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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
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August 10, 2011

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

Ms. Elena Miller, State Oil & Gas Supervisor
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 wants to thank the State staff for providing considerable information and background on the important problem of abandoned near-shore oil wells within Santa Barbara County (also referred to as "orphaned wells").

During its deliberations of August 2, 2011, the Board indicated, that while historic progress has been made in regard to abandoned near-shore oil wells, they believe the State lacks a long-term "Master Plan" approach to the problem in Santa Barbara County. The State would benefit by developing a plan that would inform, guide and prioritize the State's responsibilities in rehabilitating these sites to protect the environment and the public's health from these wells.

During the August 2, 2011 Board hearing, the need for the State to mitigate the leak at the Becker wellhead was emphasized. A Master Plan would help the County and its jurisdictions understand the projects being undertaken and the status of other similar projects. Just recently, in addition to the orphaned wells, the County was informed of work to be done on State Land's proposed Hazard Sites in the areas of Tajiguas, Ellwood West and Santa Barbara Shores. The Master Plan would be a valuable tool to see how these individual projects are prioritized and executed in a way to maximize the public benefit of hazard mitigation while possibly reducing costs through coordination of efforts.

The Board of Supervisors requests that the State develop a Master Plan addressing the impacts, maintenance needs, necessary environmental and public health responses as well as the long-term impact mitigation of identified near-shore oil wells in Santa Barbara County. As part of this Master Plan the State Lands Commission and the Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources should also work together to identify and utilize all possible funding sources from their respective agencies. The Board is requesting an update to a strategic plan development by the end of January 2012. Progress on funding and implementation of mitigation projects such as the Becker well at Summerland Beach should continue to move forward and not be delayed while the Master Plan is prepared.

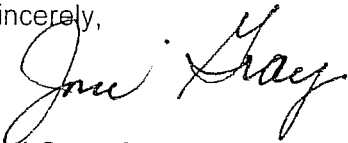
A Master Plan update may be provided to the following individual:

Michael Harris, Emergency Operations Chief
County Executive Office
Office of Emergency Services
4408 Cathedral Oaks Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93110.

If you have any questions or need additional information please contact Mr. Harris at (805) 681-5526 or at earndt@countyofsb.org.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Joni Gray, Chair
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

Cc: Members of the Board of Supervisors, County of Santa Barbara
Lois Capps, Member of Congress, 23rd Congressional District
Chair Gavin Newsom & 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
Chandra Wallar, Executive Officer, Santa Barbara County
Michael D. Harris, Emergency Operations Chief, Santa Barbara County
Glenn Russell, Director, Santa Barbara County Planning & Development Department
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 & Management Division California State Lands Commission