

MOTION

PLANNING & LAND USE MANAGEMENT

For some time now, residents living on the 700 block of West 129th Street in the Harbor Gateway community, have voiced their concerns that the active oil wells in the neighborhood are the cause of detrimental land use and potential structural and geological impacts, such as but not limited to: loud noise, nuisance odors, earth movement, prolonged vibration inside their homes, and some residents have indicated that it could also be causing subsidence in the neighborhood. While there is an active oil well within 500 feet of this neighborhood, it is unclear which oil well, if any, may be causing these negative land use impacts.

The Planning Department has land use oversight for overactive oil wells in the City, primarily oil wells that have received discretionary approval from the Zoning Administrator to operate. The Planning Department may initiate a Planning case to review the site's operations and impose additional conditions intended to lessen impacts on the surrounding community.

The Planning Department is unable to initiate proceedings with an oil well operator when there is no clear evidence creating a direct link between oil wells and land use impacts. In addition, the Board of Public Works, through its Office of Petroleum and Natural Gas Administration and Safety, established in 2016, manages oil drilling leases.

Given the detrimental land use impacts resulting from a legacy of incompatible land use patterns, in 2016, the Council adopted Ordinance No. 184246 (CF 15-1026), the *Clean Up Green Up* ("CUGU") ordinance. The ordinance covers the community planning areas of Pacoima/Sun Valley, Boyle Heights, and Wilmington. Unfortunately, the CUGU ordinance does not apply to the Harbor Gateway neighborhood, as it does in nearby Wilmington, also located in Council District 15.

The purpose of CUGU is to reduce cumulative health impacts resulting from land uses including, but not limited to, concentrated industrial land use, on-road vehicle travel, and heavily freight-dominated transportation corridors, which are incompatible with the sensitive uses to which they are in close proximity, such as but not limited to, homes and schools.

It is of utmost importance to understand what is exactly happening on the 700 block of West 129th Street in the Harbor Gateway community, and whether there is a nexus between the potential land use, structural, and geological impacts that its residents have voiced concerns about and the active oil wells in the neighborhood.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council instruct the Planning Department and the Department of Building and Safety, with the assistance of the Fire Department, Bureau of Engineering, Bureau of Sanitation, Bureau of Street Services, Board of Public Works, in consultation with the City Attorney, to prepare a report with recommendations to remedy any violations of land use, building and safety and fire codes, and road, geological, and structural damage caused by the various active oil wells located in proximity to the 700 block of West 129th Street in the Harbor Gateway community.

PRESENTED BY:

TIM McOSKER
Councilmember, 15th District

SECONDED BY:

Saty Gaudin

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