

Communication from Public

Name: Juliana Fong

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Comments for Public Posting: Honorable President and Members of the City Council, As a health legislative analyst and a recent graduate of Stanford University with a degree in Urban Studies pursuing a career in medicine, one of the most important lessons I learned was how discriminatory practices like redlining and inequitable land use policies have created lasting health disparities between communities of color and wealthier neighborhoods. Urban oil drilling is a stark example of those inequities continuing today. It has harmed some of Los Angeles' poorest and most vulnerable communities for far too long, and it is time to bring this injustice to an end. Study after study has shown that living near oil and gas operations increases exposure to harmful air pollutants and is associated with higher risks of respiratory illness and other serious health problems, burdens that have fallen disproportionately on lower-income communities and communities of color. No family should have to sacrifice their health simply because of where they live. As Los Angeles continues its transition to cleaner, renewable energy, the City has both the opportunity and the responsibility to protect the health of its citizens. I strongly urge the City Council to adopt the proposed ordinance to prohibit new oil and gas drilling and phase out existing wells. Every Angeleno, regardless of their race or income, deserves the same opportunity to live in a healthy, safe, and thriving neighborhood. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Juliana Fong