

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Andy Hattala

**Date Submitted:** 03/17/2021 07:15 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0065

**Comments for Public Posting:** As a resident of Los Angeles and environmental activist (specifically a member the Climate Reality Project L.A. and SFV Chapter Leadership Teams), I urge the members of the ECCEJR Committee to adjust Agenda item 21-0065 to include language that ensures the revenue generated from this motion contributes to the phase out of fossil fuel production in Los Angeles. Los Angeles is the largest urban oil field in the nation and oil production has been in steady decline for the last few decades. There are over 6,000 unplugged oil wells across LA County, disproportionately threatening the lives of Angelenos of color -- the same communities hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic. The oil industry is not covering the full cost of remediation or addressing the industry's negative impacts on our health, our environment, and our economy. The City Council not only has a right but an obligation to ensure that oil operators are paying for the full cost of clean-up and environmental restoration to existing well sites, as well as health and climate impacts from fossil fuel pollution. I urge Council members to amend the motion so that funding goes to the oversight and phase out of fossil fuel extraction, full remediation of well sites, and a just transition for workers and frontline communities to ensure climate resilience. The City Council should consider creating revenue from increasing bonding requirements, fees, and penalties as well as assess and remove any potential subsidies to the fossil fuel industry. Thank you for taking this stand to protect communities, the environment and taxpayers.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 03/17/2021 07:10 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0065

**Comments for Public Posting:** Thank you for your attention to this matter. As a resident of Los Angeles, I urge the members of the ECCEJR Committee to adjust Agenda item 21-0065 to include language that ensures the revenue generated from this motion contributes to the phase out of fossil fuel production in Los Angeles. Los Angeles is the largest urban oil field in the nation and oil production has been in steady decline for the last few decades. There are over 6,000 unplugged oil wells across LA County, disproportionately threatening the lives of Angelenos of color -- the same communities hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic. The oil industry is not covering the full cost of remediation or addressing the industry's negative impacts on our health, our environment, and our economy. The City Council not only has a right but an obligation to ensure that oil operators are paying for the full cost of clean-up and environmental restoration to existing well sites, as well as health and climate impacts from fossil fuel pollution. I urge Council members to amend the motion so that funding goes to the oversight and phase out of fossil fuel extraction, full remediation of well sites, and a just transition for workers and frontline communities to ensure climate resilience. The City Council should consider creating revenue from increasing bonding requirements, fees, and penalties as well as assess and remove any potential subsidies to the fossil fuel industry. Thank you for taking this stand to protect communities. We need to phase out all fossil fuel and farmer subsidies. Sincerely, Dr. Leslie Klein

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Charley Casler

**Date Submitted:** 03/17/2021 07:11 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0065

**Comments for Public Posting:** As a resident of Los Angeles, I urge the members of the ECCEJR Committee to adjust Agenda item 21-0065 to include language that ensures the revenue generated from this motion contributes to the phase out of fossil fuel production in Los Angeles. Los Angeles is the largest urban oil field in the nation and oil production has been in steady decline for the last few decades. There are over 6,000 unplugged oil wells across LA County, disproportionately threatening the lives of Angelenos of color -- the same communities hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic. The oil industry is not covering the full cost of remediation or addressing the industry's negative impacts on our health, our environment, and our economy. The City Council not only has a right but an obligation to ensure that oil operators are paying for the full cost of clean-up and environmental restoration to existing well sites, as well as health and climate impacts from fossil fuel pollution. I urge Council members to amend the motion so that funding goes to the oversight and phase out of fossil fuel extraction, full remediation of well sites, and a just transition for workers and frontline communities to ensure climate resilience. The City Council should consider creating revenue from increasing bonding requirements, fees, and penalties as well as assess and remove any potential subsidies to the fossil fuel industry. Thank you for taking this stand to protect communities, the environment and taxpayers.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Heidi Buech

**Date Submitted:** 03/17/2021 06:09 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0065

**Comments for Public Posting:** As a resident of Los Angeles, I urge the members of the ECCEJR Committee to adjust Agenda item 21-0065 to include language that ensures the revenue generated from this motion contributes to the phase-out of fossil fuel production in Los Angeles. Los Angeles is the largest urban oil field in the nation and oil production has been in steady decline for the last few decades. There are over 6,000 unplugged oil wells across LA County, disproportionately threatening the lives of Angelenos of color -- the same communities hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic. The oil industry is not covering the full cost of remediation or addressing the industry's negative impacts on our health, our environment, and our economy. The City Council not only has a right but an obligation to ensure that oil operators are paying for the full cost of clean-up and environmental restoration to existing well sites, as well as health and climate impacts from fossil fuel pollution. I urge Council members to amend the motion so that funding goes to the oversight and phase out of fossil fuel extraction, full remediation of well sites, and a just transition for workers and frontline communities to ensure climate resilience. The City Council should consider creating revenue from increasing bonding requirements, fees, and penalties as well as assess and remove any potential subsidies to the fossil fuel industry. Thank you for taking this stand to protect communities, the environment and taxpayers.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 03/17/2021 06:12 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0065

