

SANTA BARBARA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

September 15, 2015

To: Board of Supervisors, Santa Barbara County

Re: Venoco Ellwood Pipeline lease extension agreement

Recent events have heightened the concerns of many people, including members of the League of Women Voters, about the safety of oil and gas pipelines. Consequently we offer some comments on the proposed extension of the lease for the Ellwood pipelines from Platform Gail to the shore.

We agree with the staff recommendation that only a temporary 18-month extension be granted. A decision on a longer extension should not be made until a proper evaluation is made of the various factors affecting the pipelines' safe operation.

The League also agrees with the Environmental Defense Center's call for a third party examination of the inspection reports for the pipelines. "Trust but verify" is a good principle to follow when the accuracy of vitally important data is involved.

Lastly, since the League always advocates for an informed public and encourages participation in decisions, we urge you to hold public hearings when your investigation is complete and the decision is to be made.

Lindsey Baker, co-President

Contact: Jean Holmes, Energy Director