the recommended amendment to the County Code merely reflects the administrative assignment of the Petroleum Administrator that has been in effect since February, 1994.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts: No fiscal or facilities impacts. This item merely represents a housekeeping matter. The functions of the petroleum administrator are currently budgeted within the Planning and Development Department and will be part of that department's FY 04-05 budget proposal.

Special Instructions:

Concurrence: Public Works, County Counsel.