

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Silver Lake Neighborhood Council

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(11) Nay(1) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

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Impact Information

Date: 08/07/2017

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Directed To: City Council and Committees

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Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: We support an ordinance to establish a 2,500-foot setback separating oil and gas extraction operations from sensitive land uses such as homes, schools, and hospitals. We also express gratitude to the City Council for the motion passed directing the City Attorney, Petroleum Administrator, and Department of Planning to perform a legal, land use, health, environmental, and economic study of such an ordinance.

LA contains the largest and most densely populated urban oil field in the nation. There are over 1,000 active oil wells in the City, and 80 percent of these wells are located within 2,500 feet of a sensitive land use. Oil and gas extraction sites routinely use and emit toxic chemicals, and these emissions are at their highest and most dangerous concentration at the source of pollution. Additionally, more than half of the active wells are located in low-income Latino and African-American neighborhoods, which are already overburdened by environmental hazards. Residents from these neighborhoods have documented serious health problems, in addition to daily disruption from drilling noise and vibrations, odors, and diesel truck traffic.

Precedent exists for a health and safety buffer around drilling sites in Los Angeles. The City amended its zoning code in the 1940's, with an express declaration that "oil drilling and production in urbanized areas is detrimental to the public health, safety, and welfare." Classifying these operations as non-conforming uses—meaning incompatible with resident neighborhoods—resulted in the closure of hundreds of active oil wells, especially on the West Side.

Every Angeleno deserves to live in a safe and healthy neighborhood. Oil drilling operations are wholly incompatible with residential neighborhoods, and we urge swift completion of the legal and land use study. Upon completion of the study, we support passage of a 2,500-foot setback ordinance to alleviate the symptoms and externalities that front-line communities experience daily.