

## FINDINGS

### Land Use Findings

#### City Charter Section 556 (General Plan)

In accordance with City Charter Section 556, the proposed Oil and Gas Drilling Ordinance (“Oil Ordinance” or “Ordinance”) consistent with Assembly Bill (AB) 3233 is in substantial conformance with the purposes, intent, and provisions of the General Plan. As outlined below, the proposed Ordinance would support and further accomplish the goals, objectives, and policies of the General Plan, such as the following policies that recognize the negative health and safety implications of locating oil wells in proximity to residential and other sensitive uses:

<b>West Adams - Baldwin Hills - Leimert Community Plan</b>
<p><b>Policy LU75-1 Discretionary Review.</b> Seek a high level of discretionary review for any changes to, or expansion of, existing oil extraction sites and activities so that the public may remain informed and involved, and so that appropriate environmental review may take place pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.</p>
<b>Conservation Element - Section 19: Resource Management (Fossil Fuels): Oil</b>
<p><b>Policy 2.</b> Continue to support state and federal bans on drilling in the Santa Monica Bay and on new drilling along the California coast in order to protect the San Pedro and Santa Monica bays from potential spills associated with drilling, extraction and transport operations.</p> <p><b>Policy 3.</b> Continue to protect neighborhoods from potential accidents and subsidence associated with drilling, extraction and transport operations, consistent with California Department of Conservation, Division of Oil and Gas requirements.</p>
<b>Safety Element</b>
<p><b>Policy 1.2.1 Environmental Justice.</b> In keeping with the Plan for a Healthy LA, build a fair, just and prosperous city where everyone experiences the benefits of a sustainable future by correcting the long running disproportionate impact of environmental burdens faced by low-income families and communities of color.</p> <p><b>Policy 1.2.2 Renewable Energy.</b> Aggressively pursue renewable energy sources, transitioning away from fossil based sources of energy and toward 100% renewable energy sources.</p>

<p><b>Policy 1.2.7 Zero Emissions Vehicles.</b> In keeping with the Mobility Plan, work toward zero emissions transportation and goods movement and increase zero emissions infrastructure including charging.</p>
<p><b>A Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles. Chapter 5: Section 5.4 Noxious Activities. (Health Element)</b></p>
<p><b>Policy 5.4.</b> Protect communities' health and well-being from exposure to noxious activities (for example, oil and gas extraction) that emit odors, noise, toxic, hazardous, or contaminant substances, materials, vapors, and others.</p>
<p><b>L.A. Green New Deal (Sustainable City Plan)</b></p>
<p><b>Equity Initiative.</b> Coordinate with L.A. County to develop a sunset strategy for oil and gas production operations countywide.</p> <p><b>Equity Initiative.</b> Reduce oil production by 40% below 2013 levels.</p>

The vast number of these policies recognize the negative health and safety implications of locating oil wells in proximity to residential and other sensitive uses. Further, the City has adopted these policies over the last 20 years that encourage either increased management or termination of oil drilling and the reliance on alternative energy sources. The proposed Ordinance is consistent and does not conflict with the policies identified above, as it would require the termination of oil and gas extraction in the City and limit the expansion and intensification of the nonconforming use during the 20-year phase out period.

The only policies that may arguably not be fully implemented by the Ordinance would be the Objective and Policy 1 in the Conservation Element, which provides:

<p><b>Conservation Element - Section 19: Resource Management (Fossil Fuels): Oil</b></p>
<p><b>Objective:</b> Conserve petroleum resources and enable appropriate, environmentally sensitive extraction of petroleum deposits located within the city's jurisdiction so as to protect the petroleum resources for the use of future generations and to reduce the city's dependency on imported petroleum and petroleum products.</p> <p><b>Policy 1:</b> Continue to encourage energy conservation and petroleum product reuse.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b>Program 1:</b> Public information and energy conservation incentives programs.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b>Program 2:</b> Petroleum products recycling.</p>

**Program 3:** Alternative fuel and energy sources research and use.

Programs 1, 2, and 3, listed under this objective and policy above, are intended to implement this objective and policy are related to energy conservation incentives and education, petroleum product recycling, and encouraging the use of alternative fuels and energy. As such, the proposed Ordinance is not in conflict with these policies and objectives. The proposed Ordinance will eventually stop the extraction of existing oil and gas reserves and will preserve the petroleum product in place. While it may not meet the stated intent to reduce dependence on fossil fuels outside of the State or country, the proposed Ordinance will support the City and State's numerous policies for use of renewable energy over fossil fuels. Additionally, as the proposed Ordinance has a 20-year phase-out schedule, it allows continued extraction of oil and gas while technologies continue to develop to move transportation and other sectors off of fossil fuels. Moreover, the proposed Ordinance is consistent with the policies' intent for being "environmentally sensitive" as it supports protecting sensitive uses from the harmful effects of future oil and gas well activities. There is no objective or policy or program in the Conservation Element mandating or encouraging the protection of existing production activities and nothing in the policies in the Conservation Element shows those policies were adopted by the City Council to protect the environment.

