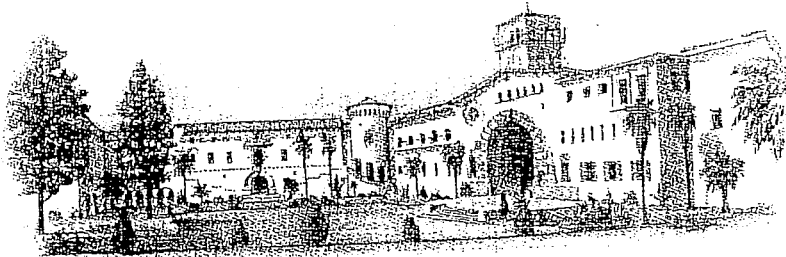


HONI GRAY
Fourth District, Chair
SALUD CARBAJAL
First District
JANET WOLF
Second District
DOREEN FARR
Third District, Vice Chair
STEVE LAVAGNINO
Fifth District



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
County Administration Building
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Telephone: (805) 568-2190
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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

April 11, 2011

Curtis Fossum
Executive Officer
California State Lands Commission
100 Howe Avenue
Suite 100-South
Sacramento, CA 95825

Elena Miller
State Oil & Gas Supervisor
California Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources
801 K Street, MS 20-20
Sacramento, CA 95814-3530

Reference: Abandoned Nearshore Oil Wells in Santa Barbara County

Dear Mr. Fossum and Ms. Miller;

The Board of Supervisors is requesting that your agency provide an in-person presentation to the County Board of Supervisors on your knowledge of the locations abandoned oil wells within the coastal areas of Santa Barbara County, the impacts of these wells on the environment as far as oil release, what steps have been taken to mitigate the abandoned wells and what future plans exist to further mitigate the wells' seepage.

During the 19th and early 20th centuries nearshore oil exploration was prolific along the Santa Barbara County shoreline. After the oil wells lost their production value these oil wells were abandoned. Unfortunately, at the time of abandonment there were no standards or oversight provided by any regulatory entity. As a result, these nearshore oil wells were left in a condition that now provides inadequate protection to the Santa Barbara County coastal environment. Because the responsible parties for these wells have not existed for several decades, the State of California now has responsibility for these sites.

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors understands that your agencies, working with other State agencies such as the California Fish & Game Department's Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) and Federal partners, has conducted analysis of the abandoned oil well problem and the complicating geologic aspects of the wells' placements.

We respectfully request that you contact Jeremy Tittle of Santa Barbara County First District Supervisor Salud Carbajal's office at (805)568- 2186 by May 13th, 2011 to further discuss this matter and to schedule a presentation before the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors.

Sincerely,

Honi Gray, Chair
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

cc:

Lois Capps, Member of Congress, 23rd Congressional District

Chair Gavin Newsom and Members of the California State Lands Commission

Tony Strickland, Member of the California State Senate, 19th District

Das Williams, Member of the California State Assembly, 35th District

John Laird, Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency

Brian Baird, Assistant Secretary Ocean and Coastal Policy, California Natural Resources Agency

Derek Chernow, Acting Director, Department of Conservation

Bruce Hesson, District 2 Deputy, California Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas,
and Geothermal Resources

Greg Scott, Division Chief, Marine Resources and Management Division California State Lands
Commission