

## Communication from Public

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**Council File No:** 17-0447

**Comments for Public Posting:** Abundant Housing LA supports the LA Department of City Planning's proposed oil and gas drilling phaseout ordinance as it appeared on 9/12/2022. Please see the attached letter.



9/19/2022

Los Angeles City Council  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Support – Oil and Gas Drilling Phaseout Ordinance – [Council File 17-0447](#)**

Dear Councilmembers,

We write on behalf of Abundant Housing LA in support of the Los Angeles Department of City Planning's (LADCP) draft [Oil and Gas Drilling Ordinance](#), reviewed on 9/12/2022, which would prohibit new oil and gas drilling facilities citywide and phase out the use of existing oil and gas drilling facilities within 20 years of the effective date of the ordinance. This policy would promote housing construction, public health and environmental justice, in addition to helping address the climate crisis.

**Abundant Housing LA** is a pro-housing, nonprofit advocacy organization working to help solve Southern California's housing crisis. We support reforms to legalize more homes, make homes easier to build, increase funding for affordable housing, and protect tenants, which are all needed to make housing more affordable, improve access to jobs and transit, promote greater environmental sustainability, and advance racial and economic equity. As a community organization, in order to maintain our independence, we do not accept financial support from housing developers or their consultants.

As [LADCP notes](#), "Studies show that activities related to oil and gas operations have been associated with many potential negative health and safety impacts, especially when they occur in close proximity to sensitive uses such as homes, schools, places of worship, recreation areas, and healthcare facilities." This is also a racial justice issue. The [Los Angeles Times](#) reports that "Minority neighborhoods where residents were long denied home loans have twice as many oil and gas wells as mostly white neighborhoods, according to a new [study](#) that suggests ongoing health risks in vulnerable communities are at least partly tied to historical structural racism." Furthermore, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports that globally, existing and planned fossil fuel infrastructure's projected emissions exceed levels that would be consistent with holding global heating to the relatively safe level of 1.5 degrees Celsius<sup>1</sup>.

Oil and gas wells in urbanized areas are an obstacle to infill housing development, due to the negative air quality and noise impacts they cause. Simply put, these facilities are bad neighbors. Los Angeles needs to dramatically expand its production of infill housing at all income levels in

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<sup>1</sup> IPCC 2022. ["Climate Change 2022 Mitigation of Climate Change. Summary For Policymakers."](#) Page 20

order to reverse the rise in housing costs. This includes a Regional Housing Needs Allocation of about [457,000 new homes](#) by 2029. Oil and gas wells make that undertaking more difficult by raising public health issues on sites where housing could otherwise be built. We are also encouraged by LADCP's efforts to study whether the 20 year amortization period for phasing out existing oil and gas facilities can be shortened, consistent with legal requirements related to property rights. The people who have to live near these facilities today certainly need relief as soon as possible. Los Angeles must be a city of abundant housing, not sacrifice zones.

For these reasons, we are proud to support the draft ordinance, and thank you for bringing this important proposal forward.

Sincerely,

*Leonora Camner*

Leonora Camner  
Executive Director  
Abundant Housing LA

*David J. Barboza*

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Abundant Housing LA