

From: [Alexi Lindeman](#)
To: [Comment](#); [Devin Murphy](#)
Subject: Public Comment 3/22 Item 5a
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My name is Alexi Lindeman, and I'm currently a senior in Antioch. I would like to inform Pinole of how youth have taken action for climate justice in East Contra Costa and hope you will take similar actions to protect your community and community's future.

In July 2019, Contra Costa County permitted an oil and gas drilling site on Deer Valley Road, a couple of hundred feet from homes along the road and 1/2 mile away from Kaiser Antioch and Dozier Libbey Medical High School. However, there's evidence that drilling occurred well before the site was permitted as the Brentwood Press printed a report on February 1, 2019, saying that drilling had been going on for several months, accompanied by a picture of a flaring event there. As a person who regularly drives by that site on my way to school, I was very confused why it had just popped up out of nowhere.

Shoshana Wechsler from Sunflower Alliance resolved this confusion in September 2021, when she asked my youth environmental organization to stand up against new oil and gas drilling in my area. At that time she informed us of another newly proposed oil and gas drilling site which, in May 2020, Contra Costa County gave a negative declaration (meaning no environmental impacts). This site is only 900 feet away from Brentwood homes, about 3/4 of a mile from Loma Vista Elementary School, and one mile from Heritage High School and Adams Middle School. Only after massive public outcry did the County agree to do a full environmental review. The Draft Environmental Impact Report hasn't been released yet.

Needless to say, my peers and I were pretty upset to hear about what was going on in our own backyards, especially given that at the time, we were directly impacted by climate change. The now annual California wildfires were raging and our mandated masks served a double purpose. The choking smoke regularly canceled outside events and sports practices and games. At some point, the "canceling" air quality level was upped from 100 to 150. I specifically remember thinking "why is our health being sacrificed to maintain 'normalcy' in this climate crisis," when walking to cross country practice as the hazy sky dusted the cars. I remember the 13 years of my life when the sky stayed smoke-free year-round. I do not want this extreme fire season to become normal, but deep down I have feeling kids will grow up without ever experiencing a year when the sky isn't orange for weeks on end. So yes, we were pretty upset to hear about the resurgence of oil and gas drilling when we should be moving away from finite fossil fuels to escape climate change's insidious hand. It was like a slap to the face, and a slap to the fate of our future. But we refused to sit idly by, watching these drilling sites pollute my community, undermine our health, and further accelerate our world into a climate crisis.

My group has helped gather nearly 3,200 petition signatures asking Contra Costa County to prohibit all new oil and gas drilling in their 2022 General Plan. We've public commented at Antioch City Council meetings, successfully encouraging them to not renew the gas pipeline running underneath Antioch and ban oil and gas drilling in Antioch. We also organized a No Drilling Contra Costa March and Rally on March 12th to protest and raise awareness for the new oil and gas drilling in our community. Over 200 people marched along the busy 6-lane Lone Tree Way amidst green hills covered in bright yellow flowering mustard. The marchers then rallied at the Antioch Community Center across from Deer Valley High School.

Once again, I hope Pinole will take actions similar to Antioch and the youth in East Contra Costa to protect your community and community's future.

Thank you for your time.