

Ramirez, Angelica

Public Comment

A-8

From: Nadia Abushanab <nadiasbcan@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 3, 2022 2:35 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Item A-9 Public Comment from SBCAN
Attachments: SBCAN Letter to BOS - Grand Jury Idle Wells.docx



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Hello,

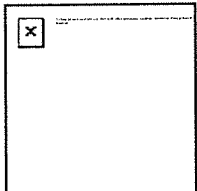
Please see this attached letter regarding Item A-9 Grand Jury Idle Wells Report.

Best,

Nadia

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Nadia Lee Abushanab (she/her)
Advocacy and Events Director
SBCAN
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March 4, 2022

RE: Item A-8 – Grand Jury Report: Idle Oil Wells in Santa Barbara County

Board of Directors

Dick Flacks,

Co-President South

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Dear Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors,

The Santa Barbara County Action Network (SBCAN) supports all four recommendations from the Grand Jury Report on Idle Wells in Santa Barbara County: (1) Annual staff report to the Board of Supervisors on idle wells health and environmental impacts, (2) annual report to the Board about the potential costs to Santa Barbara County from idle wells, (3) maintain adequate staff for regular monitoring of idle wells, (4) enforce compliance with the petroleum code for removal of oil equipment from idle wells.

There are 5,590 idle oil wells across Santa Barbara County. These idle wells pose threats to the health of nearby communities and to the environment, such as potential oil leaks, methane leaks, air pollution, and soil and groundwater contamination.

Idle wells also pose financial risks to the County and to taxpayers, as the companies responsible for the wells will often intentionally keep them idle as a way to defer necessary environmental cleanup. Also, often companies sometimes declare bankruptcy, forcing the County and taxpayers to cover the cost of plugging and abandoning the wells.

Please implement all the Grand Jury recommendations for idle oil wells and prohibit new and existing oil and gas projects like Los Angeles County did last year.

Executive Director

Ken Hough

Associate Director

Jeanne Sparks

Advocacy & Events Director

Nadia Lee Abushanab

Sincerely,

Ken Hough,
Executive Director

SBCAN

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