**Comments for Public Posting:** As a resident of Los Angeles, I urge the members of the ECCEJR Committee to adjust Agenda item 21-0065 to include language that ensures the revenue generated from this motion contributes to the phase out of fossil fuel production in Los Angeles. Los Angeles is the largest urban oil field in the nation, and oil production has been in steady decline for the last few decades. There are over 6,000 unplugged oil wells across LA County, disproportionately threatening the lives of Angelenos of color -- the same communities hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic. The oil industry is not covering the full cost of remediation or addressing the industry's negative impacts on our health, our environment, and our economy. The City Council not only has a right but an obligation to ensure that oil operators are paying for the full cost of clean-up and environmental restoration to existing well sites, as well as health and climate impacts from fossil fuel pollution. I urge Council members to amend the motion, so that funding goes to the oversight and phase out of fossil fuel extraction, full remediation of well sites, and a just transition for workers and frontline communities to ensure climate resilience. The City Council should consider creating revenue from increasing bonding requirements, fees, and penalties as well as assess and remove any potential subsidies to the fossil fuel industry. Thank you for taking this stand to protect communities, the environment and taxpayers.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Rebecca Gundzik

**Date Submitted:** 03/17/2021 02:34 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0065

**Comments for Public Posting:** I request that the City Council amend this motion to also look at other funding mechanisms such as bonding, fees and penalties. These mechanisms can be passed directly by the city council and should be used to phase out oil and gas and cover the costs of a just transition for communities and workers.

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 03/17/2021 04:40 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0065

**Comments for Public Posting:** As a resident of Los Angeles, I urge the members of the ECCEJR Committee to adjust Agenda item 21-0065 to include language that ensures the revenue generated from this motion contributes to the phase out of fossil fuel production in Los Angeles. Los Angeles is the largest urban oil field in the nation and oil production has been in steady decline for the last few decades. There are over 6,000 unplugged oil wells across LA County, disproportionately threatening the lives of Angelenos of color -- the same communities hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic. The oil industry is not covering the full cost of remediation or addressing the industry's negative impacts on our health, our environment, and our economy. The City Council not only has a right but an obligation to ensure that oil operators are paying for the full cost of clean-up and environmental restoration to existing well sites, as well as health and climate impacts from fossil fuel pollution. I urge Council members to amend the motion so that funding goes to the oversight and phase out of fossil fuel extraction, full remediation of well sites, and a just transition for workers and frontline communities to ensure climate resilience. The City Council should consider creating revenue from increasing bonding requirements, fees, and penalties as well as assess and remove any potential subsidies to the fossil fuel industry. Thank you for taking this stand to protect communities, the environment and taxpayers.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Taryn McPherson

**Date Submitted:** 03/17/2021 04:56 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0065

**Comments for Public Posting:** As a resident of Los Angeles, I urge the members of the ECCEJR Committee to adjust Agenda item 21-0065 to include language that ensures the revenue generated from this motion contributes to the phase out of fossil fuel production in Los Angeles. Los Angeles is the largest urban oil field in the nation and oil production has been in steady decline for the last few decades. There are over 6,000 unplugged oil wells across LA County, disproportionately threatening the lives of Angelenos of color -- the same communities hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic. The oil industry is not covering the full cost of remediation or addressing the industry's negative impacts on our health, our environment, and our economy. The City Council not only has a right but an obligation to ensure that oil operators are paying for the full cost of clean-up and environmental restoration to existing well sites, as well as health and climate impacts from fossil fuel pollution. I urge Council members to amend the motion so that funding goes to the oversight and phase out of fossil fuel extraction, full remediation of well sites, and a just transition for workers and frontline communities to ensure climate resilience. The City Council should consider creating revenue from increasing bonding requirements, fees, and penalties as well as assess and remove any potential subsidies to the fossil fuel industry. Thank you for taking this stand to protect communities, the environment and taxpayers.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Ann Dorsey

**Date Submitted:** 03/17/2021 07:19 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0065

**Comments for Public Posting:** I urge the members of the ECCEJR Committee to adjust Agenda item 21-0065 to include language that ensures the revenue generated from this motion contributes to the phase out of fossil fuel production in Los Angeles, full remediation of well sites, and a just transition for workers and frontline communities to ensure climate resilience. The oil industry is not covering the full cost of remediation or addressing the industry's negative impacts on our health, our environment and our economy. The City Council should consider creating revenue from increasing bonding requirements, fees, and penalties as well as assess and remove any potential subsidies to the fossil fuel industry. Thank you, Ann Dorsey Northridge, CA

