

Katherine Douglas

Public Comment - SB Sierra Club # 3



From: Emily Engel <emilyaengel@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 18, 2025 6:24 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: October 21 Agenda Item #2: Oil Phase Out - SUPPORT

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Dear Santa Barbara County Supervisors,

The Santa Barbara Sierra Club Group supports staff recommendations on agenda Item 2. We also appreciate their meeting with other jurisdictions engaged in similar efforts to follow the lead of places like Los Angeles that are further along this path. The immediate step to draft an ordinance to prohibit new oil projects makes sense. As we have learned from past proposals, the remaining oil here is heavy and energy-intensive to extract. It is some of the most polluting and expensive oil in the world to produce.

The public health and other community risks of oil production far outweigh any marginal benefits. Our county can use our resources to protect our citizens and continue to thrive in a sustainable manner that values community health, housing, and long term economic stability.

We encourage you and your dedicated staff to proceed with an amortization study to inform a phase out of existing oil operations, which are a significant source of pollution. The requirement to do an EIR for phase out is based on a questionable reading of the law but may be necessary because of the litigious nature of oil companies.

Thank you for taking action and maintaining Santa Barbara County's legacy as an environmental leader.

Sincerely,

Emily Engel

Santa Barbara Sierra Club Chair

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