

Ramirez, Angelica

Public Comment

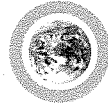
#2

**From:** Brigitta Van Der Raay <bvanderraay@cox.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 20, 2022 10:35 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** input for County Supervisors re: Idle Oil and Gas Wells  
**Attachments:** Letter to County Supervisors re Idle Oil and Gas Wells 041822 .pdf



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Thank you for directing our input to the County Board of Supervisors.



# The Climate Reality Project®

SANTA BARBARA, CA CHAPTER

May 18, 2022

Dear Board of Supervisors,

The Climate Reality Project, Santa Barbara Chapter, is concerned that adequate steps may not have been taken in the past to investigate, monitor, and regulate idle, orphaned, and abandoned oil and gas wells in this county. Leaks of oil or methane in these types of wells have serious ongoing deleterious effects to our health via contamination of soil and aquifers, and contributing to greenhouse gas emissions. The effects of oil and gas leaks are costly and difficult to rehabilitate, and in many instances, these costs have fallen upon taxpayers to cover.

As you prepare your response to the Santa Barbara Grand Jury findings and recommendations, we hope that you will ensure that State and County requirements for removing equipment and securing idle, orphaned, and abandoned wells are thoroughly and stringently applied for all of our safety.

We agree with others asking the county to provide a public annual report that discloses:

- The number and status of active, idle, orphaned, and abandoned oil wells in the County, and the length of time wells have been sitting idle.
- Records of leaks, seeps, noncompliance, violations, and other problems from idle, orphaned, and abandoned wells, along with disclosure of the owners of such wells.
- Actions taken by County Planning and Development, Air Pollution Control District ("APCD"), County Fire, CalGEM, the US Forest Service, and the State Water Board to inspect and enforce regulations regarding idle, orphaned, and abandoned oil and gas wells, and
- The adequacy of industry posted bonds to cover well capping and site restorations.

If it is indeed CalGEM's responsibility to oversee these matters, we request that you emphasize the need for them to more thoroughly monitor idle, orphaned, and abandoned well conditions than they have in the past. Please also ensure that the appropriate county departments are directed, funded and staffed to check the veracity of CalGEM's reports. As taxpayers, we request that you ensure that every company takes full responsibility for protecting our health and environment, and will be required to post adequate bonds to financially cover any mitigations and restorations that might be necessary.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter, since oil and gas leaks affect everyone's health, our natural resources, and our valuable agricultural businesses.

Sincerely,

Brigitta Van Der Raay, Chair  
Climate Reality Project, Santa Barbara Chapter  
70 members