

Fwd: STAND-LA Letter to Los Angeles City Council -- Legal & economic issues, next steps re oil & gas setback

1 message

Anna Martinez <anna.martinez@lacity.org>

Tue, Dec 1, 2020 at 7:53 AM

To: City Clerk Council and Public Services <Clerk.CPS@lacity.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Eric Romann** <eromann@psr-la.org>

Date: Mon, Nov 30, 2020 at 6:34 PM

Subject: STAND-LA Letter to Los Angeles City Council -- Legal & economic issues, next steps re oil & gas setback

To: <councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org>, <councilmember.martinez@lacity.org>, Council Member Krekorian <councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org>, <councilmember.blumenfeld@lacity.org>, <councilmember.bonin@lacity.org>, <councilmember.price@lacity.org>, <councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org>, <councilmember.wesson@lacity.org>, <councilmember.rodriguez@lacity.org>, <councilmember.ryu@lacity.org>, <councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org>, <councilmember.lee@lacity.org>, <councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org>, <councilmember.deleon@lacity.org>, <gilbert.cedillo@lacity.org>, <paul.koretz@lacity.org>

Cc: <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>, Mike N. Feuer <mike.n.feuer@lacity.org>, Erica Blyther <erica.blyther@lacity.org>

Dear Council President Nury Martinez and the Los Angeles City Council:

On behalf of the STAND-LA Coalition, please find attached a letter addressing legal and economic issues raised during the November 17 Energy, Climate Change and Environmental Justice Committee discussion on a potential oil and gas setback ordinance, and urging the City Council to move forward in establishing such an ordinance.

Thank you in advance for your support and consideration. Please contact us with any questions

Sincerely,
Eric Romann
STAND-LA Coalition
510.285.7240 (mobile)



STAND-LA Letter to LA City Council 11.30.20.pdf

113K



December 1, 2020
Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 9001

Re: Support for Setbacks Around Oil and Gas Operations -- Council File 17-0447 and 17-7-0447-S1

Dear members of the Los Angeles City Council:

On behalf of Greenpeace USA, I am writing to urge the City Council to move quickly to adopt a 2500-foot human health and safety buffer ordinance for oil and gas extraction operations in the City of Los Angeles. Specifically, we urge the Council to take the next step: formally requesting the Planning Department and City Attorney to draft such an ordinance.

At the Energy, Climate Change and Environmental Justice Committee meeting on November 17, the City Attorney's office clearly indicated there is a legal path for the City to establish such an ordinance. The City Attorney's Office also stated its intention and ability to defend such an ordinance against likely lawsuits from the oil industry and oil companies. We urge the City Council not to be cowed by oil industry threats or bully tactics, and to move expeditiously to protect community public health and advance environmental justice.

Greenpeace USA is one of over 80 organizations across the city standing in solidarity with directly impacted communities who have been fighting for four-plus years for the establishment of this ordinance. We share those communities' frustration at this slow extremely slow pace and what it says about the priority the City places on protecting these communities.

As Los Angeles positions itself nationally and internationally as a leader on environmental and climate issues, and at the end of a historic year of racial justice protest, bold leadership by the City Council and Mayor Garcetti to challenge environmental racism and fossil fuel production in the city is long overdue.

We also strongly support the establishment of a workforce development, clean-up, and economic revitalization plan as we phase out oil drilling in Los Angeles. The City should begin immediately consulting with a range of stakeholders to ensure that oil extraction workers who stand to lose their jobs years from now when these sites close down have a plan to transition well in advance—either to safer and more stable employment with comparable pay in other industries, or to a secure and dignified retirement with certainty around healthcare and other key benefits. The proposed phase-out of oil extraction would allow oil companies to continue operating for several years after the City declares oil operations a non-conforming use, giving the City ample time to support oil workers in making this transition.

Equally important, the work of plugging wells and remediating oil sites will be a source of employment—and of well-paying, unionized employment with the right policy approach—and will ensure that communities burdened by this polluting industry will not be left with its toxic legacy.

Remediating oil sites will allow this land to be repurposed for uses that can benefit communities, create jobs, and revitalize neighborhood economies.

Thank you in advance for your leadership and action on this matter.

