A-17

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Katherine Douglas Public Comment - Sierra Club SB-Ventura

From: Maureen Ellenberger <melle2007@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 7, 2025 11:52 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: Letter to Supervisors re: December 9th re: Agenda Item A-17 from Sierra Club

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December 7, 2025

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

105 East Anapamu Street

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Dear Chair Capps and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

On behalf of the Sierra Club Santa Barbara Ventura Chapter, I write to urge you to vote YES on December 9th in support of the Make Polluters Pay legislation that will be considered by the California Legislature in 2026.

This critical legislation holds oil and gas companies accountable for the climate damage they have caused and continues to cause in our communities. For decades—since the 1970s—these corporations knew about the catastrophic impacts of fossil fuel emissions on our climate. Internal documents reveal they understood the science, yet they deliberately suppressed this information, misled the public, and funded disinformation campaigns to protect their profits while our planet warmed.

Santa Barbara County has witnessed firsthand the devastating consequences of climate change: intensifying wildfires, severe droughts, coastal erosion, and threats to our agricultural economy and natural resources. Meanwhile, the oil and gas industry has reaped enormous profits while taxpayers bear the mounting costs of climate adaptation, disaster response, and infrastructure repair.

The Make Polluters Pay legislation would require these companies to contribute their fair share toward addressing the climate crisis they knowingly created. This is not a radical concept—it is a matter of basic accountability. Just as we expect other industries to be responsible for the harm they cause, fossil fuel companies must pay for the long-term damage inflicted on our communities and our climate.

Sierra Club California strongly supports this legislation, recognizing it as an essential step toward climate justice. We urge the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to join municipalities and counties across California in supporting this measure.

Your YES vote on December 9th will send a powerful message that Santa Barbara County stands with communities, not polluters. It will demonstrate that we demand accountability from an industry that chose profits over our planet's future.

Thank you for your consideration and leadership on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Maureen Ellenberger, Chair

On behalf of the Sierra Club

Santa Barbara Ventura Chapter