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de la Guerra, Sheila **Public Comment**

From: Brigitta Van Der Raay <bvanderraay@cox.net>
Sent: Monday, March 7, 2022 4:56 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Letter requesting denial of Exxon proposal to truck oil for tomorrow's hearing
Attachments: Letter to SB Co Supervisors re Exxon Trucking .docx



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Dear Clerk of the Board,

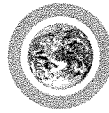
Attached is our letter of input representing the Santa Barbara Chapter of Climate Reality Project, for tomorrow's SB County Supervisor's hearing on ExxonMobile's proposal to truck oil.

Thank you very much for directing our input.

Brigitta Van Der Raay, Chair

357 Arroyo Road

Santa Barbara, CA 93110



The Climate Reality Project®

SANTA BARBARA, CA CHAPTER

March 7, 2022

Dear Santa Barbara County Supervisors,

On behalf of the 48 members of The Climate Reality Project-Santa Barbara residing in this county, we request your denial of ExxonMobil's proposal to truck oil along Highway 101 and Route 166.

Our chapter is particularly concerned about this project's proposed addition of greenhouse gases to the air and the insufficiency of the associated mitigation measure.

The County Planning Staff's analyses for this project were based on greenhouse gas threshold levels of concern that do not do enough to decrease our greenhouse gas levels, which we need to ensure future livable conditions. These threshold levels of concern were developed before we understood the full impact and consequences of climate change and global warming, and do not adequately address the cumulative effect of continuing our assessments of emissions as we have in the past. We know better now, and need to take our production of greenhouse gases much more seriously. To base our decisions on ineffective threshold levels would be negligent to the best interests of our population, which we all hope our policy makers are most concerned with. We realize that you have many interests of concern; however, we implore you to place them in true perspective- health-wise, economically, and in terms of future costs and benefits. In this regard, reversing global warming is paramount, because we can no longer afford the consequences of ignoring the causes. Without our health and wellbeing, nothing else matters.

The greenhouse gas mitigation measure included in this proposed project is based on the assumption that carbon offsets are effective. Offsets are known to be problematic, ineffective, and a poor substitute for simply not adding to the problem. What confidence do we have, that either the monitoring or the mitigation will be effective?

We have experienced severe local and state drought conditions for years, with the attendant costs for wildfire, water shortages, agricultural losses, and development constrictions. Santa Barbara City has already begun planning for sea level rise, which will cause significant real estate and infrastructure costs.

Five of the six largest wildfires in California history occurred in 2020, costing us taxpayers exorbitant prices to fight, as well to rebuild roads, bridges, and infrastructure thereafter. We've experienced frightening local fires on the hills above Santa Barbara and Santa Maria in the past few years. The Zaca Fire burned a large portion of the Los Padres National Forest from Cuyama to Santa Barbara, and from I-5 to Santa Maria. The Thomas fire caused huge residential damages in the eastern part of the county.

The Alisal fire was burning 25 miles northwest of Santa Barbara just last fall. Who paid for the local fire departments' efforts, or for CALFIRE?

Cleanup and reduction efforts to lower the already too high greenhouse gases are too costly to taxpayers, and should be properly borne by Exxon, and other future project proponents contributing greenhouse gases. Expecting your taxpayers to foot the bill is in effect subsidizing the fossil fuel industry by paying for the industry's air pollution. Exxon is not paying the true cost of their operations, which I am sure you would object to, on behalf of your constituents.

Can we afford to NOT pay attention to climate warming? Warmer air conditions cause storms to carry and drop larger amounts of water, at much faster rates than in the past. The evening news has been replete with larger and more frequent flooding disasters across our country. But frankly, can anything compare for us to the devastating flood in Montecito, which resulted in 21 fatalities, 2 missing persons, 129 destroyed residences and 307 damaged residences?

All these issues are directly linked to climate change, caused by neglecting our growing carbon emissions. Scientists and reports have been warning us for decades. Yet, in the day-to-day operations of our county, state, and national policies and permits, we proceed as if there is no problem. The costs to our children and their children are simply far too high. We need strong leaders to turn this around. We need you to protect our future economy. To protect our future health. To protect our homes from fire and flood damage. To protect and keep our agricultural resources strong.

We know that you put a great deal of time and study into your decisions, and we appreciate your thoughtful consideration of all the projects you consider. We acknowledge the county's many efforts toward the environment and toward sustainability to date. We want to encourage you to look at future projects through the lens of the true costs to our children and their wellbeing, and make a really serious commitment to lower greenhouse gases. We are confident that such a commitment will move Santa Barbara County forward with job-creating, economy-building, and tax providing renewable energy projects, businesses, and policies that will put our county, once again, at the forefront of the innovative and creative problem-solving for which California is known.

Please let us know if there is any way we can help you to achieve these goals.

Sincerely,

Brigitta Van Der Raay, Chair
The Climate Reality Project-Santa Barbara Chapter