As such, while the 2001 Conversation Element provides a map of the various oil fields in the City and discusses petroleum as a resource, as discussed above, it encourages reducing dependence and use of petroleum. Moreover, other General Plan policies recognize the activities associated with its extraction to be detrimental to public health, safety, and the environment and call for policies like the proposed Ordinance. This is reflected in recent City initiatives and ordinances such as the Green New Deal, LA 100, Clean Up Green Up (LAMC 13.18 eff. June 2016), and in policies included in the updates to the Health and Safety elements of the City's General Plan adopted on November 24, 2021, including but not limited to policy 5.4 of the Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles (Health Element) and policies 1.2.2 and 1.2.7 of the Safety Element.

The proposed Ordinance is consistent with the City's General Plan and other goals and policies that encourage buffers from active wells and call for a transition toward green energy sources such as renewable solar. The proposed Ordinance will help further the goals of the General Plan's Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles, as it seeks to protect community health and wellbeing from exposure to noxious activities, specifically oil and gas extraction, that emit odors, noise, toxic, hazardous, or contaminant substances, materials, vapor and others.

Cessation of oil and gas extraction activities is consistent with the City's General Plan, specific plans and overlays and zoning, as well as the City's Green New Deal and SCAG's Connect SoCal 2024, as it would not interfere with the City's effort to meet such goals and policies and would instead help to further the stated goals and policies.

The General Plan encourages the conservation and orderly extraction of non-renewable resources, including petroleum, where appropriate. The oil and gas resources are conserved under the proposed Ordinance and only restricted from extraction (i.e., they remain physically in

the ground and are not consumed or destroyed); this conservation is important to balance other policies in the General Plan that are furthered and met by the proposed Ordinance. Further, the Ordinance is strongly aligned with numerous other General Plan elements, including the Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles and the Safety Element, which explicitly call for the reduction of hazards from noxious activities. Additionally, in light of the State's goals, codified in numerous statutes, bills, and policies, including the California Air Resources Board (CARB) 2022 Scoping Plan adopted to comply with Senate Bill (SB) 32, which calls for net neutrality and reduction of carbon emissions by 85 percent by 2045, and bills such as SB 1137 to protect sensitive users near oil wells to protect human health, eliminating oil production in the City aligns with the General Plan policies as well as the other state and local goals to reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

#### City Charter Section 558 and LAMC Chapter 1A Section 13B.1.3. (Zoning Code Amendment)

In accordance with City Charter Section 558(b)(2) and Section 13.B.1.3.E.1.b. of Chapter 1A of the LAMC, the adoption of the proposed Ordinance demonstrates conformity with public necessity, convenience, general welfare and good zoning practice. This is achieved by amending the Los Angeles Municipal Code to prohibit new oil and gas extraction and mandate the cessation of all existing oil and gas well sites within a 20-year period. This policy is a response to the inherent incompatibility of industrial oil production with urban residential and sensitive land uses.

The proposed Ordinance's policy is directly supported by recent state legislation. The proposed Ordinance is a direct exercise of the legal authority granted to local governments by AB 3233, which affirms the right of the City to regulate, limit, or prohibit oil and gas operations within its boundaries. Furthermore, by utilizing the nonconforming use status and a 20-year phase-out period, the City furthers similar public health outcomes promoted by SB 1137, which created a 3,200-foot health protection zone around sensitive receptors. This health protection zone covers a majority of the land in the City of Los Angeles due to historic land use patterns, with approximately 70 percent of the City zoned for residential uses. These provisions are necessary to preserve and improve the health and livability of the City by addressing the long-standing injustices to frontline communities and communities of color disproportionately affected by the health impacts of oil drilling. Therefore, the proposed Ordinance utilizes appropriate zoning tools, such as but not limited to a prohibition for new oil and gas uses and nonconformity for existing oil and gas uses, to implement public health and environmental justice policies as indicated under the General Plan findings.

#### **Environmental Findings**

The City of Los Angeles, as the Lead Agency, prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND), Case No. ENV-2025-2885-MND, for the proposed Ordinance. The following conclusions are based on information currently available. If presented with new information prior to the adoption of the environmental document, the City Council reserves the right to review the information before making CEQA findings.

As detailed in the Initial Study/MND, the proposed Ordinance would result in less than significant or no impact related to aesthetics, agriculture and forestry resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation, tribal cultural resources, utility and service systems, wildfire and mandatory findings of significance. Voluntary mitigations are imposed for air quality and biological resources. The Ordinance would result in less than significant impacts with mitigation incorporated with regard to hazardous materials and noise.

In consideration of the whole administrative record and all comments received regarding the MND and the proposed Ordinance, the City Planning Commission should recommend the City Council to adopt the MND pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15074(b). Additionally, with the imposition of mitigation measures, the City Planning Commission shall recommend the City Council to find that there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment; find that the MND reflects the independent judgment and analysis of the City; find the mitigation measures have been made enforceable conditions on the project; and adopt the MND and the Mitigation Monitoring Program prepared for the MND.