

Jeff Kahn



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Date: August 2, 2011

John McKenzie
Project Manager
County Planning & Building Dept.
976 Osos St.
Room 300
SLO, CA 93408

Dear Mr. McKenzie:

I retired to San Luis Obispo County two years ago after a 28-year career with the CHP that spanned most of the State of California. I chose to come to this lovely, pristine and well-planned area after considering the entire country. As a former City Councilmember from a SF Bay Area community for six years, I am aware of the importance of foresight and adequate consideration when it comes to development of land, for any reason.

I also am an avid cyclist and have enjoyed cycling to Huasna Valley on numerous occasions with companions from around the country. I was quite surprised that this area was being considered for oil exploration and extraction. I learned that multiple failed efforts have left the Huasna Valley scarred with uncapped wells, oil soaked land, and unpleasant odors. I understand the County has been responsible for cleanup and has mitigated most of the negative impact; but that another oil development plan is under consideration.

My concern is that insufficient resources have been required of any future venture to ensure that not only are the residents of Huasna Valley protected from the negative impacts of oil extraction, but that the county has sufficient reserves to protect San Luis Obispo County from absorbing any additional cleanup or mitigation costs.

Furthermore, in addition to the concerns regarding the impact to agriculture, I would also ask you to consider that San Luis Obispo County is a tourist destination. People from all over the world visit our county to enjoy its considerable beauty and wonderfully preserved environment, including traveling to Huasna Valley. The intrusion of this development by the wells, trucks and workers alone would be so significant as to inexorably degrade the pristine look, smell and feel of this beautiful valley road and community.

I hope you will take my concerns into account as you pursue the approval of this development.

Sincerely,

Jeff Kahn