

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/30/2014 12:00:00 AM

First name: Janine

Last name: Reese

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Mr. Schwartz,

We are avid hikers, and longtime residents of Fillmore. We have been in the mountains above Fillmore many times fishing overnight and hiking with our children. (Our daughter hiked down Tar Creek with some friends this morning). We are lovers of wildlife and local fauna. We have swum in Sespe pools, bathed in hot springs, and photographed the animals. We have seen much and love our land.

I understand there is a decision for a permit to be issued very soon for new drilling above Fillmore. The only question then being: is the drilling safe?

We have had the Union oil company and other drillers in these hills for a hundred twenty five years. On that side of the discussion it's been said that diagonal drilling or "fracking" has been a common method "up the Sespe" for more than 50 years. We did some research on drilling for oil and were surprised to find that there is no watershed study that proves that such drilling is dangerous to our water sources or that it increases the likelihood of earthquakes. Unfortunately it is an emotional issue that has been put at your doorstep to decide.

As Americans we find it very easy to say "not in my backyard". It's likely that 100% of this type of outcry comes from people who drive cars and pollute our environment in one way or another. It's part of being an American in the 21st century.

We welcome strict watch control from EPA, OSHA, U.S. Department of Energy, our U.S. Forest Service, and our State of California agencies that oversee such activities, but not an end to our attempt to be more energy independent here at home. I have reliable reporting that clearly indicates our American technological practices are the most environmentally sound anywhere. We also understand Seneca Resources has an excellent environmental record and manages its employees both decently and consistently.

As concerned citizens we request the proposal for new controlled drilling be granted.

May 30, 2014

Los Padres National Forest Attn: Jonathan Schwartz 1190 East Ojai Ave.  
Ojai, Ca. 93023

Dear Mr. Schwartz,

As an addendum to our letter of last week (May 29th), I'd like to mention that a close friend of our family has been professionally involved with the Condor Rescue project at the Sespe Condor Reserve. She has indicated to us upon numerous occasions that the interactions between the Condor Reserve personnel and Seneca Resources have always been above reproach. Seneca's presence has never created a problem for the condors or the staff responsible for overseeing their wellbeing. In fact I know one Seneca employee who has taken personal interest in individual condors and monitors their health and safety. You very likely know that between Seneca and the Condor project there exists a mitigation agreement that if any problems arise due to Seneca's operations in the Sespe that might impact the safety of the condors, Seneca will take any steps necessary to remedy the problem from their end.

My belief is that Seneca would not jeopardize their good reputation with any kind of shoddiness or irresponsibility in their drilling procedures. The level of commitment that Seneca exhibits in preserving and maintaining the pristine environment in which they operate should reassure anyone who questions their right to be there. The fact that they have been and continue to do business

in the Sespe means that they are fully invested in the proper preservation of this natural wilderness. It's only good business to keep your workplace clean.

Frankly, I'm much more concerned about gross misuse of areas such as Tar Creek by the general public. My daughter was there yesterday and she was shocked by how 'trashed' the area had become and is considering starting a clean-up project for hauling out trash. This is another issue for another discussion, but does serve as a comparison between responsible use of the national forest and otherwise.

Thanks for your consideration of this matter. I look forward to hearing about your decision.

Most Sincerely,

Janine Reese and Bill Faith