



Yes on A & B: VC-SAFE

Amplification Toolkit



In Ventura County, oil and gas companies currently work under two sets of rules when drilling an oil or gas well. One set of rules lacks environmental oversight and creates a considerable risk for our underground water supply.

Voters will decide in June whether to protect our drinking water for families and farms. A “YES” vote on the referendum will create a single, consistent permitting process and make all proposed, future drilling projects eligible for environmental review. A “NO” vote will maintain the current system. The oil industry has spent \$1M to date to take the decision out of the hands of the County Board of Supervisors.



Introduction

Over 1500 oil and gas wells in Ventura County have been drilled through our groundwater basins and aquifers, risking contamination of our drinking water.

Right now, when an oil and gas drilling operator wants to start a new project, one of two things will happen:

1. If the operator holds a pre-1966 permit, they can start drilling without any environmental review. This includes drilling through aquifers.
2. If the operator holds a post-1966 permit, they must wait until an environmental review can take place and permission is either granted or denied.

In 2020, the VC County Board of Supervisors saw the danger of drilling without environmental review and voted to create a single consistent permitting process. From 2020 onward, any new project would be subject to environmental review.

In response to the Board's decision, Big Oil spent \$1 million to gather petition signatures and put the issue on the ballot in June 2022, overriding the Board's vote and stopping the ordinance from taking effect.

Leading up to the June election, we must convince residents to vote "YES on A & B" to protect Ventura County water and create a single consistent permitting process. This toolkit will provide sample posts and graphics for you to share.

MORE INFORMATION

Presentation: [VC-SAFE Campaign Presentation](#)

Website: vcsafe.org or vcsafe.net

Email: vcsafeinfo@gmail.com

Volunteer with us: Text "YES on SAFE" to 23321 or visit

<https://secure.foodandwateraction.org/act/sign-volunteer-vc-safe-campaign>

Follow us!: [Facebook](#) (@vcsafe), [Instagram](#) (@vc_safe), [Twitter](#) (@VCSAFE)

Table of Contents



[Campaign Background/Key Facts](#)

[Graphics](#)

[Hashtags](#)

[Sample Facebook/Instagram Posts](#)

[Sample Tweets](#)

[Articles about VC-SAFE](#)

Campaign Background/Key Facts: <https://vcsafe.org/>

What is at stake?

- Our water & health: If an oil or gas well were to leak or suffer damage, it could contaminate our water and have anywhere from mild to disastrous consequences.
- Our farmland: In Ventura County, 85% of the water used for our agriculture is from underground water sources. This water is at risk of contamination, thus, so are our crops.

What happens if we lose?

If we lose this referendum, and the “NO” vote wins, oil companies can continue to operate, develop on wells, and use dangerous, extreme extraction techniques with no environmental review. **We need to vote YES on A & B to protect our water, farmland, and, ultimately, our health and safety.**

What is Cyclic Steam extreme extraction?

High-temperature, pressurized steam and unknown additives are forced down into wells to loosen the thick, carbon-intensive tar sands to bring it back up to the surface.

What are the problems with Cyclic Steam extraction?

Tar sands are low-quality oil resources that are used for products like asphalt, not gasoline, and they are very carbon-intensive to use and obtain. Putting intense pressure on aging oil wells in earthquake territory is a recipe for spills and disasters. Pushing down unknown additives into old wells increases the risk and harm from water contamination.



What will this ordinance not do?

It will NOT impact existing oil jobs in Ventura County. It does NOT apply to existing drilling, only on new developments and extreme extraction. It will NOT impact gasoline prices. Taxes and fees paid to the county will not be reduced.

Graphics

[Find all of our graphics/images here!](#)

Hashtags

#YesonAandB #805 #VenturaCounty #visitVenturaCounty #ProtectWater
#EnvironmentalJustice #ProtectFarmJobs #VoteYesForVentura

Sample Facebook/Instagram Posts

<p>PROTECT OUR CLEAN WATER FOR FAMILIES AND FARMS</p> <p>Did you know there is an important vote coming up in Ventura County? Ensure all oil companies play by the same rules when drilling near or through our underground water supply by voting YES on Measures A and B on June 7, 2022.</p> <p>Follow VC-SAFE (link @vcsafe on Facebook and @vc_safe on Instagram) for more information on how important this election is!</p> <p>#YesonAandB #805 #Protectwater #EnvironmentalJustice #VenturaCounty</p>	
--	---



DON'T LET THE PUMP MAKE YOU THIRSTY.

