

City of Ojai
CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. 19-27
RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF OJAI OPPOSING NEW OIL & GAS DRILLING
AND HYDRAULIC FRACTURING LEASE SALES WITHIN THE OJAI VALLEY - IN
AREAS THAT ARE INCONSISTENT WITH CURRENT USE and JEOPARDIZE
WATER RESOURCES AND AIR QUALITY IN THE OJAI VALLEY

WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, manages federal lands and mineral estates in California, including in the Ojai Valley, for the purpose of leasing for oil and gas production; and

WHEREAS, some of these leases are located within the Ojai Valley Area Plan and/or the area included in the City of Ojai Sphere of Influence and/or area of interest; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, has not held a lease sale of federal public lands and mineral estate for oil and gas production in California for more than five years; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management has commenced the process to reopen federal lands and mineral estate in the Central Coast/Bakersfield Planning area - which includes lands within the Ojai Valley - for oil and gas drilling and hydraulic fracturing; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Land Management hindered the participation of Ventura County residents, including residents of the City of Ojai and the entire Ojai Valley, by refusing to host a public hearing in Ventura County, which effectively hindered local public input on the draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement analyzing hydraulic fracturing in the area; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Land Management furthermore refused the request from the County of Ventura to make participation in a public meeting associated with the release of the draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement analyzing hydraulic fracturing reasonably accessible to Ventura County residents by not including a venue within Ventura County; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. is a net oil exporter; and

WHEREAS, oil and gas development and fracking do not represent a sustainable energy future for either the Ojai Valley, County of Ventura, or the U.S.; and

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WHEREAS, fracking only produces short term gas and oil; and

WHEREAS, fracking, much like strip mining, to remain profitable must be consistently fed by the opening of new wells. Such an expansion is inconsistent with land use in the Ojai Valley; and

WHEREAS, many federal lands and mineral estate in the Central Coast/ Bakersfield Planning area, including lands within the County and within the Ojai Valley, that the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management proposes to lease for new oil drilling and fracking are on, adjacent to, or near drinking water sources for residents of the City of Ojai and the Ojai Valley and would threaten said sources; and

WHEREAS, fracking requires pumping large amounts of water (1 million to 8 million gallons for each well) into the ground; and

WHEREAS, the Central Coast, including the Ojai Valley, recently experienced eight years of extreme drought with climate scientists predicting drought as the "new normal" for the Central Coast; and

WHEREAS, Ojai Valley water resources are fragile, limited and drought prone and cannot be used for fracking or oil and gas development; and

WHEREAS, ground and surface water supplies in the Ojai Valley are historically stressed and fully appropriated; and

WHEREAS, the proposed fracking would take place adjacent to Lake Casitas a primary source of water for most of the residents of the Ojai Valley, including the City of Ojai; and

WHEREAS, the proposed fracking would take place through, under and/or near groundwater basins in the Ojai Valley, which serve as vital sources of water for drinking and agriculture; and

WHEREAS, fresh water resources from other California communities cannot be purchased for fracking and oil and gas development on the Central Coast without depriving said communities of needed and precious fresh water supplies; and

WHEREAS, many federal lands and mineral estate in the Central Coast/ Bakersfield Planning area, including lands within the Ojai Valley, that the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management proposes to lease for new oil drilling and fracking are on, adjacent to, or near areas which would expose residents of the City of Ojai and the entire Ojai Valley to health risks from the release of toxic chemicals; and

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WHEREAS, fracking, an extraction process that accesses shale deposits deep underground, requires as many as 600 toxic chemicals; and

WHEREAS, many of said chemicals are known carcinogens (such as lead, uranium, radium, formaldehyde, hydrochloric acid and mercury) and would pose a health threat to the residents of the Ojai Valley; and

WHEREAS, fracking and new oil and gas development would increase air pollution in the Ojai Valley posing a health threat to our residents; and

WHEREAS, the proposed oil and gas and fracking leasing in the Ojai Valley, would add to and unreasonably increase the release of greenhouse gases adding to climate change; and

WHEREAS, many of the federal lands and mineral estate in the Central Coast/ Bakersfield Planning area, including lands within the Ojai Valley, that the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management proposes to lease for new oil drilling and fracking are on, adjacent to schools, which are sensitive receptors; and

WHEREAS, the proposed fracking and oil and gas development would take place adjacent to the Thatcher School, and near Villanova School in the Ojai Valley potentially exposing students to toxic chemicals; and

WHEREAS, many federal lands and mineral estate in the Central Coast/ Bakersfield Planning area, including lands within the Ojai Valley, that the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management proposes to lease for new oil drilling and fracking are on, adjacent to, or near environmentally sensitive areas; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ojai values the nearby federal lands, which provide habitat to a vast array of wildlife, including threatened and endangered species, that depend on healthy and clean environment; and

WHEREAS, exploration for new gas and oil and fracking would threaten the recovery of the endangered condor and reintroduced tule elk and pronghorn antelope in Ventura County; and
WHEREAS, the proposed fracking would threaten previously protected National Forest lands in the County of Ventura, and

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WHEREAS, residents and visitors of the Ojai Valley enjoy our publicly-owned mountains, wild places and abundance of diverse resources for recreation, exploration, and relaxation; and tourism and recreation comprise a large part of the local economy; and

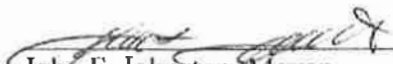
WHEREAS, the threat of a spill or blow out from oil drilling and fracking, present a clear and ever-present threat to our resident's and visitor's use and enjoyment of said publicly owned lands; and

WHEREAS, the potential of a spill or blowout from oil drilling and fracking would create a threat to the economic activities throughout the Ojai Valley.

For all of these reasons, the City of Ojai hereby opposes new federal oil drilling and fracking leases in the Ojai Valley.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 25th day of June 2019 by the following vote:

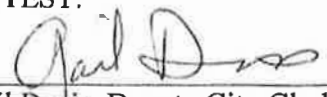
Ayes: Blatz, Francina, Haney, Johnston, Weirick
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None



John F. Johnston, Mayor
7-2-19

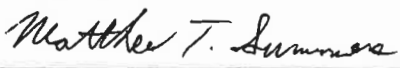
Date signed

ATTEST:



Gail Dayis, Deputy City Clerk

Approved as to Form



Matthew Summers, City Attorney