

Ramirez, Angelica

Public Comment

**From:** Nadia Abushanab <nadiasbcan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 19, 2022 5:01 PM  
**To:** sbcob; sbcob  
**Cc:** Ken Hough; Jeanne Sparks  
**Subject:** Public Comment for May 24th Hearing - Item 2  
**Attachments:** SBCAN Letter Idle Oil Wells Grand Jury Report May 2022.docx



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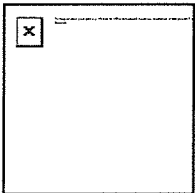
Hello,

Please see SBCAN's comments attached. Please also submit this [press release](#) from this morning regarding the leaking idle wells in Bakersfield, and [this recent study](#) which estimates that 2 out of every 3 idle wells in California are leaking methane as part of our comment.

Thank you,

Nadia

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May 19, 2022

RE: Item #2 – Idle Oil Wells in Santa Barbara County

Board of Directors

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Dear Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors,

The inactive idle, long-term idle, and orphaned wells across Santa Barbara County pose substantial health risks to our community, with disproportionate impacts in North County where most of the wells are located. SBCAN urges you to adopt the recommendations of the Grand Jury report to get a better understanding of the status of the wells in our County.

Idle wells are dangerous. On the morning of Thursday, May 19, it was confirmed that two long-term idle oil wells are leaking explosive levels of methane less than 400 feet from homes and within a mile of an elementary school in Bakersfield. These wells were idled in the 1980s, and then orphaned when their company closed its doors in 2011. Now, even though the wells are leaking so much methane that the Air Pollution Control District inspector's device was unable to record it, no action is being taken to stop the leak. The people in the nearby homes and elementary school are at great risk of an explosion, air pollution, water and soil contamination, not to mention the impact on climate change created from methane pouring into the atmosphere – a greenhouse gas far more potent than carbon dioxide.

A recent study estimates that two thirds of idle wells across California are leaking methane. These wells are not producing any oil; they offer no community benefit. They sit inactive year after year and leak dangerous gases into our air, water, and atmosphere to our collective detriment. As a county we should be making every effort to prevent these disastrous leaks that are not even related to production of useful oil and gas products.

Previously the county provided helpful reports about oil spills and violations which are extremely useful for the community to get a grasp on the impact oil has on our county. Please direct your staff to create and present annual reports regarding the number and status of inactive, idle, long-term idle, and orphaned wells in the county.

Sincerely,

Ken Hough,  
Executive Director