

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: To: Mayor Garcetti and Los Angeles City Councilmembers Re: Motion CF 17-0447-S1 adopted 12-10-2019 Given the ravaging effects of oil & gas production & storage (O&G) in Los Angeles, all who live or breathe here are at exceptionally higher risk (eg, Porter Ranch) of suffering and death from our extremely close proximity to both oil wells and gas storage facilities. Not only are we exposed to cancers from ongoing fugitive emissions, we also suffer more deaths from Covid due to this proximity. Air pollution linked with higher COVID-19 death rates: People with COVID-19 who live in U.S. regions with high levels of air pollution are more likely to die from the disease than people who live in less polluted areas, according to a new nationwide study from Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. We trust that the following precedents will help each of you, our Electeds, to make long overdue and critically needed changes to protect your constituents and all who visit or work in the City. Thus Whereas the State of California is setting standards to electrify all vehicular traffic as a first step. Whereas the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted Our County (2019), considered the most ambitious Sustainability Plan in the nation, incorporating Goal 7 to bring about a fossil fuel-free LA County, consonant with the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 7. Whereas LA County also recently (March 2020) updated its 2015 climate risk assessment plan. Whereas Culver City has already committed to prioritizing the environment we all need to live and breathe in by ending urban drilling via amortization. Whereas President-elect Biden has committed to ending subsidies to oil & gas interests. Although not banning fracking, he is in effect taking away the monetary lifeline on which O&G is dependent. And Whereas we would like to believe that as elected officials you will uphold your fiduciary responsibility to prioritize our human needs, and given the precedents listed above, we Therefore make the following request that given The rapidity with which climate disasters are occurring in California due to Our desiccated forests have become like tinder, escalating Wildfires that are making our air unbreathable, especially for sensitive receptors, In turn worsening not only our physical health (Covid, asthma, COPD, etc), But also may be contributing to the rapidly growing mental health crisis and

suicide rates. AND KNOWING THAT YOU HAVE THE POWER TO BRING ABOUT the NEEDED CHANGE, We respectfully ask that the City Attorney's legal analysis of what's permissible take into account all of the above in factoring costs and who ends up paying the price of your decisions. Thus we request that the City of Los Angeles (1) Require that all oil wells within 2500' of inhabited areas be sunsetted within 5 years via a just transition using the oil company's revenue to retrain their workers to do so. (2) That all oil and gas storage and/or production facilities provide adequate bonding to protect residents within a half-mile of their operations by demanding an escrow account funded by 1/4 of their quarterly gross revenue. And if not needed to address costs of a disaster or other risks incurred, that the money remains in escrow to be used for properly plugging their abandoned & end-of-life wells. (3) If any owner/ operator cannot afford to carry out the above two requirements, they thereby go into receivership to address these critical needs for the well-being of the climate, of their workers, and of all who reside in or come within a half-mile of their operations. Respectfully submitted on behalf of Frack Free LA County by Dr Suzanne De Benedittis, PhD/Social Ethics & Analysis November 14, 2020