

Ramirez, Angelica

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**From:** Joe Armendariz <joe@armendarizpartners.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 24, 2020 8:58 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Cc:** Miyasato, Mona; Williams, Das; Hart, Gregg; Hartmann, Joan; Adam, Peter; stevelavagnino  
**Subject:** Item #3 Long Range Planning

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Tuesday, March 24, 2020

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors  
Supervisor Greg Hart, Chair  
Supervisor Williams  
Supervisor Hartmann  
Supervisor Adams  
Supervisor Lavagnino

Re: Long Range Planning Work Program 2020/21

We respectfully ask that these comments be read into the record

Good Morning/Afternoon Members of the Board:

The Santa Barbara County Taxpayers Association (SBCTA) welcomes this opportunity to address your Board during this unprecedented time in the history of our nation, and county.

While we recognize there are significantly more pressing and timely issues that your Board is dealing with today, still, we feel compelled to add our group’s voice to the issue of Planning & Development’s Long Range Planning Division’s Work Program. With respect to the Environmental Defense Center’s (EDC) letter to Lisa plowman, Director of P&D, dated March 20<sup>th</sup>, SBCTA joins the EDC in their acknowledgement that Santa Barbara County’s oil and gas industry should be a major part of the Long Range Planning Division’s focus. Indeed, we welcome the opportunity to debate the particulars of the EDC’s recommendations. And we endorse the need as well as the importance of concentrating significant staff resources on how Santa Barbara County can make our local energy industry, not only a key player in driving our economy forward, but, also, a key player in improving the overall quality of life for Santa Barbara County’s families.

Based on the industry's operational safety record over these past many years, there should be little debate over the fact that Santa Barbara County's oil and gas sector is committed to running their operations safely, and responsibly, in other words, ethically. And while there are clearly some areas where the industry believes county rules and regulations are an impediment to the larger goal of energy prosperity, our energy industry had stood ready and committed to working with any and all stakeholders in our county who are committed to the economic health of our county's economy. And we believe this is of specially importance in the North County where according to nearly every economic metric, our families in the North County are lagging behind families in the South County.

SBCTA welcomes the County's Long Range Planning Division to join this vital and urgent discussion in hopes that an economic strategy can finally be developed to not only create new high-paying jobs for our families who need them the most, but also to generate higher levels of discretionary revenues for the county to fund so many of our essential programs and services, including public safety, public-works, and public-health.

Sincerely,

Joe Armendariz  
Executive Director, SBCTA  
[www.sbcta.org](http://www.sbcta.org)