

# SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



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

**Agenda Number:**  
**Prepared on:** 8/3/06  
**Department Name:** Public Health - EHS  
**Department No.:** 041  
**Agenda Date:** 8/15/06  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimate Time:**  
**Continued Item:** NO  
**If Yes, date from:**

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Elliot Schulman, MD, MPH  
Director/Health Officer, Public Health Department

**STAFF CONTACT:** Rick Merrifield  
Director, Environmental Health Services  
691-4934

**SUBJECT:** Abandoned Well at 1990 Las Canoas Rd., Santa Barbara

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## **Recommendation(s):**

That the Board of Supervisors:

Receive a report by Environment Health Services confirming abatement of a public safety hazard and potential source of groundwater contamination posed by an open, abandoned well located at 1990 Las Canoas Rd., Santa Barbara area, First District.

## **Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:**

The recommendation is primarily aligned with Goal #2: A Safe and Healthy Community in Which to Live, Work and Visit.

## **Executive Summary and Discussion:**

On June 7, 2005 Environmental Health Services provided a report to the Board of Supervisors regarding our efforts to eliminate a safety hazard posed by an open, abandoned well located on the property at 1990 Las Canoas in Santa Barbara, pursuant to Section 18-1 of the County Code. That report, based on a County Code mandate that staff report such hazards to the Board of Supervisors, stated that staff would report back to your Board on the progress of our efforts or recommend further action if necessary to ensure abatement of the hazard.

As reported last June, the property owner was uncooperative, denying access to the property and refusing to communicate directly with staff assigned to the case. After initial letters and notices were refused, Environmental Health Services was eventually successful in serving a Final Notice informing the owner that,

due to his lack of compliance, the County intended to retain the services of a licensed contractor to destroy the well and that the property owner would be liable for the cost of abatement.

The property owner proposed a solution and a temporary but adequate fence was constructed around the well in November 2005, mitigating the immediate safety hazard. Shortly thereafter, the property changed hands and Environmental Health Services contacted the new owner who was much more cooperative. In February 2006, staff met on site with a representative of the property owner and his contractor to discuss the work necessary to enclose the top of the well. Work began on February 14th and was completed on March 7, 2006. The top of the well is now fully enclosed in concrete with access restricted by a heavy, lockable metal hatch. With the satisfactory completion of this work, Environmental Health Services has concluded its abatement efforts and ceased all enforcement action.

**Mandates and Service Levels:**

There are no mandates and or service levels affected by the acceptance of this report.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

There are no fiscal or facilities impacts associated with accepting this report.

**Special Instructions:**

Please return a copy of the minute order to PHD Contracts Unit, 300 North San Antonio Rd, Building 8, Santa Barbara, CA 93110. Attn: Margaret Granger (5805) 681-5367.

**Concurrence:**

None required

**Attachment I:** Before and after photographs

