
From: Andy Goldschmidt <agoldschmidt@earthlink.net>
Sent: Sunday, November 12, 2017 3:53 PM
To: Sidney Hill
Subject: Comments on the Proposed Sandoval County Oil and Gas Ordinance

To: Sidney Hill, the Public Information Officer

Dear Mr. Hill

Please protect our environment from this proposed Ordinance that needs to be voted down because of the following reasons:

- The ordinance would allow one sole staffer to approve drilling permits, with no public notification, comment or input. Drilling permits will simply be checked for completeness then approved within 10-days. Permitting should be approved under a special use provision that allows for public notification, a hearing, and input.
- The ordinance lacks measures to prevent the contamination of an aquifer nearly 1-million people depend on--the ABQ Aquifer. This poses a serious threat to our drinking water supply because the NM Oil Conservation Division (NMOCD) does not require companies to drill test wells for routine oil and gas drilling. The ordinance should require oil and gas companies to perform baseline groundwater testing and post-drilling monitoring.
- The ordinance fines oil and gas companies only \$300 for violations and does not distinguish between minor or major violations. A \$300 fine will not encourage oil and companies to operate as good neighbors. Although the state's maximum fine is \$1000, there has been a large drop in fines collected by NM OCD since 2009 and a sharp increase in the number of spills.

Sincerely,

Andres Goldschmidt
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