

Ramirez, Angelica

Public Comment- Group 4

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**From:** Javiera Barandiaran <javiera.barandiaran@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 22, 2022 12:02 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENT for Virtual Public Meeting on Tuesday, May 24, 2022



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FAO:  
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

PUBLIC COMMENT for Virtual Public Meeting on Tuesday, May 24, 2022

I submit this comment in order to urge the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to address the serious and urgent impacts of idle oil wells across the County.

In light of the findings of a recent report by The Santa Barbara County Grand Jury, it is evident that 1,370 identified idle and orphaned oil and gas wells in Santa Barbara County pose a number of serious threats to environmental health and wellbeing. The most immediate impacts are to water and drinking water supplies, risks to health and air pollution, and contamination of soil and farmland. These are in addition to climate change impacts (as a result of methane leaks and other greenhouse gas emissions and leaks).

These risks will only worsen with time, as the condition of idle and orphaned wells deteriorates over time (and, as appears to happen with increasing frequency, as oil companies go bankrupt or cease operations for other reasons).

As is the case across the State and across the Country, oil and gas companies have supplied insufficient bonds or guarantees to cover the costs associated with handling their idle and orphaned (or abandoned) infrastructures. Santa Barbara County and California State lack the resources to sufficiently ensure protection of our environment and community health.

I urge Santa Barbara County to do everything possible, and everything required, to address these issues -- specifically by following expert advice in order to investigate, monitor, and regulate idle and orphaned oil and gas wells.

Along with many other concerned residents, I request that the Board of Supervisors direct staff to investigate the status and regulation of idle and orphaned wells and provide an annual report at a public hearing.

An effective Annual Report would include:

- (i) an inventory of the number and status of oil wells in the County including active, idle, orphaned, and abandoned wells, and the length of time wells have been sitting idle;
- (ii) a detailed record of all fluid and methane leaks, seeps, noncompliance, violations, and other problems from idle and orphaned wells;
- (iii) a record of all interagency coordination and actions taken by County Planning and Development, Air Pollution Control District ("APCD"), County Fire, CalGEM, and State Water Board;
- (iv) a review of all County, APCD, state, and federal ordinances, regulations, inspections, and enforcement programs that regulate idle wells;
- (v) a complete (and regularly updated) list of all readily available local and State information regarding both locations and problems associated with idle, orphaned, and abandoned oil and gas wells in in the County;

(vi) an investigation as to whether bonding is adequate to cover well capping and drill site restoration (which would also have to be regularly reviewed to ensure that bonding measures are sufficient as costs increase in changing financial and meteorological climates).

Thank you, in advance, for taking action on these critical issues.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Javiera Barandiaran

**de la Guerra, Sheila**

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**From:** Marika Davidek <ma713ek@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 23, 2022 11:42 AM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Water wells

**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.**

I can not understand why you are even considering new water wells when our water table is so very low as it is?  
Why don't we let the water level charge up and not drain off any more?

Marika Davidek [ma713ek@gmail.com](mailto:ma713ek@gmail.com)