Caroline Henderson
Senior Climate Campaigner
Greenpeace USA

**Fwd: Greenpeace USA Letter in Support of Setbacks Around Oil and Gas Operations -
- Council File 17-0447 and 17-7-0447-S1**

1 message

Anna Martinez <anna.martinez@lacity.org>
To: City Clerk Council and Public Services <Clerk.CPS@lacity.org>

Tue, Dec 1, 2020 at 9:37 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Caroline Henderson** <chenders@greenpeace.org>

Date: Tue, Dec 1, 2020 at 9:23 AM

Subject: Greenpeace USA Letter in Support of Setbacks Around Oil and Gas Operations -- Council File 17-0447 and 17-7-0447-S1

To: <councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org>, <councilmember.martinez@lacity.org>, <councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org>, <councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org>, <councilmember.bonin@lacity.org>, <councilmember.price@lacity.org>, <councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org>, <councilmember.wesson@lacity.org>, <councilmember.rodriquez@lacity.org>, <councilmember.ryu@lacity.org>, <councilmember.koretz@lacity.org>, <councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org>, <councilmember.lee@lacity.org>, <councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org>, <councilmember.deleon@lacity.org>
Cc: <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>, <mike.n.feuer@lacity.org>, <erica.blyther@lacity.org>

Dear members of the Los Angeles City Council:

I am writing on behalf of Greenpeace USA and its Los Angeles members to urge the City Council to move quickly to adopt a 2500-foot human health and safety buffer ordinance for oil and gas extraction operations in the City of Los Angeles.

Specifically, we urge the Council to take the next step: formally requesting the Planning Department and City Attorney to draft such an ordinance. Please find our letter attached, Greenpeace USA Letter to LA City Council re: oil setback December 2020.

Sincerely,
Caroline

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Caroline Henderson
Senior Climate Campaigner
GPUS (Based in San Francisco, California on Ohlone territory)

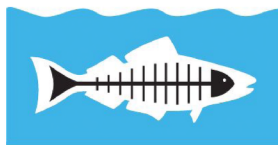
Cell: 603 355 7039
Skype: chenderson07
Pronouns: she, her, hers

**Greenpeace USA Letter to LA City Council re oil setback December 2020.pdf**

60K



5 GYRES
SCIENCE TO SOLUTIONS



Heal the Bay



December 1, 2020

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

Dear members of the Los Angeles City Council:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we are writing to urge the City Council to move quickly to adopt a 2500-foot human health and safety buffer ordinance for oil and gas extraction operations in the City of Los Angeles.

On November 17th, the City Council committee on Energy, Climate Change and Environmental Justice learned from the City Attorney's office that there is a clear legal path for the City to establish such an ordinance. Furthermore, the City Attorney's Office stated its intention and ability to defend an ordinance against the oil industry and oil companies that will inevitably attack Council with threats of litigation. To that end, we urge Council to move decisively to protect community public health and advance environmental justice by formally requesting the Planning Department and City Attorney to draft a 2500-foot human health and safety buffer ordinance.

We are proud to stand with over 80 organizations across the city in solidarity with directly impacted communities who have been fighting for over four years to see their health and safety prioritized over the profits of the fossil fuel industry. We share their frustration at the outrageously slow pace and (lack of) progress in addressing widespread environmental injustice in Los Angeles, not to mention what it says about the City's interest in protecting these communities who are predominantly lower-income families and communities of color.

The kind of inspired leadership required to confront environmental racism and the human impacts of fossil fuel production in the City of Los Angeles is long overdue. If we are to embody the kind of national and international leadership required to address our rapidly accelerating climate crisis we need a City Council and Mayor that are committed to act boldly, decisively and without delay.

Equally important in addressing the human health impacts of neighborhood fossil fuel extraction is the establishment of a robust workforce development program. With the right policy, a clean-up and economic revitalization plan that protects the hard working Angelenos in the fossil fuel industry will help position them to lead in a just transition to a renewable energy future.

It is critical that the City work with a broad range of stakeholders to ensure that oil workers who stand to lose their jobs in the phasing out of fossil fuels will have the ability to transition to safe and equitable employment in other industries. The work of plugging and remediating oil sites can serve as an important source of well-paying, unionized employment in such a transition, ensuring that the communities burdened by polluting industries will not be left with its toxic legacy. Given that the proposed phasing out of fossil fuel operations would take several years after the declaration of non-conforming use, the City should have adequate time to support these union oil workers through the remediation and repurposing of sites that will ultimately benefit community health, create jobs, and revitalize local economies.

Again, we are long past due for bold and decisive action on this front. Our communities and the climate can no longer wait, and hard-working Angelenos in the energy sector deserve an equal stake in the transition away from fossil fuels toward the kind of regenerative economies that will long ensure public health, good paying jobs, and a livable planet for future generations. If these challenges can be tackled in Los Angeles, they can be overcome anywhere in the world.

