



November 8, 2013

Salud Carbajal, Chair
Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
123 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: Appeal of the County Planning Commission's Approval of the Santa Maria Energy Oil and Gas Drilling and Production Plan Project

DIRECTORS

Joann Marmolejo, *President*
Dick Flacks, *V.P. South*
Jerry Connor, *V.P. North*
Margarita Del Valle, *Treasurer*
Gale McNeeley, *Secretary*
Jon Williams, *Membership*
Paulina Abustan
Emily Allen
Rosio Almaguer
Rosemary Holmes
Hazel Putney
Barry Taugher

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ken Hough

COMMUNICATIONS

MANAGER

Jeanne Sparks

SB CAN

P.O. Box 23453
Santa Barbara, CA 93121
805.563.0463
ken@sbcn.org

Dear Chair Carbajal and Honorable Supervisors,

Santa Barbara County Action Network urges you to require the project applicant to mitigate the impact of greenhouse gases to the full extent possible.

We believe 100 percent mitigation is the best option. We cannot ignore the impact GHG emissions have on climate change. This option is the only one that would not impact the climate.

Options other than the one approved by the Planning Commission are not only preferable, but are also feasible and defensible. As noted in your staff report on page 13, the use of a 10,000 MTCO₂E/year threshold is supported by substantial evidence and is an option for consideration by the Board.

SB CAN formed a coalition in mid-2012 to look at the environmental impacts of this project. Recently, the Community Environmental Council and the Santa Ynez Valley Alliance joined the coalition.

While some environmental groups have opposed the project in its entirety, SB CAN has not opposed the project. We have only asked that its impacts be mitigated to the full extent possible. We believe this is a reasonable approach to this project.

Santa Barbara County has been a leader in environmental protections since the oil spill of 1969. The County should continue to be a leader and require 100 percent mitigation, or at least do as well as our neighboring regions to the north and south that use the 10,000 MTCO₂E/year threshold.

This project is also important since it sets a precedent for many more that are likely to come. Even if it is not meant to set a precedent, it will, because the next time a project comes up, people will look to see what has been required previously. Now is the time to do our part to combat climate change. Do the right thing now and for the future.

Sincerely,

Ken Hough
Executive Director