

## Communication from Public

**Name:** J. Barclay

**Date Submitted:** 04/16/2023 09:51 PM

**Council File No:** 21-1025

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear City Council, I support the NASE appeal. Please act now to keep our community safe from this nuisance site that harms the health of those who live in the surrounding area.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Yonah Bookstein

**Date Submitted:** 04/16/2023 02:28 PM

**Council File No:** 21-1025

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear Honorable Council Members, My name is Rabbi Yonah Bookstein and I have lived in the Pico Robertson neighborhood near the West Pico Drill Site since 2004. My congregation, the Pico Shul, was located directly across Pico Blvd from the Drill Site from 2016 to 2020. Our offices are still located there across the street from the Drill Site at 9116 W. Pico Blvd. Odors and emissions from the Drill Site plagued my synagogue with frequency from the time we moved in. We struggled to figure out how to respond effectively for years. I am submitting this statement to the Council File because I cannot attend the PLUM Committee hearing on NASE's appeal scheduled for April 18. April 18 is Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, and my rabbinical duties must take precedence. In addition to my congregation, there are 6 synagogues and a Jewish school within ONE BLOCK of the drill site. In fall 2019, Neighbors for A Safe Environment (NASE) and Professor Salman provided important and knowledgeable leadership in tracking permitting, identifying violations, and engaging with the regulatory agencies including the City Zoning Administrator, CalGEM, and SCAQMD. NASE also invoked the requirement's of its 2001 Settlement Agreement with the City and the operating oil company, which requires 5 Year Reviews of compliance and conditions of use that were never held. The Settlement Agreement specifically invokes Condition 78 of the ZA determination issued in April of 2000 to set the procedural requirements of the 5 Year Reviews. Condition 78 mandates that the ZA "shall . . . evaluate neighborhood impacts" and "the efficacy of mitigation measures." Those are steps that must be taken through the CEQA process and they preclude the use of a Categorical Exemption from environmental review, which is also precluded on multiple other grounds identified by NASE, NASE's attorney Amy Minter, and Professor Salman in their submissions to the appeal case file. NASE, their attorney Amy Minter, and Professor Salman speak for me and I think for a great many community members who have been disturbed and distraught by the dozens of major violations at the West Pico Drill Site, the impact of spills and emissions from the West Pico Drill Site, and the seeming epidemic of unapproved projects on oil wells that has been unleashed at 3 neighboring Drill Sites in CD5 within 1 1/2

miles of the West Pico Drill Site. Please grant NASE's appeal to overturn the improper Categorical Exemption and thereby send the West Pico Drill Site case back to the ZA for fresh and proper action. Peace and Blessings, Rabbi Yonah Bookstein