

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) signed into law on November 15, 2021, includes \$4.7 billion for orphan well remediation—including funding to be made available to states via federal grants; and

WHEREAS, on January 10, 2022, California Governor Gavin Newsom announced the 2022-23 state budget proposal which included Climate and Clean Energy funding investments to expand opportunities and create high-quality jobs, while advancing a healthy and more equitable California; and

WHEREAS, Governor Newsom's Proposed Budget for 2022-2023 includes onetime \$200 million appropriation for the California Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) within the Department of Conservation (DOC) to permanently plug and seal orphan/deserted wells and decommission associated facilities—funding that can maximize federal grant eligibility through additional federal matching funds; and

WHEREAS, On January 31, 2022, United States Secretary of the Interior, Hon. Deb Haaland, announced the initial round of federal grants for newly established orphan oil and gas well remediation program from the IIJA, which California is eligible for at least \$265 million; and

WHEREAS, orphan/deserted oil and gas wells with no responsible operator pose a threat to public health, safety, and environment, potentially leaking leak oil, injected fluids, or formation water into nearby underground sources of drinking water or surface waters and can release methane, hydrogen sulfide or other gases into groundwater or the atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, the US EPA estimates that in 2019, approximately 6.6 million metric tons equivalent of CO2 were emitted nationally from abandoned oil and gas wells in 2019; and

WHEREAS, the California Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) of the California Department of Conservation has estimated that there are more than 5,300 known orphan, deserted, and potentially deserted wells across the state, including approximately 1,400 across Los Angeles County;

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2021-2022 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for the \$200 million appropriation in the Governor's proposed budget for 2022-2023 for the State to permanently plug and seal orphan wells across the state in order to mitigate the risks posed by these wells and protect public health, safety, and the environment.

PRESENTED BY: 
MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Councilwoman, 7th District

SECONDED BY: 

SECONDED BY: 