

FINAL
ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT REPORT (EIR)
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO 2011061085
CSLC EIR NO. 758
FOR THE
CENTRAL COASTAL CALIFORNIA
SEISMIC IMAGING PROJECT



PREPARED FOR
CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION
JULY 2012

Comments on Seismic Survey

7.0 Socio Economic Effects and Environmental Justice

I have advocated before the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors since 2003, specifically about Socio Economic factors and equity within San Luis Obispo County. 34,783 individuals are noted in the EIR below the poverty line. The large populations of homeless persons are NOT counted in the U.S. Census. Therefore the socio-economic data concerning medium income and poverty level is misleading and invalid, as people are people. There is a homeless census or “enumeration” in San Luis Obispo County, which is not mentioned nor duly noted in consideration of social or environmental justice. (Jpeg file Homeless woman, Los Osos enclosed).

16. ...*ALL people, regardless of their race, color, nation or origin or income – are able to enjoy equally high levels of environmental protection.*

At this point I am bound to advocate for the disadvantaged population of Los Osos, Oceano, Grover Beach, Morro Bay and other minorities, including the indigenous peoples; the Nation of Chumash and Coastal peoples, as well as the historic Portuguese. San Luis Obispo County is an exclusive, almost all white county. The diverse choose to live and share in the rich environmental resources of the Central Cost, with little encouragement. The economic impact of the Seismic study will be multiplied upon those below the poverty line and those who fall through the cracks of non-recognition. I have come to the conclusion that the Seismic study is not just an environmental and economically disaster for the Central Coast, it is a potential abuse of the protected class of people within. Therefore I am bound to report such abuse and my comments and continued community participation in this matter will include such reporting.

The largest fallacy I see is that PG&E, a “commercial” interest, is going to try to mitigate damages by compensating another commercial interest; fishermen. Only well established commercial fishermen who can prove their yearly profits will be compensated, which prohibits *newness*. The Seismic Study will deplete resources of an already depleted industry as noted. We have combination Fish and Farmers Markets all up and down the coast, including Los Osos, Baywood Park. Going to the Farmers Market is not just the healthy choice, it is our community participation and it supports the local farmers and sea food vendor. (Jpeg file Baywood Farmers Mrkt, enclosed).

We also have fishing on the nearby pier and many other piers. Fishing on piers is economical because it is free and this serves the interest of the traditional peoples and the poor. The EIR is dismissive of “dock” fishing and does not address whether or not the fish will “bite” while disturbed by the Seismic testing or if they will be driven out of the area.

Example; Wednesday, September 19th the weather was so warm in Pismo Beach and the Farmers market was setting up by the pier. Among the numerous people fishing was an elder Portuguese man and his young adult daughters. The daughters had hooked a Perch and struggled with the hook until the father, with his experience, remedied the matter. Fathers worry about their daughters, but a father who teaches his daughter to fish can be confident she can feed herself. Affluent fathers, typically do not have this worry, but practical fathers do. My father taught me to fish as a child and I taught my child to fish, while he was still in diapers. (jpeg file enclosed). The Seismic study will in NO way compensate everyman and every woman, child and grandchild who find the familial tradition of fishing a way of life and not just a hobby or commercial venture. There is NO way to calculate the value and the loss for what is a daily life activity for some.

7.1-1

According to the U.S. Census, Los Osos is a diverse, low income community with a demographic of senior-disabled on fixed income. There are low income areas of Oceana and Grover Beach, with a demographic of disabled in Arroyo Grande Village. The Seismic Study will disproportionately impact an already overburdened population. Averaging the income of the many wealthy residents, in NO way elevates the condition of those below the poverty level. Many fixed income residents live below \$12,000 annually compared to the \$56,000 to \$57,000 medium income noted, (which is noted to be below the California average). In addition, many benefits have been discontinued or reduced since the economic downturn, including homeowner-renters credits, In Home Supportive Services and SSI, SSDI for the aged and disabled. The economic impacts of Seismic testing could make the already tenuous position of the economically disadvantage and diverse population hopeless. Los Osos may lose its USDA loan, expected for home repairs and the new sewer connection. (Jpeg file Sewer, unaffordable, enclosed). The Central Coast could become like a *gated community*. Over the years San Luis Obispo County has declared a health care “crisis,” affordable housing crisis, human services crisis,

