December 17, 2015

Kenneth Harris  
State Oil and Gas Supervisor  
Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources  
801 K St., MS 20-21  
Sacramento, CA  95814-3530

RE: Request for personalized Price Canyon oil, gas, water maps

Dear Supervisor Harris:

As people living in the Price Canyon area in San Luis Obispo County, we are writing to ask you to produce personalized maps showing oil, gas and water resources on our properties and in our neighborhoods.

We would like the maps and analysis because we are facing a huge expansion of the nearby Arroyo Grande Oil Field. An oil company wants to drill hundreds of new wells near our homes. Company officials have even applied for state and federal permission to have an aquifer declared exempt which would turn this water resource into a sacrifice zone for dumping oil waste fluid.

Our mapping request is not the first you have received. In June of 2014, when Gov. Jerry Brown asked state employees to assess his private property, Steve Bohlen, your predecessor as head of California’s Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR), directed staffers to research, map and report back on any drilling history and potential on Gov. Brown's 2,700-acre property.

Within days, your agency produced – at no cost – a 51-page historical report and geological assessment, plus a personalized satellite-imaged geological and drilling map.

Spokespeople for Gov. Brown and your agency say that oil and gas regulators routinely do such research for the public. Your agency says it will conduct geologic and resource surveys of Californians’ private property in response to citizen requests for the same information the agency provided Gov. Brown.

We acknowledge your statements about being responsive to the public and look forward to the same response to our requests.

With this in mind, we ask you to produce for us research, analysis, drilling history, future drilling potential for oil and gas, geological assessments, and satellite-imaged geological and drilling maps. We also request that DOGGR include in those reports DOGGR’s assessment of how plans for new oil drilling, steam injection, fracking and underground disposal of oil waste fluid in the Arroyo Grande oilfield would increase threats to our health and safety from risks of water pollution, air pollution and induced earthquakes and subsidence.
Frankly, we are worried that plans to expand the Arroyo Grande Oil Field near our homes could contaminate the more than 100 water wells within a mile of these oil operations. We have been dismayed by state officials’ failure to offer full and transparent information about these risks; instead, the state has largely relied on the oil company itself to analyze these dangers.

The personalized maps you will supply to us will help us to assess the risks. We look to receiving this important information as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Natalie Risner
Tobin Risner
Laura Bjorkland
Lori Howland
Carlene Howland
Ginger Lordus
Mike Hannon
Leslie Hannon
Patricia Mulligan
Natalie Beller
Jonathan Beller
Trish Wilson
Terry Joy