

**Lee-Rodriguez, Nicole**

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**From:** Allen, Michael (COB)  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 04, 2011 3:50 PM  
**To:** sbcob; Brennan, Kaitlin; Lee-Rodriguez, Nicole; Barker, Russ  
**Subject:** FW: Hydraulic Fracking in Los Alamos Area

Y'all,

To be distributed Monday – Thanks

Mike

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**From:** Farr, Doreen  
**Sent:** Friday, June 03, 2011 5:25 PM  
**To:** Allen, Michael (COB)  
**Subject:** FW: Hydraulic Fracking in Los Alamos Area

Hi Mike – Although this letter was addressed to me, it really should go to all of the Board members as part of the packet for the fracking agenda item this Tuesday. Can you make copies for everyone? Thanks so much.

Doreen

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**From:** Kevin Barnard [mailto:kbarnard@dock.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 02, 2011 12:51 PM  
**To:** Farr, Doreen  
**Subject:** Hydraulic Fracking in Los Alamos Area

Dear Supervisor Farr,

As you are aware, there has recently been a lot of concerns from residents about hydraulic fracking within Santa Barbara County, and more specifically the Venoco hydraulic fracking operation 5-miles downstream from the Districts closest water well. There are many unanswered questions about the Venoco operation that has led to speculation and genuine concern from residents. The Los Alamos Community Services District provides water and wastewater service to the Community of Los Alamos (approximately 1600 people) and has the responsibility of providing a safe and healthy potable water supply to all. The San Antonio Groundwater Basin is one of our greatest resources, not just to the District and our residents but for all that live within the Los Alamos Valley and when there is a concern about our groundwater supply and the potential for that resource to be contaminated, the Los Alamos Community Services District and the residents of Los Alamos take those concerns very seriously.

The purpose of this letter is to convey to you the Los Alamos Community Services Districts thoughts and feelings on the hydraulic fracking issue, not only in our area but County wide. I want to first start off by saying that we are grateful to you as our 3<sup>rd</sup> District Board Supervisor for taking a leadership role by researching and actively seeking answers to questions and concerns from our customers and residents within the Los Alamos Valley. Your effort in bringing this to the Board of Supervisors Meeting on June 7, 2011, is a big step in the beginning of the process to ensure that our natural resources within Santa Barbara County are protected now

and in the future, with operations such as hydraulic fracking.

The District has been inundated with concerns from residents over the Venoco hydraulic fracking operation and fracking operations within our area in general. Because of this, I have been in contact with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), who is the District's primary agency with respect to our potable water supply, to advise them of the growing concerns from our residents. CDPH was unaware of the Venoco operation and had their own concerns and questions for the District regarding this issue. I was advised by the CDPH that the California Department of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) has the statutory authority, to permit, regulate and to oversee hydraulic fracking operations below ground.

I have made several attempts since May 17, 2011, to contact DOGGR at the Santa Maria office, as well as, the Sacramento office through e-mail and telephone calls and to date have had no response to our questions or to the questions from CDPH. Information that I have obtained has come from Venoco and residents of the District but not from the agency that supposedly has the responsibility to permit, oversee and inspect operations such as this.

There is a real concern from myself and our Board of Directors, as well as, from our residents over the lack of communication, oversight and inspection from a State Agency such as DOGGR in regards to these types of operation. Maybe DOGGR has been part of the process by overseeing, inspecting and ensuring that what was applied for by Venoco in their application for permit has been strictly adhered to or maybe DOGGR only has a limited amount of authority in the overall process, but trying to get what seems like basic information from DOGGR has been non-existent and does not help when trying to ease the concerns of the District and those of our residence.

In conclusion, it appears, based on the duration of the hydraulic fracking operation (12-16 hours), depth (8,000 to 12,000 feet) and the location 5-miles downstream from the District's nearest water well that there is no danger of contamination to the District's water supply at this time. With that said we are taking precautionary measures by taking additional water quality samples for Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOC's) as advised by CDPH now and again in 6-8 months.

The District is still actively trying to obtain a copy of the Venoco Hydraulic Fracking Well Plan (if one exists), as well as, trying to get additional information on the waste being injected back into the ground through the use of injection wells. In moving forward in the future, the District would like to see the following;

1. A better coordinated effort and communication on the part of the agency issuing the permit, such as DOGGR in answering questions from water purveyor's or the public.
2. Legislation at both the State and Federal level addressing gaps in the oversight of hydraulic fracturing.
3. Requiring the applicant to have a Well Plan and an Emergency Notification Plan on file, there should be notification protocols in the event of any leaks during the fracking operation, chemical spills, detections in monitoring wells, etc. (the Los Alamos CSD should be on these lists)

4. Types and quantities of chemicals being used and protective measures in place to prevent contamination to our groundwater supplies.
5. Comment periods for the project, like there is for all other projects.
6. Environmental Impact Reviews to ensure the safety of our ground water supply for these types of operation, if the County or State feel they are necessary.
7. Regular documented inspection and enforcement of these permits.
8. Water quality monitoring before, throughout and after the hydraulic fracking operation has taken place to ensure no contamination has occurred.

Again, on behalf of the Los Alamos Community Services District and our Board of Directors, I would like to Thank-You for all your hard work and effort towards resolving this issue within our County and for moving us forward in a direction that will continue to responsibly safeguard our natural resources County wide. If you have any question please feel free to contact me anytime.

Sincerely,

Kevin Barnard  
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Los Alamos CSD  
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