Thank you in advance for your leadership and action on this matter.

Graham Hamilton
Surfrider Foundation
Los Angeles Coordinator

Bruce Reznik
LA Waterkeeper
Executive Director

Dianna Cohen
Plastic Pollution Coalition
CEO & Co-Founder

Jackie Nuñez
The Last Plastic Straw
Founder

Melanie Winter
The River Project
Founder & Director

Emily Parker
Heal The Bay
Coastal & Marine Scientist

Alison Waliszewski
5 Gyres Institute
Programs Manager

Stiv Wilson
Peak Plastic Foundation
CoDirector

Andrea Leon-Grossmann
AZUL
Climate Action Director

An Nguyen
Director of Content & Research
Climate Action LAB

Baani Behniwal
Policy Analyst
Californians Against Waste

Mariana Del Valle Prieto Cervantes
Clean Waters and Ocean Advocate
GreenLatinos

Katherine O'Dea
Executive Director
Save Our Shores

Fwd: Rootskeeper Letter in Support of 2500 foot Setback

1 message

Anna Martinez <anna.martinez@lacity.org>

Tue, Dec 1, 2020 at 7:53 AM

To: City Clerk Council and Public Services <Clerk.CPS@lacity.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **David Braun** <david@rootskeeper.org>

Date: Mon, Nov 30, 2020 at 7:58 PM

Subject: Rootskeeper Letter in Support of 2500 foot Setback

To: councilmemberrodriguez <councilmember.rodriguez@lacity.org>, councilmemberryu <councilmember.ryu@lacity.org>, councilmemberkoretz <councilmember.koretz@lacity.org>, councilmemberbuscaino <councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org>, councilmemberlee <councilmember.lee@lacity.org>, councilmemberharris-dawson <councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org>, councilmemberdeleon <councilmember.deleon@lacity.org>

Cc: mayorgarcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>, mikenfeuer <mike.n.feuer@lacity.org>, ericablyther <erica.blyther@lacity.org>



November 30, 2020

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

Dear Members of the Los Angeles City Council:

On behalf of the residents of Los Angeles, we are writing to urge the City Council to move quickly to adopt a 2500-foot human health and safety buffer ordinance for oil and gas extraction operations in the City of Los Angeles. Specifically, we urge the Council to take the next step: formally requesting the Planning Department and City Attorney to draft such an ordinance.

The 2015 study from the experts at the California Council on Science and Technology (CCST) funded by the State of California, made a clear recommendation of a setback, and indicated that the minimum distance to adequately protect from all of the chemical agents used in drilling and organic compounds released from drilling was a minimum 2500 foot setback. You must implement this distance to adequately protect our children. Not one more case of cancer, asthma or other related illness will be tolerated.

Additional studies have found that people living within a half-mile of oil and gas operations are routinely exposed to air pollutants five times the federal hazard standard, leading to an increased risk of respiratory problems, neurological issues, reproductive health effects, and cancer.

At the Energy, Climate Change and Environmental Justice Committee meeting on November 17, the City Attorney's office clearly indicated there is a legal path for the City to establish such an ordinance. The City Attorney's Office also stated its intention and ability to defend such an ordinance against likely lawsuits from the oil industry and oil companies. The residents of Los Angeles have been paying for the cost of doing business with oil and gas with their health for far too long. We urge the City Council not to be cowed by oil industry threats or bully tactics, and to move expeditiously to protect community public health and advance environmental justice.

Rootskeeper is one of over 80 organizations across the city standing in solidarity with directly impacted communities who have been fighting for four-plus years for the establishment of this ordinance, and many years before that in the fight for basic lawful health and safety protections. We share these legitimate frustrations about the slow pace of this process and what it says about the priority the City places on protecting our friends in these communities. Not to mention, it's worth considering how many new cases of tragic illness have been caused because of these lack of adequate protections. The continued legalized poisoning of people who live in a city which has had numerous clear warnings regarding the overwhelming scientific support for the abolition of neighborhood drilling because of the cavalier use of extreme toxins such as ethylbenzene, hydrofluoric acid, formaldehyde, xylene and others, is deeply disconcerting. If you don't adopt some sort of adequate protections now, there will be political consequences, additional scrutiny as well as multiple lawsuits including negligence from city leadership.

As Los Angeles positions itself nationally and internationally as a leader on environmental and climate issues, and at the end of a historic year of racial justice protest, bold leadership by the City Council and Mayor Garcetti to challenge environmental racism and fossil fuel production in our city is long overdue.

