

**Hansen, Christine@DOC**

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**From:** Terre Dunivant <gaia@charter.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 8, 2017 10:44 AM  
**To:** Comments@DOC  
**Subject:** NO EXPANSION, NO EXEMPTION arroyo grande oil field

This is my comment on your attempt to expand and exempt the Arroyo Grande Oil Field:

1 | NO EXPANSION, NO EXEMPTION.

Sincerely,

Terre Dunivant

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Terre Dunivant  
Meadow Park | South Hills  
San Luis Obispo, California  
(805) 704-5433

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“A human being  
is a part of the whole,  
called by us the ‘Universe’.  
Our task must be to  
widen our circle of compassion to  
embrace all living creatures and the  
whole of Nature in its beauty.”  
~ Albert Einstein ~

## Hansen, Christine@DOC

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**From:** Cindy & George Hansen <cingemanor@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 9, 2017 7:11 AM  
**To:** Comments@DOC  
**Subject:** Arroyo Grande Aquifer Exemption Proposal AGAINST!

ATTN: Aquifer Exemption  
ARROYO GRANDE AQUIFER EXEMPTION PROPOSAL

I am against approving the aquifer exemption.

The California Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (Division) is more an adjunct to the oil industry than a watchdog or regulator.

**Until steps are taken to address and correct the failings of DOGGR no further exemptions should be approved.**

Water is a precious resource and belongs to all of us. Do not approve the exemption proposal or allow Class II injection, either for enhanced oil recovery or for injection disposal of fluids associated with oil and gas production, to be put into the Arroyo Grande aquifer.

**Please do not approve the Arroyo Grande aquifer exemption.**

Cindy Hansen  
3775 Santa Manuela Road  
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

P.S. Please send updates and information regarding this issue to my email address at [cingemanor@aol.com](mailto:cingemanor@aol.com)

**Hansen, Christine@DOC**

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**From:** Rebecca August <rebeccaAugust@mac.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 15, 2017 11:46 AM  
**To:** Comments@DOC  
**Cc:** Rebecca August  
**Subject:** Arroyo Grande Aquifer Exemption Proposal

1 I strongly oppose the exemption of the Arroyo Grande aquifer from the Safe Drinking Water Act. Injecting toxic waste into an aquifer protected under the Safe Drinking Water Act should not be rewarded by altering the law to legalize the breaking of it. The law exists to protect our collective natural resource, water. It cannot be proven, as technology advances and becomes more affordable, that we will not soon need the water in the Arroyo Grande aquifer, and be able to reasonably use it.

2 Additionally, neither DOGGR, nor the Water Board can prove, definitively, that waste injected into this aquifer will not migrate into neighboring drinking water wells. Leaving a buffer of several hundred feet is not sufficient protection against migration. Also, relying on the consistency of manmade pressure to contain toxins also puts neighboring wells at risk because pressures cannot be maintained indefinitely. Activity in the oil field is finite, as is Freeport McMoRan itself.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Rebecca August  
705 Bobcat Springs Rd.  
Buellton, CA 93427

[rebeccaAugust@mac.com](mailto:rebeccaAugust@mac.com)

**From:** JEANNE BLACKWELL <jeanneblackwell@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 19, 2017 1:17 AM  
**To:** Comments@DOC  
**Subject:** The Arroyo Grande Aquifer Exemption comment period ending Dec. 22, 2017.

To whom it may Concern:

My comment regarding The Supplemental Arroyo Grande Aquifer submission data submitted by DOGGR for public comment is that I find the information inadequate and unacceptable. Here are several reasons why I feel the information is of no consequence to the issue at hand. I will not feel safe or confident that no harm will come to this community now or in the near future until these issues are resolved. The data does not address any of these issues.

1. The site has not met any of the standards or legal criteria for a Class I or II waste disposal site.
2. Injection of fluids begins only after the EPA approves an aquifer exemption and an underground injection control permit is granted not the other way around.
3. The Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments (HSWA) to the RCRA includes Class I hazardous waste injection wells, prohibiting disposal unless the waste has been treated to become non-hazardous AGOF has not been so treated. They are injecting hydrogen sulfide and radioactive isotopes to name just 2. All we need is one.  
Or,

Disposer can demonstrate that the waste will remain where it has been placed for as long as it remains hazardous, which has been defined as 10,000 years by regulation.

Sentinel cannot and has not demonstrated that waste will remain for 10,000 years and either has DOGGR or the EPA .

The 703 page Supplemental Arroyo Grande Aquifer Exemption Submission does not address primary issue of proper certification and registration of the site and operators and therefore is inadequate, inconclusive and inconsistent with exemption criteria.

4. We need to see credentials issued by EPA §264.11 Identification number. AGOF has no such ID Number

5. 42 U.S. Code § 6921 - Identification and listing of hazardous waste  
Every facility owner or operator must apply to EPA for an EPA identification number in accordance with the EPA notification procedures (45 FR 12746).

6. § 144.11 Prohibition of unauthorized injection. Any underground injection, except into a well authorized by rule or except as authorized by permit issued under the UIC program, is prohibited. The construction of any well required to have a permit is prohibited until the permit has been issued. No authorization by rule has been issued.

3 What would happen if a 5-6 point magnitude earthquake hits the California Coast? Very likely in our lifetime. What are the chances that the 'rock bed' at the AGOF will shift and rearrange the entire subterranean structure where the fault lines are? Will those tar seals hold back billions of gallons of toxic wastewater that has been illegally disposed of? This is an active earthquake zone. Your data missed the point entirely.

Further,

3 The over 45 million gallons of toxic waste per day that is illegally disposed of in an unregulated, unmonitored, unpermitted site would go where ever it wants contaminating everything in its path.

5 AGOF is not a certified waste disposal site and needs to be shut down in accordance with the Feb. 15, 2017 issuance by DOGGR.

4 7. Want to see the safety records. Any spills, accidents, explosions during the history of this oil field? The oil fields have not met all the reporting and record keeping data required by law. Cannot exempt a site that does not have a certified record of its safety history.

4 8. Any worker complaints? Has OSHA been on site? Why not? Where are the worker safety records? Has the field been issued any safety or health citations or violations?

4 9. Need a list of the chemicals and hazardous waste by products that are being injected? Want to see an MSDS on what effects and chemical reaction the combined concocted chemicals being injected into the subterranean soil are producing.

4 10. EPA needs to issue a Material Safety Data Sheet on the safety and health effects of the combination of the 100's of produced waste products mixed all together and injected into our ground before they can certify injection is safe. We have individual MSDS on some waste products but that is not what is going into the ground and does not adequately reflect the true nature of those chemicals or consequences when combined and interacting with each other.

It is absolutely ridiculous for DOGGR and Water Resource Control Board to grant the guaranteed safe disposal of toxic waste into the unincorporated areas of SLO County that they have absolutely no idea of what those chemicals are or their effect on the environment and human health.

And finally,

5 11. As of Feb. 15, 2017 all the 1,650 wells, eleven of which are at the AGOF, are on notice to cease and desist. To date none of the offending wells have complied with the cease and desist or have been certified or licensed under RCRA UIC program and are still fully operational.

5 12. The 1,650 plus wells are in violation of the mandatory shut down issued by DOGGR and Water Resource Control Board. The penalty is \$25,000 a day per well. The State is due and owed over 12 billion dollars in penalties. Is there a fiduciary responsibility to the taxpayers to implement penalties and fines? Who is going to collect on this and when?

13. Taxpayers demand restitution for violation of State health and safety and licensing codes and regulations.

1 In conclusion: Because of the aforementioned inadequacies in the data I respectfully reject this supplemental information that fails to meet safety and health criteria under Federal Code of Regulation UIC program.

5 And further, I demand that the noticed shut down date of Feb. 15, 2017 issued by DOGGR is implemented immediately with fees and penalties in the amount of over 12 billion dollars owed taxpayers is delivered upon demand. We do so demand.

Sincerely yours,

Jeanne Blackwell  
PO Box 4622  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93403

**From:** JEANNE BLACKWELL <jeannewater@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 22, 2017 10:09 AM  
**To:** Comments@DOC  
**Subject:** Arroyo Grande Aquifer exemption

Hi my name is Jeanne Blackwell and I live in San Luis Obispo County. I am writing to say I do not approve of the aquifer exemption in San Luis Obispo.

1. The site has not met any of the standards or legal criteria for a Class I or II waste disposal site according to UIC program.

2. Injection of fluids begins only AFTER the EPA approves an aquifer exemption and an underground injection control permit is granted not the other way around. ARROYO GRANDE OIL FIELD HAS BEEN INJECTING TOXIC WASTE WITHOUT EPA APPROVAL FOR OVER 20 YEARS. THIS SITE IS IN VIOLATION OF EPA rules

a) §264.11 Identification number. AGOF has no such ID Number b) 42 U.S. Code § 6921 - Identification and listing of hazardous waste

2 c) § 144.11 Prohibition of unauthorized injection. Any underground injection, except into a well authorized by rule or except as authorized by permit issued under the UIC program, is prohibited. The construction of any well required to have a permit is prohibited until the permit has been issued. No authorization by rule has been issued.

1 d) Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments (HSWA) to the RCRA prohibits disposal unless the waste has been treated to become non-hazardous. AGOF has not been so treated SO THE SITE DOES NOT QUALIFY FOR EXEMPTION STATUS.

3. And lastly the Arroyo Grande Oil Field is under a cease and desist order from your department's Feb 15, 2017 shut down of 1650 unregistered wells. Eleven of those wells are at the AGOG and are illegally dumping toxic waste into the unincorporated areas. This site does not qualify for exemption status until it is properly registered and authorized by the EPA. it does not have legal standing under the UIC program. An exemption does not make it legal. Shut down the illegal wells don't approve them.

In conclusion: Because of the aforementioned inadequacies in the data I respectfully reject this supplemental information that fails to meet safety and health criteria under Federal Code of Regulation UIC program.

And further, I demand that the noticed shut down date of Feb. 15, 2017 issued by DOGGR is implemented immediately with fees and penalties in the amount of \$12,375,000,000 owned taxpayers is delivered upon demand. We do so demand. 300 days times 1650 wells @\$25,000 each = \$12,375,000,000.

Thank You

*Jeanne*

[jeannewater@gmail.com](mailto:jeannewater@gmail.com)

[SLO Clean Water.org](http://SLOCleanWater.org)

[SLO Clean Water on FaceBook](#)

"The Earth is the mother of all people, and all people should have equal rights upon it."

— Chief Joseph



## Hansen, Christine@DOC

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**From:** Linda Chimenti <lkchimenti@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 19, 2017 10:38 AM  
**To:** Comments@DOC  
**Subject:** Public comment on the Aquifer Exemption - Arroyo Grande Oilfield

Department of Conservation  
801 K Street, MS 24-02  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
ATTN: Aquifer Exemption  
Fax: (916) 324-0948  
[comments@conservation.ca.gov](mailto:comments@conservation.ca.gov)

December 19, 2017

Department of Conservation:

This is public comment on the Aquifer Exemption for Sentinel Peak Resources at the Arroyo Grande Oilfield.

1 DOGGR redrew the aquifer exemption boundaries because their new analysis found that two drinking water wells in the northeast corner would be at risk of toxic contamination. The fact that DOGGR missed this danger in its original proposal reveals that their assessment methods are inadequate to ensure safety. What other risks might be undetected? We do not want to find out only after it's too late to stop the oil industry's reckless expansion of activity in the area.

2 For me it is about the water. If it is true that the "tar seal" will hold any contaminated fluid that would be great but there is no proof that this is so; even DOGGR is not convinced that it will trap injected wastewater. It is not worth the risk to contaminate even one well.

1 As a citizen of San Luis Obispo County, I count on government agencies to protect us from contamination of any kind and we need the local, state and federal agencies to protect the drinking water wells located around the Arroyo Grande Oilfield.

3 We have a long history of oil threats in our county. In 1986 a citizen's initiative was passed by the voters of San Luis Obispo County to ban any onshore infrastructure in support of offshore oil or gas development. In 1988 California's worst oil spill happened in No Santa Barbara County and So San Luis Obispo County. To this day it remains the largest spill in the continental U.S. Then there was the Avila Beach massive oil spill, in which the entire town had to be removed and rebuilt. Spills and leaks do happen.

Please reconsider not granting the "Aquifer Exemption" at the Arroyo Grande Oilfield. We are counting on you to do the right thing for safe and clean access to water in our county.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Linda Chimenti

Citizen of San Luis Obispo County

**From:** Teresa Lees <treelees@charter.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 19, 2017 2:04 PM  
**To:** Comments@DOC  
**Subject:** Arroyo Grande Aquifer Exemption

To whom it may Concern:

My comment regarding The Supplemental Arroyo Grande Aquifer submission data submitted by DOGGR for public comment is that I find the information inadequate and unacceptable.

Here are several reasons why I feel the information is of no consequence to the issue at hand. I will not feel safe or confident that no harm will come to this community now or in the near future until these issues are resolved. The data does not address any of these issues:

1. The site has not met any of the standards or legal criteria for a Class I or II waste disposal site.
2. Injection of fluids begins only after the EPA approves an aquifer exemption and an underground injection control permit is granted not the other way around.
3. The Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments (HSWA) to the RCRA includes Class I hazardous waste injection wells, prohibiting disposal unless the waste has been treated to become non-hazardous AGOF has not been so treated. They are injecting hydrogen sulfide and radioactive isotopes to name just 2. All we need is one.
4. We need to see credentials issued by EPA **§264.11 Identification number**. AGOF has no such ID Number
5. **42 U.S. Code § 6921 - Identification and listing of hazardous waste. Every facility owner or operator must apply to EPA for an EPA identification number in accordance with the EPA notification procedures (45 FR 12746).**
6. § 144.11 Prohibition of unauthorized injection. Any underground injection, except into a well authorized by rule or except as authorized by permit issued under the UIC program, is prohibited. The construction of any well

2 | required to have a permit is prohibited until the permit has been issued. No authorization by rule has been issued.

7. Want to see the safety records. Any spills, accidents, explosions during the history of this oil field? The oil fields have not met all the reporting and record keeping data required by law. Cannot exempt a site that does not have a certified record of its safety history.

8. Any worker complaints? Has OSHA been on site? Why not? Where are the worker safety records? Has the field been issued any safety or health citations or violations?

9. Need a list of the chemicals and hazardous waste by products that are being injected? Want to see an MSDS on what effects and chemical reaction the combined concocted chemicals being injected into the subterranean soil are producing.

10. EPA needs to issue a Material Safety Data Sheet on the safety and health effects of the combination of the 100's of produced waste products mixed all together and injected into our ground before they can certify injection is safe. We have individual MSDS on some waste products but that is not what is going into the ground and does not adequately reflect the true nature of those chemicals or consequences when combined and interacting with each other.

11.

12. As of Feb. 15, 2017 all the 1,650 wells, eleven of which are at the AGOF, are on notice to cease and desist. To date none of the offending wells have complied with the cease and desist or have been certified or licensed under RCRA UIC program and are still fully operational.

13. The 1,650 plus wells are in violation of the mandatory shut down issued by DOGGR and Water Resource Control Board. The penalty is \$25,000 a day per well. The State is due and owed over 12 billion dollars in penalties. Is there a fiduciary responsibility to the taxpayers to implement penalties and fines? Who is going to collect on this and when?

14. Taxpayers demand restitution for violation of State health and safety and licensing codes and regulations.

15.

1 | In conclusion: Because of the aforementioned inadequacies in the data I respectfully reject this supplemental information that fails to meet safety and health criteria under Federal Code of Regulation UIC program.

4 | And further, I demand that the noticed shut down date of Feb. 15, 2017 issued by DOGGR is implemented immediately with fees and penalties in the amount of over 12 billion dollars owed taxpayers is delivered upon demand. We do so demand.

Sincerely yours,

Teresa Lees  
1491 Bradford Road  
Cambria, CA 93428

**Hansen, Christine@DOC**

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**From:** Alice Butterick <alice@butterick.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 19, 2017 5:31 PM  
**To:** Comments@DOC  
**Subject:** Arroyo Grande Aquifer Exemption  
**Attachments:** comment doggr. exemption 2017-1.doc; California State Attorney General 11.17 finale-1.doc

Hello,

1 | Clean water is my number one environmental concern.

Attached below is an email from Jeanne Blackwell of SLO Clean Water Action. Jeanne does a very fine job of describing the horrific and illegal water hazard to SLO and Arroyo Grande. Please take a moment to consider her words.

1 | Clean water is perhaps our most precious resource... far more critical for sustaining life than petrochemicals. There are alternatives available for power but not for natural clean water. Please stop them from poisoning us and make them pay for the damage they have already done.

I appreciate your sincere consideration of this matter!

Alice Butterick  
 Arroyo Grande, CA

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** JEANNE BLACKWELL <jeannewater@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** 3) SLCW Newsletter #69-Big Bang sign ons -It's that time of year- Decking DOGGR Halls-FA LA LA LA LA  
**Date:** December 19, 2017 at 10:36:44 AM PST  
**To:** JEANNE BLACKWELL <jeannewater@gmail.com>

## New sign ons

Ms. Butterick has forwarded as an attachment an electronic newsletter from SLO Clean Water.org. The newsletter had multiple components, some of which appear to be comments on the exemption, while others appear to be information intended for internal use by organization supporters. With that in mind, the attached was treated as follows:

- 1) Pages 2 through 5 are a letter from Ms. Jeanne Blackwell detailing specific comments on the aquifer exemption, and have been treated as a substantive comment from Ms. Butterick.
- 2) Pages 6 and 7 are a picture and discussion of a pledge by elected officials and candidates. The information appears to be a discussion of internal organization strategy and has not been treated as a comment.
- 3) Pages 8 through 13 are a discussion of opposition to the exemption and appear to be intended as educational for organization members. The issues are itemized in Ms. Blackwell's letter (#1). This internal discussion is not treated as a comment.
- 4) Pages 14 through 19 are a discussion of the responsibilities of the Board of Supervisors and strategies for dealing with elected officials. It also includes a petition to the Attorney General and a discussion of the need for legal council. This internal strategy discussion is not treated as a comment.
- 5) Page 20 is a second email comment from Ms. Butterick. It has been treated as a substantive comment.

To: comments@[comments@conservation.ca.gov](mailto:comments@conservation.ca.gov)

Subject:

The Arroyo Grande Aquifer Exemption comment period ending Dec. 22, 2017.

Content:

To whom it may Concern:

2 My comment regarding The Supplemental Arroyo Grande Aquifer submission data submitted by DOGGR for public comment is that I find the information inadequate and unacceptable. Here are several reasons why I feel the information is of no consequence to the issue at hand. I will not feel safe or confident that no harm will come to this community now or in the near future until these issues are resolved. The data does not address any of these issues.

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2. Injection of fluids begins only after the EPA approves an aquifer exemption and an underground injection control permit is granted not the other way around.
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Disposer can demonstrate that the waste will remain where it has been placed for as long as it remains hazardous, which has been defined as 10,000 years by regulation.

Sentinel cannot and has not demonstrated that waste will remain for 10,000 years and either has DOGGR or the EPA .

The 703 page Supplemental Arroyo Grande Aquifer Exemption Submission does not address primary issue of proper certification and registration of the site and operators and therefore is inadequate, inconclusive and inconsistent with exemption criteria.

3

4. We need to see credentials issued by EPA §264.11 Identification number. AGOF has no such ID Number

5. 42 U.S. Code § 6921 - Identification and listing of hazardous waste

Every facility owner or operator must apply to EPA for an EPA identification number in accordance with the EPA notification procedures (45 FR 12746).

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4

What would happen if a 5-6 point magnitude earthquake hits the California Coast? Very likely in our lifetime. What are the chances that the 'rock bed' at the AGOF will shift and rearrange the entire subterranean structure where the fault lines are? Will those tar seals hold back billions of gallons of toxic wastewater that has been illegally disposed of? This is an active earthquake zone. Your data missed the point entirely.

Further,



4

The over 45 million gallons of toxic waste per day that is illegally disposed of in an unregulated, unmonitored, unpermitted site would go where ever it wants contaminating everything in its path.

5

AGOF is not a certified waste disposal site and needs to be shut down in accordance with the Feb. 15, 2017 issuance by DOGGR.

6

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It is absolutely ridiculous for DOGGR and Water Resource Control Board to grant the guaranteed safe disposal of toxic waste into the unincorporated areas of SLO County that they have absolutely no idea of what those chemicals are or their effect on the environment and human health.

And finally,

5

11. As of Feb. 15, 2017 all the 1,650 wells, eleven of which are at the AGOF, are on notice to cease and desist. To date none of

the offending wells have complied with the cease and desist or have been certified or licensed under RCRA UIC program and are still fully operational.

5

12. The 1,650 plus wells are in violation of the mandatory shut down issued by DOGGR and Water Resource Control Board. The penalty is \$25,000 a day per well. The State is due and owed over 12 billion dollars in penalties. Is there a fiduciary responsibility to the taxpayers to implement penalties and fines? Who is going to collect on this and when?

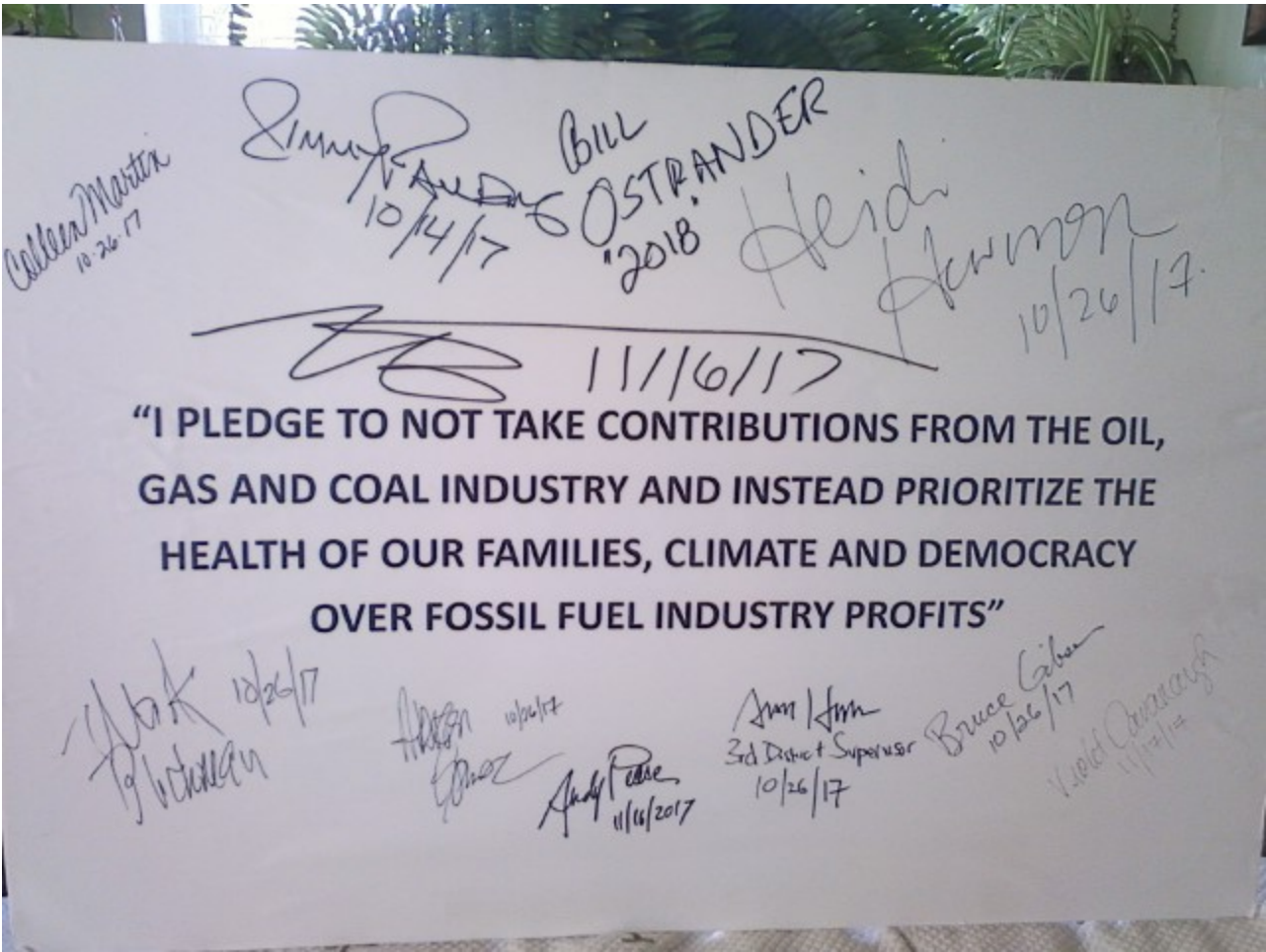
13. Taxpayers demand restitution for violation of State health and safety and licensing codes and regulations.

In conclusion: Because of the aforementioned inadequacies in the data I respectfully reject this supplemental information that fails to meet safety and health criteria under Federal Code of Regulation UIC program.

And further, I demand that the noticed shut down date of Feb. 15, 2017 issued by DOGGR is implemented immediately with fees and penalties in the amount of over 12 billion dollars owned taxpayers is delivered upon demand. We do so demand.

Sincerely yours,

Jeanne Blackwell  
PO Box 4622  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93403



- Officials signing the pledge: Bruce Gibson, Adam Hill SLO Board of Supervisors. Heidi Harmon Mayor, Aaron Gomez, Andy Pease SLO City Council, Mark Buckman Trustee San Luis Obispo Unified School District, Coleen Martin Lucia Mar Unified School District Board of Trustees.
- Candidates signing the pledge: Jimmy Paulding 4th District Board of Supervisors
- Bill Ostrander declared his candidacy for State Assembly 35th district. He signed the pledge.

Ruben Major, candidate for Secretary of State signed. And went above and beyond candidate mode and showed willingness to go to bat for us with the Attorney General. We will get back to Ruben in a moment.

- Also a new signer, very exciting, Avila Beach native and Chumash descendent Violet Cavanaugh is running for office and signed the pledge.
- Agreed to sign but not present: Mariam Shah, Chris Ungar.

We have not heard anything back from Debbie Arnold who said she would be getting back to us with an answer in a week, that was 4 weeks. She missed the deadline so that officially puts her in the refuses to sign category with Compton, Peschong, Feinstein, Carbajal, Fareed and Cunningham.

Arnold, Peschong and Compton need to recuse themselves from official acts involving the Arroyo Grande Oil Fields. We are going to talk a lot more about this in the next newsletter.

This pledge sign on is a Big Deal. It is going to win elections. We can make it happen. Welcome Aboard candidates and get ready we are going to put you to work. Here's how.

DOGGR WANTS OUR COMMENTS ON THEIR 709 PAGE ARROYO GRANDE AQUIFER EXEMPTION SUPPLEMENT due by Friday Dec. 22. WE HAVE SOME CHOICE COMMENTS ABOUT THIS REPORT. Here goes.

THIS IS really unbelievable. Arroyo Grande Oil Fields have been pumping and dumping in our backyard for over 30 years without a license or mandatory Federal EPA IDA #. It has never been authorized or registered as a certified hazardous waste disposal site, nor has the Arroyo Grande Oil Field ever applied for or been issued a mandatory EPA ID # to operate a Class I or II hazardous waste disposal site as defined by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Class I and II wells are strictly regulated under RCRA and the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

The Arroyo Grande Oil Field operation is disposing of toxic petrochemical waste by products without a license or permit. It is sitting on 3 or more active fault zones. That alone should be sounding off all kinds of bells and whistles.

4



But no. Some space cadets are talking about exempting this pit  
of *iniquity* DAAAAA?

AGOF have been dumping over 43 million gallons of toxic waste by  
products a day into the unincorporated areas of SLO County for over 2  
decades. Not cool. Illegal.

§ 144.11 Prohibition of unauthorized injection.

Any [underground injection](#), except into a [well](#) authorized by rule or  
except as authorized by [permit](#) issued under the [UIC](#) program, is  
prohibited. The construction of any [well](#) required to have a [permit](#) is  
prohibited until the [permit](#) has been issued.

Then there is this Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendment (HSWA) to  
the RCRA that makes it quite clear that dumping is prohibited  
unless Waste has been treated to become non-hazardous **Arroyo  
Grande has not been so treated. They are injecting Hydrogen sulfide  
and radioactive isotopes and just nasty junk they can't clean up.** or  
Disposer can demonstrate that the waste will remain where it has been  
placed for as long as it remains hazardous, which has been defined as  
10,000 years by regulation. **Sentinel cannot and has not demonstrated that  
waste will remain for 10,000 years and neither has DOGGR or the EPA in  
it's 703 page supplemental aquifer exemption submission.**

**And then how does the Board and DOGGR explain approving permits with  
this law in effect? The owner or operator of any well that is used to inject  
hazardous waste required to be accompanied by a manifest or delivery  
document shall apply for authorization to inject as specified in § 144.31  
within 6 months after the approval or promulgation of the State UIC  
program. Never happen. Six months after the approval of the State UIC  
program was around 1980. So where is the authorization to inject?**

**So, NO DOGGR. An aquifer exemption is  
inappropriate and unacceptable. FIRST thing  
DOGGR needs to do is get these wells certified.**

Since the Arroyo Grande Oil has never been permitted or certified by the  
EPA as a designated toxic waste disposal site for either a Class I or Class  
II facility under the UIC program an aquifer exemption is irrelevant and of  
no consequence.

Exempting an illegal operation does not make it legal. The Arroyo Grande

Oil Field is still in violation of yet another state mandate to wit the Feb. 15 , 2017 shut down order of unlicensed toxic waste disposal sites. The Arroyo Grande Oil Field has been noticed by the EPA of eleven wells in violation of UIC certification.

The 703 page Supplemental Arroyo Grande Aquifer Exemption Submission does not address primary issue of proper certification and registration of the site and operators and therefore is inadequate and inconclusive.

The site has not met any of the standards or legal criteria for a Class I or II hazardous disposal site.

We have petitioned the Attorney General Becerra to shut down those wells per DOGGR and Water Resources Control Boards stipulation. These agencies under The Attorney General's jurisdiction, thought it imperative to our safety, health and well being to issue a deadline for compliance with Federal EPA class I and II UIC policies and guidelines. It is over 300 days into the cease and desist of over 1650. The wells and sites are still fully operational and non compliant.

**So that is issue number 2 DOGGR and NO your data is worthless.**

Data imperative to designating and certifying the AGOF as a hazardous waste disposal site and safe destination of toxic waste is FIRST AND FOREMOST

- We need to see credentials. **§264.11 Identification number.** AGOF has no such ID Number
- **42 U.S. Code § 6921 - Identification and listing of hazardous waste**
- Every facility owner or operator must apply to EPA for an EPA identification number in accordance with the EPA notification procedures (45 FR 12746).

Those credentials and registration #'s means the fields would be checked and double checked for active fault lines and never in hundred, never in a thousand and never in 10,000 years would the AGOF be certified safe to dump these chemicals. Without those registration and certification documents the oil fields are just another illegal, toxic dump site and a freaking disaster waiting to happen.



When you live in Earthquake country you have to ask, “What are the chances that an earthquake will rock that ‘rock bed’ at the AGOF and shift and rearrange the entire subterranean structure where the fault lines are? Pretty good chance. Will those tar seals hold back billions of gallons of hazardous wastewater that has been illegally disposed of? Hell no. See these are all questions that need to be answered before a site is certified. Site needs to be registered and certified. Exempting an illegal operation is a joke.

### Issue Number 3 is about those chemicals and hazardous waste co-mingling and cavorting underground.

- Need a list of the chemicals and hazardous waste by products that are being injected? Want to see an MSDS on what effects and chemical reaction the combined concocted chemicals being injected into the subterranean soil are producing. Currently EPA only has tested about 300 chemical concoctions. Like what happens when you mix bleach and ammonia together? Chloramine vapor. MSDS- VERY DANGEROUS.

Do we have any idea of what happens when you mix Hydrogen sulfide, benzene, radioactive isotopes, asbestos and all the other hazardous man made by products injected into the ground? Not a clue.

EPA needs to issue a Material Safety Data Sheet on the safety and health effects of the combination of the 100’s of chemical by products mixed all together and injected into our ground before they can certify injection is safe. We have individual MSDS sheets but that is not what is going into the ground and does not adequately reflect the true nature of those chemicals or consequences when combined and interacting with each other.

It is absolutely ridiculous for DOGGR and Water Resource Control Board to grant the guaranteed safe disposal of toxic waste into the unincorporated areas of SLO County that they have absolutely no idea of what those chemicals are or their effect on the environment and human health.

**So NO DOGGR for the 3<sup>RD</sup> time WE do not approve of your evaluation and assessment of the AGOF.**



## How about you do your job DOGGR and shut down the 1,650 illegal wells and collect the 12 Billion dollars in penalties due to the taxpayers?

1,650 Illegal sites and operations are not eligible for exempted status. They are disposing of toxic waste under a shut down order. The supplemented DOGGR data is unsatisfactory failing to meet the safety and health criteria under State laws and Federal Code of Regulation Title 40 UIC program.

As of Feb. 15, 2017 all the 1,650 wells 11 of which are at the AGOF are on notice to cease and desist. To date none of the offending wells have complied with certification and licensing under RCRA UIC program and are still fully operational. Why?

There are 1, 650 plus wells in violation of the shut down issued by DOGGR and Water Resource Control Board. The penalty is \$25,000 a day per well. To date the State is owed over 12 billion dollars in penalties. Who is going to collect on this and when? Maybe we should collect on the 11 illegal wells operating at the AGOF. Penalties on 11 wells comes to \$82,500,000. That's a nice chunk of change we could put to some good use. Land for a Tiny home community comes to mind. 😊

- Taxpayers demand restitution for violation of State health and safety regulations.

Because of aforementioned inadequacies we respectfully reject this supplemental information that fails to meet safety and health criteria and Federal Code of Regulation under the UIC program.

And further, we demand that the noticed shut down date of Feb. 15, 2017 for all unlicensed and unpermitted wells and well sites goes into effective immediately with fees and penalties in the amount of over 12 billion dollars paid taxpayer upon demand. And we do so demand.

So there you have it folk. And this is not even half the violations at the AGOF but it is good enough for now. Need to get this comment into DOGGR by Fri. Dec. 22, 2017. I would suggest doing this now so you

don't have to think about it again until after the Holidays.

I would suggest for your convenience you cut and paste any parts above you feel express your feelings. Use your own words. It's all good.

It must be clearly understood that this report is unacceptable until and when all conditions according to the law are met.

“We therefore respectfully reject this supplemental information that fails to meet safety and health criteria as a designated hazardous waste dump site.

**And include this demand making it an official part of the record. It is well within our purview to do so.**

And further, we demand that the noticed shut down date of Feb. 15, 2017 for all unlicensed and unpermitted wells and well sites is implemented immediately with fees and penalties in the amount of over 12 billion dollars forthcoming upon demand. And we do so demand.”

If we don't make the demands and expose discrepancies the courts will think we thought it was o.k. WE are not o.k. with this. Any of it. Silence is consent. Time to make some noise.

**So here is the email address**

submit comments to email to [comments@conservation.ca.gov](mailto:comments@conservation.ca.gov)

Subject line: Arroyo Grande Aquifer Exemption

Also, I would send a copy of your comment to The EPA and The Attorney General's office.

Copy the comment and paste it in the Attorney General complaint form @ <https://oag.ca.gov/contact/general-comment-question-or-complaint-form>

And do the same thing for the EPA <https://calepacomplaints.secure.force.com/complaints/Complaint>

CC our Board of Supervisor and let them know this is going viral and all eyes are on them.

[District 5 Supervisor Debbie Arnold»](#)

- [District 4 Supervisor Lynn Compton»](#)
- [District 3 Supervisor Adam Hill»](#)
- [District 2 Supervisor Bruce Gibson»](#)
- [District 1 Supervisor John Peschong»](#)

We are making our case to legally expel reckless and careless governing by elected officials.

It's time to lawyer up. Time to hire some bad ass corporate attorneys that are expert at reading the riot act about fiduciary responsibility and breach of professional malpractice, unjust enrichment, conversion, constructive fraud, gross negligence, breach of the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing, breach of contract, to uncooperative, belligerent, obstinate, obnoxious, arrogant, reckless elected public officials.

Our case is going to be with the Board of Supervisors. I mean really, awarding multi billion dollar contracts to unlicensed and undocumented entities is incorrigible behavior and unacceptable. It has been going on for years and has got to stop.

And lets put our candidates running for office to work for us. That's what Ruben Major candidate for Secretary of State did for us. When I explained we had a petition before the Attorney General and was not getting any response Ruben took our petition and hand delivered it to Becerra in Sacramento and told them we need a response. Good work Mr. Major. This is how you campaign for votes.

You show us what you would do if you were elected.

Email Jimmy Paulding candidate 4<sup>th</sup> District and ask him to write a comment to DOGGR and EPA <https://jimmypaulding.org/contact/> Bill Ostrander, Saluad, Cummingham, Fareed. Monning, Peschong, Arnold and Compton, Feinstein and Delaine Eastin. Let's see who is really working for and with us on this oil issue.

I will shoot off some emails to caucus groups and get them to write to DOGGR on our behalf and on behalf of the other 1639 sites dealing and living with inadequate leadership and governance. We don't have a lot of time to do this but we don't need a lot either. We know the drill. We have done it before. It is just going to take a few minutes to get our 2 cents on the record. We got everything we need all we need to do now is just do it.

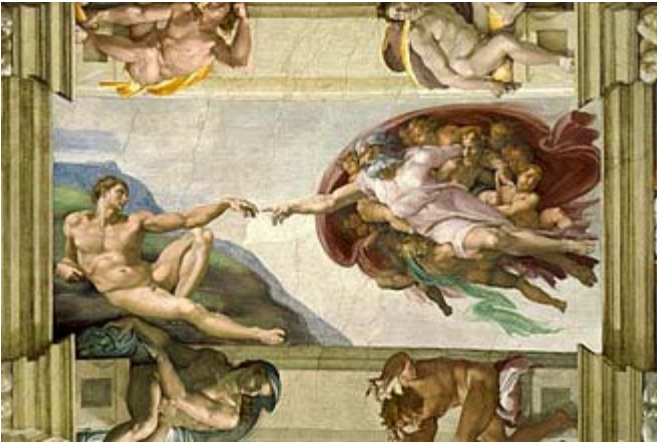
I have attached a sample comment. cut and paste whatever you want.

The next newsletter will be about the Board of Supervisors and what we intend to do about them. Just to let everyone know. Every board for the last 20 years has illegally approved the AGOF permits without verifying their license as a certified operator.

The AGOF was never EPA approved and certified which means absolutely critical health and safety information and testing was never part of the AGOF operation. This is a very serious, a fatal flaw, in this operation. I would hazard a guess that the fields would not be up and running if proper procedure had been followed. Driving without a license is illegal. Doctors, lawyers, dentist, plumbers, building contractors, restaurants, hospitals, school, car lots, mechanics all have to be licensed and certified in order to get a permit to set up shop. It is a tax and safety thing. Oil fields have a history of being dangerous, dirty, ugly, smelly, untrustworthy, slick, corrupt and never a good neighbor. No exemption is going to fix that flaw.

When all is said and done the BOS has the final say on permitting. So approving permits for contractors that are not licensed or certified and ignoring the fact that the site is on a cease and desist alert issued by DOGGR is really bad business practices and elected officials should know better. Not knowing is not an excuse either. Its their job to know. And if they play dumb we got firing power. Bad Ass lawyers know how to deliver walking papers and pink slips. Board will learn real quick what needs doing.

We have come a long way and we are the closest we have ever been to winning this freaking war bombarding our sense and sensibilities. And the really cool thing is the world is coming around and people everywhere are doing the Michelangelo thing. You know this thing



Connecting  
We are family

Congratulations you made it to the end. This was kind of like what this whole year was like. Epic. But worth it right?

Much much love ❤️❤️

ALWAYS,

*Jeanne*

[jeannewater@gmail.com](mailto:jeannewater@gmail.com)

[SLO Clean Water.org](http://SLO Clean Water.org)

[SLO Clean Water on FaceBook](#)

"The Earth is the mother of all people, and all people should have equal rights upon it."

— Chief Joseph

## **California State Attorney General: Shut Down these Wells**

Petition by [Jeanne Blackwell](#)

To be delivered to **California State Attorney General Xavier Becerra and San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors**

To: California State Attorney General Xavier Becerra:

"The human right to water is indispensable for leading a life in human dignity. " United Nations Right to Water 2010.

There is no substitute for water. We cannot unpoison a well.

We have a right to be free from the fear of irreparable and irreversible harm to our water. Shut down the offending wells now.

Shut down the oil drilling operations that failed to meet the Feb. 15, 2017 deadline to be in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act.

There are 1,650 toxic injection wells in California that need certification and millions of people whose water is in jeopardy of contamination from sites that have escaped certification. There must be an end to the uncertainty about the safety of our water.

Enforce the Feb. 15 shut down deadline now.

The Attorney General has independent authority, acting directly on behalf of the People, "to take action to protect the natural resources of the State of California from pollution, impairment or destruction."

Therefore, WE, the undersigned, do hereby implore and beseech State Attorney General Xavier Becerra to provide the leadership we have come to rely on to protect and safeguard Californians human and natural resources for this and future generations and enforce as stipulated the Feb. 15, 2017 shut down of all unpermitted, non compliant Underground Injection Control sites per the Safe Drinking Water Act.

## **Petition Background**

On Feb 15, 2017 we the people of California were looking for relief from the constant fear and uncertainty of contamination of our water by uncertified toxic waste injection operations in our backyards. Our hope of relief was shattered when The State Department of Conservation Division of Gas, Oil and Geothermal Resources failed to honor their deadline. This is an unforgivable breach of trust.

DOGGR defaulted on their shut down deadline and illegal wells remain fully operational.

The State of California was delegated primary responsibility for implementing the Class I, II, III, IV and V oil and gas underground injection control (UIC) program of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) in 1983.

DOGGR has admitted the program has never been fully operational or functional citing unresolved and ongoing staffing and funding issues that prevented them from implementing, monitoring and enforcing a fail safe, secure program.

As a part of its oversight role, EPA audited the California Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources' (DOGGR) primacy program in 2011 and identified substantial implementation deficiencies.

DOGGR, together with The State Water Resources Board and the EPA agreed to set Feb. 15, 2017 as the deadline for completion of the implementation of the UIC program with the condition that all non-compliant, undocumented operations would be shut down for our own safety and well being.

That deadline has come and gone and nothing has changed. All the wells are still in operation. This is a breach of trust by the agencies entrusted with the safety of our water. It is beyond reason to expect us to have any faith or confidence in this process.

It has been 33 years since DOGGR was given the responsibility of implementing a program to protect and safeguard our underground water resources from an accident prone industry with a history of mechanical malfunctions and human error that uses a patented toxic waste disposal

process that has been proven to compromise the geological integrity of the subterranean soil. Under these conditions accidents, spills, explosions and contamination of our water resources is inevitable.

The Feb 15, deadline was going to put an end to the uncertainty, constant stress and anxiety of not knowing if our water is safe.

DOGGR still has problems as does the EPA. Under this new administration the EPA is facing the threat of being dismantled. This situation is unbearable and only compounds our fear and anxiety over conditions that threaten water resources critical to our well being.

It does not seem at all fair nor does it instill any confidence in our regulatory process or law enforcement that we must bear the burden of a flawed system that risks irreversible and irreparable damage to a limited natural resource and a public good fundamental for life and health. Water.

For over 15 years we have been living with the unauthorized and unlicensed dumping of toxic waste into the unincorporated areas of San Luis Obispo County.

This uncertainty must end. The uncertified sites MUST be shut down pending certification.

The Attorney General has independent authority, to act directly on behalf of the People, "to take action to protect the natural resources of the State of California from pollution, impairment, or destruction."

Aside from the moral issue of keeping us safe there is the economic issue of penalties due and owing the State as of Feb. 15, 2017, By ignoring datelines the Attorney General is costing the State billions of dollars in penalties.  $1,650 \text{ wells} \times \$25,000 \text{ per each day per non-compliant well} = \$41,250,000 \text{ a day penalties} \times 275 \text{ days} = \$11,343,750,000$ . Can we really afford to ignore this? That would take care of a lot of transportation infrastructure. A recently implemented 12-cent per gallon gas increase to California drivers could have been avoided if the State was doing its job and collecting penalties for violation of safety and health rules and regulation

Shut down the illegal wells.



**Hansen, Christine@DOC**

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**From:** Alice Butterick <abutterick@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 22, 2017 11:21 AM  
**To:** Comments@DOC  
**Subject:** Arroyo Grande Aquifer exemption

Hello,

4 | I am opposed to the exemption for the Arroyo Grande aquifer!

Water moves! Particularly in shaky California! The aquifer is not isolated enough to ensure that it will not merge/contaminate adjacent areas.

1 | I don't want my drinking water or the water for our crops at increased risk of being poisoned... this should not be allowed especially in light of the fact that many of these wells are illegal. Poisoning the ground is a bad idea... we are smart people and are finding and developing alternatives to destroying the earth for our power supply.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Alice Butterick  
Arroyo Grande

Sent from my iPad

**From:** betty winholtz <winholtz@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 19, 2017 7:44 PM  
**To:** Comments@DOC  
**Cc:** Debbie Arnold; Adam Hill; Compton Lynn; jpeschong@co.slo.ca.us; Bruce Gibson  
**Subject:** ARROYO GRANDE AQUIFER EXEMPTION SUPPLEMENT

Dear DIGGER:

As a taxpayer, I demand restitution for violation of the State's health and safety regulations due to inadequacies. In particular,

- 1 1. An aquifer exemption is inappropriate and unacceptable: first DOGGER needs to get these wells certified. Where are the credentials and identification number for AGOF? (42 US Code 6921--Identification and listing of hazardous waste)
  
- 2 2. I respectfully reject the supplemental information that fails to meet safety and health criteria as a designated hazardous waste dump site. Federal Code of Regulation under the UIC program. Where is a list of the chemicals and hazardous waste by products that are being injected? Let's see an MSDS on what effects and chemical reaction the combined concocted chemicals being injected into the subterranean soil are producing. Currently EPA only has tested about 300 chemical concoctions.
  
- 3 3. I demand that the noticed shut down date of Feb. 15, 2017 for all unlicensed and unpermitted wells and well sites goes into effective immediately with fees and penalties in the amount of over 12 billion dollars paid taxpayer upon demand.

Please make my comment part of the official record.

Sincerely,

Betty Winholtz      Morro Bay  
405 Acacia          San Luis Obispo County, CA

**Hansen, Christine@DOC**

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**From:** Julia Stein <juliadansing@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 19, 2017 11:12 PM  
**To:** Comments@DOC  
**Subject:** Arroyo Grande Aquifer Exemption Proposal

to whom it may concern,

1 thank you for respecting mother earth and our life giving waters. extracting fossil fuel from our arroyo grande aquifer needs to stop now. we are deserving of safe, clean, pure water here as are all people and beings everywhere. now is the time to choose the health and well being of earth and all our relations and stop using toxic means to get oil out of our home. together we can help one another find solutions that benefit the whole world. please honor yourself and all life by keeping our aquifer and all waters pristine.

all my relations  
aho mitakuye oyasin

Julia stein

## Hansen, Christine@DOC

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**From:** Heather Dine <heatherdine2@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 20, 2017 1:01 AM  
**To:** Comments@DOC  
**Subject:** Opposition to exemption

Dear Sirs and Madams:

1 I am strongly opposed to any exemptions that allow injection of the oil waste or any fluid into our water supplies; it is not worth the risk to our and our children's health. Oil is a dirty fuel and it harms us and the environment. We need to be investing in renewable energy in our state, county and cities.

In response to:

\*Heather Dine\* M.S.

Hu man Anatomy,

Outreach Consultant; Coordinator, Central Coast Hour Exchange, [cchour.org](http://cchour.org); Underwater Photographic Imagery. Photos © Copyrighted

## Hansen, Christine@DOC

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**From:** Jaclynn Nusbett <nezrjag@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 20, 2017 8:53 AM  
**To:** Comments@DOC  
**Subject:** Statement on proposed Aquifer Exemption

1 | PLEASE DO NOT “gamble” with surety, that the coming large earthquake will NOT EFFECT the underground structures holding the POISON you plan to allow to be injected into OUR aquifers

J Nisbett  
Arroyo Grande, Ca  
Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

## Hansen, Christine@DOC

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**From:** Holly Padove <holly@balancedlivingayurveda.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 20, 2017 9:30 AM  
**To:** Comments@DOC  
**Subject:** The Arroyo Grande Aquifer Exemption comment period ending Dec. 22, 2017.

To whom it may Concern:

My comment regarding The Supplemental Arroyo Grande Aquifer submission data submitted by DOGGR for public comment

is that I find the information inadequate and unacceptable. Here are several reasons why I feel the information is of no consequence to the issue at hand. I will not feel safe or confident that no harm will come to this community now or in the near future until these issues are resolved. The data does not address any of these issues.

1. The site has not met any of the standards or legal criteria for a Class I or II waste disposal site.
2. Injection of fluids begins only after the EPA approves an aquifer exemption and an underground injection control permit is granted not the other way around.
3. The Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments (HSWA) to the RCRA includes Class I hazardous waste injection wells, prohibiting disposal unless the waste has been treated to become non-hazardous AGOF has not been so treated. They are injecting hydrogen sulfide and radioactive isotopes to name just 2. All we need is one. Or,

Disposer can demonstrate that the waste will remain where it has been placed for as long as it remains hazardous, which has been defined as 10,000 years by regulation.

Sentinel cannot and has not demonstrated that waste will remain for 10,000 years and either has DOGGR or the EPA .

The 703 page Supplemental Arroyo Grande Aquifer Exemption Submission does not address primary issue of proper certification and registration of the site and operators and therefore is inadequate, inconclusive and inconsistent with exemption criteria.

4. We need to see credentials issued by EPA §264.11 Identification number. AGOF has no such ID Number

5. 42 U.S. Code § 6921 - Identification and listing of hazardous waste

Every facility owner or operator must apply to EPA for an EPA identification number in accordance with the EPA notification procedures (45 FR 12746).

6. § 144.11 Prohibition of unauthorized injection. Any underground injection, except into a well authorized by rule or except as authorized by permit issued under the UIC program, is prohibited. The construction of any well required to have a permit is prohibited until the permit has been issued. No authorization by rule has been issued.

What would happen if a 5-6 point magnitude earthquake hits the California Coast? Very likely in our lifetime. What are the chances that the 'rock bed' at the AGOF will shift and rearrange the entire subterranean structure where the fault lines are? Will those tar seals hold back billions of gallons of toxic wastewater that has been illegally disposed of? This is an active earthquake zone. Your data missed the point entirely.

