

July 27, 2011

**Mr. John McKenzie, Project Mgr
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Draft Environmental Impact Report for proposed Excelaron project

During Excelaron meetings, held earlier this month, Excelaron's majority shareholder United Hunter CEO Dr. Halleran described the three wells he plans to drill on an adjacent 9,000 acre Porter Ranch property as "a separate project." This Excelaron project has been about the bigger development of a full scale oilfield since its inception – why doesn't the county realize that? I'm asking that the EIR do its job and fully flush out what will become of the Huasna Valley when ALL the oil projects get up and running. What about the cumulative impacts from developing a large-scale field in a piecemeal fashion? I know you don't have those other projects yet – but you will – and what we do know is now public information and you can estimate the rest. I feel the County must take into account and report to the residents - the full impact of turning Huasna into an oilfield?

Fire is also a great concern to me. Your draft EIR recommends 240,000 gallons of fire water storage. This will require a substantial site with additional visual, grading, and botanical impacts. Where will that site be? Where will all that water come from? Who will check to see whether these tanks are full? The tanks should be on the hillsides for gravity feed to provide minimum fire water pressure at all sites instead of being pumped – this would require a minimum of 60 feet above the highest site. Further, I see no mention of the extreme response time of local firefighters or the implications of a wildfire in the area and how residents, agriculture, and local communities could be affected. I'm asking that a fully researched evacuation plan, in the event of wild fire, be required by the EIR. I'm also asking that the EIR require a fire station in Huasna and that it be planned and in place before allowing production drilling.



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