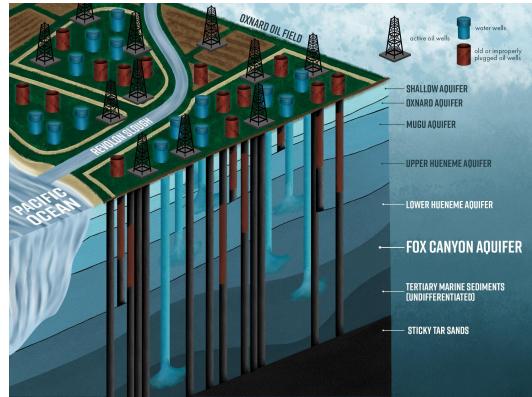
We can't stay alive more than a few days without water. If oil drilling contaminates our water supply, you'll be going thirsty. Volunteer to make sure we keep our water safe in Ventura County. Link in bio! #YesonAandB #805 #Protectwater #EnvironmentalJustice #VenturaCounty



[\(download image here\)](#)

WILL YOU PROTECT THE WATER UNDER YOUR FEET?

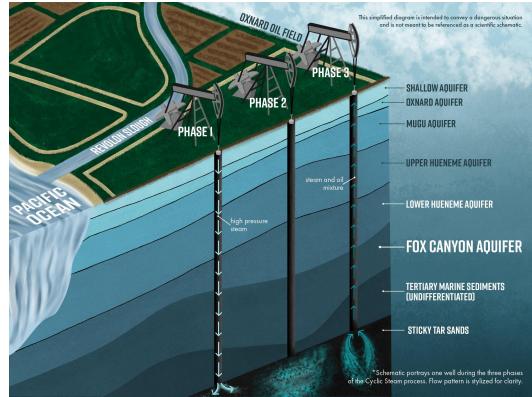
We have clean drinking water right under our feet—underground—in natural aquifers that took millions of years to form. The water they contain is our only reliable “local” water. If Big Oil ever pollutes them in a BIG way, we’re in deep trouble. Vote “YES” on Measures A & B June 7 to protect our aquifers? #YesonAandB #Protectwater #VenturaCounty #805



[\(download image here\)](#)

FALLING APART RIGHT UNDER YOUR FEET?

The oil industry has drilled thousands of wells in Ventura County through our groundwater over the last century. Over time, old well casings and pipes degrade and crack. Contamination of our drinking water underground could be catastrophic. Vote “Yes” on A & B this June to protect our drinking water. #YesonAandB #VenturaCounty #805



[\(download image here\)](#)



Protect Drinking Water
YES on A&B
For Families and Farms

OUR FARMS NEED CLEAN WATER

Ventura County is known as one of the most fertile and productive agricultural lands on earth. Close to 85% of water used for agriculture in the county comes from local groundwater. Our \$2 billion agriculture economy relies on safe, clean water to grow the food we eat.

Vote YES on Measures A & B on June 7, 2022 to be good stewards of our resources!

#YesonAandB #ProtectFarmJobs
#ProtectWater #805
#EnvironmentalJustice

Did You Know

over **85%** of water used in Ventura County's farmland comes from our local aquifers?



Your **YES** vote will protect our water.

YES
on A&B

[\(download image here\)](#)

BIG OIL THREATENS OUR AGRICULTURE

Big Oil threatens our agriculture in Ventura County. If there is no environmental review moving forward, groundwater can become polluted, along with farmland and crops. Hundreds of wells are on top of a groundwater basin or drilled through a groundwater basin on our farmlands. Vote Yes on A & B to protect our freshwater and farm crops! #YesonAandB
#ProtectFarmJobs #ProtectWater #805
#EnvironmentalJustice



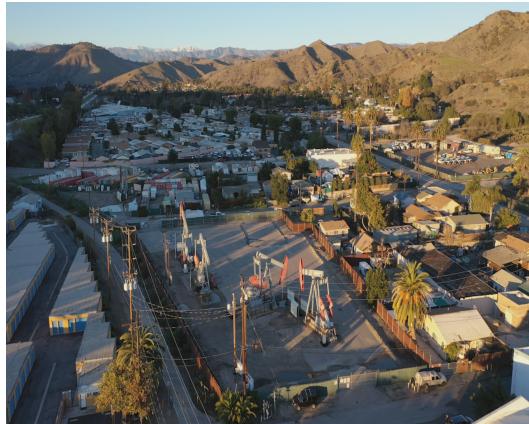
[\(download image here\)](#)



Protect Drinking Water
YES on A&B
For Families and Farms

PROTECT IMPACTED COMMUNITIES

60% of oil wells in Ventura County are next to Latinx homes. Some of Ventura County's most impacted communities—including the westside of Ventura, South Oxnard, Santa Paula, and Fillmore—already face significant pollution from the oil and gas industry. We need environmental review on oil drilling expansion to protect impacted communities! Vote Yes on A & B this June! #YesonAandB #EnvironmentalJustice #805 #VenturaCounty



[\(download image here\)](#)

OIL & WATER DON'T MIX

127,000 acres in Ventura County are included in antiquated permits. These permits don't require any environmental review and don't expire!