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Tara Barauskas

**Date Submitted:** 03/17/2021 08:12 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0065

**Comments for Public Posting:** I live in Playa del Rey, right near the natural gas facility. I smell the gas quite often, and wonder if the two kids I'm raising here will be impacted. Fossil fuel and natural gas need to be phased out and clean energy need to be the present and future. I urge the members of the ECCEJR Committee to adjust Agenda item 21-0065 to include language that ensures the revenue generated from this motion contributes to the phase out of fossil fuel production in Los Angeles. Los Angeles is the largest urban oil field in the nation and oil production has been in steady decline for the last few decades. There are over 6,000 unplugged oil wells across LA County, disproportionately threatening the lives of Angelenos of color -- the same communities hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic. The oil industry is not covering the full cost of remediation or addressing the industry's negative impacts on our health, our environment, and our economy. The City Council not only has a right but an obligation to ensure that oil operators are paying for the full cost of clean-up and environmental restoration to existing well sites, as well as health and climate impacts from fossil fuel pollution. I urge Council members to amend the motion so that funding goes to the oversight and phase out of fossil fuel extraction, full remediation of well sites, and a just transition for workers and frontline communities to ensure climate resilience. The City Council should consider creating revenue from increasing bonding requirements, fees, and penalties as well as assess and remove any potential subsidies to the fossil fuel industry. Thank you for taking this stand to protect communities, the environment and taxpayers.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Robert Mason

**Date Submitted:** 03/17/2021 08:16 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0065

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear council and committee members: Regarding agenda item 21-0065 I support amending the language so that the revenue received goes toward phasing out fossil fuel production in LA and the cost of cleaning up. Funding must go to oversight and phasing out fossil fuel extraction. Perhaps creation of revenue from increasing bonding requirements, fees, and penalties as well as access and removal of subsidies to the fossil fuel industry should be considered. Thank you for you consideration Robert Mason

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Jamie Perlman

**Date Submitted:** 03/17/2021 08:27 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0065

**Comments for Public Posting:** As a resident of Los Angeles, I urge the members of the ECCEJR Committee to adjust Agenda item 21-0065 to include language that ensures the revenue generated from this motion contributes to the phase out of fossil fuel production in Los Angeles. Los Angeles is the largest urban oil field in the nation and oil production has been in steady decline for the last few decades. There are over 6,000 unplugged oil wells across LA County, disproportionately threatening the lives of Angelenos of color -- the same communities hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic. The oil industry is not covering the full cost of remediation or addressing the industry's negative impacts on our health, our environment, and our economy. The City Council not only has a right but an obligation to ensure that oil operators are paying for the full cost of clean-up and environmental restoration to existing well sites, as well as health and climate impacts from fossil fuel pollution. I urge Council members to amend the motion so that funding goes to the oversight and phase out of fossil fuel extraction, full remediation of well sites, and a just transition for workers and frontline communities to ensure climate resilience. The City Council should consider creating revenue from increasing bonding requirements, fees, and penalties as well as assess and remove any potential subsidies to the fossil fuel industry. Thank you for taking this stand to protect communities, the environment and taxpayers.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Terry Saucier

**Date Submitted:** 03/17/2021 08:32 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0065

**Comments for Public Posting:** As a resident of Los Angeles, I urge the members of the ECCEJR Committee to adjust Agenda item 21-0065 to include language that ensures the revenue generated from this motion contributes to the phase out of fossil fuel production in Los Angeles. Los Angeles is the largest urban oil field in the nation and oil production has been in steady decline for the last few decades. There are over 6,000 unplugged oil wells across LA County, disproportionately threatening the lives of Angelenos of color -- the same communities hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic. The oil industry is not covering the full cost of remediation or addressing the industry's negative impacts on our health, our environment, and our economy. The City Council not only has a right but an obligation to ensure that oil operators are paying for the full cost of clean-up and environmental restoration to existing well sites, as well as health and climate impacts from fossil fuel pollution. I urge Council members to amend the motion so that funding goes to the oversight and phase out of fossil fuel extraction, full remediation of well sites, and a just transition for workers and frontline communities to ensure climate resilience. The City Council should consider creating revenue from increasing bonding requirements, fees, and penalties as well as assess and remove any potential subsidies to the fossil fuel industry. Thank you for taking this stand to protect communities, the environment and taxpayers.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Polly Estabrook  
**Date Submitted:** 03/17/2021 08:42 PM  
**Council File No:** 21-0065

