

Communication from Public

Name: Sean Wallentine
Date Submitted: 12/10/2025 05:05 PM
Council File No: 17-0447
Comments for Public Posting: See attached comment letter.



December 10, 2025

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

RE: Strong Opposition to Proposed Oil and Gas Drilling Ordinance (CF 17-0447-S2)

Honorable Councilmembers:

On behalf of the California Independent Petroleum Association (CIPA), whose member companies have operated *duly permitted* wells in the City of Los Angeles for generations, we respectfully but adamantly oppose the proposed Oil and Gas Drilling Ordinance.

To operate, producers must obtain numerous local, state, and federal permits. Companies invested millions of dollars based on those permits. Now, with no new scientific basis, the City is contemplating a blanket prohibition that would ban new production, prohibit essential maintenance, convert every existing well into a “nonconforming use,” and force a shutdown of all operations — even where the City itself previously found the work safe, compliant, and lawful.

That sudden reversal is not just unreasonable. It strips away long-standing rights, destabilizes critical energy infrastructure, and exposes the City to significant legal and financial consequences. More importantly, it does nothing to reduce Los Angeles’ need for petroleum. Every barrel not produced locally must be imported by foreign tankers that are completely exempt from state environmental rules and regulations, increasing emissions, increasing risks at our ports, and increasing the City’s dependence on foreign oil.

CIPA member wells have operated under CEQA-vetted permits, City zoning rules, Fire Code setbacks, SCAQMD regulation, and rigorous state oversight. The proposed ordinance disregards that entire regulatory framework.

Los Angeles can hold operators accountable without erasing vested rights or undermining its own prior permitting decisions. We urge the Council to reject the ordinance and instead pursue a path that protects public health while honoring established rights and maintaining energy reliability for Los Angeles residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean Wallentine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and a distinct "W" at the end.

Sean Wallentine
Vice President, Government Affairs
California Independent Petroleum Association (CIPA)