



TO: Los Angeles City Council
FROM: STAND-L.A.
DATE: 6/7/2016
RE: L.A. City Council Meeting 6.8.16, Agenda Item #15-0387

STAND-L.A., the coalition of communities dedicated to the just protection of the health and safety of all Angelenos, supports the Council's motion to move the position of Petroleum Administrator under the oversight of the Board of Public Works. The decision to move this position to the Board of Public Works – with its clear mission “to support and enhance a quality of life for the City's residents” – signals that the City is ready to take long overdue steps to revise its approach to and regulation of oil and gas extraction in L.A.

Los Angeles is home to the nation's largest urban oil field, where drilling occurs next to homes, schools, parks, places of work and churches. No other city faces such an overwhelming threat from the oil industry on community health and safety. Therefore, it is critical that the City Council selects a Petroleum Administrator who maintains issue expertise and independence, along with significant experience working in public health, so as to prioritize community wellness over oil industry interests.

The Board of Public Works has a history of showing concern and care for the communities it serves, providing greater accessibility and accountability for its projects. In placing the Petroleum Administrator under the Board of Public Works, City Council sends the strong message that regulation of oil and gas extraction in Los Angeles is an issue of public health and safety. STAND-L.A. commends City Council for signaling its consideration and support for the children, families, and residents most seriously affected by neighborhood drilling. We hope this is the first of many such signs of support.

STAND-L.A. hopes City Council will vote to pass this motion on Wednesday, June 8, 2016, and soon thereafter fill the position of Petroleum Administrator with someone dedicated to protecting the public health and safety of all Angelenos.

Signed,

Richard Parks, Executive Director, Redeemer Community Partnership
Reverend Kelvin Sauls, Senior Pastor, Holman United Methodist Church
Nancy Halpern-Ibrhahim, Executive Director, Esperanza Community Housing Corporation
Byron Ramos-Gudiel, Executive Director, Communities for a Better Environment
Martha Dina Arguello, Executive Director, Physicians for Social Responsibility – Los Angeles