

Communication from Public

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Council File No: 17-0447

Comments for Public Posting: To: Mayor Garcetti and Los Angeles City Councilmembers Re: Motion CF 17-0447-S1 adopted 12-10-2019 I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Attorney be requested to provide the Council a legal analysis of the Petroleum Administrator's proposed recommendations outlined in its July 29, 2019 report entitled Feasibility of Amending Current City Land Use Codes in Connection with Health Impacts and Oil and Gas Wells and Drill Sites (CF# 17-0447), including an opinion of financial considerations expressed in the report, and an analysis of risks and exposures, as well as due process considerations for setback requirements as recommended in the report or at other distances. In making decisions regarding financial costs & benefits, please give due consideration to the following: Given the ravaging effects of oil & gas production & storage (O&G) in Los Angeles, all who live or breathe here are at exceptionally higher risk (eg, Porter Ranch) of suffering and death from our extremely close proximity to both oil wells and gas storage facilities. Not only are we exposed to cancers from ongoing fugitive emissions, we also suffer more deaths from Covid due to this proximity. Air pollution linked with higher COVID-19 death rates: People with COVID-19 who live in U.S. regions with high levels of air pollution are more likely to die from the disease than people who live in less polluted areas, according to a new nationwide study from Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. We trust that the following precedents will help each of you, our Electeds, to make long overdue and critically needed changes to protect your constituents and all who visit or work in the City. Thus Whereas the State of California now has Reach Codes to address climate and energy efficiency, and Governor Newsom has recently set standards to electrify all vehicles in our State. And Whereas the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted Our County (2019), considered the most ambitious Sustainability Plan in the nation, incorporating Goal 7 to bring about a fossil fuel-free LA County, consonant with the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 7. Whereas LA County also recently (March 2020) updated its 2015 climate risk assessment plan. Whereas Culver City has already committed to prioritizing the ending of urban drilling via amortization to address our need to live and breathe in a safer and healthier environment, Whereas

President-elect Biden has committed to ending subsidies to oil & gas interests. Although not banning fracking, he is in effect taking away the monetary lifeline on which O&G is dependent. And Whereas we expect that as our elected officials you will uphold your fiduciary responsibility to prioritize our human needs given the precedents listed above, we Therefore make the following request that given The rapidity with which climate disasters are occurring in California due to Our desiccated forests have become like tinder, escalating Wildfires that are making our air unbreathable, especially for sensitive receptors, In turn worsening not only our physical health (Covid, asthma, COPD, etc), But may also in effect be contributing to the rapidly growing mental health crisis and suicide rates. AND KNOWING THAT YOU HAVE THE POWER TO BRING ABOUT the NEEDED CHANGE, We respectfully ask that the City Attorney's legal analysis of what's permissible adequately address by taking into account and factoring in all the costs implicit in the list above and makes explicit who ends up paying the price of your decisions. Thus we request that the City of Los Angeles (1) Require that all oil wells within 2500' of inhabited areas be sunsetted within 5 years via a just transition using the oil company's revenue to retrain their workers to do so. (2) That all oil and gas storage and/or production facilities provide adequate bonding to protect residents within a half-mile of their operations by demanding an escrow account funded by 1/4 of their quarterly gross revenue. And if not needed to address costs of a disaster or other risks incurred, that the money remains in escrow to be used for properly plugging their abandoned & end-of-life wells. (3) If any owner/operator cannot afford to carry out the above two requirements, they thereby go into receivership to address these critical needs for the well-being of the climate, of their workers, and of all who reside in or come within a half-mile of their operations. Respectfully submitted on behalf of Frack Free LA County by Dr Suzanne De Benedittis, PhD/Social Ethics & Analysis November 14, 2020