

Communication from Public

Name: Pico Robertson Health and Safety Coalition
Date Submitted: 07/31/2022 10:01 AM
Council File No: 21-1025
Comments for Public Posting: Please see the appended letter from Katy Young Yaroslavsky, candidate for the open CD5 Council seat, to PLUM Committee Chair Marqueece Harris-Dawson, sent July 30, 2022. We do not support or endorse any candidate, but we thank Katy Young Yaroslavsky for speaking out in detail about the improper Categorical Exemption from environmental review in the West Pico Drill Site case.

July 30, 2022

Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson

Los Angeles City Hall

200 N. Spring Street

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Sent via email to Councilmember.Harris-Dawson@lacity.org

Re: In Support of Appeal filed by NASE re West Pico Drill Site (Council File 21-1025)

Dear Councilmember Harris-Dawson:

I write to you as a longtime environmental and land use attorney, climate policymaker, and candidate for LA City Council District 5, to express my strong and ongoing support for Neighbors for A Safe Environment's (NASE) appeal of the 6/2/21 Zoning Administrator (ZA) Plan Approval determination. The ZA's determination allowing for continued oil drilling operations by Pacific Coast Energy Company (PCEC) without any meaningful environmental review and imposition of additional requirements is hugely problematic not only in connection with the Pico Drill Site, but because it sets a dangerous precedent for the City and undermines our ability to effectively regulate oil drilling in our neighborhoods.

PCEC's violations at the Pico Drill Site include violations of the conditions of approval and the City's Municipal Code, as well as violations of the 2001 Settlement Agreement and CEQA's rules governing categorical exemptions. For reasons that are baffling, the ZA recognizes some of these many violations and yet nevertheless decides to allow existing operations to continue under the Plan Approval without requiring additional conditions or environmental review. The recent oil leak at the Pico Drill Site underscores the chasm between the ZA's conclusion and the onsite reality.

Allowing negligent operators to continue polluting our neighborhoods – without requiring meaningful environmental review and the imposition of public health and safety conditions when we have the chance – is unacceptable. Fortunately, you and the PLUM committee have the opportunity *right now* to take a stand against ongoing violations at the Pico Drill Site and protect public health by affirming the appeal brought by NASE. I ask you to stand with our neighborhoods and grant NASE's appeal.

With gratitude,

Katy Young Yaroslavsky