



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF SANTA BARBARA

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Statement to Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, September 20, 2011

Subject: Hydraulic Fracturing (Fracking)

I'm Dr. Linda Phillips, speaking for the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara. As you know, the League has studied the risks involved in oil and gas production for many years. Currently our concerns about fracking in Santa Barbara County are buttressed by the very serious problems in other states. Both our national and state Leagues have supported better oversight of the process and disclosure of the chemicals involved.

We note that although there is legislation pending on both the state and national level to address – or begin to address – this problem, the bills are not moving and their final shape cannot be predicted. The state regulatory agency, DOGGR, has insufficient funding to properly regulate fracking, even though it has the authority. So **it is important for the County to clarify and enforce its own regulations.** A local effort will also benefit from this county's long experience with oil and gas.

We also urge you to ask the Fire Department to consider requiring submission of a new or updated Hazardous Materials Business Plan for these operations, earlier than the current 30 days. The Business Plan is important not only for disclosure of chemicals, but also for prevention of and response to, any accidents.

Fracking may not be in common use here at this time, but it has been used and may well become more common in the future. The League supports your staff's recommendations.

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS