



Sharon Dickinson <sharon.dickinson@lacity.org>

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## The motion to explore human health and safety buffers in oil drilling areas

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MARILYN FUSS <marilynfuss@sbcglobal.net>

Sun, Jun 11, 2017 at 9:35 PM

Reply-To: MARILYN FUSS <marilynfuss@hotmail.com>

To: "sharon.dickinson@lacity.org" <sharon.dickinson@lacity.org>

June 11, 2017

Dear Councilmember Dickinson:

I am a member of SoCal 350.org, and also support Stand-L.A. I hope that you will agree to propose and accept the motion to explore the creation of buffers for human health and safety around oil wells. Please file this for submission in File #17-0447

Thank you so much.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Fuss



June 12, 2017

Los Angeles City Council  
200 N. Spring St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**RE: SUPPORT for Motion for Land Use and Legal Analysis of Setback Around Oil and Gas Extraction in Los Angeles (Council File # 17-0447)**

Dear Council President Wesson and Los Angeles City Council:

On behalf of the 1,300,000 members of Courage Campaign, California's largest online, progressive organizing network, I write to express our support for an ordinance to establish a 2,500-foot setback separating oil and gas extraction operations from sensitive land uses like homes, schools and hospitals. We would also like to express support and gratitude to Council for the motion introduced on April 19, 2017 (Council File # 17-0447) directing the City Attorney, Petroleum Administrator and Department of Planning to perform a legal and land use study of such an ordinance. We applaud the leadership of Council President Wesson introducing this motion and to Councilmembers Bonin, Cedillo, Harris-Dawson, Koretz, and Martinez for co-sponsoring the motion.

Los Angeles is the largest and most densely populated urban oil field in the nation. The City of LA hosts more than 900 active oil wells, with over 77% located within 2,500 feet of a home or sensitive land use such as a school, park or hospital. More than half of the active wells are located in low-income Latino and African-American neighborhoods already overburdened by environmental hazards, such as Wilmington and South L.A. Residents from these neighborhoods have documented serious health problems—including nosebleeds, chronic migraines, nausea, asthma and other respiratory illness—in addition to daily disruption from drilling noise and vibrations, foul odors, and diesel truck traffic.

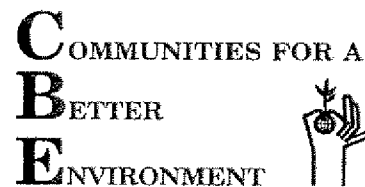
Oil drilling operations are wholly incompatible with residential neighborhoods, and we urge the Council to act swiftly to pass the motion for a legal and land use study to alleviate the symptoms that front-line communities experience daily. Every Angeleno deserves to live in a safe, healthy neighborhood.

Thank you for your attention and action on matters that directly impact the health and safety of residents living near oil drilling operations. Please contact us if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eddie Kurtz', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Eddie Kurtz  
Executive Director, Courage Campaign



*Via In Electronic Mail*

June 2, 2017

Los Angeles City Council  
200 N. Spring St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Re: Support for Motion for Land Use and Legal Analysis of Setback Around Oil and Gas Extraction in Los Angeles (Council File # 17-0447)**

Dear Honorable Council President Wesson, Council Member Buscaino and Council Members:

We write on behalf of Communities for a Better Environment ("CBE") to express our strong support for the motion introduced on April 19, 2017 (Council File # 17-0447) directing the City Attorney, Petroleum Administrator and Department of City Planning to perform a legal and land use study of an ordinance establishing a 2,500-foot setback separating oil and gas extraction operations from sensitive land uses like homes, schools and hospitals. Such an analysis is a common sense, necessary step to meaningfully address the inherently incompatible nature of oil drilling in residential neighborhoods. We applaud the leadership of Council President Wesson in introducing this motion and of Council members Bonin, Cedillo, Harris-Dawson, Koretz, and Martinez for co-sponsoring the motion.

