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August 31, 2017

TO: Ventura County Planning Commissioners:  
Chair W. Steven Onstot  
Vice-Chair Richard Rodriguez  
Commissioner Nora Aidukas  
Commissioner Maggie Kestley  
Commissioner Phil White  
*Sent via Email to [anna.hall@ventura.org](mailto:anna.hall@ventura.org)*

**Re: Support for the Denial of the Appeal of Case PL 14-0103 (Renaissance Petroleum)**

Dear Chair Onstot and Commissioners,

Ventura County CoLAB is a business advocacy organization representing over 450 members countywide. We are very concerned about the number of groundless appeals filed against relatively minor oil and gas projects and the impacts to County staff and budgets. The projects being appealed represent the maturity of the oil industry in Ventura County, requiring necessary upgrades to facilities for safety and new wells to curb the natural decline of oil production over time.

The decline in oil production has consequences for California considering that crude oil is the main feedstock for transportation fuels. According to the California Energy Commission (CEC) there are 30 million registered on-road vehicles in California and in 2016 sales of gasoline reached over 15 billion gallons. This marks a steady increase in gasoline consumption since 2013.

While fuel consumption increases, statistics from the State Division of Oil and Gas (DOGGR) show that California's crude oil production continues to decline, a 22% reduction since 2007. As there are no crude oil import pipelines into California, imported oil from other states and countries must travel to California by tanker vessels into ports in the Los Angeles and San Francisco areas to meet the demand for our transportation lifestyle.

In 2016, California imported over 328 million barrels of oil, 54.5% of the total crude oil we consume annually (per the CEC). The decline in both Alaska and California oil production has not stemmed the demand for gasoline causing foreign imports of crude oil to accelerate.

Shockingly, the top seven countries supplying crude oil to California refineries are Saudi Arabia, Ecuador, Colombia, Kuwait, Iraq, Oman, and Angola (per the CEC). The average time for an oil supertanker to deliver crude oil products across the ocean from Middle Eastern countries is 40 days.

From the perspective of global climate change, it is critical that Ventura County support the production of local oil to keep up with supply demands and reduce our dependence on foreign oil. Environmental advocacy should be focused on ways to reduce the demand for gasoline rather than appealing local production projects. Every single barrel of oil not produced in Ventura County causes more tanker traffic across our oceans.

CoLAB believes that the energy future in California depends on the well managed production of local oil reserves within the state, including Ventura County. We commend the Ventura County Planning Division for their thorough analysis of the environmental impacts of the Renaissance Petroleum project based on the California Environmental Quality Act and their approval of the Modified Conditional Use Permit.

We recommend that the Planning Commission deny the appeal of Project PL 14-0103.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lynn Gray Jensen".

Lynn Gray Jensen  
Executive Director

CC: Kim Prillhart, Planning Director  
Brian Baca, Planning Division Manager – Commercial and Industrial