3  
Further,

The over 45 million gallons of toxic waste per day that is illegally disposed of in an unregulated, unmonitored, unpermitted site would go where ever it wants contaminating everything in its path.

4  
AGOF is not a certified waste disposal site and needs to be shut down in accordance with the Feb. 15, 2017 issuance by DOGGR.

- 5
7. Want to see the safety records. Any spills, accidents, explosions during the history of this oil field? The oil fields have not met all the reporting and record keeping data required by law. Cannot exempt a site that does not have a certified record of its safety history.
  8. Any worker complaints? Has OSHA been on site? Why not? Where are the worker safety records? Has the field been issued any safety or health citations or violations?
  9. Need a list of the chemicals and hazardous waste by products that are being injected? Want to see an MSDS on what effects and chemical reaction the combined concocted chemicals being injected into the subterranean soil are producing.
  10. EPA needs to issue a Material Safety Data Sheet on the safety and health effects of the combination of the 100's of produced waste products mixed all together and injected into our ground before they can certify injection is safe. We have individual MSDS on some waste products but that is not what is going into the ground and does not adequately reflect the true nature of those chemicals or consequences when combined and interacting with each other.

It is absolutely ridiculous for DOGGR and Water Resource Control Board to grant the guaranteed safe disposal of toxic waste into the unincorporated areas of SLO County that they have absolutely no idea of what those chemicals are or their effect on the environment and human health.

And finally,

4  
11. As of Feb. 15, 2017 all the 1,650 wells, eleven of which are at the AGOF, are on notice to cease and desist. To date none of the offending wells have complied with the cease and desist or have been certified or licensed under RCRA UIC program and are still fully operational.

12. The 1,650 plus wells are in violation of the mandatory shut down issued by DOGGR and Water Resource Control Board. The penalty is \$25,000 a day per well. The State is due and owed over 12 billion dollars in penalties. Is there a fiduciary responsibility to the taxpayers to implement penalties and fines? Who is going to collect on this and when?

13. Taxpayers demand restitution for violation of State health and safety and licensing codes and regulations.

2  
In conclusion: Because of the aforementioned inadequacies in the data I respectfully reject this supplemental information that fails to meet safety and health criteria under Federal Code of Regulation UIC program.

4  
And further, I demand that the noticed shut down date of Feb. 15, 2017 issued by DOGGR is

4

implemented immediately with fees and penalties in the amount of over 12 billion dollars owned taxpayers is delivered upon demand. We do so demand.

Sincerely yours,  
Holly Padove  
1598 Old Oak Park Road  
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

Balanced Living Ayurveda  
For a healthy mind, body and spirit!



## Hansen, Christine@DOC

---

**From:** Doug Timewell <doug@toucanwines.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 20, 2017 9:34 AM  
**To:** Comments@DOC  
**Cc:** Doug Timewell  
**Subject:** Arroyo Grande Aquifer Exemption Proposal

1 Please protect our water in San Luis Obispo county! Here are again facing another drought year. Our county has received virtually no rain this season, our southern neighbors are experiencing the worse fire disaster in our state history. Saving our drinkable water supply should be one of our highest priorities.

2 The expansion of oil exploration in the Arroyo Grande foothills and Price Canyon is a waste of our precious resource. The low grade tar-oil extraction in our region, tar which is more expensive to extract and refine, when compared to the risk of our local aquifer should be a simple decision.

1 Please don't allow the greed of one company to jeopardize the water supply of many.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Timewell

**Doug Timewell, winemaker & grower**

**Toucan Wines**

(805) 474-8514

3850 Acre Wood Place

Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

[doug@toucanwines.com](mailto:doug@toucanwines.com)

[www.ToucanWines.com](http://www.ToucanWines.com)

[Click for Copy of our Wine List](#)

**From:** jeremymbarnes <jeremymbarnes@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 21, 2017 2:21 AM  
**To:** Comments@DOC

Hi my name is Jeremy Barnes and I live in San Luis Obispo County. I am emailing to say I do not approve of the aquifer exemption in San Luis Obispo.

1 1. The site has not met any of the standards or legal criteria for a Class I or II waste disposal site according to UIC program.

1 2. Injection of fluids begins only AFTER the EPA approves an aquifer exemption and an underground injection control permit is granted not the other way around. ARROYO GRANDE OIL FIELD HAS BEEN INJECTING TOXIC WASTE WITHOUT EPA APPROVAL FOR OVER 20 YEARS. THIS SITE IS IN VIOATION OF EPA rules

2 a) §264.11 Identification number. AGOF has no such ID Number b) 42 U.S. Code § 6921 - Identification and listing of hazardous waste

2 c) § 144.11 Prohibition of unauthorized injection. Any underground injection, except into a well authorized by rule or except as authorized by permit issued under the UIC program, is prohibited. The construction of any well required to have a permit is prohibited until the permit has been issued. No authorization by rule has been issued.

1 d) Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments (HSWA) to the RCRA prohibits disposal unless the waste has been treated to become non-hazardous. AGOF has not been so treated SO THE SITE DOES NOT QUALIFY FOR EXEMPTION STATUS.

3 3. And lastly the Arroyo Grande Oil Field is under a cease and desist order from your department's Feb 15, 2017 shut down of 1650 unregistered wells. Eleven of those wells are at the AGOG and are illegally dumping toxic waste into the unincorporated areas. This site does not quality for exemption status until it is properly registered and authorized by the EPA. it does not have legal standing under the UIC program. An exemption does not make it legal. Shut down the illegal wells don't approve them.

2 In conclusion: Because of the aforementioned inadequacies in the data I respectfully reject this supplemental information that fails to meet safety and health criteria under Federal Code of Regulation UIC program.

3 And further, I demand that the noticed shut down date of Feb. 15, 2017 issued by DOGGR is implemented immediately with fees and penalties in the amount of \$12,375,000,000 owned taxpayers is delivered upon demand. We do so demand. 300 days times 1650 wells @\$25,000 each = \$12,375,000,000.

Thank-you

**From:** Nell Wade <nellcentralcoast@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 21, 2017 7:15 AM  
**To:** Comments@DOC  
**Subject:** Fracking

Hi my name is Renelda Becker-Wade and I live in San Luis Obispo County. I am calling to say I do not approve of the aquifer exemption in San Luis Obispo.

1 1. The site has not met any of the standards or legal criteria for a Class I or II waste disposal site according to UIC program.

2 2. Injection of fluids begins only AFTER the EPA approves an aquifer exemption and an underground injection control permit is granted not the other way around. ARROYO GRANDE OIL FIELD HAS BEEN INJECTING TOXIC WASTE WITHOUT EPA APPROVAL FOR OVER 20 YEARS. THIS SITE IS IN VIOATION OF EPA rules

2 a) §264.11 Identification number. AGOF has no such ID Number b) 42 U.S. Code § 6921 - Identification and listing of hazardous waste

2 c) § 144.11 Prohibition of unauthorized injection. Any underground injection, except into a well authorized by rule or except as authorized by permit issued under the UIC program, is prohibited. The construction of any well required to have a permit is prohibited until the permit has been issued. No authorization by rule has been issued.

1 d) Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments (HSWA) to the RCRA prohibits disposal unless the waste has been treated to become non-hazardous. AGOF has not been so treated SO THE SITE DOES NOT QUALIFY FOR EXEMPTION STATUS.

3 3. And lastly the Arroyo Grande Oil Field is under a cease and desist order from your department's Feb 15, 2017 shut down of 1650 unregistered wells. Eleven of those wells are at the AGOG and are illegally dumping toxic waste into the unincorporated areas. This site does not quality for exemption status until it is properly registered and authorized by the EPA. it does not have legal standing under the UIC program. An exemption does not make it legal. Shut down the illegal wells don't approve them.

2 In conclusion: Because of the aforementioned inadequacies in the data I respectfully reject this supplemental information that fails to meet safety and health criteria under Federal Code of Regulation UIC program.

3 And further, I demand that the noticed shut down date of Feb. 15, 2017 issued by DOGGR is implemented immediately with fees and penalties in the amount of

3 \$12,375,000,000 owned taxpayers is delivered upon demand. We do so demand.300 days times 1650 wells @\$25,000 each = \$12,375,000,000.

4 You need to protect our natural resources, which includes the natural world as well as California's citizens, so do your job!

Renelda Becker-Wade

--  
Let your voice be the seed you plant in the garden of life.  
~~ Jes Maharry

**Hansen, Christine@DOC**

---

**From:** Deb Thorlakson <debthorlakson@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 21, 2017 7:35 AM  
**To:** Comments@DOC  
**Subject:** PROPOSED AQUIFER EXEMPTION

1 Please do NOT allow the PROPOSED AQUIFER EXEMPTION.

Sincerely,

Deborah Thorlakson  
debthorlakson@hotmail.com

**Hansen, Christine@DOC**

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**From:** Bev Gularte Harben <bevharben@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 21, 2017 7:57 AM  
**To:** Comments@DOC  
**Subject:** Arroyo Grande Aquifer Exemption Proposal

To the Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources, CA Department of Conservation:

1 I strongly object to the Arroyo Grande Aquifer Exemption. To allow injection into this area for enhanced oil recovery or for injection disposal of fluids is an egregious misuse of the US EPA standards for human and environmental health. To put corporate profits over the possibility of contaminating ground water in the Price Canyon/Edna Valley area is not only negligent, but a dangerous and pandering nod to the big oil interests.

2 To now say that there are two drinking water wells in the proposed exemption area means that DOGGR recognizes that the possibility of ground water contamination is very real and highly possible. There is a frightening lack of scientific, fact-based information regarding the aquifer and its ability to buffer or withstand the activities being proposed. Long-time residents in the area (me included) find it spectacularly irresponsible of DOGGR to disregard the concern about ground water contamination, especially in light of the severe droughts and water shortages we are experiencing.

I call on DOGGR to rescind and halt the exemption immediately.

Beverly Harben  
205 S Rena Street  
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420  
805-710-3007

**From:** tibercanyon@gmail.com on behalf of Chris Anderson <info@tibercanyon.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 21, 2017 8:03 AM  
**To:** Comments@DOC  
**Cc:** district5@co.slo.ca.us; district4@co.slo.ca.us; hmiller@co.slo.ca.us; bgibson@co.slo.ca.us; jpeschong@co.slo.ca.us  
**Subject:** Arroyo Grande Aquifer Exemption

1 My husband and I live and farm olives just a little over a mile from the Arroyo Grande Oil Field on West Ormonde Road. I'm very concerned about the ongoing, illegal injection of toxic waste into the aquifer below these fields. The safety of my family's drinking water and the value of the land we have worked so hard on for 25 years are at stake.

Here are some of my concerns:

2 1. The site has not met any of the standards or legal criteria for a Class I or II waste disposal site according to UIC program.

2 2. Injection of fluids begins only AFTER the EPA approves an aquifer exemption and an underground injection control permit is granted not the other way around. ARROYO GRANDE OIL FIELD HAS BEEN INJECTING TOXIC WASTE WITHOUT EPA APPROVAL FOR OVER 20 YEARS. THIS SITE IS IN VIOATION OF EPA rules

3 a) §264.11 Identification number. AGOF has no such ID Number b) 42 U.S. Code § 6921 - Identification and listing of hazardous waste

3 c) § 144.11 Prohibition of unauthorized injection. Any underground injection except into a well authorized by rule or except as authorized by permit issued under the UIC program, is prohibited. The construction of any well required to have a permit is prohibited until the permit has been issued. No authorization by rule has been issued.

2 d) Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments (HSWA) to the RCRA prohibits disposal unless the waste has been treated to become

2 non-hazardous. AGOF has not been so treated, SO THE SITE DOES NOT QUALIFY FOR EXEMPTION STATUS.

4 3. And lastly the Arroyo Grande Oil Field is under a cease and desist order from your department's February 15, 2017, shut down of 1650 unregistered wells. Eleven of those wells are at the AGOG and are illegally dumping toxic waste into the unincorporated areas. This site does not quality for exemption status until it is properly registered and authorized by the EPA. It does not have legal standing under the UIC program. An exemption does not make it legal. Shut down the illegal wells, don't approve them.

3 In conclusion: Because of the aforementioned inadequacies in the data, I respectfully reject this supplemental information that fails to meet safety and health criteria under Federal Code of Regulation UIC program.

5 It is absolutely ridiculous for DOGGR and Water Resource Control Board to grant the guaranteed safe disposal of toxic waste into the unincorporated areas of SLO County that they have absolutely no idea of what those chemicals are or their effect on the environment and human health.

4 And further, I demand that the noticed shut down date of Feb. 15, 2017 issued by DOGGR is implemented immediately with fees and penalties in the amount of \$12,375,000,000 owned taxpayers is delivered upon demand. We do so demand. 300 days times 1650 wells @\$25,000 each = \$12,375,000,000.

Thank you,

Chris Anderson  
280 W. Ormonde Rd.  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401



**From:** Susan Pyburn <susanimai@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 21, 2017 8:52 AM  
**To:** Comments@DOC  
**Subject:** Aquifer exemption in San Luis Obispo County

Hi my name is Susan Pyburn and I live in San Luis Obispo County. I am writing to say I do not approve of the aquifer exemption in San Luis Obispo.

1. The site has not met any of the standards or legal criteria for a Class I or II waste disposal site according to UIC program.

1 2. Injection of fluids begins only AFTER the EPA approves an aquifer exemption and an underground injection control permit is granted not the other way around. ARROYO GRANDE OIL FIELD HAS BEEN INJECTING TOXIC WASTE WITHOUT EPA APPROVAL FOR OVER 20 YEARS. THIS SITE IS IN VIOATION OF EPA rules

2 a) §264.11 Identification number. AGOF has no such ID Number b)42 U.S. Code § 6921 - Identification and listing of hazardous waste

2 c) § 144.11 Prohibition of unauthorized injection. Any underground injection, except into a well authorized by rule or except as authorized by permit issued under the UIC program, is prohibited. The construction of any well required to have a permit is prohibited until the permit has been issued. No authorization by rule has been issued.

1 d) Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments (HSWA) to the RCRA prohibits disposal unless the waste has been treated to become non-hazardous. AGOF has not been so treated SO THE SITE DOES NOT QUALIFY FOR EXEMPTION STATUS.

3 3. And lastly the Arroyo Grande Oil Field is under a cease and desist order from your department's Feb 15, 2017 shut down of 1650 unregistered wells. Eleven of those wells are at the AGOG and are illegally dumping toxic waste into the unincorporated areas. This site does not quality for exemption status until it is properly registered and authorized by the EPA. it does not have legal standing under the UIC program. An exemption does not make it legal. Shut down the illegal wells don't approve them.

1 In conclusion: Because of the aforementioned inadequacies in the data I respectfully reject this supplemental information that fails to meet safety and health criteria under Federal Code of Regulation UIC program.

3

And further, I demand that the noticed shut down date of Feb. 15, 2017 issued by DOGGR is implemented immediately with fees and penalties in the amount of \$12,375,000,000 owned taxpayers is delivered upon demand. We do so demand.300 days times 1650 wells @\$25,000 each = \$12,375,000,000.

Thank-you

Susan Pyburn

Sit.  
Feast on your life.

(Derek Walcott)

**Hansen, Christine@DOC**

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**From:** Tracy Del Rio <tracydelrio@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 21, 2017 10:00 AM  
**To:** Comments@DOC  
**Subject:** Arroyo Grande Aquifer Exemption Proposal

My name is Tracy Del Rio and I a resident of Arroyo Grande, CA. I am submitting this comment letter in opposition of the exemption proposal. I am not supportive of Class II Injection into the identified area.

<sup>1</sup> San Luis Obispo County needs to slow and eventually stop a fledgling oil development industry area for the future of residents related to water safety.

Tracy Del Rio

## Hansen, Christine@DOC

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**From:** Piper and Bruce Hunter <piperhunter@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 21, 2017 10:11 AM  
**To:** Comments@DOC  
**Subject:** aquifer exemption

1 Please don't allow this aquifer exemption . This is so wrong to allow injected waste water back into aquifers so close to our drinking water wells. All of us neighbors in this area depend upon our wells for all of our water needs, and with fault lines near by,there is no such thing as tar seals being impermeable.Please don't allow more reinjection wells to be drilled so close to our aquifers protected by the safe water act. . PLEASE do the right thing! Thank You . Piper Hunter 435 vista del robles AG Ca 93420

**Hansen, Christine@DOC**

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**From:** Dani Nicholson <dani.r.nicholson@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 21, 2017 10:15 AM  
**To:** Comments@DOC  
**Cc:** darnold@co.slo.ca.us; ahill@co.slo.ca.us; jpeschong@co.slo.ca.us; bgibson@co.slo.ca.us; lcompton@co.slo.ca.us  
**Subject:** Arroyo Grande Aquifer Exemption Supplement

Dear DOGGR:

As a taxpayer, I demand restitution for violation of the State's health and safety regulations due to inadequacies. In particular,

- 1 1. An aquifer exemption is inappropriate and unacceptable: first DOGGR needs to get these wells certified. Where are the credentials and identification number for the Arroyo Grande Oil Field? (42 US Code 6921--Identification and listing of hazardous waste)
- 2 2. I respectfully reject the supplemental information that fails to meet safety and health criteria as a designated hazardous waste dump site. Federal Code of Regulation under the UIC program. Where is a list of the chemicals and hazardous waste by products that are being injected? Let's see an MSDS on what effects and chemical reaction the combined concocted chemicals being injected into the subterranean soil are producing. Currently EPA only has tested about 300 chemical combinations.
- 3 3. I demand that the noticed shut down date of Feb. 15, 2017 for all unlicensed and unpermitted wells and well sites goes into effective immediately with fees and penalties in the amount of over 12 billion dollars paid to taxpayers upon demand.

