Agenda Item 3A: State Advocacy Letters
March 8, 2016

Assemblymember Richard Bloom, Chair
Assembly Budget Subcommittee 3 on Resources and Transportation
State Capitol Room 2003
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE:  BCP for Abandonment of the Becker Onshore Well, Santa Barbara County – SUPPORT

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to urge your committee to support the Governor’s proposal to complete the proper abandonment of the Becker Well on Summerland Beach in Santa Barbara County. This is a project under the Mineral Resources Management Program of the State Lands Commission, and would complete a process already underway by the Commission.

Summerland Beach has a long history of oil pollution resulting from improperly abandoned wells, having been the first location of offshore oil drilling in the world. Some of those wells have been properly re-abandoned over the years, enabling both area residents and thousands of visitors to enjoy safe swimming and a clean coastline at a beach that is highly accessible due to its proximity to the freeway and free parking.

Over the past five years, one improperly abandoned well (Becker) has been sighted leaking, and conditions have steadily deteriorated – reaching a point where many traditional, committed users have themselves abandoned the beach because of what they describe as ‘filthy’ water and ‘nauseating’ fumes. Without better guidelines about safe swimming and air quality, less informed beach users do continue to swim and stay on the beach, exposing themselves to potentially unsafe petrochemicals.

We are allowing a beautiful stretch of ocean and coastline to be fouled by the result of human action taken over a century ago. We urge you to support the Budget Change Proposal from the State Lands Commission to complete the reabandonment of the Becker Onshore Well. If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Joseph Toney at 805-568-2060 or jtoney@countyosb.org.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Peter Adam
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Senator Mark Leno, Chair, Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review
Assemblymember Shirley Weber, Chair, Assembly Committee on Budget
Senator Lois Wolk, Chair, Senate Subcommittee 2 on Resources, Environmental Protection, Energy and Transportation
Assemblymember Das Williams, Chair, Assembly Committee on Natural Resources
March 10, 2016

The Honorable Das Williams
Assemblymember, 37th District
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249

RE: AB 1564 Emergency services: wireless 911 calls: routing—SUPPORT

Dear Assemblyman Williams:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to support Assembly Bill 1564 Emergency services: wireless 911 calls: routing. AB 1564 will improve the efficiency of the 9-1-1 system by ensuring calls from a cell phone are routed to a local Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) instead of the California Highway Patrol (CHP).

Currently, 9-1-1 cell phone are first routed to CHP dispatch and then rerouted locally. The goal of the bill is to have calls be more appropriately routed to County or City PSAPs first. The change would allow for faster response times for first responders. Routing calls directly to local jurisdictions will save time and make emergency response more efficient not only locally but across the State. The result will be improved lifesaving outcomes.

For these reasons, Santa Barbara County supports AB 1564. If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Joseph Toney at 805-568-2060 or jtony@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Peter Adam
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, 19th Senate District
Assemblymember Katcho Achadjian, 35th Assembly District
Assemblymember Das Williams, 37th Assembly District
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Monica Miller, Governmental Advocates
Cliff Berg, Governmental Advocates
March 10, 2016

The Honorable Rich Gordon
California State Assembly
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249

RE: AB 1825 Vicious dogs: definition – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Gordon:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to support Assembly Bill 1825 Vicious dogs: definition. AB 1825 will provide more local control and allow shelters to follow best practices to assess dogs.

Current law mandates that the label of “vicious dog” be automatically applied to dogs seized under code Section 599aa which states “any dog seized under Section 599aa of the Penal Code and upon the sustaining of a conviction of the owner or keeper under subdivision (a) of Section 597.5 of the Penal Code.” This rule means that there is no flexibility for local shelters to assess the actual status of the dog, and even a puppy could be labeled “vicious.” The proposed legislation will remove this requirement from the law.

Many dogs seized under the penal code, such as from a breeder that is connected to animal fighting, do not pose a risk and are perfectly safe for future adoption. The legislation will protect dogs related to the penal code and give them a better opportunity to live a safe and healthy life.

For these reasons, Santa Barbara County supports AB 1825. If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Joseph Toney at 805-568-2060 or jtoney@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Peter Adam
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, 19th Senate District
Assemblymember Katcho Achadjian, 35th Assembly District
Assemblymember Das Williams, 37th Assembly District
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Monica Miller, Governmental Advocates
Cliff Berg, Governmental Advocates
March 10, 2016

Senator Carol Liu  
State Capitol, Rm 5097  
Sacramento, CA 95814

FAX No.: (916) 651-4925

RE:    SB 876 Homelessness – OPPOSE

Dear Senator Liu:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to oppose Senate Bill 876 Homelessness. SB 876 would cause significant negative impacts to County public space.