**Comments for Public Posting:** As a resident of Los Angeles, I urge the members of the ECCEJR Committee to adjust Agenda item 21-0065 to include language that ensures the revenue generated from this motion contributes to the phase out of fossil fuel production in Los Angeles. Last December, I was glad to see that the City of LA committed to ending urban oil drilling in Los Angeles and protecting the health and environment of our communities. This means that all active oil and gas wells will need to close in the next decade or so. We have already seen that, as drilling for fossil fuels becomes less profitable, many operators have declared bankruptcy - leaving the City and the State to pay to close these wells with environmental regulations. We need to increase the bonding requirements and fees so that the City is NOT left with this cost - it is absolutely reasonable that the operators are responsible to leave their sites as they found them - not open and leaking pollutants into the already polluted LA air. In addition, for the time that these wells continue to operate, the City must have the funding to regulate and oversee their operation and this cost must be offset by taxes to these companies. We already know that many of these wells are leaking methane, a powerful greenhouse gas. Again, it is the responsibility of these companies to ensure they meet the environmental standards set forth; however it is well known that this will not be done unless the City has the means to oversee their operation. The oil industry is not covering the full cost of remediation or addressing the industry's negative impacts on our health, our environment, and our economy. The City Council not only has a right but an obligation to ensure that oil operators are paying for the full cost of clean-up and environmental restoration to existing well sites, as well as health and climate impacts from fossil fuel pollution. Therefore I urge Council members to amend the motion so that funding goes to the oversight and phase out of fossil fuel extraction, full remediation of well sites, and a just transition for workers and frontline communities to ensure climate resilience. The City Council should consider creating revenue from increasing bonding requirements, fees, and penalties as well as assess and remove any potential subsidies to the fossil fuel industry. I believe that the council members should ALSO consider other methods of requiring the oil industry to fund these important requirements. Other mechanisms such as bonding, fees,

and penalties could be passed by the council directly and not need to go up for a vote. We do not need to spend the money to put these common sense taxes on the ballot, please increase the fees on oil and gas drilling so that the city does not have to bear the burden for these activities. Thank you for taking this stand to protect communities, the environment and taxpayers. Polly Estabrook

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Andrew Reich

**Date Submitted:** 03/17/2021 08:43 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0065

**Comments for Public Posting:** As a resident of Los Angeles, I urge the members of the ECCEJR Committee to adjust Agenda item 21-0065 to include language that ensures the revenue generated from this motion contributes to the phase out of fossil fuel production in Los Angeles. Los Angeles is the largest urban oil field in the nation and oil production has been in steady decline for the last few decades. There are over 6,000 unplugged oil wells across LA County, disproportionately threatening the lives of Angelenos of color -- the same communities hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic. The oil industry is not covering the full cost of remediation or addressing the industry's negative impacts on our health, our environment, and our economy. The City Council not only has a right but an obligation to ensure that oil operators are paying for the full cost of clean-up and environmental restoration to existing well sites, as well as health and climate impacts from fossil fuel pollution. I urge Council members to amend the motion so that funding goes to the oversight and phase out of fossil fuel extraction, full remediation of well sites, and a just transition for workers and frontline communities to ensure climate resilience. The City Council should consider creating revenue from increasing bonding requirements, fees, and penalties as well as assess and remove any potential subsidies to the fossil fuel industry. Thank you for taking this stand to protect communities, the environment and taxpayers.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Cheryl Auger

**Date Submitted:** 03/17/2021 09:05 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0065

**Comments for Public Posting:** Please adjust the language in Agenda item 21-0065 to ensure that revenue generated from this motion contributes to the phase out and clean-up of fossil fuel production in Los Angeles. Los Angeles is the largest urban oil field in the nation and oil production has been in steady decline for the last few decades. There are over 6,000 unplugged oil wells across LA County, disproportionately threatening the health and lives of Angelenos of color -- the same communities hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic. The oil industry is not covering the full cost of remediation or addressing the industry's negative impacts on our health, our environment, and our economy. The City Council has an obligation to require funding for the oversight and phase out of fossil fuel extraction, full remediation of well sites, and a just transition for workers and frontline communities to ensure climate resilience. The City Council should consider creating revenue from increasing bonding requirements, fees, and penalties as well as assess and remove any potential subsidies to the fossil fuel industry. Thank you for taking this stand to protect our communities, our environment and our taxpayers.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Caitlin

**Date Submitted:** 03/17/2021 09:05 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0065

**Comments for Public Posting:** As a resident of Los Angeles, I urge the members of the ECCEJR Committee to adjust Agenda item 21-0065 to include language that ensures the revenue generated from this motion contributes to the phase out of fossil fuel production in Los Angeles. I support the March 2021 comment letter from leading Environmental justice organizations, calling on the Councilmembers to amend the motion to consider increasing bonding requirements, fees, fines and penalties as well as assess and remove any potential subsidies to the fossil fuel industry. The oil industry is not covering the full cost of remediation or addressing the industry's negative impacts on our health, our environment, and our economy, and needs to be held accountable. The City Council not only has a right but an obligation to ensure that oil operators are paying for the full cost of clean-up and environmental restoration to existing well sites, as well as health and climate impacts from fossil fuel pollution. I urge Council members to amend the motion so that funding goes to the oversight and phase out of fossil fuel extraction, full remediation of well sites, and a just transition for workers and frontline communities to ensure climate resilience. The City Council should consider creating revenue from increasing bonding requirements, fees, and penalties as well as assess and remove any potential subsidies to the fossil fuel industry. Thank you for taking this stand to protect communities, the environment and taxpayers.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Kate Grodd

