



COUNCIL DISTRICT 10

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

November 22, 2021

Councilmember Paul Krekorian
Chair, Budget and Finance Committee
City of Los Angeles
Sent Via Email

RE: SUPPORT FOR ADVANCING COUNCIL FILE NO. 17-0447 WITH AN IMMEDIATE PROHIBITION ON NEW OIL DRILLING ACTIVITIES

Dear Chair Krekorian:

Urban oil drilling continues to be a pressing public health and environmental justice concern, disproportionately impacting low-income communities of color in Los Angeles.

Thank you for your leadership to advance an amortization study of drill sites to determine a legally justifiable period for phasing out oil productions at oil and gas wells and drill sites across the City of Los Angeles (City). The report by the City Planning Department and Board of Public Works (Departments), which is before your Committee today, proposes advancing this significant work in a two-phased manner. Firstly, by prohibiting future by-right oil activity in the M3 zones, and secondly, by conducting the aforementioned amortization study. I appreciate your efforts to advance this policy and ensure that the Departments have the staffing and resources needed to advance this work in a timely and thoughtful manner.

I write to respectfully recommend that the instruction to the Departments be modified to immediately prohibit future oil uses in the City, including but not limited to within the M3 zone. While relatively subtle in nature, it should be made clear that the City should not authorize any discretionary action that would allow for a pathway to entitling drilling on new sites, but rather that future oil uses are banned altogether.

There are currently 67 active wells in the 10th Council District at two operating drill sites - the Packard Site on Pico Blvd in Mid-City and the Murphy Drill Site on Adams Blvd in Jefferson Park. A study published in the journal "Environmental Research" last April, which focused on drilling sites in two South L.A. neighborhoods, including the Murphy Drill Site, linked living near urban oil wells with wheezing and reduced lung function, symptoms disproportionately and directly affecting people of color in Los Angeles. According to the researchers, in some cases, the respiratory harm rivaled that of daily exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke or living beside highways.

The study could have implications elsewhere in the region. Approximately one-third of L.A. County residents live less than 1 mile from an active drilling site — and some live as close as 60 feet.

Letter to Councilmember Paul Krekorian

November 22, 2021

Page 2 of 2

A legacy of incompatible land use planning practices of the past, has placed drill sites across Los Angeles in close proximity to vulnerable residential communities, schools, parks and other sensitive land uses. For example, the Murphy Drill Site is nestled in a residential neighborhood, and is surrounded on all sides by dense housing, community open space and elder care facilities. In order to prevent even the consideration of incompatible uses of drilling in close proximity to sensitive uses and populations, drilling should not just be prohibited "by right", and thereby still feasible, subject to an entitlement process, but rather should be banned outright.

Thank you for your consideration, and your efforts to further public health, safety, and land use reforms that will promote an environmentally just Los Angeles for all.

Sincerely,



KARLY KATONA

Caretaker, 10th District

c: Members of the City of Los Angeles' Budget and Finance Committee