



March 14, 2010

Carpinteria Coastal View News

Re: “VENOCO OFFERS FALSE CHOICE & VEILED THREAT”

Recent issues of the *Carpinteria Coastal View News* have featured advertisements from Venoco, in the form of a letter from Chairman/CEO Tim Marquez of Denver, Colorado. The letter contains a number of misleading assertions, but none more blatant than this: “If Measure J is not approved, then we’ll have to submit a new application to drill from offshore” Mr. Marquez offers voters in Carpinteria a false choice and a veiled threat.

Read the City’s Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Paredon project. In order to drill offshore, Venoco would either have to construct a new oil platform or use an existing platform. No new drilling platform has been permitted in state waters for decades, and there is no indication that Venoco would be an exception to the rule.

And there are physical constraints on drilling the Paredon field from any existing offshore platform. According to Venoco’s own data, using an old platform would only allow for the recovery of 10-72 % of the oil reserves (based on a drill reach of approximately 4 miles). At a reach of 3 miles (which is the proposed reach for Paredon) none of the reserves could be recovered. Existing platforms were not built to withstand the physics of slant drilling.

A plan to drill offshore would face nearly impossible political and technological hurdles. If voters say “NO” to drilling on the bluffs, they will not be forcing Paredon offshore.

So ignore the threat: Mr. Marquez states that Venoco would simply try to site the project offshore, just outside City limits, if voters say “NO” to an onshore operation. It is hollow, as threats go, but telling – so much for the claim that voters will determine the fate of Paredon in June.

Don’t get burned. The Environmental Defense Center says “No on Measure J.”

Sincerely,

Nathan G. Alley
Staff Attorney