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Fwd: Letter for Council File #17-0447

Sharon Dickinson

May 24, 2017 8:48 AM

Posted in group: **Clerk-PLUM-Committee**

From: **Shazia Manji** <smanji@psr-la.org>
Date: Tue, May 23, 2017 at 4:45 PM
Subject: Letter for Council File #17-0447
To: sharon.dickinson@lacity.org, michael.espinosa@lacity.org, maria.espinoza@lacity.org,
sharon.gin@lacity.org

Dear All,

Please find the attached letter from Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles and submit to Council File #17-0447.

Thank you,
Shazia

Shazia Manji
Membership and Communications Coordinator
Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles
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*The physician and health advocate voice for a world free from nuclear threats
and a safe, healthy environment for all communities.*



May 19, 2017

Los Angeles City Council
200 North Spring Street
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 Physicians for Social Responsibility – Los Angeles (PSR-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. PSR-LA is committed to this issue as we recognize oil and gas extraction is an industrial practice that is inherently hazardous to human health, and does not belong next to people’s homes, schools, and hospitals.


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.

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.

As an organization with a membership of physicians, nurses, and other health professionals, we understand the risks and symptoms associated with oil drilling for those living, working, or healing in close proximity. 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, 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Martha Dina Argüello".

Martha Dina Argüello
Executive Director
Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles