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November 8, 2011

Honorable Adam Hill
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors
County of San Luis Obispo
976 Osos Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408-2040

Subject: Consideration of Holding a Study Session on Hydraulic Fracturing

Dear Chairperson Hill:

Several members of the Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) are concerned about the current implementation of hydraulic fracturing technology in San Luis Obispo County. Hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, is the process of utilizing pressurized water, or some other liquid, to fracture rock layers and release petroleum, natural gas, or other substances so that they can be extracted. Environmental safety and health concerns about this process have emerged and are being discussed at several levels. At the Federal level, the Environmental Protection Agency is in the middle of a study to assess potential impacts of fracking on drinking water resources. Fracking in California has prompted State legislators to introduce the Hydraulic Fracking Disclosure Bill (AB 591) which appears to have support by the Assembly and Senate.

In response to these and other local events, on October 5, 2011, the WRAC made a motion to request that your Board consider holding a study session on hydraulic fracturing or, if the Board chooses, that a study session be held by the WRAC. Please let this letter serve as our request. While you consider this request, please remember that several issues related to fracking fall outside of the purview of the WRAC.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

MICHAEL WINN

Chairperson, Water Resources Advisory Committee

Purpose of the Committee:

To advise the County Board of Supervisors concerning all policy decisions relating to the water resources of the SLO County Flood Control & Water Conservation District. To recommend to the Board specific water resource programs. To recommend methods of financing water resource programs.

Excerpts from WRAC Bylaws dated 3/2/2011