



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: CEO
Department No.: 012
For Agenda Of: May 12, 2015
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Tme: 20 minutes
Continued Item: NA
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department County of Santa Barbara Legislative Program Committee
Director(s):
Contact Info: Terri Maus-Nisich, Assistant County Executive Officer, 568-3400

SUBJECT: Potential Advocacy Position of Legislation: AB 356 (Williams) – Oil and gas:
groundwater monitoring

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: No

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: NA

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

Option 1:

- A. Take an advocacy position of support, watch, or oppose on AB 356 (Williams): Oil and gas: groundwater monitoring; and
- B. Direct staff to forward, and authorize the Chair to sign a letter stating the Board's decision to the legislative author, members of the legislature including, but not limited to, the county legislative delegation, and appropriate committee chairs; and
- C. Determine pursuant to CEQA Guideline 15378(b)(5) that the above action is not a project subject to CEQA review because it is an administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Option 2:

- A. Take no position on AB 356 (Williams): Oil and gas: groundwater monitoring; and
- B. Determine pursuant to CEQA Guideline 15378(b)(5) that the above action is not a project subject to CEQA review because it is an administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda for the Board of Supervisors to consider taking a position on AB 356 (Williams): Oil and gas: groundwater monitoring. On April 7, 2015, the Legislative Program Committee directed staff to bring AB 356 to the Board of Supervisors for consideration and following

Planning and Development's report on Oil and Gas Wastewater Injection Wells in Santa Barbara County.

Background:

AB 356 requires that the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) provide written concurrence prior to aquifer exemption proposals being submitted by the Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) to U.S. EPA. Additionally, AB 356 requires that underground injection project operators submit a groundwater management monitoring plan prior to project approval or through the annual review process.

Key provisions of the legislation include but are not limited to the following:

- Ensure that aquifer exemptions are thoroughly vetted by DOGGR and SWRCB with public input prior to submitting them to the U.S EPA.
- Require that injection projects are regularly reviewed to ensure compliance with federal and state rules.
- Ensure oil and gas operators' injection projects utilize appropriate aquifers.
- Require monitoring plans to ensure underground injection does not pollute water that could be used for drinking water or other beneficial uses and that injections do not migrate into nearby protected aquifers.

Registered Support and Opposition:

Support

Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
Association of California Water Agencies
California Environmental Justice Alliance
California League of Conservation Voters
Center on Race, Poverty, and the Environment
Citizens Coalition for a Safe Community
Citizens for Responsible Oil and Gas
Clean Water Action
Coastal Environmental Rights Foundation
Community Health Councils
Earthworks
East Bay Municipal Utility District
Environmental Defense Center
Environmental Justice Coalition for Water
Environmental Working Group
Foothill Conservancy
Goleta Water District
League of Women Voters of California
Los Angeles Waterkeeper
Los Padres Forest Watch
Natural Resource Defense Council
Physicians for Social Responsibility, San Francisco Bay Area Chapter
SanDiego350
Save the Sespe
Sierra Club

Southern Monterey County Rural Coalition
Ventura County Board of Supervisors
Wholly H20

Opposition

CalChamber
California Independent Petroleum Association
Independent Oil Producers Agency
Western States Petroleum Association

Attachments:

Attachment A: AB 356 Fact Sheet
Attachment B: AB 356 Legislative Counsel's Digest
Attachment C: AB 356 Bill Analysis

Authored by:

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cc:

Glenn S. Russell, PhD., RPA, Director of Planning and Development