



Excelaron

Craig Vonliten t  
o jdmckenzie@co.slo.ca.us  
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John,

I wanted to let you know that I oppose the idea of ANY drilling in the remote Huasna area. Not just for one reason...but for many. Here are the most critical:

#### 1 – Fracking

They (Excelaron) claims that they will not use “Fracking” as part of their “new technology”. The fact of the matter is that there is nothing to prevent them from doing this. There are no current federal or state guidelines for the use of fracking once they have the permit to drill. If you haven’t already watched the video “Gasland”, I encourage you to do so. Although it may be an over hyped “scare tactic” in the way that the material is presented...it does use FACTS as the basis of the storyline. SLO county should NOT be migrating in the direction of a wasteland. There is little to be gained by the County and SO MUCH to be lost.

#### 2 – Traffic on Huasna

I’m sure that you have been encouraged to drive this road. Should this project proceed, we will have increased HEAVY load traffic on this road. This is a road used to transport the children from the area to the school and there is NO WAY that heavy trucks can navigate this road without using BOTH lanes of the road on the narrow curves. Yes...this comment is meant to be scary...because IT IS. There has been no significant effort to PREVENT Excelaron from using the county road for their service trucks (the quantity of Propane alone will require many large truck deliveries to the proposed site). How’s that for a Hollywood catastrophe; Propane Truck meets Schoolbus on the Huasna grade. It would take a long time for the County to recover from the cost of THAT kind of catastrophe. Again...these are all RISKS and unnecessary ones at that.

Excelaron has also promised not to truck the oil down this road (I am unclear as to what will physically PREVENT them from doing so)...regardless, I expect that it will be done anyway. A paltry fine won’t have enough of an impact on the daily profit...even if there is a County Sherrif stationed on the road 24/7. The County is simply not equipped to police Excelaron’s activity...and I am confident that when the proposed route out to Hwy 166 is under water or too muddy to navigate (which it is up to 10 months out of the year)...the trucks will quickly (and “illegally” use this road). This means that they will be taking the trucked oil through residential areas, schools and sensitive habitats. Oh...and one more point regarding the traffic in this quiet community...the AIRBRAKES used by large service trucks on Huasna can be heard for MILES in this quiet community. Some homes are located right there near the grade and the effect on THEIR lives will be dramatic. ALL OF THIS IS UNNECESSARY.

#### 3 – Value to the County

COMMON SENSE NEEDS TO PREVAIL HERE...the loss of property tax revenue (already impacting the county in this economy) will be eroded further with the approval of this project. Several homes in the area have already had buyers BACK OUT because of the uncertainty of whether there will be an OIL FIELD put in out in this community. The cumulative loss in revenue to the county will MORE than OFFSET the potential tax revenue in terms of jobs and county taxes. MOST of this money won’t even remain

within the USA (how's that for bad judgment on the part of our domestic resources???) . Exceleron is an Australian LLC, and part of United Hunter Oil (a Canadian firm). Hello??? This kind of development should upset all Americans.

#### 4 – NOISE

The draft EIR actually STATES that there will be noise that cannot be mitigated by the project. Why would we want to let them do it then. Do the rights of this company exceed the cumulative rights of the entire local community where this development is to take place?? I should hope that it does not.

#### 5 – Jobs? (what jobs?)

The JOBS that they claim will be created...let's look at that shall we? First we have to assume that they will abide by their promise not to truck oil down Huasna Road through our community. That is a big assumption...but should that be the case, then what will all those people (jobs) do when the proposed route is under water??? This route they are planning to use out to Hwy 166 is under water sometimes 10 months out of the year. Has anybody seen the pictures (taken in July) showing the road under water??? Again...we must assume that they will not flagrantly violate their promise not to truck the oil down the road. Being the honest folks that they are, they will shut the facility down and only operate it two months out of the year, right? If you believe that, then if this project moves forward I would like to sell you MY property out in Huasna that USED to be valued at over \$1M for \$1.5M (after all...this development will only INCREASE property values, right???)

In summary, this project MUST NOT MOVE FORWARD for the following reasons:

- (a) It will cost the county money (not the best thing to do in this economy), via loss of property taxes, road and embankment improvement needs, ecological cleanup, etc.
- (b) It will expose the county to significant litigation, as the board members will be held liable for their decision to move forward against the evidence presented by the community
- (c) It is an environmental scar that adversely impacts the community and NOT in line with where the county is claiming it wants to go (visit the website <http://www.sloevc.org/>)

Regards,

***Craig***

[Craig von Ilten](#)