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Supes sending governor dueling letters on oil



STEVE MALONE / NEWS-PRESS

Tuesday's vote could signal a new era of debate on offshore drilling in Santa Barbara County.

Majority wants expansion, while two say keep offshore bans in place

By SCOTT STEEPLTON
NEWS-PRESS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

A controversial proposal to send Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger a letter urging "expanded oil exploration and extraction" in the Santa Barbara County region led to an impassioned day-long meeting Tuesday at the Board of Supervisors.

When it was over, two letters were heading the governor's way: one from the board majority with primarily North County interests backing offshore expansion; the other from the two supervisors whose districts encompass South Coast regions, pledging to support efforts at every level of government to keep bans on new drilling in place.

Sponsored by supervisors Joe Centeno and Brooks Firestone, the draft pro-expansion letter talks about high fuel prices and emphasizes technological advances since the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill that have improved offshore extraction methods while reducing the likelihood of spills.

It also points out how oil can help the economy.

"Our county will be dealing with a severe financial shortfall next year that could well limit our ability to supply basic county services and the state is also experiencing similar financial difficulties," the draft states.

"An increase in oil extraction would have an important beneficial effect on our state and local budgetary crisis."

Not since the budget hearings of a couple of months ago, when threats of mental health cuts mobilized providers and public alike, have so many people wanted to address the board — more than 80 requests in all. Some spoke in Santa Maria, where the meeting took place, while others addressed the board via closed circuit TV from Santa Barbara.

Opinions ranged from trash the letter, to send it overnight, morning delivery, no signature required.

"Send the appropriate letter to the governor without further delay," said Robert Hatch, president and CEO of the Santa Maria Chamber of Commerce.

Like others, Mr. Hatch said his group would welcome fuel alternatives — but until then, expansion in oil makes sense.

"We aren't anti alternative energy," he said. "We are not anti any solution."

Trent Benedetti, president of the Committee to Improve North County, said there is economic benefit to be had from expansion.

Several speakers talked about how in a county viewed as pro-environment a letter like this could be

Please see **ENERGY** on **A6**



RAFAEL MALDONADO / NEWS-PRESS FILE PHOTO

Wind power generated by machines like these in Tehachapi was among the energy alternatives discussed Tuesday by supporters and opponents of offshore drilling.

Hillary rouses faithful in charge to White House

Clinton salutes Obama as Dems at convention cheer

By DAVID ESPO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DENVER — Hillary Rodham Clinton summoned the millions of voters who supported her in the primaries to send Barack Obama to the White House Tuesday night, and drew thunderous applause at the Democratic National Convention when she declared her one-time rival is "my candidate and he must be our president."

"We don't have a moment to lose or a vote to spare," said the former first lady, writing the final chapter in a quest for the White House every bit as pioneering as Mr. Obama's own.

The packed convention floor became a sea of white "Hillary" signs as the New York senator — Mr. Obama's fiercest rival across 56 primaries and caucuses — strode to the podium for her prime-time speech. The signs were soon replaced others that read simply, "Unity."

While her remarks included a full-throated endorsement of Mr. Obama, Mrs. Clinton did not say whether she would have her name placed in nomination or seek a formal roll call of the states when the party's top prize is awarded by delegates on Wednesday night.

Mrs. Clinton had been the prohibitive favorite for the nomination she launched her campaign last year, seeking to become the first female president. But she fell behind Mr. Obama after the leadoff Iowa caucuses in January, and he now is poised to become the first black nominee of a major party.

Please see **CONVENTION** on **A6**



COURTESY PHOTO

Union organizer Marty Keegan urging customers of Holser & Bailey not to shop at the store because it advertises in the News-Press.

Targets of union boycott fight back

News-Press counsel calls action an 'illegal secondary boycott'

By SCOTT STEEPLTON
NEWS-PRESS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Businesses are striking back at the Teamsters for its boycott targeting News-Press advertisers — and the News-Press is also on the attack.

On Tuesday, the paper ran a full-page ad apologizing to advertisers and their customers for the "illegal secondary boycott" being conducted by the union representing newsroom employees.

For more than a month, representatives of the union have staked out local retail shops, restaurants and other entities urging customers to go elsewhere. In early July, a woman handing out flyers at the Vons store at La

Please see **BOYCOTT** on **A6**

FAA: Communication breakdown delayed flights

Problem doesn't affect Santa Barbara, glitch hits Northeast hardest

By HARRY R. WEBER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA — An electronic communication failure Tuesday at a Federal Aviation Administration facility in Georgia that processes flight plans for the eastern half of the U.S. caused mass flight delays around the country. The Northeast was hardest hit.

But by early evening, the FAA said that the situation around the country was returning to normal, with delays remaining in Atlanta and Chicago.

At one point, an FAA Web site that tracks airport status showed delays at some three dozen major airports across the country. The site advised passengers to "check your departure airport to see if your flight may be affected."

The FAA said the glitch appeared to have involved a software problem.

An FAA spokesman at the Santa Barbara Airport said the communication failure back east didn't have an impact on flight arrivals or departures here after Tuesday's episode, but it "would be difficult to

project" what the situation would be like for local travelers making connecting flights in places like Los Angeles, Denver, San Francisco or other major air hubs.

All of the the airlines serving the South Coast had flights already airborne when the outage occurred Tuesday afternoon, or had already filed flight plans. "We haven't noticed any changes," said Todd Smith, a manager with the FAA at the Santa Barbara Airport. "Everything is right on time."

FAA spokeswoman Kathleen Bergen in Atlanta said there were no safety issues and

officials were still able to speak to pilots on planes on the ground and in the air.

She said she did not know exactly how many flights were affected, but she said it was in the hundreds. The FAA did not expect to have total figures until Wednesday. Ms. Bergen said that in a 24-hour period the FAA processes more than 300,000 flight plans in the U.S.

Ms. Bergen said the problem that occurred Tuesday afternoon involved an

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