Please make my comment part of the official record.

Sincerely,

Dani R. Nicholson  
760 Old Creek Rd.  
Cayucos, CA 93430

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Dani Nicholson  
Willow Tree Wildlife  
Education and Advocacy  
Cayucos, California  
[805-704-8527](tel:805-704-8527)  
[www.willowtreewildlife.com](http://www.willowtreewildlife.com)

**Hansen, Christine@DOC**

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**From:** Bill Jenkins <willy.ed@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 21, 2017 10:24 AM  
**To:** Comments@DOC  
**Cc:** Bill Jenkins  
**Subject:** Arroyo Grande Oil Field Aquifer Exemption

To the Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources, CA Department of Conservation:

As a long-time resident (45+ years) of Ormonde Road, approximately 1/4 mile from the edge of the Arroyo Grande oil field boundary, I find it astonishingly irresponsible of DOGGR to disregard the concern about ground water contamination.

1 I am firmly opposed to the Arroyo Grande Aquifer Exemption. To allow injection into this area for enhanced oil recovery or for injection disposal of fluids is a horrendous misuse of the US EPA standards for human and environmental health. To put business profits over the possibility of contaminating ground water in the Price Canyon area is not only negligent, but a dangerous and disturbing signal to the big oil interests.

2 To now say that there are two drinking water wells in the proposed exemption area means that DOGGR recognizes that the possibility of ground water contamination is real and highly possible. My drinking water well is with-in a 1/2 mile of operating oil wells and waste water injection operations. The former owner, Sentinel Oil was contacted about testing my drinking water well and this has not happened. They didn't even have it on maps of local water wells in the immediate area. This one of many things that show a frightening lack of scientific, fact-based information regarding the aquifer and its ability to buffer or withstand the activities being proposed. Other residents in the area find it careless of DOGGR to pay no attention to the fear about ground water contamination, especially in light of the severe droughts and water shortages we have experienced lately. 3

I call on DOGGR to rescind and halt the Aquifer Exemption immediately.

San Luis Obispo, Ca 93401

Bill Jenkins 805 459 1048

625 West Ormonde Road [willy.ed@gmail.com](mailto:willy.ed@gmail.com)

## Hansen, Christine@DOC

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**From:** Cheryl Jenkins <seajay51@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 21, 2017 10:24 AM  
**To:** Comments@DOC  
**Subject:** Arroyo Grande Aquifer Exemption

To CA Department of Conservation, DOGGR:

1 I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the proposed aquifer exemption of the Arroyo Grande Oil Field from the Safe Water Act. I have no confidence in DOGGR and their knowledge of the dangers involved with enhanced oil recovery. They recently redrew the proposed boundaries of the exemption which indicates that they are not confident that surrounding ground water is safe from contamination.

2 I rely on a water well that is located approximately ½ mile from the Arroyo Grande Oil Field. I am also aware of dozens of other water wells in very close proximity to the boundary of the oil field. My husband and I have lived on Ormonde Road for over 45 years. If our water becomes contaminated, we would be unable to continue to live in our home. We are retired and living on a fixed income and finding a new home at this point would be extremely difficult. To this, I'm sure most officials will say "big deal". But this is a huge deal to us.

I realize that there is a lot of pressure from BIG OIL and they stand to earn HUGE profits if the exemption goes through. I find it extremely irresponsible to risk OUR groundwater in favor of those profits.

3 Besides the obvious concerns about the contaminates seeping into our groundwater, the fact that the oil field lies on an earthquake fault should be a big red flag. It is quite clear that injection drilling is a factor in a huge increase in earthquakes as seen in Oklahoma. In the event of earthquakes in the area of the oil field, all the theories of safety by DOGGR goes out the window. The impenetrable walls that are claimed could be completely compromised.

4 I would also like to point out another obvious reason to decline the exemption – we have been in a severe drought for several years. Enhanced oil recovery requires extracting millions of gallons of water. Some of this water is reinjected back into the ground, but the majority of it is simply "cleaned" and wasted but putting it into the creek and allowing it to flow into the ocean a few miles away.

5 Government agencies such as DOGGR, the EPA and CA Department of Conservation were put into place to protect our environment and our citizens. It is time that they do their job and reject this exemption request!

Cheryl Jenkins  
625 W. Ormonde Rd.  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401  
805-801-1929  
[seajay51@gmail.com](mailto:seajay51@gmail.com)

**Hansen, Christine@DOC**

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**From:** Sandi Heller <hellerart@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 21, 2017 1:42 PM  
**To:** Comments@DOC  
**Subject:** Injection wells

I am opposed to any expansion of allowable injection wells in the Arroyo Grand aquifer.

Sandra Heller  
San Luis Obispo



**Hansen, Christine@DOC**

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**From:** Janet Glenn <janetadela1226@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 21, 2017 5:41 PM  
**To:** Comments@DOC  
**Subject:** Price Canyon

Do not allow oil extraction in Price Canyon that would be near or endanger water supply for residents.

1

## Hansen, Christine@DOC

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**From:** Kim Chaffee <kimchaffeeweddingplanner@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 22, 2017 1:15 AM  
**To:** kimchaffeeweddingplanner@aol.com; Comments@DOC  
**Subject:** Att: AQUIFER EXEMPTION/UPDATED LETTER

### Att: AQUIFER EXEMPTION

Kim Chaffee  
360 Park Ave # 3  
Pismo Beach, CA  
93449

RE: Updated letter

December 21, 2017

Dear Conservation of California,

I'm writing this appeal letter to stop the increase of land and aquifer exemption and expansion in San Luis Obispo County for Sentinel Peak Resources (Oil Field). I live 4 mile from the oil field and it smells very strong when driving through the street that it is located on and I can't image this smell getting any stronger, then it is already. Since I'm a person affected with asthma it only makes it worse, when I drive down that street that the oil field is on or when the winds pick up and carry near my home. It is a know fact that high levels of dangerous chemicals are found in the air near oil and gas sites and it affects people's health in negative ways. ( nausea, headaches, nosebleeds, allergies, respiratory problems, rashes, cancer, congenital heart conditions defects for newborns and etc)

The creek on the property of the oil field has a "sharp mirror effect", that is evidences enough that the water is contaminated from oil and etc.

In addition, my tap water is treated with bleach and the smell is so overwhelming at times that it frightening to cook or take a shower with that substance in the water, that is a by product of the oil field operations. When I contacted DOGGR to get more answers to my questions by their counsel, Kristen Bailey. I was sent misleading data on a spreadsheet to figure out the numbers that meet under - water and oil data. I asked her to correct the missing data and resend me a new CD, she refused to do so.

I need to be frank with you, their is dangerous fracking chemicals in the water wells of the folks that live close to the oil field. There is a cancer cluster in that immediate area of the oil field, that I informed DOGGR about. Need I say more!

The lack of inspecting this oil field in a comprehension matter, for many years has caused these cancer clusters to occur. Allowing the aquifer exemption and expansion to be approved is NOT a sane way to handle this current matter with the city water, water wells and land contamination. If allowed to go forward it would cause this beautiful area to become a graveyard at the benefit for the oil companies massive profits and the city taxes, this County would benefit from, including royalties.

Please save our loved ones of thousands of dollars by avoiding legal proceedings, save the community from the time and hassle of any legal issues down the road, allows us to inherit are precious peace of mind and heath without any further delays. Please help us stop this oil company from supplying toxic drinking water in our communities and revoke the oil company's license and lease until it can proof it did not commit malice or fraud. And they have met the environmental and constitutional laws of the State, local Cities and assured the citizens of San Luis Obispo County that we have safe and clean water, versus by city or water wells standards.

3 The human rights to water bill AB685. The citizens can sue if a State agency failed to advance the implementation of the right to safe, clean, affordable, accessible water and sanitary water lines and wells.

You must provide and improve water conditions to underserved and marginalized communities, it is a constitution right and a law.

1 Any money that the county and cities receives from taxes or royalties is not worth deaths, from contaminated water and land. Please don't have blood on your hands.

4 The testimonials from the community should be honored, as we are the ones that have to deal with these hard difficulties, time consuming and expensive mess of oil spills, crack and leaks. By all measures we are expected to recovery fast and with our concerns NOT validated, it becomes a living hell that no ones will understand unless they live in our shoes.

2 My desired outcome would be to NOT allow the aquifer exemption and expansion, an comprehensive evaluation of the whole oil field, from top to bottom and public viewing of the results and water/land testing of the cancer cluster area from a 3rd party of the home owners choosing, at the expense of the Sentinel Peak Resources. And opportunity to appeal, if necessary by both parties.

The community deserves this long over do transparency/ comprehensive report for previously overlooked and current problems NOT documented and backed up by testimony for public view and questions. We have requested this information for many years and it has not come forward, in the same breath how can we trust a company that does not put their name on the line.

Thank you for your time and reading my letter.

Sincerely,

Kim Chaffee

**From:** Paul F Ready <PFReady@FarmerandReady.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 21, 2017 9:16 PM  
**To:** Comments@DOC  
**Subject:** Proposed Exemption

Regarding your proposed exemption, please consider the following:

State and Federal Exemption Criteria Water Boards staff assessed whether the revised proposal meets the criteria set forth in California Public Resources Code (PRC) section (§) 3131 and § 146.4 of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). Pending a supplemental public comment process, Water Boards staff preliminarily concur with the revised exemption proposal. As required by PRC § 3131(a)(1) and 40 CFR § 146.4(a) **the proposed exempted area does not currently serve as a source of drinking water.**

1 While the proposed exempted area does not “currently serve as a source of drinking water” the area is adjacent to residential developments which do indeed utilize the aquifer for a source of drinking water, and agricultural properties which utilize the aquifer for production of crops for human consumption. In light of climate changes, and the extended drought conditions which plague the central coastal regions of California, it would be unreasonable, if not irrational to consider the proposed exempted area as anything other than a potential source of drinking water, and/or water available for the production of food for human consumption.

2 Consistent with 40 CFR § 146.4(b)(1), the proposed exempted area will not in the future serve as a source of drinking water because it is hydrocarbon producing. In addition, as per PRC section 3131(a)(2), **the injected fluids are not expected to affect the quality of water** that is, or may reasonably be, used for any beneficial use because (1) **the groundwater contained in the proposed exempted area is not expected to be put to beneficial use** because it contains petroleum hydrocarbons, and (2) **the injected fluids are expected to remain in the proposed exempted area.**

Sadly, the foregoing concepts appear to be based upon “expectations” which are most likely projected based upon the applicant’s experts opinions. If the only opinions as to these expectations are those supplied by the applicant, than it’s clear that they cannot be objectively relied upon in consider the requested exemption. No decision should be made until an opinion of an independent expert has been provided for consideration.

The requirement of PRC section 3131(a)(3) is also satisfied because a detailed technical demonstration has been made that **the injected fluids are expected to remain in the proposed exempted area due to a combination of geologic conditions and hydraulic controls.**

Same concerns as above stated.

Geologic features include a synclinal structure, a fault barrier on the north side of the proposed exempted area (Arroyo Grande fault), and stratigraphic conditions on the south side of the proposed exempted area (decreasing permeability and transmissivity from the Dollie Sands transition into Miguelito member of the Pismo Formation). **Injected fluids in the proposed exempted area should also be contained hydraulically, both vertically and laterally, due to the inward hydraulic gradient created by oil field dewatering activities in the proposed exempted area.**

Science and expertise “should” be able to opine as to whether or not the fluids “will be” contained .....not “should” be contained. To the extent there remains any reasonable prospect that these fluids might not be container, the proposed exemption should be denied.

It is my understanding that my residence and my residential wells lie within four miles of the proposed project. If studies were provided that eliminated the uncertainty of the various matters discussed above, I would be happy to consider the same.

3

P.F. Ready

## Hansen, Christine@DOC

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**From:** Valerie Monge <valerie.monge@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 21, 2017 9:46 PM  
**To:** Comments@DOC  
**Subject:** Proposed oil exemption in Arroyo Grande, CA

1 The proposed oil exemption in Arroyo Grande is a hazard to the health and safety of the Central Coast's people and land. As a health care provider at Cal Poly State University, I take our community's health very seriously. Our community does not want more oil or byproducts in our soil. It should not be forced upon us.

Valerie Monge, PA-C, MMSc

Sent from my iPhone

Hansen, Christine@DOC

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**From:** Kerry Cirone <kerry.cirone@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 22, 2017 8:12 AM  
**To:** Comments@DOC  
**Subject:** Price Canyon Oil Field

I am writing this to express my concern regarding the exemption to the Clean Water Act that the Price Canyon Oil Field is requesting. The oil field has been in violation of the clean water act for years for injecting polluted water back in to the acquifer and is seeking an exemption for doing that after the fact. If approved, they will triple the oil wells. An approved expansion will not only further pollute the acquifer, but will add more traffic, air pollution, noise pollution and light pollution to Edna Valley and Price Canyon. This will have a negative impact on the quality of life not just for surrounding neighbors, farms, ranches and vineyards, but for everyone that appreciates the beauty of Edna Valley, San Luis Obispo and our county. Do not allow the Price Canyon Oil Fields an exemption to the Clean Water Act.

Sincerely,  
Kerry Murphy  
[kerry.cirone@gmail.com](mailto:kerry.cirone@gmail.com)

**Hansen, Christine@DOC**

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**From:** Jim Neville <nzranchslo@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 22, 2017 9:16 AM  
**To:** Comments@DOC  
**Subject:** Arroyo Grande Aquifer Exemption Proposal

To whom it may concern,

1 I would like to voice my concern about this proposal and the impact it will have on our community. My primary concern is the notion of injecting unclean water into the water system to produce crude oil. Have studies been conducted that prove that this practice is safe and has no impact on the existing aquifer, that is used for agricultural production and residential water consumption. Why would we jeopardize this resource when it is certainly unclear? What is the choice? a. water to be used for residential consumption/agricultural production or b. produce crude oil. Without the science and proven best practice, the answer is clear to me.

Thanks for taking the time to hear my opinion.  
James Neville



## Hansen, Christine@DOC

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**From:** Chris Zurbach <chriszurbach@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 22, 2017 9:28 AM  
**To:** Comments@DOC  
**Subject:** Aquifer Exemption

I fully oppose an exemption to the Price Canyon Oil fields expansion.

1  
Christine Zurbach

## Hansen, Christine@DOC

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**From:** Kelly Reed Daulton <daultonreed@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 22, 2017 9:28 AM  
**To:** Comments@DOC  
**Cc:** Jordan Cunningham  
**Subject:** No Toxic waste, no illegal wells

To Whom it May Concern,

I live in San Luis Obispo County and I do not approve of the aquifer exemption in San Luis Obispo.

- 1 1. The site has not met any of the standards or legal criteria for a Class I or II waste disposal site according to UIC program.
  - 2 2. Injection of fluids begins only AFTER the EPA approves an aquifer exemption and an underground injection control permit is granted not the other way around. ARROYO GRANDE OIL FIELD HAS BEEN INJECTING TOXIC WASTE WITHOUT EPA APPROVAL FOR OVER 20 YEARS. THIS SITE IS IN VIOLATION OF EPA rules
  - 2 a) §264.11 Identification number. AGOF has no such ID Number b) 42 U.S. Code § 6921 - Identification and listing of hazardous waste
  - 2 c) § 144.11 Prohibition of unauthorized injection. Any underground injection, except into a well authorized by rule or except as authorized by permit issued under the UIC program, is prohibited. The construction of any well required to have a permit is prohibited until the permit has been issued. No authorization by rule has been issued.
  - 1 d) Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments (HSWA) to the RCRA prohibits disposal unless the waste has been treated to become non-hazardous. AGOF has not been so treated SO THE SITE DOES NOT QUALIFY FOR EXEMPTION STATUS.
- 3 3. And lastly the Arroyo Grande Oil Field is under a cease and desist order from your department's Feb 15, 2017 shut down of 1650 unregistered wells. Eleven of those wells are at the AGOG and are illegally dumping toxic waste into the unincorporated areas. This site does not quality for exemption status until it is properly registered and authorized by the EPA. it does not have legal standing under the UIC program. An exemption does not make it legal. Shut down the illegal wells don't approve them.
- 2 In conclusion: Because of the aforementioned inadequacies in the data I respectfully reject this supplemental information that fails to meet safety and health criteria under Federal Code of Regulation UIC program.
- 3 And further, I demand that the noticed shut down date of Feb. 15, 2017 issued by DOGGR is implemented immediately with fees and penalties in the amount of \$12,375,000,000 owned taxpayers is delivered upon demand. We do so demand. 300 days times 1650 wells @\$25,000 each = \$12,375,000,000.