CBE works, organizes in, and has members in Wilmington, Los Angeles, a neighborhood in the City of Los Angeles that is located on one of the largest oil fields in the country. The community of Wilmington carries the largest drilling burden in all of the City of Los Angeles, and residents suffer from severe cumulative environmental impacts. Several companies drill in Wilmington. One company alone, Warren E&P, is authorized to construct and operate up to a staggering total of 540 wells, and at least two other oil companies run drilling operations on residential streets in Wilmington. Residents have reported noxious odors, headaches, asthma, rashes, burning eyes, ground vibrations, and stressful noise. Wells sit directly adjacent to a little league baseball field, and across the street from homes, apartments, and other buildings where residents work, study, play, and pray. Wilmington ranks in the top 5% of communities with the highest pollution exposure and social vulnerability in the state. The cancer risk in Wilmington is among the highest in Southern California.

CBE is a member organization of the Stand Together Against Neighborhood Drilling – Los Angeles ("STAND-L.A.") coalition. STAND-L.A. is an environmental justice coalition of community groups that seeks to end neighborhood drilling to protect the health and safety of

Angelenos on the frontlines of urban oil extraction.

Oil and gas extraction operations emit pollution at all stages, including well site construction, drilling, production, transportation, and waste disposal. Most emissions of toxic air pollutants from oil and gas development in the Los Angeles Region, including emissions of benzene—a known carcinogen—occur both in conventional and extreme extraction.<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, when engaging in extreme oil extraction techniques, such as hydraulic fracturing and acidizing, oil and gas extraction operations use large amounts of reproductive, immunological, and neurological toxins, carcinogens, and endocrine disrupting chemicals, including methanol, hydrochloric and hydrofluoric acid, formaldehyde, and naphthalene<sup>2</sup>—all of which are hazardous air pollutants under federal law<sup>3</sup>.

Oil and gas extraction operations emit criteria pollutants, including volatile organic compounds and nitrous oxides, which combine to form ground-level ozone, a dangerous chemical that can burn tissue in the lungs, causing it to age prematurely.<sup>4</sup> Chronic exposure to ground level ozone can cause “asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases[], and is particularly damaging to children, active young adults who spend time outdoors, and the [elderly.]”<sup>5</sup> A study published in 2016 found that summertime asthma attacks will increase due to ozone formed from oil and gas drilling emissions, resulting in emergency visits, missed school days for children, and missed work days for adults.<sup>6</sup> “Small changes in ozone smog concentrations in areas with large total populations can have [] large total health impact numbers.”<sup>7</sup> Thus, oil and gas extraction operations in densely populated County neighborhoods pose a serious health risk.

Toxic chemicals particularly affect the health of young people who are especially sensitive to pollution. Community members of Wilmington have a fundamental human right to grow up, live, work and play in a healthy environment and a strong interest in protecting the earth’s climate, on which the survival of future generations depends.

Los Angeles is the largest and most densely populated urban oil field in the nation. The City of LA hosts more than 900 active oil wells, with over 77% located within 2,500 feet of a home or sensitive land use such as a school, park or hospital. More than half of the active wells are located

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<sup>1</sup> Cal. Council on Science & Tech. & Lawrence Berkeley Nat’l Lab. (Jul. 2015) *An Independent Scientific Assessment of Well Stimulation in California*, Vol. 3, at 212-215, 240, 258, available at <http://ccst.us/publications/2015/2015SB4-v3.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> Physicians for Social Responsibility, et al. (Jun. 2014) *Dirty Dozen: The 12 Most Commonly Used Air Toxics in Oil Drilling*, at 4-6, available at <http://www.psr-la.org/wp-content/uploads/20140611-Air-Toxics-One-Year-Report-CBD-PSRLA.pdf>. Note that similar chemicals are used for maintenance and other activities during traditional drilling as well. Abdullah, Khadeeja, et al. (2017) *Toxicity of Acidization Fluids Used in California Oil Exploration*, *Toxicological & Environmental Chemistry*, Vol. 99, Issue 1, 78-94, available at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/02772248.2016.1160285>.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Env’tl Prot. Agency, *Initial List of Hazardous Air Pollutants with Modifications*, <https://www.epa.gov/haps/initial-list-hazardous-air-pollutants-modifications>.

