

Public Comment for the Excelaron (Mankins) Draft EIR

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great concern on my part that I tell you my thoughts regarding the Excelaron LLC project in our scenic, peaceful Huasna Valley.

Years ago, Huasna Road and Huasna Townsite Road were declared scenic county roads. This is NOT conducive to all the possible traffic increases from the site to Highway 101 via the Village of Arroyo Grande or Branch Mill Road to Traffic Way to Highway 101. Branch Mill Road is in extremely poor condition already. True, Excelaron claims that tankers would use the Porter Ranch Road to access Highway 166. However, everyone knows that many, many other kinds of vehicles would go Highway 101 via Huasna Road. This will further damage the pavement of these roads and be dangerous to our residents and their children who ride the school bus. Why should ANY of the traffic from this project be allowed to use Huasna Road?

Our ranching operation is downstream (Huasna Creek and Huasna River) from the site. It is possible for us to have contamination to our shallow irrigation wells which produce water for our cattle, both for drinking and grazing on irrigated pasture. Contamination from this project will damage or kill the plants that feed our cattle and can damage the health of our cattle or even kill them.

Concrete pipelines are used extensively for our irrigating and drinking water for cattle. Damage such as cracks are caused by earthquakes, missile launchings, and other blasting actions that cause movement in the ground. The actions of drilling and removing oil from the ground will cause severe vibrations that pose a serious problem for our operation. Will Excelaron help us with the potentially enormous repair costs that are created by their actions? These additional costs would be prohibitively expensive to our operation.

The Huasna River Bridge is on our property. We are concerned about a possible accident or a spill of the heavy crude. When a spill or other accident happens, is Excelaron responsible for the clean up expenses? What happens when they can't afford to clean up the mess? Are we going to be held responsible? Does our county have to use taxpayer dollars to clean up the contamination? The DEIR and Excelaron state that some "surface improvements" will be made to the bridge. The turn onto the bridge is very tight and the abutments are not adequate or sturdy enough for these heavy transport tankers. The lack of improvement as described in the DEIR makes certain that an accident will occur.

Our cattle are very susceptible to unusual noise and odor. Our ranch is located at the lower (floor) level of the valley, therefore unusual odors or noises could not be mitigated and will cause a stampede or other problems that will injure cattle and fences.

We don't only reside here but ranching is our livelihood.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jean Rotta
Cattle Rancher and Continuous Resident of the Huasna Valley Since 1952
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