

#2

Public Comment

Ramirez, Angelica

From: hillary@healtheocean.org
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 1:08 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Re: May 24, 2022 Agenda Item #2 - Santa Barbara County Grand Jury Report Regarding Idle Oil Wells
Attachments: HTO to Board of Supervisors 5-24-2022 Hearing Agenda Item 2.pdf

LATE
DIST

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Honorable Supervisors:
Please see attached.

Hillary Hauser

Hillary Hauser, Executive Director
Heal the Ocean
1430 Chapala Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 965-7570 Mobile: (805) 895-5559
www.healtheocean.org



1430 Chapala Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101;
PO Box 90106, Santa Barbara, CA 93190; Telephone (805) 965-7570; fax (805) 962-0651
www.healtheocean.org

May 20, 2021

Joan Hartmann, Chair
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors by Email: sbcob@co.santa-barbara.ca.us
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

**Re: May 24, 2022 Agenda Item #2 - Santa Barbara County Grand Jury Report Regarding
Idle Oil Wells in Santa Barbara County**

Dear Chair Hartmann and Honorable Supervisors:

Heal the Ocean would like to give full support to the urgings of the Environmental Defense Center to the Board of Supervisors that at your May 24, 2022 hearing you **vote to support the 2021 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury findings regarding idle onshore oil and gas wells; and to direct staff to prepare an annual public report to the Board on the status of idle and orphaned oil and gas wells in Santa Barbara County.**

Heal the Ocean has been working closely for a number of years with the State Lands Commission and its engineers to cap the leaking oil wells off Summerland, which for years has been oiling the ocean and coastline, very often leaving the area unhealthy for human recreation. We expended considerable funds to produce a report that ensured the passage of SB 44 (Hannah-Beth Jackson), which brings in \$2 million per year to cap leaking wells. Five wells have been capped, with two more scheduled for late 2022. The water quality in Summerland is significantly improved, but the work is slow.

We joined State Lands to successfully petition the Department of Interior to direct funding from the Biden Infrastructure Bill Orphaned Well Program to include "legacy wells," as the Summerland wells are called. The cleanup work has to increase until we get a firm handle on the oil problems plaguing this area of Santa Barbara County coastline.

Because Santa Barbara County has been so besieged by oil operations that have come and gone, leaving our citizens to pay the price of improper abandonment, leakages, spills, etc., we believe the County Grand Jury findings are important, and that a regular tally of idle and orphaned oil and gas wells should be undertaken by the County as the Environmental Defense Center recommends. Thank you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Hillary Hauser'.

Hillary Hauser, Executive Director