

Katherine Douglas

Public Comment

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**From:** Jenelle Osborne <jenelle@econalliance.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 12, 2025 12:38 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Public Comment Submission for May 13, 2025 Agenda, Item 8  
**Attachments:** SBCBOS May13 2025 Agenda Item 8 EconAlliance Public Comment.pdf

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Please see attached Public Comment submitted for Agenda Item 8 of the May 13, 2025, Board Of Supervisors' meeting submitted by EconAlliance.  
Confirmation receipt requested. Thank you.

Regards,

*Jenelle*

Jenelle Osborne, CEO



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*Building Awareness, Advocacy, Support and Appreciation for  
Northern Santa Barbara County Industries and Communities*

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors  
401 E. Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Date: May 9, 2025

Subject: EconAlliance Opposition to Proposed Ban on New Oil and Gas Drilling

Dear Honorable Members of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of the EconAlliance, a nonprofit dedicated to fostering awareness, advocacy, and support for Northern Santa Barbara County industries and communities, we respectfully oppose the County's proposed ban on new oil and gas well drilling. While we applaud efforts to protect our environment, this ban risks significant economic and energy challenges for our region, undermining the collaborative, cross-industry prosperity EconAlliance champions. The oil and gas sector is deeply interconnected, and stopping local drilling could disrupt fuel production, transportation, and retail, affecting far more than just oil wells. Local oil is essential for keeping fuel affordable and available, as California's oil supply is shrinking faster than our need for gasoline and diesel. Without enough local oil, refineries—some already closing due to strict regulations and high costs—may struggle to secure raw materials, forcing reliance on expensive, less reliable fuel shipped from overseas. This could lead to higher gas prices, already a burden for families, and potential shortages that hit our communities hardest. Recent state policies have contributed to fuel cost increases and supply issues, and the Governor has emphasized working with the industry to ensure reliable, affordable fuel during the shift to cleaner energy. However, the County's focus on halting drilling overlooks the broader economic impact, including thousands of jobs and millions in tax revenue from the oil and gas sector's refining, transportation, and retail activities. Without a plan to support workers and businesses affected by the ban, our region faces economic hardship, particularly in Northern Santa Barbara County, where industries drive community vitality.

The proposed ban also exposes the County to legal uncertainties that could hinder its effectiveness and drain resources. New state laws allowing local drilling bans are facing challenges from industry groups, who argue they conflict with state and federal oversight of oil and gas operations. Past court rulings have overturned similar local restrictions for overstepping authority, suggesting this ban could lead to costly lawsuits. Such legal battles risk diverting funds from critical community needs and delaying environmental progress, especially when the state is calling for cooperative strategies to balance energy and climate goals.

EconAlliance is committed to building thriving, competitive industries and communities in Northern Santa Barbara County. The drilling ban threatens this vision by risking fuel affordability, job security, and economic stability without a clear transition plan. We urge the Board to reconsider the ban, collaborate with state leaders to align with California's energy transition goals, and assess the full economic, supply, and legal impacts to ensure a balanced approach that protects both our environment and our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennie A. Brown", is written over a light blue horizontal line.