We also strongly support the establishment of a workforce development, clean-up, and economic revitalization plan as we phase out oil drilling in our city. The city should work with a range of stakeholders to ensure that oil extraction workers who stand to lose their jobs years from now when these sites close down can transition well in advance to safer and more stable employment with comparable pay in other industries. The proposed phase-out of oil extraction would allow oil companies to continue operating for several years after the city declares oil operations a non-conforming use, giving the city ample time to support oil workers in making this transition.

Equally important, the work of plugging wells and remediating oil sites will be a source of employment -- and of well-paying, unionized employment with the right policy approach -- and will ensure that communities burdened by this polluting industry will not be left with its toxic legacy. Remediating oil sites will allow this land to be repurposed for uses that can benefit communities, create jobs, increase tax revenue and revitalize neighborhood economies.

Thank you in advance for your sensible leadership, and for taking action on this matter.

Warmly,
David Braun
Director, Rootskeeper.org

To:
Councilmember O'Farrell
Councilmember Martinez
Councilmember Krekorian
Councilmember Blumenfield
Councilmember Bonin
Councilmember Price
Councilmember Cedillo
Councilmember Wesson
Councilmember Rodriguez
Councilmember Ryu
Councilmember Koretz
Councilmember Buscaino
Councilmember Lee
Councilmember Harris-dawson
Councilmember Deleon

CC:
Mayor Garcetti
Mike Feuer
Erica Blyth



November 30, 2020

The Honorable Nury Martinez
Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street,
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Support for Setbacks Around Oil and Gas Operations -- Council Files 17-0447 & 17-0447-S1

Dear Council President Martinez and the Los Angeles City Council:

We are writing to encourage members of the Energy, Climate Change, and Environmental Justice Committee to take the next steps in establishing a citywide 2500-ft human health and safety setback ordinance to separate oil and gas extraction operations from homes, schools, and other sensitive land uses in the City of Los Angeles. This includes (1) declaring oil and gas extraction within a setback zone a non-conforming land use, (2) beginning amortization studies for drill sites within 2,500' of homes, schools and churches, and (3) developing a funding mechanism to sustain amortization study costs and a just transition for oil extraction workers.

We are pleased that the City Attorney's office affirmed what our coalition has argued for some time: legally, Los Angeles has the authority to establish setbacks between oil and gas wells and sensitive land uses, including declaring existing wells within the setback zone nonconforming uses and phasing out their operations over time. Perhaps the strongest statement from Deputy City Attorney Jennifer Tobkin was: "Any zoning ordinance enacted by the city will likely result in litigation, but our office will defend in court a carefully crafted setback ordinance backed up by a strong administrative record."¹

We are writing to address some of the questions raised by members of the ECCEJ Committee as you consider next steps.

Oil and gas setback laws exist nation-wide and Los Angeles is well-positioned to establish and defend one without compensating oil companies. Based on our review, at least 25 oil and gas setback laws are on the books in cities, counties, and states around the US, in addition to ordinances that ban extraction within jurisdictions. As several letters to the City Council from multiple legal experts have explained, California has more than a century of case law supporting the rights of local governments to enact exactly these types of public safety protections. Moreover, while takings claims

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<https://www.latimes.com/environment/newsletter/2020-11-19/los-angeles-oil-gas-drilling-buffer-zones-boiling-point>

are frequently threatened by the oil industry when such commonsense protections are proposed, takings lawsuits are rarely brought, and oil companies are very unlikely to succeed or receive compensation based on these specious claims. In fact, we know of no cases where oil companies have successfully sued and received compensation for an alleged taking caused by a setback.

Oil well plugging and remediation paid for oil companies can create jobs, improve health, and benefit communities. Properly plugging wells after they are closed is critical to avoid ongoing health harms to surrounding communities -- and greenhouse gas emissions fueling the climate crisis -- from fugitive emissions. In California, oil companies are legally liable for the costs of plugging wells they shut down and cleaning up sites they abandon; the City must aggressively hold these companies accountable for their obligations, as the City Attorney is aiming to do with the operators of the [notorious Allenco site](#). Moreover, Los Angeles County is in the process of convening a [Just Transition Task Force](#) aimed at generating funds for remediation and creating family-supporting jobs in oil well clean up, and Governor Newsom's October 7 climate change [executive order](#) ordered the development of a statewide plan to do the same. With proper planning and coordination between various public agencies and stakeholders, the City can facilitate employment in remediation for current oil site workers when sites shut down years in the future while also putting people to work now to address the large number of currently idle and poorly-abandoned wells. Plugging wells and remediating oil sites are both prerequisites for repurposing valuable land to build affordable housing, green spaces, or renewable energy infrastructure.

