



**Background:**

The 2021-22 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury investigated the regulatory roles of County agencies in managing and mitigating oil seepage as they pertain to onshore idle wells. The Jury found that the health and environmental risks of idle wells do not appear to be adequately addressed; the County may have some fiscal liabilities resulting from inadequate monitoring of idle wells; active County staff at present appear at times to be too few to adequately monitor idle wells in the County; and, the Santa Barbara County Code provisions regarding removal of drilling equipment and derricks from idle wells are not fully enforced.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Staff anticipates no fiscal or facilities impacts as a result of the Board's action on this matter.

**Special Instructions:**

1. As per Recommendation b), please forward the original signed letter and responses to the Presiding Judge of Santa Barbara County Superior Court.
2. Please send a copy of the signed letter and a copy of the minute order to Reese Ellestad, Fiscal & Policy Analyst, CEO office.

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: Board of Supervisors Response

Attachment B: FY2020-21 Grand Jury Report

**Authored by:**

Reese Ellestad, Fiscal & Policy Analyst, County Executive Office