<sup>4</sup> Theo Colborn, et al. (2011) *Natural Gas Operations from a Public Health Perspective*, *Human & Eco. Risk Assess.: Int’l J.*, Vol. 17, Issue 5 at 5.

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> Lesley Fleischman, et al. (Aug. 2016) *Gasping for Breath*, Clean Air Task Force at 8, available at [http://www.catf.us/resources/publications/files/Gasping\\_for\\_Breath.pdf](http://www.catf.us/resources/publications/files/Gasping_for_Breath.pdf).

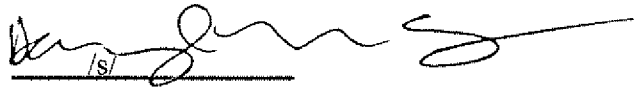
<sup>7</sup> *Id.* at 11.

in low-income Latino and African-American neighborhoods already overburdened by environmental hazards, such as Wilmington and South L.A. Residents from these neighborhoods have documented serious health problems—including nosebleeds, chronic migraines, nausea, asthma and other respiratory illness—in addition to daily disruption from drilling noise and vibrations, foul odors, and diesel truck traffic.

Oil drilling operations are wholly incompatible with residential neighborhoods, and we urge the Council to act swiftly to pass the motion for a legal and land use study as an important step toward alleviating the harm that front-line communities experience daily. Every Angeleno deserves to live in a safe and healthy neighborhood.

Thank you for your attention and action on matters that directly impact the health and safety of residents living near oil drilling operations. Please contact us if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darryl Molina', with a horizontal line underneath it. A small 's' is written below the line.

Darryl Molina  
Southern California Program Director  
Communities for a Better Environment  
[dmolina@cbecal.org](mailto:dmolina@cbecal.org)  
(323) 826-9771, ext. 105

# SCOPE STRATEGIC COMMUNITY AGENDA

June 12, 2017

Los Angeles City Council  
200 N. Spring St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Re: Support for Motion for Land Use and Legal Analysis of Setback Around Oil and Gas Extraction in Los Angeles (Council File # 17-0447)**

Dear Council President Wesson and Los Angeles City Council:

We write on behalf of Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Political Education (SCOPE LA) a member organization of the Stand Together Against Neighborhood Drilling – Los Angeles ("STAND-L.A.") coalition. STAND-L.A. is an environmental justice coalition of community groups that seeks to end neighborhood drilling to protect the health and safety of Angelenos on the front lines of urban oil extraction. SCOPE believes that this issue has economic and land use implication as well. Urban oil drilling wells do not create safe or sustainable jobs for communities most impacted. We believe it is time to reimagine better uses for this land that will better benefit communities such as South LA.

We respectfully express our support for an ordinance to establish a 2,500-foot setback separating oil and gas extraction operations from sensitive land uses like homes, schools and hospitals. We would also like to express support for the motion introduced on April 19, 2017 (Council File # 17-0447) directing the City Attorney, Petroleum Administrator and Department of Planning to perform a legal and land use study of such an ordinance. We applaud the leadership of Council President Wesson introducing this motion and to Councilmembers Bonin, Cedillo, Harris-Dawson, Koretz, and Martinez for co-sponsoring the motion.

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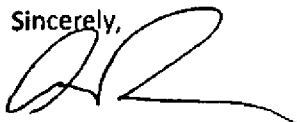
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Thank you for your attention and action on matters that directly impact the health and safety of residents living near oil drilling operations. Please contact us if you have any questions or would like additional information.

# SCOPE

STRATEGIC  
COMMUNITY  
AGENDA

Sincerely,



Andres Ramirez  
Campaign Manager, SCOPE - Los Angeles  
1715 W. Florence Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90047  
323-789-7920