



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF VENTURA**

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April 7, 2015

Board of Supervisors  
County of Ventura  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation of Supervisor Parks and Supervisor Bennett for the Board of Supervisors to Support Legislative Enactment of AB 356 (Williams), Groundwater Protection and Underground Injection Control Program Reform, and to Authorize the Board Chair to Sign a Letter of Support to the California Assembly Natural Resources Committee

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that our Board support legislative enactment of AB 356 (Williams) which would help protect groundwater aquifers from oil drilling wastewater, and that the Board Chair be authorized to sign the letter of support to the California Assembly Natural Resources Committee.

**DISCUSSION:**

Ventura County is highly dependent on local groundwater resources for drinking and for the County's \$1 billion-plus agricultural industry. Protection of local groundwater aquifers is essential for a thriving economy and a healthy domestic water supply.

The state Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) has failed to adequately track oil drilling wastewater injection wells statewide, some of which may be impacting aquifers with water clean enough for drinking and crop irrigation. DOGGR additionally misclassified some underground sources of drinking water and exempted them from protection and allowed wastewater injection. A statewide investigation of injection well practices, including a number of wells in Ventura County, is under way.

Assembly Bill 356 (Exhibit 1) would require that aquifer exemptions are vetted by both DOGGR and the State Water Resources Control Board prior to submitting them to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. It would require that injection projects are regularly reviewed for compliance

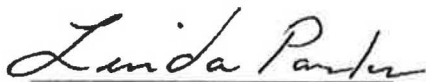
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with federal and state rules. Additionally, AB 356 would also require monitoring plans to ensure underground injection does not pollute water that could be used for drinking water or other beneficial uses and that injections do not migrate into nearby protected aquifers.

Exhibit 2 is the letter from the Board of Supervisors to the Chair of the California Assembly Natural Resources Committee in support of AB 356.

Please join us in support of legislative passage of this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Linda Parks  
Supervisor, 2<sup>nd</sup> District



Steve Bennett  
Supervisor, 1<sup>st</sup> District

Exhibit 1 – Assembly Bill 356  
Exhibit 2 – Letter of support