

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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Fifth District

**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

September 16, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 47 (Limon) - Request for Signature**

Dear Governor Newsom:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to respectfully request your signature on Senate Bill 47 (Limon), which will increase the annual expenditure limit from the Oil, Gas and Geothermal Administration Fund, the principal source of funding for the Geologic Energy Management Division from a production fee assessed on oil and gas production in the state, for the plugging and abandonment of hazardous or idle-deserted wells to \$5 million.

Oil & gas development has occurred in Santa Barbara County since as early as the 1890's and a significant amount of historic, abandoned infrastructure associated with discontinued operations is located within the County. Local jurisdictions have limited ability to require upgrading of aged infrastructure, and to enforce existing safety-related and environmental protection-related laws and ordinances.

California is expected to see more deserted wells in the future. Leaving wells idle is often done out of a desire to defer decommissioning costs. Some operators may eventually declare bankruptcy and forfeit any requirements to decommission their wells.

The Board of Supervisors adopted a 2021 Legislative Platform which includes the Oil and Gas Infrastructure Safety and Compliance Legislative plank that specifically states that the County will support funding for cleanup/removal of historic, abandoned oil and gas wells and equipment where there is no existing responsible party with an urgent priority targeting wells that pollute the marine environment, as well as for equipment that creates public safety/nuisance concerns.

For these reasons, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests your signature on SB 47. If you have questions about the Board's position, please contact the County's Legislative Coordinator, Jasmine McGinty at 805-568-3108 or [jmcginty@countyofsb.org](mailto:jmcginty@countyofsb.org). Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cliff Berg  
Governmental Advocates, Inc.

cc: Samantha Omana, Office of Senator Monique Limon  
Hazel Miranda, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor  
The Honorable Assemblymember Steve Bennett, 37<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
The Honorable Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, 35<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors  
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors  
Nancy Anderson, Assistant County Executive Officer, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors