

DATE: August 5, 2011

TO: John McKenzie, Project Manager
County Planning and Building
SLO County Planning & Building Dept.-Environmental Division
976 Osos St, Room 200
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

RE: Excelaron Drilling In Huasna Valley

FROM: Ruth Callahan

Dear John,

We are residents of Huasna Valley and live on the same side of Townsite and just 4 driveways from the entrance to the Mankins property. About a half mile from the road that will be used by all the trucks for this project. We have attended the public meetings, have read the DEIR and have read many of the letters in opposition to this project.

From the letters it is apparent that the people of this community have studied and know the facts. I applaud their tenacity to not give up and stay the course. As one writer stated, the only decision should be the "Environmentally Superior Alternative" which is the no project alternative. With that said, I am writing from a more person perspective. From the time this project came to our attention and as we learned more of the gruesome details, I find myself deeply concerned for this beautiful Huasna Valley.

Let's start with the noise. This valley can be so quiet that you can hear sounds from the other side of the ridge. I picture us asleep on a warm summer night with the windows open. It would normally be the sounds of the crickets. But just think of what the sounds will be after Excelaron. The crickets are silenced, along with all the other wild creatures as we all listen to the drumming of the oil equipment that's suppose to run 24 hours a day. There is an abundance of wildlife in Huansa Valley. Their natural environment is currently a peaceful forest setting. But now let's have the humans go in and destroy that. What is the impact on these creatures habitat?

Then how about the odor. This valley holds the marine layer that often blankets our coast until later in the morning. It's quite a sight to wake up to total fog. As the sun rises and melts the fog, the silhouettes of the oak trees come into vision. In the warm time of the year it brings the smell of the dry grasses. But just think of what the smells will be after Excelaron. As one writer explained it, the smell we'll be breathing will be that of Price Canyon Road, hydrogen sulfides. And what are the risks to our lungs in breathing the air held down in the valley from the drilling? What else might be contained in the air we breathe?

I realize were in the middle of the bureaucratic process that has to be followed, but as I'm driving into work listening to our local 920 Talk radio station, the

conversation is about our county that is ready to pass an ordinance that will ban all use of plastic bags in grocery stores. Just one of many "green" causes this area has stood for. It seems so contrary to the local cities and county beliefs that we would then allow this project to proceed knowing the Class I Significant Impacts that will occur. And of the mitigations proposed, not any totally protect the valley or the people, only "band aids". This valley is a living, breathing thing that will forever; forward of this Excelaron project; never be as healthy as it once was. But in the name of progress and the almighty dollar, will this keep on going along this path of destruction of Huansa Valley?

I hope and pray not!!

Respectly,

Ruth Callahan