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PRESS RELEASE:

New Report on Community and Worker Impacts of Phasing Out Onshore Oil Development in Santa Barbara County

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Santa Barbara County is weighing ordinances to phase out onshore oil and gas development – a decision that will affect workers, communities, and the environment for decades to come. **A new report from The 2035 Initiative and the UCSB Community Labor Center finds that roughly 60-65% of county residents support a phaseout of oil and gas operations, with support rising substantially when policies are paired with worker protections and oil well cleanup.** The report also presents new data on the demographics of the local workforce, analyzes job creation in alternative energy industries, and interviews oil and gas workers to understand what it would take to support them amidst a phaseout.

The full report can be found here.

QUOTES:

"This is the most thorough and systematic analysis to date of Santa Barbara County's potential oil and gas phaseout," said Paasha Mahdavi, Associate Professor of Political Science at UC Santa Barbara and Co-Founder of The 2035 Initiative. **"A phaseout is popular across the county, whether in Santa Maria, Lompoc, the Santa Ynez Valley, or the South Coast — and critically, so too are robust plans to support workers. Residents don't just want a phaseout; they want it done right."**

"What we heard from workers is that they don't want to be an afterthought," said Carmen Rhodes, Director of the UCSB Community Labor Center. **"They want to be at the table from the beginning — helping to shape the plans that will affect their lives and livelihoods. The County should use every tool at its disposal to engage impacted workers and create good jobs here in Santa Barbara County."**