

Mr. John McKenzie
Department of Planning and Building
976 Osos St., Rm 200
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408-2040

Dear Mr. McKenzie,

We recently purchased a 300 acre ranch property on Huasna Townsite Rd. The main attraction of the Huasna Valley to us is it's relatively pristine condition and it's natural beauty. The Excelaron project would, in our opinion, severely impact the valley environment, and also have a negative impact on the quality of life in Arroyo Grande and environs.

My initial impression of the DEIR is that (other than the obvious boilerplate) it is mostly a long list of unavoidable and potential impacts, and a much longer list of possible mitigation measures. I began this letter with the intention of listing the technical limitations of some of the proposed mitigation measures, and also listing those that are unrealistic (mostly because of the high costs of implementation). After reflecting on the issues, however, I decided to limit my comments to a few of the most obvious reasons why the Excelaron project is unrealistic and should be denied.

Road access: I find it very difficult to believe that the road from Arroyo Grande to the Excelaron site can accommodate the significant increase in truck traffic that the project requires. The two lane road is narrow, has numerous blind curves, and requires more or less constant repairs (a wash-out near the top of the grade was recently repaired, a pick-up truck recently ran off the road on one of the blind curves near the top of the grade, and a wash-out of the road shoulder in the flat farmed area closer to AG is awaiting repairs). The road is dangerous under the best of conditions. I suggest you ask the drivers of school buses, trash collection vehicles, and other service vehicles for their opinions of having a significant increase of truck traffic on that road.

Excelaron's June 24 letter states the "creation of 100 jobs in the community" and "upwards of \$20M in tax revenue" - really? No details are given. The maximum production is to be 1000 barrels/day for an average of 180 days/year. Even if high grade crude sells at \$100 per barrel, the limited production of low grade Huasna crude cannot support the stated tax revenue.

Their letter also states that the Huasna project "represents a step toward energy diversity and energy security for our nation." Really? The history of oil production in the valley indicates that Huasna crude is low grade and useful for asphalt - not fuel. Also, although "drill baby drill" is a political consideration, the energy goal of the US is to move away from oil and coal and toward renewable energy sources (solar, wind, geothermal, etc.). The Huasna project adds nothing to reduce our energy dependence on foreign sources.

I could go on and on, but the Excelaron project as presented to the community and as

detailed in the DEIR has so many negative implications for the community that it is not deserving of further comment.

Would the county officials seriously consider placing the economic interests of an Australian corporation over the interests of their constituents? Please act in favor of your citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. S. Marszalek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "S".

Donald S Marszalek
5285-5315 Huasna Townsite Rd.
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

Mailing address: 1015 Ditmas Way, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

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