Sincerely,  
~Kelly Reed Daulton

**805-434-3258**

## Hansen, Christine@DOC

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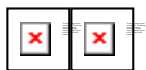
**From:** Omonigho Oiyemhonlan <OOiyemhonlan@biologicaldiversity.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 22, 2017 9:37 AM  
**To:** Comments@DOC  
**Cc:** Maya Golden-Krasner; John Fleming  
**Subject:** Center for Biological Diversity Comment Ltr: Arroyo Grande Aquifer Exemption Supplemental Information  
**Attachments:** 17 12 22 Arroyo Grande Supplement Comments.pdf

Hello,

Please see the attached comment letter. A hardcopy of the comment letter with references was delivered via FedEx.

Sincerely,

Omonigho Oiyemhonlan  
Paralegal, Climate Law Institute  
[Center for Biological Diversity](#)  
1212 Broadway, Suite 800  
Oakland, CA 94612  
ph: 510-844-7154  
[ooiyemhonlan@biologicaldiversity.org](mailto:ooiyemhonlan@biologicaldiversity.org)



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December 22, 2017

*Via e-mail*

Department of Conservation  
801 K Street, MS 24-02  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Comments@conservation.ca.gov  
ATTN: Aquifer Exemption

**Re: December 8, 2017 Arroyo Grande Oil Field Aquifer Exemption Supplemental Information**

Dear Department of Conservation:

The Center for Biological Diversity (“the Center”) submits these comments in continued opposition to the recommendation of the Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources (“DOGGR”) to EPA to exempt the Dollie Sands of the Pismo Formation in the Arroyo Grande Oil Field in order to allow Sentinel Peak Resources California, LLC (“Operator”) to inject oil wastewater into this aquifer.

We have reviewed the supplemental material and feel that it still does not address the concerns we raised in our previous comment letters to DOGGR, the State Water Resources Control Board (“Water Board”), and EPA. Based solely on those previous concerns, EPA must deny this aquifer exemption. However, the most recent supplemental data, rather than providing more credibility to the proposed exemption, instead casts further doubt on the claims made by the Operator that fluids injected will not threaten drinking water. The need for supplements from the Operator shows how ineffective it continues to be in assessing the threat its actions may pose to public health. With the Operator’s inadequacies thus far, we cannot trust that additional risks from oil and gas activities in the Arroyo Grande Oil Field will not be discovered in the future.

The Arroyo Grande Aquifer Exemption Application fails to satisfy the criteria for exempting an aquifer from California and federal SDWA protections and, for the reasons discussed below, the application should be rejected.

**The Latest Supplement Casts Further Doubt on the Feasibility of Wastewater Containment**

The most notable change to the aquifer exemption application discussed in the supplemental material is the redrawing of the proposed exemption boundary on its eastern side. This was done because it was found that the capture zones for drinking water wells #38 and #41 overlap the oil

field along this boundary.<sup>1</sup> The Operator redrew the proposed exemption boundary to avoid this overlap, but still claims that the tar seal alone in this area would be enough to protect these two drinking water wells. According to the supplemental material:

The Division does not have evidence that the capture zone actually crosses the tar seals to the east of the proposed aquifer exemption area. Wells #38 and #41 are not expected to draw water from the Arroyo Grande oil field due to the impermeable nature of the seals.<sup>2</sup>

2 However, the question should not be whether there is evidence that the capture zone crosses the tar seal, but rather whether there is evidence that the capture zone does not cross the tar seal. Such a precautionary approach is in the best interest of those who may see their drinking water threatened by continued—and likely expanded—activity in the Arroyo Grande Field. By opting to redraw the exemption boundary, the Operator and DOGGR are tacitly agreeing that the capture zone analysis itself is evidence that the capture zone could cross the tar seal. It further raises doubt about the validity of the Operator’s assertions that the tar seal is sealing along its entire extent or that it is ubiquitous along the proposed exemption boundary.

Yet, the tar seal is still relied upon in the supplemental information to prove that injectate will be contained in various areas of the field, including along the western boundary of the proposed exemption:

The Edna member sands this far west are also water sands with immobile tar. The prevalence of the tar seal seen to the west and the evidence that there is only mobile oil to the east of the tar seal indicates that the tar seal serves as a barrier for fluid migration.<sup>3</sup>

2 This reliance on the tar seal along the western boundary is troubling considering the lack of confidence the Operator and DOGGR have in the tar seal’s integrity along the eastern boundary. Further doubt is raised by the fact that the Operator bases its conclusions about the ubiquity of the tar seal on an admitted lack of data from a paucity of wells:

The interpretation of the geologic model depends on the wells that have been drilled in the area, and because of the lack of mobile oil, there have not been a lot of wells drilled to delineate the facies change.<sup>4</sup>

The Operator cannot be sure of either the outer or surface tar seals defended as evidence of injectate containment given the uncertainties expressed in the application. The tacit acknowledgement by the Operator of the tar seal’s inadequacy along the eastern flank of the proposed aquifer exemption further detracts from its arguments about that tar seal’s integrity. Without confidence from the Operator in the primary proposed containment mechanism for Arroyo Grande Oil Field, an aquifer exemption in this field should not be approved.

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<sup>1</sup> Aquifer Exemption Supplemental Information (“Supplement”), Arroyo Grande Oil Field, San Luis Obispo, California (December 2017), p. 15.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at p. 7.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

## Previous Concerns about This Aquifer Exemption Remain Inadequately Addressed

3 The Operator and DOGGR seem more convinced that the Arroyo Grande Fault Zone (AGFZ) is a seal since they claim that the capture zone of a well to the north of the fault does not extend south into the field, even though the capture zone analysis suggests it does. However, the Center previously expressed concerns about the AGFZ as a containment mechanism, and many of these concerns remain unaddressed. Previous application materials claim that the Arroyo Grande Fault Zone serves as a barrier to fluid flow because there is evidence that groundwater is forced upward into the surface flow of the Pismo Creek when it encounters the fault zone. This is based on comparisons of flow and salinity north and south of the fault zone. The possibility of the fault zone halting some fluid flow but allowing some to continue is not considered. Furthermore, Pismo Creek crosses the fault at one location, so assuming that the behavior of the creek is evidence that the fault is a complete seal relies on the assumption that the fault behaves uniformly as a seal along the extent of the proposed exemption boundary. Analysis of the fault at various points along its extent is the only way to definitively prove its sealing status.

Furthermore, fault gouge identified on the “Silva” 1 well mud log in the fault zone is put forth as solid evidence of a fault sealing mechanism in the AGFZ.<sup>5</sup> This fault gouge is not discussed in terms of its composition. To confirm that this gouge is evidence of sealing requires information on the grain size of this gouge material and knowledge of its permeability. Otherwise, we are expected to take the word of the Operator as true without quantitative evidence. Furthermore, evidence of gouge appears to only be based on the one “Silva” 1 well mud log, which is not enough to confirm the ubiquity of gouge material along the fault.

Also, the material reprises the recurrent argument that if the fault were not sealing, then we would already see evidence of fluid migration across the fault. High oil saturation south of the AGFZ compared to low oil saturation to the north, hundreds of economic oil wells south of the fault compared to eight uneconomic wells to the north, and a lack of updip hydrocarbon migration across the AGFZ are all cited as evidence of the fault serving as a seal.<sup>6</sup> Yet, one concern with this argument is that the mechanisms of oil emplacement and movement are portrayed as equivalent to those for water; a lack of movement of oil does not necessarily preclude the possibility of water migration.

The supplemental information actually discusses a previous public comment in which a commenter provided evidence of a surface breach on property north of the AGFZ from injection operations to the south. This breach occurred in 1981 and is attributed to steam injection above the fracture gradient in the Arroyo Grande Field. Even considering that injection in this instance was in excess of the fracture gradient, the fact that activities south of the fault influenced property north of the fault calls into question the strength of the AGFZ as a seal.<sup>7</sup> It is clear that there are circumstances under which fluids can flow across the fault, and the Operator has not done enough to preclude pathways for fluid flow. With a drinking water well just north of the

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<sup>5</sup> Letter from DOGGR to Michael Montgomery, US EPA (August 18, 2016) (“Response”); in response to letter from Michael Montgomery, Assistant Director, US EPA, to Ken Harris, State Oil and Gas Commissioner, DOGGR (April 19, 2016) (“EPA Request”), p. 3.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> Supplement, at p. 4.

fault zone, the Operator and DOGGR have a responsibility to make absolutely certain the fault is a complete seal.

3 Perhaps hydrocarbons have not migrated updip across the AGFZ simply because it is updip. Updip motion requires acting against the force of gravity and the state of current reservoir pressures may simply not be enough to overcome that force. It is important to note that the Operator in its “Hydraulic Analysis for the Arroyo Grande Syncline” concludes that a spillover of injected fluid will not lead to a loss of containment.<sup>8</sup> So, the synclinal structure of the aquifer itself may be responsible for variable oil content across the fault rather than the fault itself, as is inferred from the Applicant’s hydraulic analysis. The possibility of spillover may change if injection and fluid extraction dynamics change, however, and relying on the operator to maintain current dynamics is not an acceptable method of protection.

### **EPA and DOGGR Should Declare a Moratorium on Aquifer Exemptions**

4 The Center continues to urge DOGGR and EPA to stop granting aquifer exemptions due to the fact that the criteria for granting such exemptions are wholly outdated. They fail to account for technologies developed in the last few decades for purifying and desalinating groundwater, or for the fact that the state’s need for water will only rise as droughts increase in frequency and severity due to anthropogenic climate change.<sup>9</sup>

Only last year, Stanford University researchers released a study documenting more freshwater in California’s aquifers than previously assumed, but noting that a significant amount of oil and gas activity has occurred within freshwater zones and USDWs.<sup>10</sup> The authors’ conclusions included the fact that California does not have complete or current data on its groundwater resources, noting that “[g]roundwater volume estimates in California are uncertain and require additional studies.”<sup>11</sup> The authors further noted that “[c]urrent technologies and growing water demands have made water wells deeper than 1,000 ft more common. . . . As deeper groundwater resources become increasingly important, additional studies are needed for evaluating subsurface activities that could contaminate these resources,” including “wastewater disposal, CO<sub>2</sub> storage, and enhanced oil/gas recovery. . . .”<sup>12</sup>

In addition, in 2016, the Government Accounting Office released a report updating its 2014 Report on EPA’s management of underground injection. The 2016 Report noted that since the early 2000s, increased domestic oil and gas production has resulted in a “corresponding increase in wastewater that must be managed, reused, or disposed of properly.”<sup>13</sup> At the same time, the

<sup>8</sup> Aquifer Exemption Application, Arroyo Grande Oil Field, San Luis Obispo, California (December 2015), p. 9.

<sup>9</sup> See e.g., Williams, Park A. et al., Contribution of Anthropogenic Warming to California Drought During 2012-2014, 42 Geophysical Research Letters 16 (2015), doi:10.1002/2015GL064924.

<sup>10</sup> Kang, Mary & Robert B. Jackson, Salinity of Deep Groundwater in California: Water Quantity, Quality, and Protection, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (2016), doi: 10.1073/pnas.1600400113, available at: <http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2016/06/21/1600400113.full>.

<sup>11</sup> *Id.* at 1.

<sup>12</sup> *Id.* at 2.

<sup>13</sup> Government Accounting Office (GAO), Drinking Water: EPA Needs to Collect Information and Consistently Conduct Activities to Protect Underground Sources of Drinking Water (February 2016) (“2016 GAO Report”), at 1.

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growth in production “has also raised concerns about potential effects to human health and the environment, including the potential contamination of underground drinking water sources by injecting wastewater associated with the production of oil and gas.”<sup>14</sup> At a minimum, these potential impacts indicate EPA’s responsibility to conduct environmental review under the National Environmental Protection Act or an equivalent review prior to approving any exemptions.

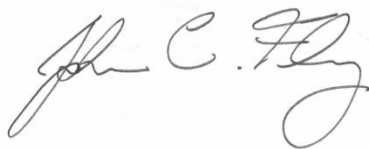
Like the 2014 Report, the 2016 Report also found, however, that EPA has failed to completely and consistently oversee and enforce the nation’s underground injection control programs. For instance, the 2016 Report found that EPA “does not have the location or supporting documents necessary to identify the size and location of all aquifers for which it has approved exemptions from protection under the Act.”<sup>15</sup> The Report continued, “[u]ntil it has a complete aquifer exemption database and a way to update it periodically, EPA does not have sufficient information on aquifer exemptions to oversee state and EPA-managed programs and assess whether programs are protecting underground sources of drinking water.”<sup>16</sup> Unless and until EPA can effectively protect the nation’s groundwater from wastewater and other oil and gas-related injection by, at a minimum, meeting all of the recommendations outlined in the two GAO Reports, EPA should not approve any further exemptions.

Thus, rather than continuing to allow injection and pollution of our state’s most precious resource, the state should invest in understanding and protecting it.

## **Conclusion**

The supplemental information only raised further doubts about containment mechanisms discussed in the Arroyo Grande aquifer exemption proposal. It also made clear that the Operator intends to continue to push forth an application that lacks the data and study required to justify an exemption. In order to put public health and drinking water quality first, this exemption application must be rejected.

Respectfully submitted,



John C. Fleming, Ph.D.  
Staff Scientist | Climate Law Institute  
Center for Biological Diversity

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See also GAO, Drinking Water: EPA Program to Protect Underground Sources from Injection of Fluids Associated with Oil and Gas Production Needs Improvement (June 2014).

<sup>14</sup> 2016 GAO Report at 1.

<sup>15</sup> *Id.* at 24-25.

<sup>16</sup> *Id.* at 27.



## REFERENCES CITED AND ATTACHED

- Aquifer Exemption Supplemental Information, Arroyo Grande Oil Field, San Luis Obispo, California (December 2017)
- Aquifer Exemption Application, Arroyo Grande Oil Field, San Luis Obispo, California (December 2015)
- Department of Conservation: Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources Letter to Michael Montgomery, U.S. EPA (August 18, 2016)
- Government Accounting Office (GAO), Drinking Water: EPA Needs to Collect Information and Consistently Conduct Activities to Protect Underground Sources of Drinking Water (February 2016)
- Government Accounting Office (GAO), Drinking Water: EPA Program to Protect Underground Sources from Injection of Fluids Associated with Oil and Gas Production Needs Improvement (June 2014).
- Kang, Mary & Robert B. Jackson, Salinity of Deep Groundwater in California: Water Quantity, Quality, and Protection, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (2016),
- US EPA, Letter from Michael Montgomery, Assistant Director, Ken Harris, State Oil and Gas Commissioner, Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resource (April 19, 2016)
- Williams, Park A. et al., Contribution of Anthropogenic Warming to California Drought During 2012-2014, 42 Geophysical Research Letters 16 (2015)



**Hansen, Christine@DOC**

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**From:** David and Naomi Blakely <4385956@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 22, 2017 10:38 AM  
**To:** Comments@DOC; Jim Neville  
**Subject:** Arroyo Grande Aquifer Exemption Proposal

1 Please do not allow the injection of soiled water back into the aquifer. this seems just plain dumb as there are many residents of that area that could have their domestic drinking water supply ruined. There must be a long range in depth analysis and study to understand any and all issues surrounding this troubling proposal.

David Blakely

**Hansen, Christine@DOC**

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**From:** gww6@juno.com  
**Sent:** Friday, December 22, 2017 11:48 AM  
**To:** Comments@DOC  
**Subject:** San Luis Obispo aquifer exemption

1 | I am writing to say that I do not support the aquifer exemption in San Luis Obispo county. It is not fair to the residents of the county and it's just not legal.

Thank you-  
Elizabeth Warner

## Hansen, Christine@DOC

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**From:** Nancy Mauter <osomauter3@att.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 22, 2017 12:29 PM  
**To:** Comments@DOC  
**Subject:** DOGGR aquifer exemption

My name is Nancy Mauter and I am a resident of San Luis Obispo County. I am writing to express my concern over the aquifer exemption in SLO County.

The Arroyo Grande Oil Field operation continues to dump untreated waste without EPA approval. This practice needs to stop, for the health of our community.

1 Given that the Arroyo Grande Oil Field has been under a cease and desist order since February 15, 2017 I am shocked that there is still eleven wells that are illegally dumping toxic waste into this unincorporated area. This practice needs to stop and the fines that are associated with this illegal activity needs to be rendered.

I am requesting that that shut down order issued by DOGGR be followed immediately. If further steps need to be made to prove the safety of the operation, than take those steps, but in the mean time shut down the operation.

The health of our community and future generations depends on right action today. Please be part of the solution.

Nancy Mauter

## Hansen, Christine@DOC

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**From:** Shannon Bond <shannonbondslo@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 22, 2017 1:10 PM  
**To:** Comments@DOC  
**Subject:** Vote NO on expansion of Oil Fields in Price Canyon!

As a 40+ year residents and taxpayer of SLO county we STRONGLY urge you NOT TO APPROVE the expansion of the oil fields in beautiful Price Canyon! When we have friends and family visit from the south we always encourage that they take this drive to arrive in SLO. Not only will the beauty of the area be destroyed, but most importantly the current proposal will undermine the safety of our citizens water, etc. -putting them further in jeopardy.

