



November 30, 2020

Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 9001

Re: Support for Setbacks Around Oil and Gas Operations -- Council File 17-0447 and 17-7-0447-S1

Dear members of the Los Angeles City Council:

On behalf of Abundant Housing LA, I am writing to urge the City Council to move quickly to adopt a 2500-foot human health and safety buffer ordinance for oil and gas extraction operations in the City of Los Angeles. Specifically, we urge the Council to take the next step: formally requesting the Planning Department and City Attorney to draft such an ordinance.

At the Energy, Climate Change and Environmental Justice Committee meeting on November 17, the City Attorney's office clearly indicated there is a legal path for the City to establish such an ordinance. The City Attorney's Office also stated its intention and ability to defend such an ordinance against likely lawsuits from the oil industry and oil companies. We urge the City Council not to be cowed by oil industry threats or bully tactics, and to move expeditiously to protect community public health and advance environmental justice.

Abundant Housing LA is one of over 80 organizations across the city standing in solidarity with directly impacted communities who have been fighting for four-plus years for the establishment of this ordinance. We share those communities' frustration at this slow extremely slow pace and what it says about the priority the City places on protecting these communities.

As Los Angeles positions itself nationally and internationally as a leader on environmental and climate issues, and at the end of a historic year of racial justice protest, bold leadership by the City Council and Mayor Garcetti to challenge environmental racism and fossil fuel production in our City is long overdue.

We also strongly support the establishment of a workforce development, clean-up, and economic revitalization plan as we phase out oil drilling in our city. The City should work with a range of stakeholders to ensure that oil extraction workers who stand to lose their jobs years from now when these sites close down can transition well in advance to safer and more stable employment with comparable pay in other industries. The proposed phase-out of oil extraction would allow oil companies to continue operating for several years after the City declares oil operations a non-conforming use, giving the City ample time to support oil workers in making this transition.

Equally important, the work of plugging wells and remediating oil sites will be a source of employment -- and of well-paying, unionized employment with the right policy approach -- and will ensure that communities burdened by this polluting industry will not be left with its toxic legacy. Remediating oil sites will allow this land to be repurposed for uses that can benefit communities, create jobs, and revitalize neighborhood economies.

Lastly, the City is tasked with building 450,000 homes over the next 8 years and ensuring that in every community, regardless of race and income, all Angelenos can experience affordable, livable, and sustainable communities. If we are to ensure that homes are built in communities that provide this lifestyle to everyone, then supporting policies for setbacks around oil and gas operations help to lay the foundation to create a future where we can reduce and mitigate racist and classist disparities in our data. As climate change continues to worsen, creating environmentally racist outcomes, we need to work towards a future where everyone can not only be housed but can do so in a healthy community.

Thank you in advance for your leadership and action on this matter.

Leonora Camner

Leonora Camner
AHLA Executive Director



Roderick Hall
AHLA Organizing Director

Fwd: CBD Support for Setbacks Around Oil and Gas Operations -- Council Files 17-0447 & 17-0447-S1

1 message

Anna Martinez <anna.martinez@lacity.org>
To: City Clerk Council and Public Services <Clerk.CPS@lacity.org>

Mon, Nov 30, 2020 at 5:09 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **'Maya Golden-Krasner' via Clerk - CityClerk** <cityclerk@lacity.org>
Date: Mon, Nov 30, 2020 at 4:36 PM
Subject: CBD Support for Setbacks Around Oil and Gas Operations -- Council Files 17-0447 & 17-0447-S1
To: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org <councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org>, councilmember.martinez@lacity.org <councilmember.martinez@lacity.org>, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org <councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org>, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org <councilmember.bonin@lacity.org>, councilmember.price@lacity.org <councilmember.price@lacity.org>, councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org <councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org>, councilmember.wesson@lacity.org <councilmember.wesson@lacity.org>, councilmember.koretz@lacity.org <councilmember.koretz@lacity.org>, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org <councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org>, councilmember.lee@lacity.org <councilmember.lee@lacity.org>, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org <councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org>, councilmember.deleon@lacity.org <councilmember.deleon@lacity.org>
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Dear LA City Council members,

Please see the attached letter from the Center for Biological Diversity supporting a 2500-foot setback from oil and gas operations in the City. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Best,

Maya

Maya Golden-Krasner (she/her)

Deputy Director | Senior Attorney

Climate Law Institute

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