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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Applications for Permit to Drill (APD's) in the Sespe Oil Field

Dear Mr. Schwartz:

I did not grow up in Ojai, nor do I live there now, but I was fortunate enough to spend 3 years of high school at the Thacher School, which sits on literal edge of the Los Padres National Forest. It was in and out of the beautiful valleys and streams, over the boulders, and down into the water pools of the Sespe where I first learned to backpack; where I learned how to start a fire, where I gazed up at the stars for the first time. This National Forest is precious, and we can not take the risk of destroying it and all it has to offer, especially it's water sources. Please, reconsider fracking this area, so that people of all ages can still consider this wilderness.

I'm writing to urge you to protect the Los Padres National Forest from the impacts of fracking and oil drilling. The Forest Service should prepare a full Environmental Impact Statement, and no fracking should be approved until we know more about the potential environmental and public health impacts of this controversial practice.

Fracking has come under increasing scrutiny from scientists, regulators, and the public due to concerns with groundwater contamination, surface water pollution, water consumption, and public health. It is not acceptable to approve any more fracking in such an environmentally sensitive area until the potential impacts are fully known, and until measures are put into place to protect our forest and our water supplies from environmental harm.

I also urge you to take all measures to protect endangered California condors and steelhead from the impacts of oil development. Please ensure that spills of oil and other hazardous chemicals do not enter Sespe Creek or its tributaries.

Again, I urge the Forest Service to prepare a full Environmental Impact Statement before approving any fracking operations in Los Padres National Forest. Thank you for your efforts to protect our forest and surrounding communities.

Leo Turpan

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