

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Del Rey Neighborhood Council

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(8) Nay(0) Abstain(1) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 10/12/2017

Type of NC Board Action: For if Amended

Impact Information

Date: 02/23/2018

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 17-0447

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: The Del Rey Neighborhood Council requests that City Council establish a human health and safety buffer that prohibits oil drilling within 2,500 feet of sensitive land uses including homes, schools, early childhood centers, senior centers, hospitals and medical clinics, parks, etc.

To: Los Angeles City Council
From: Matt Wersinger
Chairman, Land Use & Planning Committee
Date: February 23rd, 2018
Re: Council File CF 17-0447



Dear City Council,

The Del Rey Neighborhood Council, at its meeting on October 12th, 2017, considered the subject of the safety of gas fields within City jurisdiction, and by a vote of 8-0-1 (Lerner abstaining) the Del Rey NC took the following position:

“Whereas Los Angeles is one of the only places in the United States where oil drilling occurs right in the middle of a densely-populated urban metropolis. Over 620,000 Angelenos live within a mile of an active oil well;

Whereas the City of Los Angeles contains over 1,000 active oil wells and 80% are located within 2,500 feet of a sensitive land use, impacting residents, students, and workers, including wells in close proximity to the Del Rey community with facilities in Playa del Rey and Baldwin Hills;

Whereas neighborhood drilling threatens the health and safety of those living along the fence line of these oil wells;

Whereas oil and gas extraction sites routinely use and emit as byproducts toxic chemicals that are known carcinogens, endocrine disruptors, and are harmful to multiple organ systems. These include but are not limited to formaldehyde, hydrochloric acid, hydrofluoric acid, naphthalene, xylene, benzene and volatile organic compounds;

Whereas the primary health risk factor associated with oil and gas development within urban areas is proximity to active sites, because any toxic emission will be at its highest and most dangerous concentration at the source of pollution;

Whereas the closer you live, work, and play to an active oil well, the more severely your health and safety are threatened. Whereas living next door to neighborhood drilling means chronic headaches and migraines, frequent nosebleeds, exacerbated asthma and other respiratory illness, reproductive harm and an increased risk of cancer;

Whereas the transport, onsite storage and use of toxic and flammable chemicals in industrial facilities in close proximity to homes and other sensitive land uses also raises the risk of catastrophic accidents;

Whereas neighborhood drilling is incompatible with public health and has no place near sensitive land uses such as homes, schools, churches or daycare facilities; and studies show that a buffer of at least 2,500 feet between active oil wells and these sensitive land uses is necessary to protect community health from oil extraction;

Whereas the City of Los Angeles is a leader at the forefront of enacting policies to protect the environment and address global climate change, including the Sustainability City pLAN requiring dramatic reductions in GHG emissions with an 80% GHG reduction target

by 2050;

Whereas the City of Los Angeles has a duty to protect the health and safety of its residents and can use its power over land use and oil operations to protect those residents in this instance;

The Del Rey Neighborhood Council resolves to call on the City of Los Angeles, and the Los Angeles City Council specifically to establish a human health and safety buffer that prohibits oil drilling within 2,500 feet of sensitive land uses including homes, schools, early childhood centers, senior centers, hospitals and medical clinics, parks, etc.

The Del Rey Neighborhood Council resolves to submit a Community Impact Statement to Council File 17-0447 and to communicate support to our City Council member expressing support for this position.

Should you have any questions, please contact me either via email at matt.wersinger@delreync.org or by telephone at 310.721.2980.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt Wersinger', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matt Wersinger
Area A Representative / Chairman, Land Use & Planning Committee

CC: Mike Bonin, Councilman, 11th District, City of Los Angeles; Chuy Orozco, Sr Field Deputy, Council District 11; Leah Garland, Food & Water Watch; Department of Neighborhood Empowerment Early Notification System; Scott Dellinger, DRNC President.