

Press Release

**ASSEMBLYMEMBER PEDRO NAVA
35TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT**

For Immediate Release: September 27, 2010

Contact: John Mann

Phone: (916) 718-7420

Threats Posed by Oil & Gas Production Along Coast Focus of Oversight Hearing by Assembly Committee

Assemblymember Pedro Nava to Probe Environmental Hazards from Oil Production

(Goleta, CA) Assemblymember Pedro Nava, Chair of the Assembly Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials, is conducting an oversight hearing to examine the long term environmental hazards from oil and gas production along the California coast. **The hearing will be held on Thursday, September 30, 2010, at Goleta City Hall.** (See agenda below.)

“The oil industry has abandoned facilities and infrastructure not only in Goleta, but all along the Santa Barbara County coast,” said Nava. “They pose threats to both the environment and public safety. It is imperative that we determine who has oversight responsibility to make sure that these sites and their corresponding infrastructure are properly removed so that the coast and its residents are protected.”

“Said Roger Aceves, Goleta City Councilmember, “One of the more significant discussions missing from the politics and headlines about offshore oil is what to do about the aging oil-works that already dot the Santa Barbara Channel coastline. In Goleta, we face the constant threat of a high impact explosion, release or spill of hydrogen sulfide-laden oil and gas from an aging infrastructure. State Agencies must be held accountable for the conditions of these facilities and they should be working with local governments to protect our environment.”

The oversight hearing will feature state agencies and local governments who will outline and discuss their programs to address the long-term clean-up of abandoned oil and gas wells and production facilities.

The public is invited to attend and testify.

WHAT:

Assembly Committee hearing on the long-term environmental hazards resulting from oil and gas production along the Santa Barbara County California coast

WHEN:

September 30, 2010, from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

WHERE:

Goleta City Hall, 130 Cremona Drive, Suite B (Council Chamber), Goleta, CA

WHO:

Assemblymember Pedro Nava, Chair, Assembly Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials

Paul Thayer, Executive Director, California State Lands Commission

Derek Chernow, Acting Director, California Department of Conservation

Roger S. Aceves, Goleta City Councilmember

AGENDA:**Assembly Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials**

Assemblymember Pedro Nava, Chair

Thursday, September 30, 2010

2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Goleta City Hall

City Council Chamber

130 Cremona Drive, Suite B, Goleta

OVERSIGHT HEARING**The Environmental Legacy of Coastal Oil Drilling****Introductions**

(2:30 p.m.-2:40 p.m.)

- Introduction - Assemblymember Pedro Nava, Chairman
- Welcome - Mayor Eric Onnen, City of Goleta

City of Goleta

(2:40 p.m.-3:00 p.m.)

- Councilmember Roger S. Aceves, City of Goleta
- Steve Chase, Director of Planning and Environmental Services, City of Goleta

California State Lands Commission

(3:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.)

- Paul Thayer, Executive Director, California State Lands Commission

California Department of Conservation

(3:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m.)

- Derek Chernow, Acting Director, California Department of Conservation
- Elena M. Miller, State Oil and Gas Supervisor, California Department of Conservation

Community Issues and Recommendations

(4:00 p.m.-4:20 p.m.)

- Nathan Alley, Staff Attorney, Environmental Defense Center
- LeeAnne French, President, Citizens Planning Association

Western States Petroleum Association

(4:20p.m.-4:30 p.m.)

- David Smyser, Senior Coordinator, Coastal Region, Western States Petroleum Association

Public Testimony

(4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.)