**Date Submitted:** 03/17/2021 12:05 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0065

**Comments for Public Posting:** As a resident of Los Angeles, I strongly urge the members of the ECCEJR Committee to adjust Agenda item 21-0065 to include language that ensures the revenue generated from this motion contributes to the phase out of fossil fuel production in Los Angeles. Los Angeles is the largest urban oil field in the nation and oil production has been in steady decline for the last few decades. There are over 6,000 unplugged oil wells across LA County, disproportionately threatening the lives of Angelenos of color -- the same communities hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic. The oil industry is not covering the full cost of remediation or addressing the industry's negative impacts on our health, our environment, and our economy. The City Council not only has a right but an obligation to ensure that oil operators are paying for the full cost of clean-up and environmental restoration to existing well sites, as well as health and climate impacts from fossil fuel pollution. I urge Council members to amend the motion so that funding goes to the oversight and phase out of fossil fuel extraction, full remediation of well sites, and a just transition for workers and frontline communities to ensure climate resilience. The City Council should consider creating revenue from increasing bonding requirements, fees, and penalties as well as assess and remove any potential subsidies to the fossil fuel industry. Thank you for taking this stand to protect communities, the environment and taxpayers.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Monica Embrey  
**Date Submitted:** 03/17/2021 12:07 PM  
**Council File No:** 21-0065

**Comments for Public Posting:** Please see attached a comment letter that I am sending on behalf of STAND LA, Communities for a Better Environment, PSR-LA, Esperanza Community Housing Corporation, Redeemer Community Partnership, Holman United Methodist Church, NRDC, Center for Biological Diversity, Food & Water Watch, Sunrise LA and the Sierra Club. We greatly appreciate your leadership on taking critical steps to phase out urban oil drilling in Los Angeles to protect public health and our environment. We believe that this motion can build on this commitment and that revenue generated from oil and gas extraction should ensure climate resilience and a just transition for workers and communities. We look forward to partnering with you on this important effort. Sincerely, Monica Embrey Sierra Club



COMMUNITIES  
FOR A BETTER  
ENVIRONMENT  
established 1978



March 17, 2021

Los Angeles City Council  
Energy, Climate Change, Environmental Justice & River Committee  
Room 1010, City Hall  
200 N. Spring St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**RE: Agenda item 21-0065, Motion regarding Oil and Gas Extraction Tax**

Dear Honorable Councilmembers O'Farrell, Ridley-Thomas, Koretz, DeLeon, and Krekorian,

Our organizations represent environmental justice and environmental advocacy groups, and we are writing on behalf of our members and supporters in the City of Los Angeles about Agenda item 21-0065 for the upcoming ECCEJR Committee Meeting on March 18th. The motion sponsored by Councilmembers Krekorian, Raman, and O'Farrell directs staff to consider oil and gas extraction taxes, project potential revenue and evaluate the possible placement of a measure on the November 2022 ballot.

We appreciate your commitment last December (File number [17-0447](#)) to ending urban oil drilling in Los Angeles and protecting the health and environment of our communities. Our organizations fully support the decision to move toward prohibiting new oil and gas extraction and making existing extraction activities a nonconforming use in all zones.

We believe that this motion can build on this commitment to phase out fossil fuel extraction and ensure the health and safety of our communities. We believe that revenue generated from oil and gas extraction should advance efforts to phase out oil and gas extraction to ensure climate resilience and a just transition for workers and communities.

Specifically, the City should ensure that such revenue covers the costs of an amortization study to support and plan for the phase-out of oil and gas extraction over the next five years; the issuance of licenses and permits; all necessary investigations and inspections; robust administrative enforcement; and the expeditious and proper abandonment of oil wells and remediation of well sites.

We would recommend adjusting the motion to include the following language:

***..to report back on potential amounts and structures of fees, penalties, bonding requirements and other such mechanisms that may be enforced on the oil and gas industry to expedite and fully cover costs for the full phase out and remediation of oil activities in the City. The report should include examples of funding mechanisms from other jurisdictions and include projection of potential revenue for each model to the City. Furthermore, the report back should also include analysis of any existing subsidies or other incentives for oil and gas operations and estimated costs to the city.***

The report-back should include the following elements:

