

Communication from Public

Name: Cheviot Hills Home Owners' Association
Date Submitted: 10/27/2021 11:56 AM
Council File No: 21-1025
Comments for Public Posting: Please see attached letter on behalf of Cheviot Hills Home Owners' Association

Cheviot Hills Home Owners' Association

P.O. Box 64458, Los Angeles, CA 90064 www.cheviot hills.org

October 25, 2021

Via Council File System

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

Re: CF 21-1025
West Pico Drill Site, 9101 & 9151 W. Pico Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90035
Appeal by Neighbors for a Safe Environment (NASE)

To the Los Angeles City Council:

The Cheviot Hills Home Owners' Association represents some 1400 households situated less than one mile from the West Pico Drill Site. Our community is also immediately adjacent to the Rancho Park and Hillcrest Drill Sites, so our community has more Controlled Drill Sites concentrated in our vicinity than any other part of Los Angeles.

Our Association calls upon the City Council to grant the appeal by Neighbors for a Safe Environment (NASE) and thereby overturn the unconscionable and erroneous Categorical Exemption from environmental review.

NASE's attorney Amy Minter lays out a very compelling case against the Categorical Exemption, showing that it violates the State's CEQA law and the City's own CEQA guidelines for processing oil cases. Moreover, Ms. Minter and NASE show conclusively that through the Categorical Exemption and the broader mishandling of this drill site, the City is allowing illegal oil drilling to pass without required review or corrective action. This is tantamount to allowing by-right oil drilling in urban Los Angeles, which has been contrary to the City Code since 1945.

Consequently, while this case directly concerns the West Pico Drill Site near our community, it also impacts many if not all of the other oil drill sites in the City. If allowed to stand, the Categorical Exemption and the associated ZA ruling and Area Planning Commission ruling will signal to all oil companies operating in the City that they need not obey City laws and that the City will assist them in evading the State's CEQA law. City Council cannot allow that to stand.

Sincerely,

Bob Keehn, President

On Behalf of the Board of Directors, Cheviot Hills Home Owners' Association