

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Scott Silver

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**Council File No:** 21-1025

**Comments for Public Posting:** City Council, I urge you to require CEQA Environmental Review on the West Pico Drill Site on Pico. I say this as a resident of CD5 who lives two blocks from the Rancho Park Drill Site which exposed the community to an eye searing, throat burning, Mercaptan spill in November 2018 and 1 1/2 miles from the West Pico Drill Site which sends all of its natural gas by pipe down Pico Blvd to the Rancho Park Drill Site to be odorized and put in the pipeline for SoCal Gas. And I also say this as the appellant in the Rancho Park Drill Site appeal case (ZA-1958-14560-PA1-1A) that the West Los Angeles Area Planning Commission heard in May 2019. In the Rancho Park Drill Site case, ZA Irving began his reply to my appeal at the hearing by claiming that he has no responsibility and no ability to regulate LA urban drill sites unless they constitute a "nuisance." This was offensive and either negligently incorrect or purposefully misleading to the APC. In that May 2019 appeal hearing, the ZA and the City's Petroleum Administrator told the APC that City compliance inspections of drill sites and an inspection ordinance were "already happening," and he said it was "a farce" that I doubted the City was not making good on its promises. Well, it has now been 3 years since City Council has voted, on September 7, 2018, to order the initiation of inspections and to request the City Attorney to draft an inspection ordinance, and no ordinance and no inspections have happened. To this day, the City Attorney has simply refused to draft an ordinance as Council requested and, to my knowledge, has never explained why. The City must review all unapproved and illegal projects at the West Pico Drill Site now, especially the 24 major illegal oil well projects executed without ZA review since 2000. The City's own CEQA guidelines that say the drilling, re-drilling or conversion of oil wells CANNOT be granted Categorical Exemption from Environmental Review. If one of these sites has a disaster and property is damaged, or worse, people are injured or killed, there will be a whole lot of finger pointing and the record will be chock full of unfulfilled promises and ignoring of loud whistle blowing (especially Prof. Salman, NASE and the 650+ signatories of Rancho Park Neighbors I gathered for a petition for inspections in 2019). There is no need to risk all that. Please just do the right thing here. Thank you.