Vote Yes on A & B on June 7, 2022 to bring these permits up to modern standards.

#YesonAandB #805 #VenturaCounty
#ProtectWater #ProtectFarmJobs

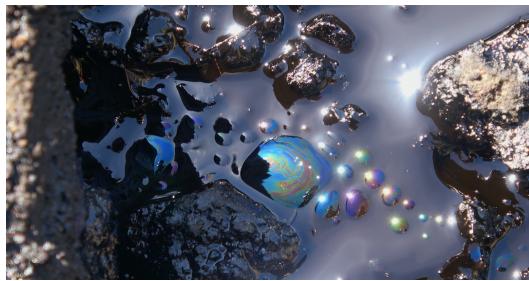
3,654 oil wells
in Ventura County farmlands could be drilled deeper, putting our farmlands and drinking water at risk.



[\(download image here\)](#)

BIG OIL, BIG RUMORS

Despite Big Oil claims, voting Yes on A & B will NOT impact existing oil jobs, increase gasoline prices or decrease county revenue for essential services. Protect our county's drinking water, and vote Yes on A & B this June! #YesonAandB #805 #VenturaCounty #ProtectWater #ProtectFarmJobs



[\(download image here\)](#)

Sample Tweets (feel free to add graphics and images)



Main Campaign Points (Protect Our Water)

Big Oil wants to use its money and power to expand operations in Ventura County with no environmental review. We need your help to defeat the oil industry and protect our water! Text "YES on SAFE" to 23321 to join the fight! #YesonAandB #VenturaCounty #ProtectWater

Oil companies in Ventura County want a license to drill without environmental review, in perpetuity. We can't let them make their own rules! Text "YES on Safe" to 23321 to stop Big Oil. #YesonAandB #VenturaCounty #805 #visitVenturaCounty

Oil operators have drilled almost 6900 wells over the last century in Ventura County, with 1000 going through our water aquifers. Mixing all these wells with our drinking water is a bad idea. Text "YES on Safe" to 23321 to stop Big Oil. #YesonAandB #Protectwater #VenturaCounty

If the public doesn't have the power to hold oil companies accountable by requiring environmental review, it also doesn't have the power to protect its own water supply. #YesonA&B #ProtectWater #VenturaCounty #805 #visitVenturaCounty #EnvironmentalJustice

About 85% of the water used for agriculture in Ventura County comes from local aquifers and the oil industry drills through them with no oversight. Text "YES on SAFE" to 23321 to join our fight against Big Oil in VC! #YesonA&B #ProtectWater #VenturaCounty #805 #ProtectFarmJobs

Everyone needs clean, safe drinking water in Ventura County. Volunteer a few hours to make sure Big Oil doesn't pollute your water. Text "YES on SAFE" to 23321 to volunteer. #YesonAandB #ProtectWater #VenturaCounty #805

Where does your drinking water come from? Answer: From giant lakes underground, called aquifers. Big Oil has been drilling right through them for decades. Let's stop Big Oil before it's too late. Sign up for our phone bank. Link in bio! #YesonAandB #VenturaCounty #ProtectWater



OIL FACTS/STATISTICS

In the last century, the oil industry has drilled 6900 wells in Ventura County. These wells degrade over time and are expanded with no environmental review. Many wells are drilled through our aquifers, risking contamination of our drinking water.

#YesonAandB #ProtectWater #805

Big Oil Doesn't Talk About Aquifers. 1530 oil and gas wells have been drilled through our aquifers or sit on top of them. These aquifers are underground lakes that contain your drinking water. Donate now to make sure we keep our water safe. Link in bio!

#YesonAandB #ProtectWater

Despite Big Oil claims, voting Yes on A & B will NOT impact existing oil jobs, increase gasoline prices or decrease county revenue for essential services. Vote Yes on A & B June 7th to protect our county's drinking water. #YesonAandB #VenturaCounty
#ProtectWater

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

60% of oil wells in Ventura County are next to Latinx homes. Ventura County's impacted communities face significant pollution from the oil industry. Vote Yes on A & B to protect impacted communities. #YesonAandB #VenturaCounty
#EnvironmentalJustice #805

Some of Ventura County's most impacted communities—including the westside of Ventura, South Oxnard, Santa Paula, and Fillmore—already face significant pollution from the oil and gas industry. Vote Yes on A & B to Protect VC Communities!
#YesonandB #805 #EnvironmentalJustice

Articles about VC-SAFE

VC Star 02.17.22: [“David vs Goliath battle forming over Ventura County oil and gas development”](#)

VC Star 10.24.21: [Letter: Is a Ventura County oil spill next?](#)