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Lenzi, Chelsea

From: Katie Davis <kdavis2468@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 19, 2022 1:56 PM
To: sbcob
Cc: Jonathan Ullman
Subject: Re: May 24 – Item 2 - Consider recommendations regarding further analysis related to the 2021 Grand Jury Report: Idle Oil Wells in Santa Barbara County, Recommendations 1 through 4
Attachments: Sierra Club Los Padres re Idle wells.pdf

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Please see attached comments from the Sierra Club for May 24 Board of Supervisors hearing, Item #2.

Regards,
Katie Davis
Chair, Sierra Club Los Padres Chapter



LOS PADRES CHAPTER

PO Box 31241
Santa Barbara CA
93130-1241

May 19, 2022

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
County Administration Building
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA
Via email: sbcob@countyofsb.org

Re: May 24 – Item 2 - Consider recommendations regarding further analysis related to the 2021 Grand Jury Report: Idle Oil Wells in Santa Barbara County, Recommendations 1 through 4

Chair

Katie Davis

Vice-Chair

Jim Hines

Secretary

Gerry Ching

Treasurer

Jim Taylor

At Large

Elizabeth Lamar

At Large

David Gold

At Large

Alex Pujo

Arguello Group Rep

Rebecca August

SB Group Rep

Martha Sadler

Conejo Group Rep

Nikki Stokols

Ventura Network Rep

Elizabeth Lamar

Dear Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors:

Our County is not taking adequate steps to investigate, monitor, and regulate the 1,370 idle and orphaned oil and gas wells in the county. This can lead to leaking methane, a potent greenhouse gas and fire risk, noxious and hazardous fumes, and oil and gases contaminating water sources and soil.

The county has provided helpful oil reports in the past so the public knows about spills and violations. We need this information on both active and idle wells. Regular reports are necessary if we want to the county get state and regulatory help with this problem. Please direct staff to investigate the status and regulation of idle and orphaned wells and provide an annual report at a public hearing:

- An inventory of the number and status of oil wells including active, idle, orphaned, and abandoned wells, and the length of time wells have been idle.
- All fluid and methane leaks, seeps, noncompliance, violations, and other problems from idle and orphaned wells.
- All interagency coordination and actions taken by County Planning and Development, APCD, County Fire, CalGEM, and State Water Board.
- All County, APCD, state, and federal ordinances, regulations, inspections, and enforcement programs that regulate idle wells.
- All readily available local and State information regarding problems with idle, orphaned, and abandoned oil and gas wells in in the County.
- An investigation as to whether bonding is adequate to cover well capping and drill site restoration

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Katie Davis
Chair, Sierra Club Los Padres Chapter