



COUNTY *of* VENTURA

March 21, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review
Committee
1021 O Street, Room 8630
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Phil Ting
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
1021 O Street, Room 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Proposed Investments to Address Oil and Gas Well Capping and Remediation and Workforce Needs – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Skinner and Assembly Member Ting:

On behalf of the Ventura County Board of Supervisors, I write in support of the Governor's multi-pronged proposal in the 2022-23 budget to fund and promote proper and necessary remediation of oil and gas wells. Specific elements of the Governor's investments include:

- \$200 million in one-time General Funds over two years to seal orphan or idle wells, decommission attendant facilities, and complete associated environmental remediation.
- \$15 million in one-time General Funds to support a workforce training pilot to train displaced oil and gas workers in remediating legacy oil infrastructure.
- \$50 million in one-time General Funds for a pilot support fund to address the needs of oil and gas workers facing displacement.

This package of investments represents a much-needed and proactive step in advancing remediation of idle gas and oil wells and reducing the potential for environmental risks—a concern of the Ventura County Board of Supervisors for many years. Permanently plugging idle wells isolates potential contaminants and mitigates associated public health and environmental hazards. It is estimated that there are more than 2,000 idle and abandoned wells within the County.

The Governor's proposal clearly aligns with the Board's policy and vision for prioritizing the sealing of idle wells. It would dedicate considerable but necessary resources to

addressing deserted wells and mitigating associated public health and environmental risks. The risk of leaks and resulting contamination are too great a threat to leave unaddressed.

For these reasons, the County of Ventura is pleased to support the Governor's proposed investments, and we urge your positive consideration of this budget proposal. If there are questions about the County's position, I can be reached at ehe@hbeadvocacy.com or 916-272-0012. Thank you for considering our perspective.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Espinosa
Legislative Advocate

Cc: The Honorable Bob Wieckowski, Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review
Subcommittee No. 2 on Resources, Environmental Protection and Energy
Members and Consultants, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 2
on Resources, Environmental Protection and Energy
The Honorable Richard Bloom, Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 3 on
Climate Crisis, Resources, Energy, and Transportation
Members and Consultants, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 3 on Climate
Crisis, Resources, Energy, and Transportation
Ventura County Delegation