

December 15, 2016

Salud Carbajal

PO BOX 1290

Santa Barbara, CA 93102

Re: Proposed Arroyo Grande Oil Field Aquifer Exemption: Request for Denial

Dear Congressman Salud Carbajal Elect,

On February 8, 2016 the California Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources ("DOGGR") recommended an aquifer exemption for Class II injection wells in the Arroyo Grande oil field ("AGOF"), operated by Freeport McMoRan ("FMOG"). Under the Safe Drinking Water Act ("SDWA"), the EPA must approve this Exemption before it is valid. On April, 19th 2016 a letter was sent to DOGGR from the EPA requesting more information and questioning parts of the application and calling out where it was lacking data. Then on August 18th 2016 a letter was sent back to the EPA from DOGGR with more information given back to the EPA in an attempt to fulfill their request. Now we are coming on the end of 2016 still waiting in limbo since September 2015 when the first Aquifer Exemption hearing was held here in San Luis Obispo regarding this application. This has caused a great stress to our family and we worry about what will happen to our land.

I live on 22 acres that borders this proposed exemption boundary. Life goes on I have two little girls that are growing up on this sacred land that has been a part of my family since 1978. We have horses that we ride and care for; we have chickens and a large garden that feeds our family. I have a fear for our future based on what could potentially happen to my property and the water that runs under it.

I am writing to you today as I have a great concern regarding this application for an Aquifer Exemption at the Arroyo Grande Oil Field. I feel that this application to the EPA

is not complete and does not answer many questions neighbors and concerned citizens have regarding our water. As you may know this is the first application of many that will be going into the EPA for requested exemption of an aquifer. This is a statewide issue that will likely have a lasting impact on California and its water supply. We are living in a severe drought and cannot write off our water to the Oil and Gas industry. Water is likely to become scarcer in the future and I want to leave behind a healthy and viable land for our future generations.

I am asking you to please take this issue up within your first 100 days of office and to urge the EPA to hold a hearing. We have a growing community of neighbors that are concerned about their water. Many people do not understand what is happening as it is such a complex issue. Something that is not recognized is the large expansion that is in the works for this field once they hope to gain this larger aquifer exemption boundary. None of this is being taken into consideration on the application. This issue has come to light with many years having passed with it being overlooked. These permits of injection wells have been given out since 1982 without proper regulation and safety standards. The EPA gave this job to DOGGR and never looked back to make sure they were doing the job they were given to do. And given this past history it is difficult to trust the right decision will be made for our water and its future. Please help our community in protecting our water.

Best Regards,

Natalie Risner

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