May 4, 2017

The Honorable Ricardo Lara
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 5050
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 44 (Jackson) – Coastal hazard and legacy oil and gas well removal - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Lara:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to state our support for SB 44 (Jackson). The Board of Supervisor’s adopted a 2017 Legislative Platform that supports the funding for cleanup and removal of abandoned oil and gas wells. The 2017 Legislative Platform also supports the urgent prioritization of wells that pollute the marine environment.

Though the establishment of a $2 million revolving fund is critical to providing complete removal and cleanup of these abandoned wells, it’s important to note the significant number of legacy wells in Summerland, Elwood and in the Rincon areas of Santa Barbara County. The Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources and the State Lands Commission have identified 198 high priority legacy wells in the on shore and near shore environment of Santa Barbara County. The revolving fund is a modest amount and will require many years to eliminate the safety and environmental hazards associated with legacy oil and gas wells.

If you have questions about the Board’s position, please contact the County’s Legislative Coordinator, Dennis Bozanich at 805-568-3403 or dbozanich@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Cliff Berg
Legislative Advocate

cc: Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, Author
Tobias Halvarson, Legislative Director, Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson
Members, Senate Appropriations Committee
Narisha Bonakdar, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee
Rocel Bettencourt, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, 35th Assembly District
Assemblymember Monique Limon, 37th Assembly District
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Dennis Bozanich, Legislative Coordinator, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors