

HUASNA VALLEY ASSOCIATION
WORKING TO PRESERVE THE RURAL / AGRICULTURAL
SETTING OF THE HUASNA VALLEY
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Change in Truck Route for Proposed Huasna Oil Production
Newly proposed route will transport oil from Huasna Valley
south across private property to Highway 166

Huasna Valley, CA — August 25, 2008. Katcho Achadjian, San Luis Obispo County District Four Supervisor, in support of safety concerns raised by his constituents, announced a change in the oil truck haul route for the proposed production of oil in the Huasna Valley by the Australian-owned oil company, Excelaron. The newly proposed route will take oil trucks from the project site, south on Huasna Townsite Road and then through private property across the Porter Ranch to Highway 166. The trucks will continue south along highway 101 to an undisclosed oil refinery facility outside of San Luis Obispo County.

This change in the proposed project raises new questions and does not eliminate other serious issues raised by members of the community. A full or focused Environmental Impact Report is still needed to address issues such as air, soil, water, and noise pollution and the fire hazard. A deeper issue is the bottom line economics of this Energy Resource Development. Who benefits and at whose expense? How much does the San Luis Obispo County Public stand to benefit or lose in terms of County Property Tax Assessments?

The newly proposed route follows a dirt road, which has not yet been assessed as to its suitability for the project nor have the environmental impacts of its use. Which oil truck haul route will be used when the Porter Ranch road is seasonally flooded for potentially months during winter? Will some or all oil and oil-related traffic be diverted through the Porter Ranch or will support and service vehicles, that may include hundreds of monthly trips, continue to access the proposed site through the City of Arroyo Grande? If the contract between the private property owners and Excelaron is cancelled, will a change in the oil truck haul route revert back through the City of Arroyo Grande? Will this change require public input?

In a public meeting on July 31, 2008, Carol Florance of Oasis Planning, a representative for Excelaron, stated that the oil would be transported to the ConocoPhillips refinery in Arroyo Grande. The newly proposed truck route will transport the oil outside of San Luis Obispo County. Is the oil going to Greka in Santa Barbara County? If so, will the conditional use permit for oil production in San Luis Obispo County and contract for use of the Porter Ranch road be re-assignable in the future to Greka? Will Santa Barbara County be included in the environmental review process now that the oil trucks will cross waterways that flow into Twitchell Reservoir and ultimately recharge Santa Maria's groundwater?

The Huasna Valley Association hopes to raise awareness of these and other issues surrounding the proposed project at a community meeting and BBQ fundraiser on September 14, 2008 from noon to 4 pm at the Arroyo Grande Portuguese Hall (corner of Hwy 227 and Huasna Rd.). See the HVA website for more details.

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