1. **Bonding requirements** - require that all well operators obtain, maintain, and prove they have a combination of adequate insurance coverage and bonds. While the City has well bonding requirements separate from those required under state law, they are inadequate to protect taxpayers. The City should require significantly higher amounts to reflect the true cost of well abandonment and site remediation. This process should also require operators to submit an estimate of their projected remediation costs in comparison to their current bonding amounts. According to this California Council on Science and Technology (CCST) [report](#), the remediation costs in LA City are much higher than the statewide average, so the City is justified in requiring a higher amount to fully cover true estimates for remediation. The City could also require higher bonding levels for any operator with a history of safety and environmental violations.
2. **Industry-specific fees** – ensure fees cover all costs associated with issuing licenses/permits, performing investigations/inspections, and administrative enforcement. The City should consider requiring that the industry fund an amortization study and remediation cost study as part of its administrative activities. In addition, we would highly encourage the City to significantly ramp up inspections for leaking methane from idle and previously abandoned wells. Once the City establishes a methane leak, CalGEM “shall” issue orders to stop the leak (Cal. Pub. Res. Code §§ 3307, 3308). Fees need to reflect the cost of detecting those leaks, including staffing, tools and other costs of oversight.
3. **Mandatory minimum penalties or other enforcement mechanisms** - explore adding automatic penalty or enforcement provisions to strengthen operating requirements and requirements for plugging and abandoning idle wells. The City should also look into establishing its own timetable for plugging wells given how many long-term idle wells are in the jurisdiction. And related to this proposal, the City should consider establishing civil

penalties for operators that fail to properly plug and abandon their wells in a timely fashion, which could further fund the remediation of deserted wells or other regulatory or just transition costs.

In addition to the above funding mechanisms, the City has the legal authority to call on the state to assist in the expedited remediation of idle wells. Specifically, the City can submit requests to CalGEM for a list of idle wells (Cal. Pub. Res. Code § 3206.5(a)) and ask CalGEM to issue remedial orders to require proper plugging and abandonment, especially where current bonding is inadequate.

Bonding requirements and fees as funding mechanisms are already identified in the [2018 LA City Controller report](#), so there is a strong basis for the City to move forward with these recommendations.

Thank you for considering our comments and for your leadership to protect our communities, environment and climate.

Sincerely,

Martha Dina Arguello, Executive Director, Physicians for Social Responsibility - Los Angeles  
Co-Chair, STAND-LA Coalition

Bahram Fazeli, Director of Research & Policy, Communities for a Better Environment  
Co-Chair, STAND-LA Coalition

Nancy Halpern Ibrahim, Executive Director, Esperanza Community Housing Corporation

Richard Parks, President, Redeemer Community Partnership

Rev. Louis Chase, Interim Minister of Community Outreach, Holman United Methodist Church

Monica Embrey, Associate Director, Beyond Dirty Fuels Campaign, Sierra Club

Damon Nagami, Senior Attorney, Natural Resources Defense Council

Liz Jones, Staff Attorney, Center for Biological Diversity

Ethan Senser, Southern California Organizer, Food & Water Watch

Rachel Smith, Member, Sunrise Los Angeles

## Communication from Public

**Name:** JESSICA CRAVEN

**Date Submitted:** 03/17/2021 12:10 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0065

**Comments for Public Posting:** As a resident of Los Angeles, I urge the members of the ECCEJR Committee to adjust Agenda item 21-0065 to include language that ensures the revenue generated from this motion contributes to the phase out of fossil fuel production in Los Angeles. Los Angeles is the largest urban oil field in the nation and oil production has been in steady decline for the last few decades. There are over 6,000 unplugged oil wells across LA County, disproportionately threatening the lives of Angelenos of color -- the same communities hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic. The oil industry is not covering the full cost of remediation or addressing the industry's negative impacts on our health, our environment, and our economy. The City Council not only has a right but an obligation to ensure that oil operators are paying for the full cost of clean-up and environmental restoration to existing well sites, as well as health and climate impacts from fossil fuel pollution. I urge Council members to amend the motion so that funding goes to the oversight and phase out of fossil fuel extraction, full remediation of well sites, and a just transition for workers and frontline communities to ensure climate resilience. The City Council should consider creating revenue from increasing bonding requirements, fees, and penalties as well as assess and remove any potential subsidies to the fossil fuel industry. Thank you for taking this stand to protect communities, the environment and taxpayers.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Rachel Smith

**Date Submitted:** 03/17/2021 12:25 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0065

**Comments for Public Posting:** As a Los Angeles resident, I am writing to urge the ECCEJR Committee to include language that ensures revenue from motion 21-0065 goes towards the phase out of fossil fuel production in Los Angeles. The oil industry, despite declines in oil production over many years, must pay for the clean up and environmental restoration of the lands and surrounding communities. It is no surprise that most of these affected communities are low-income as well as consist mostly of people of color, the same communities that have been severely impacted by the pandemic. It is your obligation to protect these populations from the oil industry that won't help them otherwise, despite decades of negative health impacts they have knowingly put on them. I urge Council members to amend the motion so that funding goes to the oversight and phase out of fossil fuel extraction, full remediation of well sites, and a just transition for workers and frontline communities to ensure climate resilience. The City Council should consider creating revenue from increasing bonding requirements, fees, and penalties as well as assess and remove any potential subsidies to the fossil fuel industry. The opportunity is here to enact major change that will help countless numbers of people and future generations. Thank you for taking this stand to protect communities, the environment and taxpayers.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Cora Went

