	BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA LETTER Clerk of the Board of Supervisors 105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407 Santa Barbara, CA 93101 (805) 568-2240		Agenda Number:	
			Department Name: Department No.: For Agenda Of: Placement: Estimated Time: Continued Item: If Yes, date from: Vote Required:	CEO 012 March 8, 2022 Administrative No Majority
то:	Board of Supervisors			
FROM:	Department Director(s)	Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer		
	Contact Info:	Lisa Plowman, Director, Planning and Development		
SUBJECT:	Response to 2021 Grand Jury Report: Idle Oil Wells in Santa Barbara County			

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

a) Consider and adopt the responses in Attachment A as the Board of Supervisors' response to the 2021 Grand Jury report entitled "Idle Oil Wells in Santa Barbara County"; Attachment B;

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

- b) Authorize the Chair to sign the letter included in Attachment A and forward the letter and responses to the Presiding Judge of Santa Barbara County Superior Court; and
- c) Determine pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 15378(b)(5) that the above actions are not a project subject to CEQA review, because they are is government administrative activities that do not result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment.

Summary Text:

On December 20, 2021, the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury published a report titled "Idle Oil Wells in Santa Barbara County." Today, the Board will consider the County's proposed response to the report, adopt their preferred response and authorize the Board Chair to sign the response letter. The Board is required to respond in writing to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court by March 21, 2022.

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Background:

The 2021-22 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury investigated the regulatory roles of County agencies in managing and mitigating oil seepage as they pertain to onshore idle wells. The Jury found that the health and environmental risks of idle wells do not appear to be adequately addressed; the County may have some fiscal liabilities resulting from inadequate monitoring of idle wells; active County staff at present appear at times to be too few to adequately monitor idle wells in the County; and, the Santa Barbara County Code provisions regarding removal of drilling equipment and derricks from idle wells are not fully enforced.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Staff anticipates no fiscal or facilities impacts as a result of the Board's action on this matter.

Special Instructions:

- 1. As per Recommendation b), please forward the original signed letter and responses to the Presiding Judge of Santa Barbara County Superior Court.
- 2. Please send a copy of the signed letter and a copy of the minute order to Reese Ellestad, Fiscal & Policy Analyst, CEO office.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Board of Supervisors Response Attachment B: FY2020-21 Grand Jury Report

Authored by:

Reese Ellestad, Fiscal & Policy Analyst, County Executive Office