Transitioning workers impacted by oil setbacks to jobs with equal or better pay in other industries requires forward-thinking leadership, long-term planning, and an accurate analysis of the workforce. This must include City government working with environmental justice and labor partners. It should also be tied to the City's broader workforce development and environmental planning decisions, including the Green New Deal and Office of Climate Emergency Mobilization, as well as coordinated with County and State efforts. It is unsurprising that oil industry representatives misrepresent the employment impacts of new regulations, and unfortunate that certain labor unions allied with the oil industry choose to repeat those misrepresentations. To facilitate an informed policy development process, we offer the following:

- **No oil worker stands to lose his or her job from this policy in the middle of the current pandemic-induced recession.** With an amortization or phase out period built in to any oil and gas setback policy, oil companies will not be required to shut down for at least four to six years.
- **The oil extraction sector workforce is a very small portion of the overall labor market in Los Angeles.** A report by two professors at UCLA cited in the 2019 Petroleum Administrator's report² used the best available state employment and economic data on oil extraction. It found 345 jobs in the oil and gas *extraction* industry, of which 269 jobs would be lost from the implementation of a 2,500-foot setback. An additional 266 jobs would be lost in other related sectors. In total, 535 jobs would be lost in a city-wide workforce of just under 2 million, stretched over a period of four to six years from now.
- **Low union density in the oil extraction sector in the City of Los Angeles.** All workers, including those in this sector, deserve union representation, and all deserve, now and in the future, access to family-supporting jobs. Yet former Petroleum Administrator Uduak-Joe Ntuk

² City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works Office of Petroleum and Gas Administration and Safety, Oil and Gas Health Report, July 25, 2019, P. 119.

https://clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/2017/17-0447_rpt_BPW_07-29-2019.pdf

noted at a 2019 ECCEJ Committee meeting that only one oil company in the City of Los Angeles -- California Resources Corporation -- has unionized workers, represented principally by the United Steelworkers with some number represented by unions in the Building and Construction Trades Council in construction and maintenance work. Wells operated by CRC, which recently filed for bankruptcy, are about 15% of all the active wells in the City of Los Angeles.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these matters directly with Councilmembers, especially members of the ECCEJ Committee, in the coming months. You can contact STAND-LA Coalition Coordinator Eric Romann at eromann@psr-la.org or 510.285.7240. Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

Martha Dina Arguello Executive Director,
Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles
Co-Chair, STAND-LA Coalition

Bahram Fazeli, Research and Policy Director
Communities for a Better Environment
Co-Chair, STAND-LA Coalition

Nancy Halpern Ibrahim, Executive Director
Esperanza Community Housing Corporation

Richard Parks, President
Redeemer Community Partnership

Janette Robinson-Flint, Executive Director
Black Women For Wellness

Gloria Medina, Interim Executive Director
Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education

Eric Romann
STAND-LA Coalition Coordinator



Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment

1012 Jefferson Street, Delano, CA 93215 tel 661-720-9140 fax 661-720-9483

5901 Christie Avenue, Emeryville, CA 94608 tel 415-346-4179

www.crpe-ej.org

November 30, 2020

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

Dear members of the Los Angeles City Council:

On behalf of the Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment (CRPE), I am writing to urge the City Council to move quickly to adopt a 2500-foot human health and safety buffer ordinance for oil and gas extraction operations in the City of Los Angeles. Specifically, we urge the Council to take the next step: formally requesting the Planning Department and City Attorney to draft such an ordinance.

At the Energy, Climate Change and Environmental Justice Committee meeting on November 17, the City Attorney's office clearly indicated there is a legal path for the City to establish such an ordinance. The City Attorney's Office also stated its intention and ability to defend such an ordinance against likely lawsuits from the oil industry and oil companies. We urge the City Council not to be cowed by oil industry threats or bully tactics, and to move expeditiously to protect community public health and advance environmental justice.

CRPE is one of over 80 organizations across the city standing in solidarity with directly impacted communities who have been fighting for four-plus years for the establishment of this ordinance. We share those communities' frustration at this slow extremely slow pace and what it says about the priority the City places on protecting these communities.

