

**YESonMeasureG.org**  
**The Coalition to Protect SLO County**

**Factual Responses**

Here are our factual responses to the “no on measure g” opponent’s ballot and media arguments. Please look at the objective facts and draw your own conclusions. Don’t let Big Oil manipulate you.

For the facts visit our website and/or contact us. We are open, transparent, science based, share our information, and like to discuss.

**1. Measure G would shut down existing oil and gas production. (FALSE)**

Measure G was specifically designed and worded to allow existing oil and gas production to CONTINUE safe operations in the County, retaining its employees, and paying its taxes. The specific wording in the Measure on this point says that the underground steam injection technologies used for extracting local oil deposits can continue along with all routine well maintenance. See the following excerpts from Measure G:

**Sec. 2, B., 8., a & b**

**a. Petroleum extraction land uses lawfully existing on the Effective Date may continue as nonconforming uses to the extent allowed under State and local law. Such uses shall not be enlarged, increased, extended, or otherwise expanded or intensified.**

**b. “Petroleum extraction” is defined as resource extraction establishments primarily engaged in: producing crude petroleum and natural gas; recovering oil from oil sands and shales; and producing natural gasoline and cycle condensate. Activities include exploration, drilling, oil and gas well operation and maintenance, operation of natural gas and cycle plants, the mining and extraction of oil from oil sands and shales, and on-site processing only to the extent necessary to permit extraction (e.g., enhanced recovery techniques including the use of steam generators), or to conform extracted crude to pipeline requirements.**

**Sec. 2, C., 9. a.:**

**a: “Well stimulation treatment” is defined as any treatment of a well designed to enhance oil and gas production or recovery by increasing the permeability of the formation. Well stimulation treatments include, but are not limited to, hydraulic fracturing treatments and acid well stimulation treatments. Well stimulation treatments do not include steam flooding, water flooding, or cyclic steaming and do not include routine well cleanout work, routine well maintenance, routine removal of formation damage due to drilling, bottom hole pressure surveys, or routine activities that do not affect the integrity of the well or the formation.**

***(note: what this means is that use of steam and other listed activities are allowed, while fracking and acidization are not).***

**2. Measure G would result in more economic uncertainty. (FALSE)**

The economic future of San Luis Obispo County lies in protecting our water resources which are the foundation of our agriculture, tourism, hi-tech, and diverse economy. With drought and global climate change as the “new normal” our water resources need to be reserved for the most important uses, and producing

more dirty crude oil is not one of them. A YES vote on Measure G actually REDUCES UNCERTAINTY in the County's future by keeping dirty fossil fuel production to current levels, protecting water supplies and quality. Imagine the cost of trying to clean up a ground water basin contaminated by toxic petroleum waste water.

### **3. Measure G would harm our families and our community. (FALSE)**

At current rates of production, maintained over the life of the operation, the Arroyo Grande oil field could support current occupations for decades to come. What would hurt workers and our communities is the massive expansion of the Arroyo Grande oil field (AGOF) by 481 new oil wells which would increase groundwater use and underground injection of toxic wastewater into drinking water aquifers by upwards of 1000%. Also, rapid depletion of the existing oil resources could quickly eliminate local jobs and tax revenues, while boosting the profits of Colorado corporations and leaving us with all the mess and expense.

Oil and gas companies come and go. For example, the Arroyo Grande Oil Field has traded hands a dozen times. The current Denver-based owner appears to be focused on a plan of aggressive expansion. If Measure G passes, this owner may decide to sell to another, but this need not threaten operations at the field nor the jobs of long-term local oil workers. A new owner who is willing to operate the field according to the new laws will be better for everyone.

### **4. Measure G would expose the County and its taxpayers to massive financial liability. (FALSE)**

When the voters pass Measure G in November Big Oil has a choice to accept the will of the people, be a good neighbor, and continue to safely operate it's petroleum extraction, pay its employees and taxes. Or, they can bully us, threaten to sue, and throw their billions of dollars weight around—all because they want to exploit this oil reserve NOW, make their profits NOW, and then get out of town.

Measure G is no more likely to generate taxpayer liability than any other decision made by our Board of Supervisors. When oil drillers were recently denied permits in the Huasna Valley there were no lawsuits. Courts have confirmed that governments have the power to ban new oil drilling. If that is what county citizens choose to do Big Oil should respect us.

If Big Oil chooses to punish and sue us, then we expect the County to fully defend our new laws, and they will not be alone defending Measure G in court. Other Counties and non-profit legal and environmental organizations will likely join in. A local Supervisor was recently arguing the County should pay to publish and mail the entire Measure G to all voters in the County, at an estimated cost of \$130,000 (the County Clerk said it was easily available to anyone who wanted it on-line, in libraries, or in hard copy—and we agreed it was a huge waste of money). That idea was defeated. This money should be allocated as the first deposit in the county's legal defense fund against Big Oil.

### **5. Measure G would increase dependence on foreign oil. (FALSE)**

Oil companies are not concerned about energy independence or else they would not be selling U.S. oil in foreign markets, which they are doing more of every year. This argument is simply a myth used to manipulate voters. SLO County oil production is a micro drop of oil in millions of barrels of international oil. The fact is that ALL oil produced in SLO County is bought and refined by Phillips 66 and sold into the international crude or finished oil market. The distortion that large amounts of local oil are actually used here or that it makes us more oil independent are objectively not true.

**6. Measure G would result in a loss of revenues for Local Schools, First Responders and Public Programs. (FALSE)**

This myth is based on the Big Lie that the AGOF is going to be shut down by Measure G when, in fact, it is exempt from the new laws. After Measure G passes Sentinel Peak Resources from Colorado will either decide to keep operating or they will sell the AGOF to someone else who respects the new laws. Currently the entire oil industry in SLO County pays less than 1/2 of 1% of the County's property and unitary taxes, not the millions they claim.

**7. Oil companies would never frack in SLO County because it has a different geology. (FALSE)**

The Federal government has just proposed that Los Padres National Forest and the Carrizo Plains National Monument in San Luis Obispo be opened for oil drilling and fracking. They are doing that because oil companies want to drill there. Next door to us in Kern County, over half of the new oil wells drilled are for fracking. In Monterey County fracking was stopped by a Federal judge who ruled it could not proceed without a full environmental impact report on its potential groundwater impacts. The Monterey Shale formation, which is the object of fracking, underlies all three of these Counties. Given the decades long lies of big oil regarding their operations and environmental damage any "promise" on their part should be met with serious skepticism.

**For much more detailed science based and historical information please go to the RESOURCE page on our website at <http://protectslocounty.org>.**

**We would welcome the opportunity to speak to any groups, organizations, or businesses about the value of Measure G to our county.**