**Date Submitted:** 03/17/2021 12:39 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0065

**Comments for Public Posting:** As a resident of Los Angeles, I urge the members of the ECCEJR Committee to adjust Agenda item 21-0065 to include language that ensures the revenue generated from this motion contributes to the phase-out of fossil fuel production in Los Angeles. Los Angeles is the largest urban oil field in the nation and oil production has been in steady decline for the last few decades. There are over 6,000 unplugged oil wells across LA County, disproportionately threatening the lives of Angelenos of color -- the same communities hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic. The oil industry is not covering the full cost of remediation or addressing the industry's negative impacts on our health, our environment, and our economy. The City Council not only has a right but an obligation to ensure that oil operators are paying for the full cost of clean-up and environmental restoration to existing well sites, as well as health and climate impacts from fossil fuel pollution. I urge Council members to amend the motion so that funding goes to the oversight and phase out of fossil fuel extraction, full remediation of well sites, and a just transition for workers and frontline communities to ensure climate resilience. The City Council should consider creating revenue from increasing bonding requirements, fees, and penalties as well as assess and remove any potential subsidies to the fossil fuel industry. Thank you for taking this stand to protect communities, the environment and taxpayers.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Carolyn “Jiyoung” Park

**Date Submitted:** 03/17/2021 01:07 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0065

**Comments for Public Posting:** As a resident of Los Angeles, I urge the members of the ECCEJR Committee to adjust Agenda item 21-0065 to include language that ensures the revenue generated from this motion contributes to the phase-out of fossil fuel production in Los Angeles. Los Angeles is the largest urban oil field in the nation and oil production has been in steady decline for the last few decades. There are over 6,000 unplugged oil wells across LA County, disproportionately threatening the lives of Angelenos of color -- the same communities hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic. The oil industry is not covering the full cost of remediation or addressing the industry's negative impacts on our health, our environment, and our economy. The City Council not only has a right but an obligation to ensure that oil operators are paying for the full cost of clean-up and environmental restoration to existing well sites, as well as health and climate impacts from fossil fuel pollution. I urge Council members to amend the motion so that funding goes to the oversight and phase out of fossil fuel extraction, full remediation of well sites, and a just transition for workers and frontline communities to ensure climate resilience. The City Council should consider creating revenue from increasing bonding requirements, fees, and penalties as well as assess and remove any potential subsidies to the fossil fuel industry. Thank you for taking this stand to protect the communities, the environment and taxpayers.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Rebecca Helm

**Date Submitted:** 03/17/2021 12:59 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0065

**Comments for Public Posting:** Would you please help us make this better? I urge Council members to amend the motion so that funding goes to the oversight and phase out of fossil fuel extraction, full remediation of well sites, and a just transition for workers and frontline communities to ensure climate resilience. The City Council should consider creating revenue from increasing bonding requirements, fees, and penalties as well as assess and remove any potential subsidies to the fossil fuel industry. Thank you for taking this stand to protect communities, the environment and taxpayers.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Erica Silverman

**Date Submitted:** 03/17/2021 01:25 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0065

**Comments for Public Posting:** Agenda Item 20-0065 provides the City Council with a perfect opportunity to take bold action to move the city toward greater climate resilience and environmental justice. I urge council members to amend Agenda Item 21-0065 to include specific language that would provide funding to phase out fossil fuel extraction as quickly as is feasible, provide remediation of well sites and to ensure an economically sustainable transition for workers and front line communities. Los Angeles has set a goal of being a leader in the fight against climate change and supporting environmental justice; this amendment supports that goal. Thank you.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Catherine Ronan

**Date Submitted:** 03/17/2021 03:53 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0065

**Comments for Public Posting:** March 17, 2021 Los Angeles City Council Energy, Climate Change, Environmental Justice & River Committee Room 1010, City Hall 200 N. Spring St. Los Angeles, CA 90012 RE: Agenda item 21-0065, Motion regarding Oil and Gas Extraction Tax Dear Honorable Councilmembers O'Farrell, Ridley-Thomas, Koretz, DeLeon, and Krekorian, First, I would like to tell you how excited I am that this committee has voted to begin the process of phasing out oil and gas extraction in my city. I realize that this will be an expensive proposition but if we begin right away to plug and remediate shuttered oil wells and make sure that the oil industry is paying to clean up their mess, it will be a good start. We should also start the amortization process as soon as possible so that we can start phasing out active wells and the permitting of any new wells. We will need to increase revenue from the oil industry to cover the costs of undoing the damage they have done to our air, water, and soil. So let's raise the bonding requirements, fees, fines, and penalties levied on the oil industry while making sure that the revenue goes directly to fund a just transition to a fossil fuel free Los Angeles. Let's also end any city subsidies to the oil and gas industry. What we don't want to do is increase taxes on oil extraction and then become dependent on those revenues to fund our general city operations. We also don't want another Exide situation where companies go out of business in order to avoid paying clean-up costs. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Sincerely, Catherine Ronan

