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October 13, 2022

Los Angeles City Council
c/o Office of the City Clerk
City Hall, Room 395
Los Angeles, California 90012

Attention: PLUM Committee

Dear Honorable Members:

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS FOR THE CITYWIDE OIL AND GAS DRILLING ORDINANCE; CPC-2022-4864-CA; ENV-2022-4865-MND; CF 17-0447-S2

On September 26, 2022, a report from the City Planning Commission (CPC) was transmitted to the Council File No. 17-0447-S2 (related to Council File Nos. 17-0447 and 17-0447-S1). The Report recommended that the City Council (Council) approve the Oil and Gas Drilling Ordinance (Ordinance) amending Sections 12.03, 12.20, 12.24, and 13.01 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) to prohibit new oil and gas drilling activities, make existing extraction a nonconforming use in all zones, and require the phase out of existing operations after an amortization period.

In addition to the CPC recommending adoption of the Ordinance, the CPC also found that the proposed Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND), ENV-2022-4865-MND, was the appropriate environmental clearance and recommended that the whole of the administrative record to date move forward for Council's consideration, inclusive of all comments received after the circulation period ends on October 17, 2022. Following CPC's recommendation, on October 6, 2022, Council's Energy, Climate Change, Environmental Justice, and River Committee also recommended that the City Council adopt the proposed ordinance and consider the IS/MND to be the appropriate environmental clearance, subject to the consideration of the entire administrative record and all comments received to date.

The IS/MND was published and made available for public review and comment on September 15, 2022. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15073, the IS/MND has a 30-day public review and comment period. Therefore, the comment period runs until October 17, 2022. The CEQA Guidelines Section 15025(c) provides advisory bodies such as the Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) Committee the ability to make a recommendation on a project, including the proposed IS/MND, in draft or final form. As such, State law gives the PLUM Committee, acting as an advisory body, the authority to consider the IS/MND in draft form.

The lead agency must consider the comments it receives during the review period prior to adopting the IS/MND. Transmitted herewith are responses to comments regarding the IS/MND that have been received as of October 11, 2022 as well as an Errata to the IS/MND that provide minor updates to factual information related to the existing environmental setting in the IS/MND and associated technical studies for air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, and noise. The minor updates reflected in the Errata clarify, amplify, or make minor modifications to the information already presented. None of these updates modify the analysis or conclusions of the document; no recirculation is required as there are no new impacts or new mitigation measures identified to avoid a significant environmental impact.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, and the information contained within the whole of the administrative record, the Department of City Planning recommends that the PLUM Committee recommend the adoption of the proposed ordinance and findings, as well as recommend to the City Council adoption of the Mitigated Negative Declaration and associated Errata, and related CEQA findings to move forward for City Council's consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vincent P. Bertoni', written over a large, loopy circular scribble.

VINCENT P. BERTONI, AICP
Director of Planning

VPB:AV:NM:CS:LR

Enclosures

Responses to Comments on the IS/MND Received as of October 11, 2022
Errata to the IS/MND