

MOTION

**"Holding Oil Companies Responsible for Climate Change"**

Earlier this week, the City of New York announced that it was suing the world's five largest publicly traded oil companies, seeking to hold them responsible for present and future damage to the city from climate change. The New York lawsuit is the latest in a series of lawsuits, and Marin County, San Mateo County, Santa Cruz County, and the cities of San Francisco, Oakland, and Imperial Beach have all also filed similar lawsuits against oil companies.

Though the topic is still the subject of political debate, climate change has been a scientifically accepted fact for decades, and reports made public by InsideClimate News in recent years have revealed that oil companies have been aware of climate change - and the industry's role in causing it - since as early as the late 1970s.

The effects of climate change are already being felt in Los Angeles and they are already taking a dire toll on our city and the people who live here. Climate change is a contributing factor in the intensity of recent fires, as well as the abnormally intense weather patterns and storms that can claim lives in floods and mudslides. Climate change is also having a disastrous effect on Angelenos' health, and as the *Los Angeles Times* has reported: "By 2050, the Los Angeles area is expected to warm by 5 degrees on average. Higher temperatures will create more smog, leading to more asthma and cardiovascular disease, including heart attacks. Water quality will also decline, experts say, because as water evaporates, the concentration of pollutants in the water becomes greater. Angelenos will also suffer through more extreme heat, which already accounts for more deaths annually nationwide than flood, storms and lightning combined."

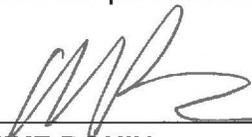
By knowing that their business practice was contributing to climate change and doing nothing to stop their destructive ways, the oil and gas industry should be held liable for the current and future damage climate change is causing our city. Taxpayers should not be footing the bill for infrastructure repairs that likely wouldn't have been necessary had it not been for the willful neglect of the fossil fuel industry.

**WE THEREFORE MOVE** that the City Council request that the City Attorney report to the Council in executive session with options for filing claims against the corporations that have profited from the production and sale of fossil fuels; and

**WE FURTHER MOVE** that the City Council request that the City Attorney prepare an amicus brief to submit in the claims filed by the city of New York against BP, Chevron, Conoco-Phillips, ExxonMobil and Royal Dutch Shell, as well as in any other claims that local municipalities have filed against oil companies based on the damage caused by climate change.

ORIGINAL

PRESENTED BY:

  
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JAN 12 2018