transportation crisis and now a homelessness crisis. Although funds have been raised, plans to begin a much needed homeless shelter have recently been put on hold. A study by local Cal Poly found hunger and food insecurity in this, one of the richest Counties in California. The EIR does not note the known food insecurity in San Luis Obispo County and the ocean is an available food source. The Ocean is our way of life and will be greatly impacted, as will the people who rely upon it for their health, their well being, and their livelihood. There will be NO study to see if the loss of access to and enthusiasm for our ocean will decrease commerce at our coastal Fish and Farmers Markets where our thriving artist community relies on art sales for their income. There is no notation in the EIR under economic effects and environmental justice concerning the many scheduled events like the Pismo Beach Clam Festival in October.

Los Osos, Baywood is already experiencing closing businesses due to the high assessment costs of a new sewer. As businesses close, people are laid off. This economic hardship will be multiplied by the Seismic testing. 82 days of a downturn in tourism and local activity can put a struggling business in a hopeless position. 82 days of a downturn in tourism and local activity can put minority hotel and restaurant workers into layoffs.

I dispute that the *project would not affect local employment*. It cannot be ignored that California is broke and the nation is struggling to get out of the worst recessions since the great depression. If one of our grocery stores closes, due to a sudden and prolonged (82 days), there will be less competition and less availability to the lower, fixed income residence, especially the retired and disabled who do not drive. Our transportation is already impacted in Los Osos and will be further impacted when trenching starts for the sewer. (jpeg file Trenching, enclosed). If we can't stand the noise decibels from our sewer construction, getting away to the ocean and waterfront activities will be no place to retreat. It remains unaddressed; the profound sadness that our oceans, our way of life, is not available to us and that sea life may be tormented; driven away or irreparably harmed. This angst is not conducive to considering an outing at the ocean, which precludes any related purchases, like restaurants, etc. (Jpeg file Los Osos Baywood, enclosed). The EIR "Socio Economic Effects and Environmental Justice" included NO photos of the affected areas, the thriving ocean and waterfront related businesses and activity. Activity is potentially economic activity and is therefore considered abstractly in the EIR and NOT realistically.

Analysis

I dispute that 82 days is “short term.” 82 days is over two months.

Community Involvement

Two meetings were held in the City of San Luis Obispo. The Seismic survey will cover a vast area of the Central Coast and communities are wide spread. The economic justice of the economically disadvantaged would include persons in far reaching communities who are reliant and yet underserved by public transportation. (Jpeg file Baywood bus rider, enclosed). Numerous person spoke against our coastal Board of Supervisor, Bruce Gibson’s nomination for the Coastal Commission, based on the following; he pushed to have bus stops cut out at our natural coastal resources like Sweet Springs and Baywood Park.

Two meetings in San Luis Obispo, which is *inland* and NOT a coastal community, was inadequate. NO meetings were held in the locations facing the greatest impacts and having the highest minority population.

Recreational Resources

I dispute that subsistence fishing from beaches and docks would NOT be affected by the survey project. It is unpredictable what adverse effects the decibel path will have on the aquatic food chain. There will be NO normalcy. The waters off the Central Coast will NOT be a hospitable place for wildlife, including fish. The seismic testing will disrupt patterns, feeding habits and availability of viable krill and plankton.

Again, 250 decibels that have been stated on public broadcasts is important information that should have appeared in every aspect of consideration of the economic and safety effects of this Seismic study. Of course, concussive sound will dissipate, eventually. But concussive sound waves are damaging, especially in water. I have spoken about a *decibel path*. I am not referring to all life in the surrounding area or the “vicinity” of the survey, I am speaking of direct contact with a decibel level, which will damage, and irreparably harm life forms. I must assume that if 180 dp can kill a human in water, than anything with organs, and a sensitive navigation system will be rendered dysfunctional. We can expect a nitrogen hot fertilizer of biological

flotsam to wash ashore in our back bay and protected National Estuary. (Jpeg file erosion, enclosed). This nitrogen rich flotsam will be washing ashore at the same time the Los Osos sewer de-watering plan will be sending nitrogen contaminated ground water toward the Back Bay and estuary. There is currently planting efforts of natures nursery; eel grass, depleted in the Back Bay and possibly from the March 2011, Tsunami.

