



August 18, 2014

CF #13-1152-S1

Councilman Paul Koretz
6380 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 800
Los Angeles, CA 90035

Re: Support For Los Angeles Zoning Ordinance To Prohibit Hydraulic Fracturing (Fracking), Extreme Drilling Techniques, And Waste Disposal Wells

Dear Councilman Koretz,

- Joseph Jordan
President
- Claudia Bayard
Vice-President
- Sharon K Christie
Secretary
- Agnes Copeland
Treasurer
- Sylvester Robertson
Communications
Director
- Sue Beidleman
Land Use Chair
- Amy Williams
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- Brad Kane (Co-Chair)
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On behalf of our organization, and our thousands of Los Angeles members, we urge the passage of a strong city **ordinance to prohibit fracking, extreme extraction methods, and toxic disposal techniques**. In addition, we urge Los Angeles City Attorney, Mike Feuer, to take swift action in writing a zoning ordinance that follows the intent of the [motion passed by the City Council on February 28, 2014](#).

The oil and gas industry is using dangerous extraction techniques throughout Los Angeles, and residents are getting sick. Fracking, and related forms of high-intensity oil and gas extraction practices, such as acidizing and gravel packing, require pumping a mixture of known toxic and carcinogenic chemicals, along with hundreds of thousands of gallons of water and sand into a well. Based on self-reporting by the industry, fracking, acidizing, and gravel packing have occurred approximately 400 times in the Los Angeles Basin since June, 2013. Disposal of the highly toxic waste materials created during oil and gas extraction is also occurring throughout the city.

Fracking poses an immediate threat to public health. The industry has used dozens of deadly air toxins — including formaldehyde and hydrochloric acid — hundreds of times in the Los Angeles Basin in recent months. Many of these pollutants are known carcinogens, are linked to birth defects and developmental problems in children, and can cause harm to the heart, liver, brain, immune, and respiratory systems.

Moreover, because fracking, acidizing, and gravel packing employ extremely dangerous chemicals, the water that is used in the process is permanently removed from the hydrological cycle. In the midst of a historic drought, we cannot afford to simply dispose of this precious resource.

In numerous extraction sites throughout the city and county, residents and their children are reporting strong chemical odors in their homes, increased incidences of cancer, dizziness, headaches, nosebleeds, and other respiratory ailments. No community should be sacrificed for the sake of corporate profits.

Fracking poses an immediate threat to public safety. Spills, leaks, and blowouts have occurred in LA county and throughout the state. In recent months, the

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South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) confirmed a leak of explosive levels of methane from a well in Historic West Adams Los Angeles, an area that is surrounded by thousands of residents. With the industry dangerously squeezing new extraction sites into incredibly dense urban communities - surrounded by homes, schools, senior centers, and hospitals like Cedar Sinai – its imperative that action is taken now to prevent a disaster.

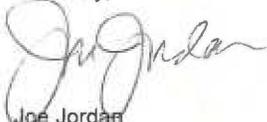
Furthermore, the process of disposing toxic wastewater into injection wells is scientifically linked to increased seismic activity throughout the world. The Los Angeles area is located above a highly active seismic fault system. Any increase in induced seismicity will have serious and dangerous consequences for the City if a large earthquake were to be triggered.

As the largest city in California, the City of Los Angeles has a particularly high stake in ensuring the safety of its citizens, environment, and economy, as well as a collective responsibility to the surrounding communities. Los Angeles already suffers from some of the worst air quality in the nation, and low-income communities of color, already overburdened by pollution, have disproportionately suffered from expanded oil operations. Continued fracking would make these problems worse.

For 3 years, the SCAQMD and the State failed to protect the citizens living near the Allenco well in South Los Angeles from unsafe conditions. The EPA has now recognized violations at the field, and the city has brought suit against Allenco. Because regional and state agencies have been unable to protect Los Angeles residents from these severe threats, the City must take action to protect its people.

We thank the City Council for its bold leadership in voting to advance an ordinance to stop fracking in Los Angeles. We urge the City Attorney to act quickly in order for the Council and Mayor Garcetti to ratify the ordinance by this summer.

Sincerely,



Joe Jordan
President
Pico Neighborhood Council
5651 W. Pico Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90019

Cc: John Darnell

Sources:

South Coast AQMD Rule 1148.2 Well Stimulation Reporting
Center for Biological Diversity, Dirty Dozen: The 12 most commonly used air toxics in unconventional oil development in the Los Angeles Basin (2013)
South Coast AQMD Fugitive Emissions Facility ID 175159