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For Immediate Release -
Contact -

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County was warned of pipeline safety issue

In the wake of the Hall Canyon oil spill - a pipeline leak allowing 29,000 gallons of crude oil to flow down a creek - Ventura County has yet to respond to a Grand Jury report from April that called for a study into the state of the miles of pipelines in our county.

Citizens for Responsible Oil and Gas (CFROG) calls on our local elected officials - city councils and Board of Supervisors - as well as our regulatory agencies to hold the California State Fire Marshall - the body responsible for overseeing pipelines throughout the state - accountable for vigorous enforcement, timely inspections and penalties for companies who fail to abide by the law.

The report found -

“The State of California is the third largest oil producer in the United States. Ventura County is the third largest oil-producing county in the State, with hundreds of miles of crude oil pipelines of various sizes and types.

The 2015-2016 Ventura County Grand Jury identified the multiple government agencies at the Federal, State, and County levels sharing responsibility for the crude oil pipeline permits, as well as the oversight of pipeline construction, maintenance, testing, repair, operations, and deactivation. These responsibilities vary by pipeline location and function.

Authority for crude oil pipelines regulation is spread among multiple government entities at multiple levels. The Federal government has ultimate responsibility for setting minimum standards for crude oil pipelines, but it can and has delegated permitting and operational oversight to the State of California. The County’s responsibility over oil pipelines has two components: The permitting function for a significant portion, but not all, of the pipelines in its unincorporated areas First responder in the event of a spill.”

We demand that Ventura County immediately consider acting as the Grand Jury recommended and conduct its own study into pipelines so as to better understand the risk of ruptures, leaks and spills.

[Here is a link to the Grand Jury Report.](#)