

Communication from Public

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Date Submitted: 10/12/2021 04:49 PM
Council File No: 21-1025
Comments for Public Posting: STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF APPEAL BY NEIGHBORS IN SUPPORT OF A SAFE ENVIRONMENT (NASE)

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF APPEAL BY NEIGHBORS FOR A SAFE ENVIRONMENT (NASE) TO CITY COUNCIL TO OVERTURN CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FROM ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

My name is Richard S. Weiner and I am one of the founders and current officers of NASE. My wife and I live within 1500 feet of the Drill Site.

After a 2000 Zoning Administration hearing and appeals, NASE filed a suit against BreitBurn and the City of Los Angeles. Breitburn, the City of Los Angeles entered into a Settlement Agreement with NASE. That Settlement Agreement provided for a review of conditions and evaluation of impacts on the neighborhood every 5 years by the ZA. No 5 Year Review was ever held until we pressed the matter in 2019.

The current Review resulted in an error-filled ruling by the ZA based on a Categorical Exemption from CEQA. PCEC's operations at the West Pico Drill site have violated multiple laws by failing to obtain required ZA approvals and CEQA clearance for 25 major projects, including 24 major oil well projects. This denies the neighborhood the protection it needs and is entitled to by law.

NASE demands that the City protect the neighborhood by:

- 1. Granting the Appeal filed by our attorney Amy Minter.**
- 2. Requiring the City to perform proper Environmental Review in the West Pico Drill site and reject the improper Categorical Exemption granted by the ZA;**
- 3. Requiring the City to review all unapproved projects at the West Pico Drill Site, especially the 24 illegal oil well projects executed without ZA approval since 2000;**
- 4. Requiring the City to follow its own laws on the regulation of oil drilling and follow the State's CEQA laws and the City's CEQA guidelines that say that drilling, redrilling or conversion of oil wells cannot be granted Categorical Exemption from environmental review;**

**Respectfully submitted,
Richard S. Weiner**