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Graham Hamilton

**Date Submitted:** 03/17/2021 04:01 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0065

**Comments for Public Posting:** As a resident of Los Angeles, I urge the members of the ECCEJR Committee to adjust Agenda item 21-0065 to include language that ensures the revenue generated from this motion contributes to the phase out of fossil fuel production in Los Angeles. Los Angeles is the largest urban oil field in the nation and oil production has been in steady decline for the last few decades. There are over 6,000 unplugged oil wells across LA County, disproportionately threatening the lives of Angelenos of color -- the same communities hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic. The oil industry is not covering the full cost of remediation or addressing the industry's negative impacts on our health, our environment, and our economy. The City Council not only has a right but an obligation to ensure that oil operators are paying for the full cost of clean-up and environmental restoration to existing well sites, as well as health and climate impacts from fossil fuel pollution. I urge Council members to amend the motion so that funding goes to the oversight and phase out of fossil fuel extraction, full remediation of well sites, and a just transition for workers and frontline communities to ensure climate resilience. The City Council should consider creating revenue from increasing bonding requirements, fees, and penalties as well as assess and remove any potential subsidies to the fossil fuel industry. Thank you for taking this stand to protect communities, the environment and taxpayers.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Tara Strand

**Date Submitted:** 03/17/2021 01:53 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0065

**Comments for Public Posting:** (Because it gets exhausting to continually detail out in writing all the common-sense reasons why we should stop doing things that are destroying everything that sustains us, the below is from a pre-written comment. THIS!!!): As a resident of Los Angeles, I urge the members of the ECCEJR Committee to adjust Agenda item 21-0065 to include language that ensures the revenue generated from this motion contributes to the phase out of fossil fuel production in Los Angeles. Los Angeles is the largest urban oil field in the nation and oil production has been in steady decline for the last few decades. There are over 6,000 unplugged oil wells across LA County, disproportionately threatening the lives of Angelenos of color -- the same communities hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic. The oil industry is not covering the full cost of remediation or addressing the industry's negative impacts on our health, our environment, and our economy. The City Council not only has a right but an obligation to ensure that oil operators are paying for the full cost of clean-up and environmental restoration to existing well sites, as well as health and climate impacts from fossil fuel pollution. I urge Council members to amend the motion so that funding goes to the oversight and phase out of fossil fuel extraction, full remediation of well sites, and a just transition for workers and frontline communities to ensure climate resilience. The City Council should consider creating revenue from increasing bonding requirements, fees, and penalties as well as assess and remove any potential subsidies to the fossil fuel industry. Thank you for taking this stand to protect communities, the environment and taxpayers.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Bill Corcoran

**Date Submitted:** 03/17/2021 02:17 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0065

**Comments for Public Posting:** As a resident of Los Angeles (Valley Glen), I urge the members of the ECCEJR Committee to adjust Agenda item 21-0065 to include language that ensures the revenue generated from this motion contributes to the phase out of fossil fuel production in Los Angeles. It is long past time to ensure that the oil industry covers the full cost of remediating and otherwise addressing the current pollution and legacy of pollution from the industry, pollution that disproportionately harms communities of the global majority. I ask that the Council amend the motion so that funding goes to the oversight and phase out of fossil fuel extraction, full remediation of well sites, and a just transition for workers and frontline communities to ensure climate resilience. The City Council should consider creating revenue from increasing bonding requirements, fees, and penalties as well as assess and remove any potential subsidies to the fossil fuel industry. Thank you for acting to protect our communities; our land, air, and water; and climate.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Rebecca Hartman Edwards

**Date Submitted:** 03/17/2021 02:20 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0065

**Comments for Public Posting:** I'm writing to urge the members of the ECCEJR Committee to adjust Agenda item 21-0065 to make sure that any money it raises is used to phase out oil of fossil fuel production in Los Angeles. We're home to the largest urban oil field in the nation and oil production has been in steady decline for the last few decades. There are over 6,000 unplugged oil wells across LA County, which disproportionately impact the lives of Angelenos of color -- the same communities hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic. The oil industry isn't covering the full cost of remediation or addressing its negative impacts on our health, our environment, and our economy. The City Council has an obligation to make sure that oil companies pay the full cost of cleaning-up existing well sites, as well as addressing the health and climate impacts from fossil fuel pollution. I urge Council members to amend the motion so that funding goes to the oversight and phase out of fossil fuel extraction, full remediation of well sites, and a just transition for workers and frontline communities to ensure climate resilience. The City Council should consider creating revenue from increasing bonding requirements, fees, and penalties as well as assess and remove any potential subsidies to the fossil fuel industry. Thank you for taking this stand to protect communities, the environment and taxpayers.