This proposal smacks of Big \$'s getting rewarded and we believe it has a negative impact on the safety and beauty of SLO County.

Respectively submitted,  
Shannon and Fred Bond  
POB 14702  
San Luis Obispo, Ca 93406

Sent from the Shannon Bond's iPad

**Hansen, Christine@DOC**

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**From:** Coalition To Protect SLO County <coprosloco@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 22, 2017 3:31 PM  
**To:** Comments@DOC  
**Cc:** montgomery.michael@epa.gov; albright.david@epa.gov  
**Subject:** Attn: Aquifer Exemption Arroyo Grande Oil Field  
**Attachments:** December 22 Arroyo Grande Letter Final Draft (2).pdf

3:30PM Please confirm receipt of this email

We are pleased to submit comments for the Supplemental information submitted December 8th

Coalition To Protect SLO County  
PO BOX 1482  
Arroyo Grande, CA 93421

December 21, 2017

Department of Conservation  
801 K Street, MS 24-02  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
**ATTN: Aquifer Exemption**  
To Department of Conservation:

This comment letter is in response to the Notice of Proposed Aquifer Exemption (Notice) for the supplemental information related to the Arroyo Grande Aquifer Exemption Proposal. The Notice was published on December 8, 2017 by the California Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (“DOGGR” or “Division”), in consultation with the State Water Resources Board (SWRB) and the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (CCRWQCR (collectively these will be referred to as “Water Boards” in this document). We appreciate the opportunity to provide our written comments as part of the 15-day supplemental public comment period.

The additional information has been provided by the Division in response to a request by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) in a letter dated April 19, 2016. The letter from the USEPA requested more information from the Division pertaining to the demonstration that the portion of the Pismo Formation proposed for exemption does not currently serve as a source of drinking water. In addition, the USEPA requested further clarification of the basis for the specific exemption boundaries proposed and more technical information demonstrating that injected fluids will not flow beyond those proposed boundaries. There are a number of requests for additional information provided by the USEPA in the letter that we believe have not been adequately addressed. While additional information has been provided in the Aquifer Exemption Supplemental Information package (December 2017); there really is no new information and the information provided is not presented in a scientifically justifiable manner and is mostly opinionated. We strongly suggest further studies be conducted to provide further justification of hydraulic isolation of the Dollie Sands. There has been **NO** subsurface hydraulic modeling provided to the public or the USEPA conducted by a registered Professional Geologist or Professional Engineer in the State of California. Similarly, no consideration has been given to potential seismic activity or climate change.

Water Boards staff assessed whether the revised proposal meets the criteria set forth in California Public Resources Code (PRC) section (§) 3131 and § 146.4 of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). Pending a supplemental public comment process, Water Boards Staff preliminarily concurs with the revised exemption proposal. We are providing our comments that indicate a general disagreement with the Water Boards.



1

The Water Boards state that, as required by PRC § 3131(a)(1) and 40 CFR § 146.4(a) the proposed exempted area does not currently serve as a source of drinking water and that consistent with 40 CFR § 146.4(b)(1), the proposed exempted area will not in the future serve as a source of drinking water because it is hydrocarbon producing. In addition, the Water Boards state that as per PRC section 3131(a)(2), the injected fluids are not expected to affect the quality of water that is, or may reasonably be, used for any beneficial use because (1) the groundwater contained in the proposed exempted area is not expected to be put to beneficial use because it contains petroleum hydrocarbons, and (2) the injected fluids are expected to remain in the proposed exempted area. We would request that a new study be conducted because the information that has consistently provided to the public does not adequately demonstrate with any degree of certainty to that PRC section 3131(a)(2) is met.

The Water Boards also state, the requirement of PRC section 3131(a)(3) is also satisfied because a detailed technical demonstration has been made that the injected fluids are expected to remain in the proposed exempted area due to a combination of geologic conditions and hydraulic controls. It should be noted that a detailed technical demonstration has NOT been conducted; rather a poorly written Aquifer Exemption Proposal lacking substantiative information has been provided with little or no efforts made to conduct a more comprehensive and certified analysis by a third-party consultant and registered Professional Geologist or Professional Engineer in the State of California.

The Water Board states that geologic features include a synclinal structure, a fault barrier on the north side of the proposed exempted area (Arroyo Grande fault), and stratigraphic conditions on the south side of the proposed exempted area (decreasing permeability and transmissivity from the Dollie Sands transition into Miguelito member of the Pismo Formation). Injected fluids in the proposed exempted area should also be contained hydraulically, both vertically and laterally, due to the inward hydraulic gradient created by oil field dewatering activities in the proposed exempted area. What happens after the dewatering activities are stopped? There has been NO groundwater modeling conducted to show the movement of the subsurface environment. Furthermore, if the general consensus of the community is to provide more information, rather than regurgitate old and outdated information that lacks scientific backing- why hasn't the Division or Water Boards hired a third-party consultant to conduct a definitive level study? Furthermore, the White Paper related to the 1981 surface breach indicates there was a substantial fracture that propagated across the fault. Therefore, the fault has the potential to be fractured and what are the implications of the existing fractures in the fault? All of these points are not adequately addressed in the current Aquifer Exemptions Application.

The following letter provides specific issues which we need to be addressed prior to this application moving forward.

## Issue #1: 2008 Groundwater Report

The basis for the Aquifer Exemption Supplemental Information package (December 2017) relies heavily on Appendix A of that document which includes a report titled Draft Report Ground Water Resources Study PXP- Arroyo Grande, which was prepared for Plains Exploration and Production Company in December 2008 by Cleath & Associates. We have issues with this study as summarized below:

1. STATUS of REPORT: This report was never finalized, the title "Draft Report" indicates the report is was never finalized by CHG and therefore the information provided within this report cannot be considered definitive. Please have CHG revise this report to ensure that is Final. The Aquifer Exemption should not be approved until this is finalized because the primary basis for the supplemental information relies heavily on the 2008 report.
2. CERTIFICATION: The 2008 Draft Report provided as Appendix A has not been stamped or approved by a registered Profession Geologist or Professional Engineer in the State of California.

Furthermore, the 2008 report states the following, which indicates further modeling is required:

- The water quality in existing PXP Wells 1 and Well 2 (Pismo Formation Zone A2) is suitable for irrigation and appears suitable for beneficial use. If the PXP aquifer zone is fully developed, however, water quality may change over time in the direction of surface water quality from upstream creek flow represented by West Corral de Piedra Creek.
- The water quality of the northern alluvial deposits is likely a mixture of creek water quality and Pismo Formation Zone A2 quality, based on the EC of base flow (730-745  $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$ ). Water quality in Zone A3 is unknown, but drains into a tributary to Pismo Creek where base flow EC was measured at 450  $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$ , indicating good water quality in the shallower Edna member sands.

Recommendation: We recommend the Division hire a third-party consultant or firm to conduct a comprehensive subsurface hydrologic investigation to provide evidence to substantiate their claims. In the meantime, if this Aquifer Exemption Proposal is to be approved, at the very least the 2008 report needs to be "finalized" and "certified" by a Professional Engineer or Professional Geologist in the State of California.

## Issue #2: Inadequate Responses to Previous Comments

Prior to submitting the aquifer exemption request to the USEPA, the Division and the Water Boards jointly conducted a public participation process to solicit input on the aquifer exemption proposal. Following publication of the notice in the local news outlets, and mailing or emailing notice to the interested parties, public comments on the proposal were accepted from August 20, 2015 through September 21, 2015. On September 21, the Division and the State Water Board jointly conducted a public comment hearing in San Luis Obispo, CA. Subsequently, the Division and the State Water Board added additional explanatory materials to the aquifer exemption proposal, and once again, accepted public comments on the proposal from December 2, 2015 through December 16, 2015. A document titled Arroyo Grande Aquifer Exemption Request Public Comment Summaries and Responses was

published on February 8, 2016 provided a summary of all of the comments received from the public together with the Division's and State Water Board's responses

2 We are grateful for the venue to provide us the opportunity to provide written or oral comments and we are also grateful for the responses provided to each comment. However, in general we felt the response to comments did not adequately address the specific issues and nature of problems presented by the public. In general, the comments were copy and pasted and no revision to the original Application was submitted. The original application was poorly written and lacked sufficient information (as indicated by USEPA's request for additional information) necessary for the USEPA to approve the project; the comments on quality were generally ignored and no further revisions to tables or figures were provided by the Division.

Additionally as we already pointed out often the responses seemed automated and the use of the same answer was used for different comments. Also see below the Division clearly states that if the February 15, 2017 deadline was not met all injections into USDW's would cease. We would like to know why the Division is not enforcing this deadline here at the AGOF and across the entire State of California. Examples provided below:

From the Document dated 02/08/16:

#### Arroyo Grande Aquifer Exemption Request Public Comment Summaries and Responses

0003-2 The proposed area for exemption is the site of 14 disposal wells and 76 enhanced recovery wells. These wells were issued permits illegally, in violation of SDWA, to inject into protected waters and must be shut in immediately. They must only be allowed to operate if an exemption is granted by US EPA. The operator has been injecting illegally into a non-exempt aquifer. Rather than rewarding this behavior by changing the boundaries of the exemption, the State should enforce existing laws and work to change the culture of non-compliance by the oil industry. Allowing an expanded aquifer exemption where an operator has been illegally injecting undermines efforts to change the culture of the Division and how it relates with the regulated industry. Denying this application and issuing fines for illegally injecting into a non-exempt aquifer would be the appropriate way to enforce the law.

*The State and US EPA have agreed to a schedule to bring all injection projects into regulatory compliance. If an aquifer exemption is not granted by February 15, 2017, all injection into USDWs will cease. During this time of the compliance schedule, the State is pursuing an aquifer exemption in Arroyo Grande to bring the operation into compliance. The State's application for the aquifer exemption proposal to US EPA indicates that it meets the Federal and State criteria for an aquifer exemption.*

0005-2 DOGGR needs to explain why the specified disposal wells haven't been shut-in already. Commenter submitted a comparison of relevant characteristics of the nine wells shut down in March 2015 and the disposal wells currently operating in non-exempt aquifers, and API and Well Numbers of 11 of the 14 non-compliant water disposal wells within the proposed aquifer exemption boundary.

*The State and US EPA have agreed to a schedule to bring all injection projects into regulatory compliance. If an aquifer exemption is not granted by February 15, 2017, all injection into USDWs will cease. During this time of the compliance schedule, the State is pursuing an aquifer exemption in Arroyo Grande to bring the operation into compliance. The State's application for the aquifer exemption proposal to US EPA indicates that it meets the federal and state criteria for an aquifer exemption.*

UIC Regulations / UIC Program

0005-5 Granting this exemption may set a dangerous precedent, allowing operators of Class II wells to first potentially contaminate USDWs and then retroactively apply for exemptions for the very USDWs they may be contaminating. This may create a situation and an expectation whereby aquifers that previously would not have met the criteria for an exemption may in future qualify for one due to pollution caused by the operator.

*The State and US EPA have agreed to a schedule to bring all injection projects into compliance. If an aquifer exemption is not granted by February 15, 2017, injection into non-exempt aquifers will cease. During this time of the compliance schedule, the State is pursuing an aquifer exemption to bring the operation into compliance. The State's application to exempt the aquifer shows that this aquifer meets the criteria for an exemption. This will not set a precedent to allow operators to begin injection before an aquifer exemption is approved.*

2 Another comment/response we would like to address clearly states that "fluid" is being drawn from outside the proposed boundary. When this area inside the proposed boundary is supposedly hydraulically isolated then how can fluid(water) flow into the center of the field? Wouldn't that indicate water can move in and out of the proposed boundary? We understand you feel that from dewatering the field and creating the pressure sink, fluid(water) will not flow out of the boundary but when activity ceases at this field how can you guarantee the surrounding groundwater and basins will not be contaminated?

0007-7 There appears to be no map indicating direction and speed of groundwater in the aquifer of proposed exemption. Section C.1 of the Aquifer Exemption Checklist (EPA, 2014) requires that these elements are included. Please provide these maps and indicate how the information was obtained.

*The proposed area for exemption is hydraulically isolated from adjacent aquifers both geologically and hydraulically. The application states that because of the reduction in field pressure from the removal of the oil and water (through the reverse osmosis plant) creates a pressure sink in the center of the field that draws fluid from the outside of the proposed area to the center of the field.*

2 **Recommendation: We request the USPEA review the comment responses in detail to ensure that each response was adequately met and to require a revision of the application as deemed necessary.**

### Issue #3: Lack of Substantiative Subsurface Hydrology Modeling and Technical Data

1 Numerous times throughout this process the Division and the Water Boards have concluded that a detailed technical demonstration has been made that the injected fluid is expected to remain within the proposed exempted area due to a combination of geologic conditions and hydraulic controls. We disagree; the information continuously being cited is outdated, uncertified, and not finalized. It is clear the local community is in opposition to this Aquifer Exemption Proposal- strictly because the Division has failed to convince the public or the federal government that the proposed aquifer exemption will not affect the health and drinking water of the numerous individuals living within the vicinity of the project. The Division has failed to conduct any new studies to put our minds to rest; all we have been asking for is a comprehensive groundwater model following a detailed subsurface investigation and aquifer testing that is certified by a Professional Engineer or Professional Geologist registered in the State of California. Time and again there has been a lack of effort or resources by the Division and/or the Water Boards to provide the public the assurance necessary that their existing drinking water resources will not be compromised. Furthermore, we request baseline monitoring be performed at all drinking water sources within the vicinity (1/2 mile) of the project and that the monitoring be ongoing.

**Recommendation: We request a regional and local groundwater model be conducted by a third-party consultant to provide true detailed technical demonstration that injected fluid be expected to remain in the exempted area for perpetuity.**

### Issue #4: Revised Aquifer Exemption Boundary

3 The new boundary has been made smaller than previously proposed based on information provided in public comment. How was something like this missed in the first analysis of the safety of this boundary to surrounding homes and drinking water wells? This boundary is far too close to surrounding wells that neighbors rely on for drinking water wells. Those wells are their only source of water as they do not live within a municipality. If their wells become contaminated the health and safety of those families will be put at risk directly from their neighbor's industrial activities and profit. The community surrounding this proposed expansion has made it clear they do not want their groundwater compromised and they will not accept risky proposals to their health and safety.

4 DOGGR revised the aquifer exemption boundary because their new analysis found that two drinking water wells in the northeast corner would be at risk of contamination. The fact that DOGGR missed this initially in its original proposal reveals that their assessment methods may be inadequate to ensure safety of the public and drinking water supplies. What other risks might be undetected? We do not want to find out only after it's too late to stop the expansion of activity in the area. As pending the approval of this application a large expansion to the AGOF is in the works. It is irresponsible to not take this into account when approving this exemption as it will have a large impact on the surrounding environment.

## Issue #5: White Paper Related to the Surface Breach in 1981

1 The White Paper provided as Appendix B does not provide substantiative technical information necessary to address the surface breach that occurred in 1981. We request that additional information be provided by a Professional Engineer or Professional Geologist, registered in the State of California, and that individual must certify any "White Paper". At this time, the paper is opinionated and provides literally no references or work cited that provides any scientific justification or merit the claims being made.

**Recommendation: We request the Division hire a third-party consultant or firm to conduct further investigation into the Surface Breach of 1981.**

## Issue #6: Apparent Overall Lack of Understanding by Division and Applicant Related to Engineering Reporting and Scientific Documentation

1 A general comment we would to note is the overall lack of quality related to the documentation provided by the Division. As mentioned earlier, there were significant comments provided by the public in the first two comment periods related to the quality of information being provided to the public as part of the Aquifer Exemption Proposal. In general, the Division has shown that they lack the resources or know how to adequately provide information to the public or to the USEPA in a manner consistent with engineering and scientific standards as would be needed for the an Aquifer Exemption of this size and nature, especially with the potential for negative impacts to local drinking water and human health and the environment in an urban area. There are no references or Work Cited provided, the figures and tables are outdated or unclear to read, there is no discernable document organization which would be expected for a document of this caliber, and the application is entirely opinionated.

**Recommendation: We strongly recommend the Division hire a third-party consultant or firm to conduct a comprehensive subsurface investigation and hydrologic investigation to further substantiate their claims. The information continuously provided to the public is either (a) outdated (b) not finalized or certified by a professional engineer or geologist (c) lacks adequate scientific references; and/or (d) is presented in manner that indicates a lack of resources within the Division or scientific knowledge necessary to provide substantiative information related to the issues presented in this Aquifer Exemption Proposal.**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments the Supplemental Aquifer Exemption Proposal.

Sincerely,

Coalition To Protect SLO County

CC: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9

**From:** Larry Bishop <llbishop1@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 22, 2017 4:07 PM  
**To:** Comments@DOC  
**Subject:** Arroyo Grande Aquifer Exemption Proposal

Dear Sir/Madam, The following are my comment to DOGGR proposal to allow the operation of new and existing oil waste water injection wells in the Arroyo Grande Aquifer.

