

HUASNA VALLEY ASSOCIATION
WORKING TO PRESERVE THE RURAL / AGRICULTURAL
SETTING OF THE HUASNA VALLEY
www.HuasnaValley.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**HUASNA VALLEY OIL PROJECT HEADS FOR COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
WITHOUT BENEFIT OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**
Huasna Valley Association Prepares Response and announces Public Meeting

Huasna Valley, CA — February 5, 2009. Ignoring requests for an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) from the City of Arroyo Grande, South County Advisory Council, SLO County Air Pollution Control District, Huasna Valley Association (HVA), and hundreds of area residents, San Luis Obispo County Planning Department today released a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed development of a production oilfield facility in the Huasna Valley. The Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND), which relies entirely on studies funded by the oil company applicant, concludes that there will be no significant impacts on the environment or the surrounding communities. A Planning Commission hearing has been scheduled for March 26, 2009 and is expected to draw hundreds of concerned citizens.

"We believe the project applicant has not fully disclosed the extent of their project and has proposed a project with technical flaws in an attempt to bypass the environmental review process and gain project entitlements in a piecemeal fashion," said Ron Skinner, spokesperson for the Huasna Valley Association. "Excelaron, LLC has made clear its intentions to develop oil production on thousands of acres of pristine agriculture land, impacting hundreds of residents."

The Huasna Valley Association welcomes all concerned citizens to attend an HVA hosted informational meeting on Sunday March 1st, 2009 from 1-4pm at the Arroyo Grande Association Hall. Citizens should plan to attend this community informational meeting as well as attend the County Planning Commission hearing scheduled for March 26, 2009 at 9:00am.

The Mitigated Negative Declaration and related documents are posted on the Huasna Valley Association web site at www.HuasnaValley.org and on the SLO County Department of Planning web site at www.sloplanning.org. Concerned citizens are urged, by the Huasna Valley Association, to examine the project documents and submit comments to: Ellen Carroll, Environmental Coordinator, Department of Planning and Building, 976 Osos Street, Room 300, San Luis Obispo, Ca 93408-2040. Comments should be received by March 6, 2009 and reference the "Excelaron/Mankins Conditional Use Permit ED07-311, DRC2006-00222."

Ron Skinner further states, "The Huasna Valley Association reiterates our demand for an Environmental Impact Report and a fully disclosed and technically feasible project description with mitigations and enforcements that will protect our rural, agricultural community."

About the Huasna Valley Association

The Huasna Valley Association has its historical roots in 1980, when it was formed to address oil development in the Huasna Valley. The Association's stated goal is to assure that production of the Huasna Oilfield meets the community's standards to preserve the rural/agricultural setting of the Huasna Valley, protect the environment from water, soil, air, and noise pollution, and insure the health, safety, and welfare of the community. The Huasna Valley Association contact information: HVA – PO Box 1164, Arroyo Grande, CA 93421 – (805) 474-4850 - www.HuasnaValley.org

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