The proposed bill would allow unregulated camping on any public space, creating encampments. The ramifications for potential damage, cleanup, and maintenance of such County public spaces are substantial. In addition, there would be costs for law enforcement to address any illegal activities that might occur, not including the trespassing allowed by the bill.

For these reasons, Santa Barbara County opposes SB 876. If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Joseph Toney at 805-568-2060 or jtoney@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Peter Adam  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc:    Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, 19th Senate District  
Assemblymember Katcho Achadjian, 35th Assembly District  
Assemblymember Das Williams, 37th Assembly District  
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors  
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer  
Monica Miller, Governmental Advocates  
Cliff Berg, Governmental Advocates
The Honorable Das Williams  
Assemblymember, 37th District  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249

RE: AB 1882 Oil and gas: groundwater monitoring – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Williams:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to support Assembly Bill 1882 Oil and gas: groundwater monitoring. AB 1882 enhances oversight and accountability to ensure water used as drinking water or irrigation is not being contaminated by oil production.

AB 1882 requires the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) or the appropriate regional water quality control board (RWQCB) to review underground injection control (UIC) projects for water quality impacts. This review will ensure that UIC projects are not harming groundwater that could be used for public consumption or irrigation. AB 1882 would prohibit the Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) from approving UIC projects without written concurrence from SWRCB or the appropriate RWQCB. AB 1882 allows SWRCB or the appropriate RWQCB to require groundwater monitoring as a condition of its concurrence with DOGGR.

A 2011 United States Environmental Protection Agency audit of DOGGR’s UIC program implementation concluded that DOGGR was both misclassifying underground sources of drinking water and insufficiently monitoring the program. In June 2014, to make matters worse, it was discovered that DOGGR was approving injection wells in aquifers still protected by the Safe Drinking Water Act. There are several wells of this kind in Santa Barbara County. In 2015, the County supported AB 356 which was a similar bill that you carried. Furthermore, the Santa Barbara County 2016 Legislative Platform advocates for improved groundwater management as well as cleanup, removal or improvement of historic oil infrastructure.

For these reasons, Santa Barbara County supports AB 1882. If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Joseph Toney at 805-568-2060 or jtoney@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Peter Adam  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, 19th Senate District  
Assemblymember Katcho Achadjian, 35th Assembly District  
Assemblymember Das Williams, 37th Assembly District  
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors  
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer  
Monica Miller, Governmental Advocates  
Cliff Berg, Governmental Advocates
March 29, 2016

The Honorable Das Williams  
Assemblymember, 37\textsuperscript{th} District  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249

FAX No.: (916) 319-2137

RE: AB 2729 Oil and gas: operations--SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Williams:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to support Assembly Bill 2729 Oil and gas: operations. AB 2729 creates disincentives for operators to maintain large numbers of idle wells and will ensure that funds are available for remediation actions.

This bill will redefine idle wells as those that have not been in use for 6 months and creates a definition for long-term idle wells as those that have been idle for 5 years or more. In addition, AB 2729 will do the following: increase idle well fees to create a stronger incentive to plug and abandon long-term idle wells, will remove the larger blanket super-bond exemptions for idle well fees, increases the initial bond fee and requires the bond to remain in place until operation has ceased and the well has been plugged, and proposes an alternative to paying idle well fees if the owner commits to an aggressive plan to reduce their inventory of long term idle wells.

There are over a thousand idle wells within Santa Barbara County. Idle wells pose significant public health concerns and a threat to groundwater. Many idle wells are near homes, agriculture, and sources of drinking water. Without proper usage or maintenance, wells can crack or disintegrate allowing contaminants such as uranium, lead, iron, selenium, sulfates and radon to leak into groundwater sources. Idle wells can also leak methane, a greenhouse gas, if improperly maintained.

Furthermore, the Santa Barbara County 2016 Legislative Platform advocates for these actions in the Oil Research & Infrastructure plank. For these reasons, Santa Barbara County supports AB 2729. If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Joseph Toney at 805-568-2060 or jtoney@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Peter Adam  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, 19\textsuperscript{th} Senate District  
Assemblymember Katcho Achadjian, 35\textsuperscript{th} Assembly District  
Assemblymember Das Williams, 37\textsuperscript{th} Assembly District  
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors  
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer  
Monica Miller, Governmental Advocates  
Cliff Berg, Governmental Advocates