

#2

Ramirez, Angelica

Public Comment - Group 3

From: Nancy Tobin <nbtobin@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 4:27 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Protect people, air, water and climate from oil and gas wells

LATE
DIST

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

A large number of oil wells in Santa Barbara, including idle, orphaned, and abandoned wells are a potential danger to citizens. There is a risk of fluid and methane leaks among other potential problems. Our county is not doing enough to monitor, investigate and regulate idle and orphaned gas wells. I urge you to take all necessary precautions to safely monitor these wells.

Thank you.

Nancy Tobin

--

If you are in a bad mood go for a walk. If you are still in a bad mood go for another walk.
Hippocrates

Nancy Bailey Pegues Tobin
Santa Barbara

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Lily Broberg Strong <lily.broberg@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 7:08 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Stop pollution from Idle Oil Wells

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I would like to support stopping pollution from idle oil wells. Leaking methane impacts health and is an environmental concern for me.

Thank you,
Lily

--
Lily Strong, RN
Earth Diaper

www.earthdiaper.org

Watch Our Video [here](#)

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Christiane Schlumberger <c.schlumberger@me.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 7:27 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Regulate Idle Oil and Gas Wells

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Supervisors,

I am concerned about the impacts to health, clean air, drinking water, farmland, and climate from the 1,370 idle and orphaned oil and gas wells in Santa Barbara County. Our County is not taking adequate steps to investigate, monitor, and regulate idle and orphaned oil and gas wells.

I request that the Board of Supervisors direct staff to investigate the status and regulation of idle and orphaned wells and provide an annual report at a public hearing, to include:

- An inventory of the number and status of oil wells in the County including active, idle, orphaned, and abandoned wells, and the length of time wells have been sitting idle.
- All fluid and methane leaks, seeps, noncompliance, violations, and other problems from idle and orphaned wells
- All interagency coordination and actions taken by County Planning and Development, Air Pollution Control District ("APCD"), County Fire, CalGEM, and State Water Board
- All County, APCD, state, and federal ordinances, regulations, inspections, and enforcement programs that regulate idle wells.
- All readily available local and State information regarding problems with idle, orphaned, and abandoned oil and gas wells in in the County.
- An investigation as to whether bonding is adequate to cover well capping and drill site restoration

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Christiane Schlumberger
Santa Barbara

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Tristan Partridge <tristan.partridge@ucsb.edu>
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 9:17 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Public Comment for Virtual Public Meeting on Tuesday, May 24, 2022

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

To:
sbcob@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

FAO:
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

PUBLIC COMMENT for Virtual Public Meeting on Tuesday, May 24, 2022

I submit this comment in order to urge the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to address the serious and urgent impacts of idle oil wells across the County.

In light of the findings of a recent report by The Santa Barbara County Grand Jury, it is evident that 1,370 identified idle and orphaned oil and gas wells in Santa Barbara County pose a number of serious threats to environmental health and wellbeing. The most immediate impacts are to water and drinking water supplies, risks to health and air pollution, and contamination of soil and farmland. These are in addition to climate change impacts (as a result of methane leaks and other greenhouse gas emissions and leaks).

These risks will only worsen with time, as the condition of idle and orphaned wells deteriorates over time (and, as appears to happen with increasing frequency, as oil companies go bankrupt or cease operations for other reasons).

As is the case across the State and across the Country, oil and gas companies have supplied insufficient bonds or guarantees to cover the costs associated with handling their idle and orphaned (or abandoned) infrastructures. Santa Barbara County and California State lack the resources to sufficiently ensure protection of our environment and community health.

I urge Santa Barbara County to do everything possible, and everything required, to address these issues -- specifically by following expert advice in order to investigate, monitor, and regulate idle and orphaned oil and gas wells.

Along with many other concerned residents, I request that the Board of Supervisors direct staff to investigate the status and regulation of idle and orphaned wells and provide an annual report at a public hearing.

An effective Annual Report would include:

- (i) an inventory of the number and status of oil wells in the County including active, idle, orphaned, and abandoned wells, and the length of time wells have been sitting idle;
- (ii) a detailed record of all fluid and methane leaks, seeps, noncompliance, violations, and other problems from idle and orphaned wells;
- (iii) a record of all interagency coordination and actions taken by County Planning and Development, Air Pollution Control District ("APCD"), County Fire, CalGEM, and State Water Board;
- (iv) a review of all County, APCD, state, and federal ordinances, regulations, inspections, and enforcement programs that regulate idle wells;

- (v) a complete (and regularly updated) list of all readily available local and State information regarding both locations and problems associated with idle, orphaned, and abandoned oil and gas wells in in the County;
- (vi) an investigation as to whether bonding is adequate to cover well capping and drill site restoration (which would also have to be regularly reviewed to ensure that bonding measures are sufficient as costs increase in changing financial and meteorological climates).

Thank you, in advance, for taking action on these critical issues.

Sincerely,
Dr. Tristan Partridge

Research Fellow:
Institute for Social, Behavioral and Economic Research
University of California, Santa Barbara;
co-founder:
CREW Center for Restorative Environmental Work

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Carol Millar <carol@maconstruction.us>
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 10:16 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: idle oil wells

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear County Administrator,

I'm concerned about the idle wells in our county. The excerpt from a 2020 article by the LA Times shows why I'm concerned. Please do something!

California's oil industry is in decline, which increases the chances that companies will go out of business. That in turn could leave the state with the costs for cleaning up their drilling sites, which if left unremediated can contaminate water supplies and waft fumes into people's homes.

Carol Millar

Millar and Associates
Plans & Permits
805-722-2588

Ramirez, Angelica

From: karinlohwasser (null) <karinlohwasser@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 11:30 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Idle Wells Hearing

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear County of Santa Barbara leadership.

As a science educator who works with future and practicing science teachers, I am very concerned about the impacts our 1,370 uncapped idle and orphaned oil and gas wells here in Santa Barbara County will have on the the health of our students and their families, on clean air, drinking water, farmland, and the climate. This persistent issue needs to be adequately addressed to prevent future catastrophes. We well know that oil seeping from both active and idle wells can **contaminate the soil and groundwater**, and leaking **methane gas** can cause air pollution and is one of the **most potent greenhouse gases**. Furthermore, a cleanup after a hazardous spill may cost Santa Barbara County more that any preventive measures.

I therefore request that that the Board of Supervisors direct staff to:

- Follow the recommendations in the Grand Jury report.
- Create an inventory of
 - The number and status of oil wells in the County including active, idle, orphaned, and abandoned wells, and the length of time wells have been sitting idle.
 - Of all fluid and methane leaks, seeps, noncompliance, violations, and other problems from idle and orphaned wells
- Improve interagency coordination and actions by County Planning and Development, Air Pollution Control District ("APCD"), County Fire, CalGEM, and State Water Board to tackle this persistant problem.
- Report in public hearings on all County, APCD, state, and federal ordinances, regulations, inspections, and enforcement programs that regulate idle wells.
- Report in public hearings all available local and State information regarding problems with idle, orphaned, and abandoned oil and gas wells in in the County.
- Investigate whether bonding is adequate to cover well capping and drill site restoration.

Thank you for your strong support of a sustainable future here in Santa Barbara County, California and the world.

Best regards,
Dr. Karin Lohwasser
Avon Lane
Santa Barbara, CA 93105