

PROTECT PRICE CANYON

September 18, 2016

Attn: (Actual person's name)
Claiborne & Churchill
2649 Carpenter Cy Rd.
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

RE: Protecting our Groundwater and Natural Beauty of Edna Valley

Dear (Actual person's name),

Protect Price Canyon is a group of concerned residents, businesses and organizations in the Edna Valley and Price Canyon area. Freeport McMoRan operates the Arroyo Grande Oil Field in our area. In 2014 it was acknowledged that DOGGER had permitted injecting wastewater into sites far outside the establish EPA exemption boundary. DOGGER has submitted a request to the EPA to greatly expand the zone where injection is permitted.

To get the exemption, Freeport McMoRan must prove that the aquifer exemption (and injection) will not harm other water that is used for drinking, agriculture, and other domestic and beneficial uses. It must also show that no one is using the aquifer currently for drinking water. However there are at least 100 water supply wells within a mile of this oil field, but the application didn't show exact map locations or sampling of these wells.

The company is hoping to drill up to 350 brand new wells (including injection wells) to achieve up to a 10-fold increase in daily oil production. That would, of course, likely also result in a major increase in wastewater production. The application is relying on a very old Environmental Impact Report that did not consider the extended drought impacts we are currently experiencing.

Also worrisome is that no analysis on the impacts on the water table slopes of the aquifers up hill (upstream) from the oil field was done. (Your ground water!) Once the aquifer has been exempted, however, that water has been sacrificed to FMOR, and no further review of its hydraulic connection to other groundwater will take place. In a State that increasingly relies on ground water and will very likely face longer and more frequent droughts in the future, this seems like a terrible idea.

This exemption paves the way for the planned 10 fold increase in production, blighting the lovely Oak forested canyon that people often drive through to get to the wineries in Edna Valley from the south. The sight and smell of this future ugly, industrial facility would likely leave a subconscious impression in the minds of visitors to your vineyards.

Will you join us in opposing this threat to our water? We'd love to add your name to our growing list of local businesses, and neighbors on our website that want further study into the impacts of this project prior to granting the Exemption.

Respectfully,

Tori Poppenheimer, on behalf of Protect Price Canyon
5060 Pineknolls Dr
Cambria, CA 93428