Seismic survey is NOT a misnomer. The *test is seismic in nature*. When we considered a test that would give answers to the condition of the fault lines, we did NOT consider that the test itself would register on the Richter scale. The holdfasts that secure the kelp beds will be dislodged, just as they are in a storm. An underwater landslide could be triggered. The food chain will be disrupted. Abalone are mentioned but there is no consideration if the blasts will kill them or disrupt there food source, as well as urchins, shrimp, crab and other sea life that cannot swim away. Abalones are just starting to make a come back after being depleted from the California Coast. I saw no mention of effects on the coastal Abalone farm, which is in essence, a nursery. There are nurseries in the decibel path, which will be disrupted.

I dispute any insinuation in the EIR that the Seismic survey will NOT have a significant and profound impact on life and life forms of the Central Coast. This insinuation has allowed an impractical approach to a practical assessment. A practical assessment was needed. The consequences of this Seismic study will be uncorrectable without a sensible, practical approach. Unforeseen and uncorrectable consequences will be yet another “crisis” for the Central Coast as well as California.

Bringing life, *as we know it* to a standstill on the Central Coast for 82 consecutive days is unprecedented. We have NO comparison except for natural disasters like Katrina and the gulf oil spill. The lack of comparison enables the trivialization of the importance of daily life activities on the coast and invalidates the conclusions of NO significant impacts.

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ITEM 22
MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 30, 2012
PRESENTED BY: DR. C. HITE
RECEIVED PRIOR TO MEETING
POSTED ON: OCTOBER 25, 2012



CO. OF S.L.U.
P.W. DEPT.

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ITEM 22
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POSTED ON: **09/10/2009**



California's Finest

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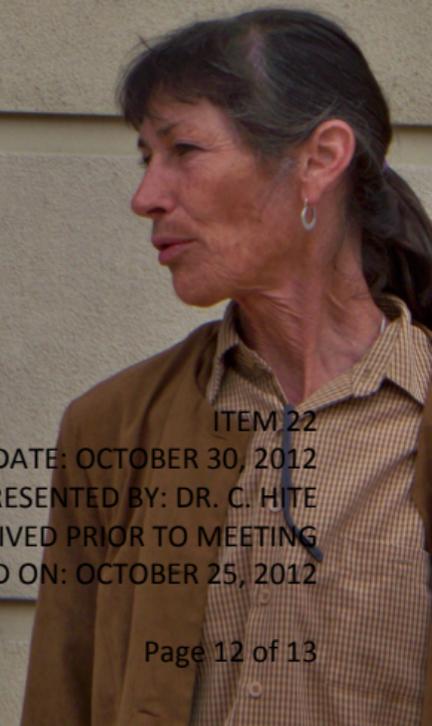
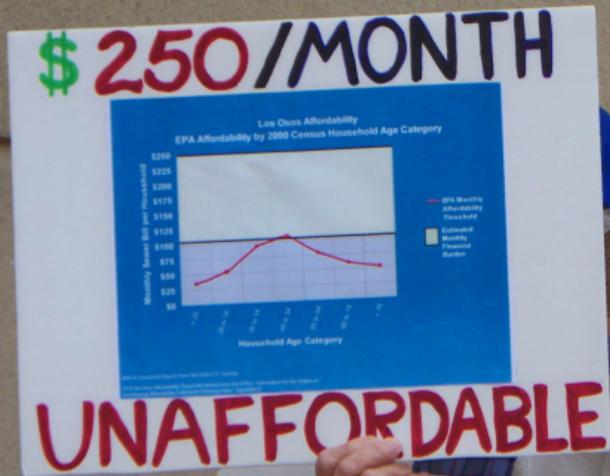
Fruit & Vegetables

VEGETABLES



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