



December 12th, 2013

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Salud Carbajal, Chair

Board of Supervisors

County of Santa Barbara

123 East Anapamu Street

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: Proposed Oil Tax Measure

Dear Chair Carbajal and Honorable Supervisors,

The Community Environmental Council has the following suggestions for the proposed oil tax measure:

- Santa Barbara County should tax oil, as is done in many other jurisdictions. This tax should be percentage based rather than per barrel as oil prices fluctuate. Thus it would lower when prices go down and increase as prices rise. We think 10% of sales is an appropriate starting point. Oil prices and impacts are rising as we exploit tighter oil. Santa Barbara County's oil wealth should more broadly reach its citizens, rather than mostly profit oil companies, and once pumped, is gone forever. A higher tax means more benefit for local residents. If oil companies need to wait for these reserves to be economic, it is better for the local populace.

The proceeds should be used in ways that reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and oil, such as:

- Grants for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects at public agencies and non-profits in Santa Barbara County so schools, municipalities, special districts, transit agencies, water districts, non-profits, etc. could use competitive grants to make one time investments that would pay off every year in lower energy costs. This would be a gift that keeps on giving, as well as allows these entities to address deferred maintenance. Funds could be competitively awarded as grants for the most important and cost effective projects.
- A plus up fund for local residents purchasing a qualifying electric vehicle (this is done in San Joaquin Valley and would be easy to administer by giving \$1000 extra to anyone getting the \$1500-\$2500 California electric vehicle rebate) or solar system (could be a per kW incentive or a flat incentive).

Proceeds from this tax should be used as grants that keep on giving to public agencies/non-profits, and also to individuals that are reducing their energy use. The people of Santa Barbara County will resonate with the idea of taxing oil to make for a more secure future.

Sincerely,

Dave Davis, Executive Director

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