

January 7, 2010

Where we've been and where we need to go:

Brief Chronological history of Project:

May 2008 First public meeting by SLO County of Excelaron's first application

February 2009 Mitigated Negative Declaration on first Project of 4 wells.

March 2009 – Excelaron withdraws initial project of 4 wells and agrees to EIR

July 2009 Excelaron reapplies to SLO County for 12 wells.

December 16, 2009 SLO accepts Excelaron's new application as administratively complete and schedule EIR Scoping meeting.

January 14, 2010 Planning Commission Scoping Meeting for public input for Draft EIR

Explanations of process: Scoping Meeting

The scoping meeting on January 14, 2010 is an opportunity for concerned citizens, groups and agencies to participate in the public process and comment about the level of detail and contents of the Environmental Impact Report. Examples of the type of issue that may be raised include the following: How significant is the noise impact and how and to what extent it can and should be mitigated; what are the potential traffic/circulation impacts and how can traffic impacts be decreased; what are the potential impacts on waters supplies and what safeguards needed for protecting our water source. What are the alternatives to the proposed project, for example using a pipeline instead of trucking the oil out of Huasna Valley; how can our clean air be affected and what can be done about air pollution? Is this project compatible with our community character and standards, or the General Plan?

We need to show up in mass to make sure that all of our concerns will be adequately addressed in the EIR.

The Main purposes of the EIR include:

Evaluate the environmental impacts associated with the project. This includes an analysis of the project's consistency with County General Plan goals and policies.

Develop feasible alternatives that meet most of the basic objectives of the project and can potentially eliminate significant impacts cause by the project.

Develop mitigation measures that can reduce the level of significance of impacts associated wit the project and the alternatives.

The County has requested bids from companies that prepare EIR's. Three companies have bid for the job. The bids ranged from \$250,000, \$350,000 and \$500,000. The County has stated they are "leaning" towards one bid, but won't confirm yet who it is. Excelaron is to pay for the cost.

The EIR includes the below areas:

Aesthetics
Agricultural Resources
Air Quality
Noise
Biological Resources
Cultural Resources
Geology and soils
Hazards and Hazardous materials
Population and housing
Public Services/Utilities
Transportation/circulation
Water wells and Waste Water
Land Use

Call to action:

The Huasna Valley and its surrounding neighbors in Tar Spring and all users of the Huasna corridor are going to be forced to live with this project, if approved. The Huasna Valley Association, a group of concerned citizens, is making a plea to everyone who loves Huasna to participate in this process of scoping, molding, and scrutinizing this oil project.

Is this project compatible with our community standards? If any of the project's impacts are missed, ignored or downplayed, it could irrevocably damage Huasna Valley's health, beauty, appeal and value.

The financial promise that this project holds for its investors may lead to the exploitation of the land and its resources, with little consideration for its residents. No one plans to have a disaster, but they happen as a part of doing business – oil spills, fire, loss of life. We must guard against that. The first step in the protection of our valley is to ensure that the EIR adequately analyzes all of the project's potential impacts and considers all potentially feasible mitigation measures and alternatives.

As a neighborhood, let us remain strong, committed, and proactive and participate in this process! If you would like more information about the scoping meeting or what to say, please call us or email or show up at the meeting and find the HVA group!

Please join in and help in this decision making process, every body and voice counts! January 14, 2010 at SLO County Building.

Write a letter- [click here](#) for an example or use this one. (sample soon)