- 1 | 1. DOGGR has reduced the area of the proposed wells even though it declared the aquifer completely hydraulically isolated from surrounding usable aquifer. What then is the rational for area reduction if the entire aquifer is hydraulically isolated? Should it not hold, leak free, the entire quantity of dumped toxic waste water in to perpetuity?
- 2 | 2. The Price Canyon area is seismically active. How can you ensure the faults and tar seals that isolate this aquifer will provide discontinuity to other aquifers indefinitely, especially with the additional burden of millions of gallons of oily , corrosive waste water injected into it under pressure?
- 3 | 3. The Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) in San Luis Obispo has determined, for at least 30 years, that potential continuity of all aquifers within a given water basin, is presumed to exist. DOGGR well exemption policy is in direct conflict with RWQCB policy.
- 4 | 4. Given the persistent and growing drought in California, our overdrawn, useable aquifers are very fragile and highly subject to contaminant intrusion from surrounding, high pressure gradient, polluted aquifers. One well-placed earth movement can disrupt fault and tar barriers and catastrophically affect crucial water supplies in the Price Canyon area. DOGGER must disallow this exemption request and implement strict Clean Water Act protections in the Price Canyon area.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this crucial issue.. Sincerely, Larry Bishop, Safe Energy Now! North County, 511 Sycamore Canyon Dr. Buellton, CA, 805 252-9951

**From:** Judy Burch <judyburch.jj@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 22, 2017 4:29 PM  
**To:** Comments@DOC  
**Subject:** Arroyo Grande Aquifer exemption

Dear Sir/Madam, The following are comments made regarding the DOGGR proposal to allow the operation of new and existing oil waste water injection wells in the Arroyo Grande Aquifer by a friend that I agree with so entirely that I cannot say it any better. So I will restate the points made below:

- 1 1. DOGGR has reduced the area of the proposed wells even though it declared the aquifer completely hydraulically isolated from surrounding usable aquifer. What then is the rational for area reduction if the entire aquifer is hydraulically isolated? Should it not hold, leak free, the entire quantity of dumped toxic waste water in to perpetuity?
- 2 2. The Price Canyon area is seismically active. How can you ensure the faults and tar seals that isolate this aquifer will provide discontinuity to other aquifers indefinitely, especially with the additional burden of millions of gallons of oily , corrosive waste water injected into it under pressure?
- 3 3. The Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) in San Luis Obispo has determined, for at least 30 years, that potential continuity of all aquifers within a given water basin, is presumed to exist. DOGGR well exemption policy is in direct conflict with RWQCB policy.
- 4 4. Given the persistent and growing drought in California, our overdrawn, useable aquifers are very fragile and highly subject to contaminant intrusion from surrounding, high pressure gradient, polluted aquifers. One well-placed earth movement can disrupt fault and tar barriers and catastrophically affect crucial water supplies in the Price Canyon area. DOGGER must disallow this exemption request and implement strict Clean Water Act protections in the Price Canyon area.

Please do not make any area sacrificial. Judy Burch 1650 E Clark #234 Orcutt, Ca 93455



## Hansen, Christine@DOC

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**From:** Natalie Beller <natalie.beller@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 22, 2017 4:33 PM  
**To:** Comments@DOC  
**Subject:** Deny the Arroyo Grande aquifer exemption

To Whom It May Concern:

Please do not exempt the Arroyo Grande Dollie Sands aquifer from the Safe Drinking Water Act. There are too many people, including my 7-year-old daughter, that will be put in harm's way if you exempt this aquifer.

I know that you don't intend to poison a small child or a baby, not yet born. However, you have the power to put the innocent and vulnerable at peace or at risk. The entire surrounding community depends on ground water to drink, cook, and bathe in.

I want for my child the same chance as you – to grow up in a safe and healthy environment. Every time my daughter takes a bath I pray that the water be clean and safe for her. We test our water annually to see if toxins are leaching into our water well. However, it can be a long wait for that next water test when I am trusting the life of my child to the oil field a mile away.

I hope and pray that the oil field operators are taking the utmost precaution to protect the surrounding community.

The science that the oil field is using to make their claim that their operations are safe is incomplete and questionable.

The oil field attorneys have argued that there is no activity between their aquifer and surrounding ground water. They do not have the proper equipment to test this claim.

Their sentry monitoring wells are 200 feet deep, yet the injection is occurring 400 to 1,000 feet. The sentry wells are not able to accurately monitor the injection activity because they are so far from the action.

DOGGR made a mistake in its original analysis. They have now redrawn the exemption boundary because they determined that two homes were drinking from water within the exemption boundary.

This is scary for us that live around the oil field. We don't want to live in fear of consuming toxic material. I have heard the oil field attorney argue that the produced waste water is not toxic. But, if you look up the components of the produced water, many of them, such as arsenic, are toxic to human health.

Please do not exempt the Arroyo Grande aquifer. Protect it and the hundreds of citizens that rely on the surrounding water.

Sincerely,

Natalie Beller

## Hansen, Christine@DOC

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**From:** Jonathan Beller <jonbeller@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 22, 2017 4:39 PM  
**To:** Comments@DOC  
**Subject:** Arroyo Grande Oil Field

1 As a resident of Arroyo Grande, who lives less than two miles from the Arroyo Grande oil field, and who now has a oil pipeline less than 50 feet from my drinking water well, I do not support the expansion of the injection area. The oil companies have not been kind to the central coast in the past and contaminated the whole town of Avila beach, both sides of tank farm road, and the Guadalupe dunes oil spill. There is no reason to believe that the magical bituminous layer and fault line will actually contain the injection. In fact, it seem reckless to inject next to a fault line because of what is happening in other parts of the country where they now have man made earthquakes due to injection wells. Please do not accept the oil companies proposed scientific data because if they really understood what was going on geologically they would not have accidentally pressurized a oil geyser at 125 Tolosa Place Arroyo Grande. Please don't allow the oil field to continue to experiment with the ground water that so many families rely on. Please protect the rights of home owners to have contamination free drinking water. Please put in place regulations to protect my drinking water well from being contaminated by class 2 injection or a leaking oil pipe. Please remember the past track record of the Oil industry and its reckless behavior time and time again.

Thank You,  
Jonathan Beller  
1620 Old Oak Park Rd Arroyo Grande

## Hansen, Christine@DOC

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**From:** Margaret Neville <margaretmneville@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 22, 2017 4:57 PM  
**To:** Comments@DOC  
**Subject:** Arroyo Grande Acquifer Exemption

To Whom it May Concern:

1 This exemption to the Clean Water Act should not be granted. We are property owners that live less than a mile from the nearest oil well. We rely on our well water. There has been inadequate research of how and when the water in the aquifer truly became "undrinkable" and the long term effect of continuing to pollute this acquifer and if there is any way in the future if might be cleaned up if needed for drinking.

2 There is no guarantee that the water will not seep into our wells. The Holland Ranch already has oil in their well water. So far, we have not detected that, but none of the neighboring wells have been tested and there appears to be no interest or concern by any of the agencies about the safety of the surrounding neighbors to do any testing or further research.

3 The oil field has been in violation of the clean water act for years without consequence. If this expansion is approved, there would likely follow the approval to triple the oil wells. An approved expansion will not only further pollute the acquifer that much more, and also triple the traffic, air pollution, noise pollution and light pollution in Edna Valley and Price Canyon. This will have a negative impact on the quality of life not just for surrounding neighbors, farms, ranches and vineyards, but for everyone that appreciates the beauty of Edna Valley, San Luis Obispo and our county.

4 People, animals, and crops grow within a stones throw of these oil fields, (before any expansion) and deserve to be protected by the agencies charged with protecting us. Outside oil companies should not be given the license to ruin this valley for profit. We all know what happens with these big companies when things go south. They don't live here.

5 There are a lot of other reasons to deny this exemption, including climate change with long-term droughts, water shortages and the fire hazards that go along with that. You definitely wouldn't want to use that water to help put out any fire.

Thank you for taking my concerns into consideration. I am thankful for our neighbors that have worked hard for us to be able to voice our opinion.

Very truly,

Margaret Neville



1821 Price Canyon Road  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

December 22, 2017

Department of Conservation  
801 K Street, MS 24-02  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
ATTN: Aquifer Exemption  
Submitted via e-mail to: [comments@conservation.ca.gov](mailto:comments@conservation.ca.gov)

**Subject: Comments on the Arroyo Grande Aquifer Exemption Proposal**

As California's largest privately owned oil and gas producer, Sentinel Peak Resources California LLC operates in Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Kern, and Los Angeles Counties. We currently produce approximately 28,000 barrels of oil equivalent each day in support of California's growing energy demand. Reliable and locally-produced oil and gas is a bedrock component of our community. The Arroyo Grande oil field not only contributes significantly to our economy, but is committed to do so in an environmentally compliant manner.

As the owner/operator of the Arroyo Grande Oil Field that is the subject of this Aquifer Exemption Proposal, Sentinel Peak Resources offers the following comments:

1. The change in the exemption boundary is responsive to comments received during the public comment period in 2015; and

1 A small change has been proposed in the northeast corner of the exemption boundary due to the proximity of two private water wells. The change affects approximately 6.3 acres of area from the originally proposed 805 acres, or an adjustment of just 0.8%. This change was proposed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency with the agreement of the Central Coast Water Quality Control Board, the California State Water Resources Control Board, and the California Department of Conservation Division of Oil, Gas, & Geothermal Resources. All agencies acknowledged that the private wells were noted in the original 2015 aquifer exemption application and in other submissions supporting that application. The EPA requested, with concurrence from other regulatory authorities, that the boundary be modified to provide an extra measure of separation or "buffer" between the exemption boundary and the water wells in question. While there is ample evidence to indicate the absence of influence on these private water wells after more than a century of oil field operations, including testimonials by the property owners themselves, the boundary adjustment was proposed out of an abundance of caution. The adjustment was also made in response to input from the public in 2015, adding confidence that every aspect of this proposal has been thoroughly studied and agreed to by expert engineers, geologists, and hydrogeologists from the regulatory authorities.

2. A report released earlier this month entitled *Public Draft: San Luis Obispo Valley Basin Characterization and Monitoring Well Installation* substantiates the separation between the candidate area for exemption and the groundwater basin.

2 The County of San Luis Obispo leads the Groundwater Sustainability Agency overseeing the San Luis Obispo Valley groundwater basins in compliance with California's Sustainable

2

Groundwater Management Act. A report entitled *Public Draft: San Luis Obispo Valley Basin Characterization and Monitoring Well Installation* was commissioned by the Groundwater Sustainability Agency and released on December 8, 2017. That impartial analysis of groundwater basin boundaries and groundwater flow in the area north of the oil field corroborates the observation that the Edna fault zone, of which the Arroyo Grande fault is a part, provides an impermeable barrier to the flow of groundwater in the area of Price Canyon. It further indicates that the general flow of groundwater in the basin is from south to north, toward the City of San Luis Obispo and San Luis Creek, not out through Price Canyon, again supporting the information in the aquifer exemption application.

So, with the small change to the exemption boundary and the independent groundwater study further substantiating the separation between oil field activities and groundwater, the Arroyo Grande aquifer exemption is poised for adoption. Sentinel Peak Resources looks forward to completing the aquifer exemption process and continuing to supply California with a reliable source of energy, helping to reduce foreign imports, and supporting our local economy.

Sincerely,

Christine M. Halley, PE  
Director of EH&S and Regulatory Affairs  
Sentinel Peak Resources California LLC

Reference: *Public Draft: San Luis Obispo Valley Basin Characterization and Monitoring Well Installation*,  
December 8, 2017

- <https://www.slocountywater.org/site/Water%20Resources/SGMA/slovalley/pdf/SLO%20Basin%20Characterization%20Report-Public%20Draft.pdf>
- <https://www.slocountywater.org/site/Water%20Resources/SGMA/slovalley/pdf/SLO%20Basin%20Characterization%20Report%20Tables%20and%20Figures.pdf>



**Hansen, Christine@DOC**

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**From:** Carol Mortensen <carolmortensen0@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 24, 2017 12:12 PM  
**To:** Comments@DOC  
**Subject:** Aquifer exemption

1 [No exemptions to contaminate public aquifers!](#)

Carol Mortensen  
1662 Knoll Dr  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Sent from my iPhone

**Hansen, Christine@DOC**

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**From:** John Sexton <johnhsexton@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 27, 2017 8:16 PM  
**To:** Comments@DOC  
**Subject:** Arroyo Grande Aquifer Exemption Proposal

1 My wife Janis and I have lived in San Luis Obispo for 40 years. We are 100% opposed to the proposal to allow polluted water to be injected into the aquifer .

Thank you,

Janis and John Sexton

**From:** gail comer <gailgreetings@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 31, 2017 4:37 PM  
**To:** Comments@DOC

Hi my name is Gail Comer and I live in San Luis Obispo County. I am calling to say I do not approve of the aquifer exemption in San Luis Obispo.

1

1. The site has not met any of the standards or legal criteria for a Class I or II waste disposal site according to UIC program.

2. Injection of fluids begins only AFTER the EPA approves an aquifer exemption and an underground injection control permit is granted not the other way around. ARROYO GRANDE OIL FIELD HAS BEEN INJECTING TOXIC WASTE WITHOUT EPA APPROVAL FOR OVER 20 YEARS. THIS SITE IS IN VIOATION OF EPA rules

2

a) §264.11 Identification number. AGOF has no such ID Number b) 42 U.S. Code § 6921 - Identification and listing of hazardous waste

c) § 144.11 Prohibition of unauthorized injection. Any underground injection, except into a well authorized by rule or except as authorized by permit issued under the UICprogram, is prohibited. The construction of any well required to have a permit is prohibited until the permit has been issued. No authorization by rule has been issued.

1

d) Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments (HSWA) to the RCRA prohibits disposal unless the waste has been treated to become non-hazardous. AGOF has not been so treated SO THE SITE DOES NOT QUALIFY FOR EXEMPTION STATUS.



3 3. And lastly the Arroyo Grande Oil Field is under a cease and desist order from your department's Feb 15, 2017 shut down of 1650 unregistered wells. Eleven of those wells are at the AGOG and are illegally dumping toxic waste into the unincorporated areas. This site does not quality for exemption status until it is properly registered and authorized by the EPA. it does not have legal standing under the UIC program. An exemption does not make it legal. Shut down the illegal wells don't approve them.

2 In conclusion: Because of the aforementioned inadequacies in the data I respectfully reject this supplemental information that fails to meet safety and health criteria under Federal Code of Regulation UIC program.

3 And further, I demand that the noticed shut down date of Feb. 15, 2017 issued by DOGGR is implemented immediately with fees and penalties in the amount of \$12,375,000,000 owned taxpayers is delivered upon demand. We do so demand.300 days times 1650 wells @\$25,000 each = \$12,375,000,000.

Thank-you

Gail Comer 1370 12th, Los Osos, 93402

Dept. of Conservation

Attn.: Aquifer exemption

To whom it may concern,

1 My family gets our drinking water from the Oak Park aquifer which butts up against the Dollie sands oil field. Hundreds of families depend on this aquifer for their clean water. This area is not like the empty land around Bakersfield, people live all around this oilfield.

Sentinel Peak Resources is planning to drill 380 wells practically in our back yards and pump toxic waste under pressure right next to our aquifer. All it takes is one small earthquake and our water supply is contaminated forever. What if it was your drinking water that was threatened? You can't drink oil.

Please do not grant this exemption.

Michael and Leslie Hannon  
665 Vetter Lane  
Arroyo grande, Ca.

Dec 20, 2018  
1745 Rochelle Way  
Oceano, CA 93445

RECEIVED

DEC 27 2017

BY: DOC/DOGER

TO: State of California Department of Conservation  
FROM: Charles Varni, Ph.D. *CVarni*  
RE: Arroyo Grande Oil Field UIC Aquifer Exemption

I am a resident of Oceano, California and my community overlies the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin which underlies/connects to the Arroyo Grande oil field in Price Canyon. I am very concerned about the negative impacts of underground injection of oil production waste products into the aquifer. I do not believe the research and facts support an exemption to allow such disposal and the endangerment it poses to our groundwater.

1 More specifically, the presumption that the synclinal geology underlying the AGOF isolates injected waste water from urban and rural potable water sources is not supported by the data. The latest capture zone analysis indicates that DOGGR is not secure that the "tar seal" surrounding the exemption area will trap injected waste water.

2 Additionally, the requirement that any UIC waste water be done in a manner that there is 10,000 year confidence in its isolation sounds like a bad joke when, in the words of SWRCB Deputy Director Bishop's Nov 28 letter to Kenneth Harris, he states that:

"Injected fluids in the proposed exempted area should also be contained hydraulically...due to the inward hydraulic gradient created by oil field dewatering activities in the proposed exempted area."

While this may be the case now, what will happen when oil production slows or stops at the AGOF (market analysis projections indicate this could be less than a decade away).? Who will prevent the underground "bowl" from filling up and its toxic brew spilling over and flowing into the Santa Maria groundwater basin?

3 Finally, if this ill-conceived exemption is approved, then ALL the conditions of sentry wells, monitoring wells, and buffer zones MUST be required.