As Los Angeles positions itself nationally and internationally as a leader on environmental and climate issues, and at the end of a historic year of racial justice protest, bold leadership by the City Council and Mayor Garcetti to challenge environmental racism and fossil fuel production in this City is long overdue. Further, the City's prompt action now would lead the state in pushing for similar protection in other communities likewise impacted by environmental racism and oil and gas extraction.

We also strongly support the establishment of a workforce development, clean-up, and economic revitalization plan as we phase out oil drilling in our city. The City should work with a range of

stakeholders to ensure that oil extraction workers who stand to lose their jobs years from now when these sites close down can transition well in advance to safer and more stable employment with comparable pay in other industries. The proposed phase-out of oil extraction would allow oil companies to continue operating for several years after the City declares oil operations a non-conforming use, giving the City ample time to support oil workers in making this transition.

Equally important, the work of plugging wells and remediating oil sites will be a source of employment -- and of well-paying, unionized employment with the right policy approach -- and will ensure that communities burdened by this polluting industry will not be left with its toxic legacy. Remediating oil sites will allow this land to be repurposed for uses that can benefit communities, create jobs, and revitalize neighborhood economies.

We urge you to protect communities now by adopting 2500-foot buffer zones.

Sincerely,

Dan Ress
Staff Attorney
Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment



November 30, 2020

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

Dear members of the Los Angeles City Council:

On behalf of the Liberty Hill Foundation, I am writing to urge the City Council to move quickly to adopt a 2500-foot human health and safety buffer ordinance for oil and gas extraction operations in the City of Los Angeles. Specifically, we urge the Council to take the next step: formally requesting the Planning Department and City Attorney to draft such an ordinance.

At the Energy, Climate Change and Environmental Justice Committee meeting on November 17, the City Attorney's office clearly indicated there is a legal path for the City to establish such an ordinance. The City Attorney's Office also stated its intention and ability to defend such an ordinance against likely lawsuits from the oil industry and oil companies. We urge the City Council to move expeditiously to protect community public health and advance environmental justice.

Liberty Hill supports STAND LA and over 80 organizations across the city standing in solidarity with directly impacted communities who have been fighting for years for the establishment of this ordinance. As we documented in our 2015 publication, ***DRILLING DOWN: The Community Consequences of Expanded Oil Development in Los Angeles***, many residents—a disproportionate number of them low-income people of color—experience harmful and even severe health consequences from living close to oil drilling. This is a clear environmental justice issue, and we share those communities' frustration at the extremely slow pace of progress to adopt any concrete actions to protect them.

As Los Angeles positions itself nationally and internationally as a leader on environmental and climate issues, and at the end of a historic year of racial justice protest, bold leadership by our City leaders is long overdue.

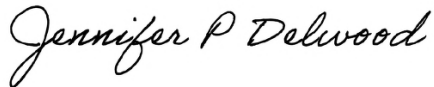
We also strongly support the establishment of a workforce development, clean-up, and economic revitalization plan as we phase out oil drilling in our city. The City should work with a range of stakeholders to ensure that oil extraction workers can transition smoothly and well in advance with safer and more stable employment with comparable pay. The proposed phase-out of oil extraction

would allow oil companies to continue operating for several years after the City declares oil operations a non-conforming use, giving the City ample time to support oil workers in making this transition.

Equally important, the necessary work of properly closing and remediating oil sites can be a source of employment -- and of well-paying, unionized employment--with the right policy approach. It would ensure that communities burdened by this polluting industry will not be left with its toxic legacy. Remediating oil sites will allow this land to be repurposed for uses that can benefit communities, create jobs, and revitalize neighborhood economies.

Thank you in advance for your leadership and action on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer P Delwood". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Jenny Delwood
Executive Vice President
Liberty Hill Foundation

Fwd: 2,500ft Oil Extraction Health & Safety Buffer: Letter of Support

1 message

Anna Martinez <anna.martinez@lacity.org>

Tue, Dec 1, 2020 at 10:15 AM

To: City Clerk Council and Public Services <Clerk.CPS@lacity.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bayoán Rosselló Cornier** <brcornier@libertyhill.org>

Date: Tue, Dec 1, 2020 at 10:04 AM

Subject: 2,500ft Oil Extraction Health & Safety Buffer: Letter of Support

To: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org <councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org>, councilmember.martinez@lacity.org <councilmember.martinez@lacity.org>, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org <councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org>, councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org <councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org>, councilmember.bonin@lacity.org <councilmember.bonin@lacity.org>, councilmember.price@lacity.org <councilmember.price@lacity.org>, councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org <councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org>, councilmember.wesson@lacity.org <councilmember.wesson@lacity.org>, councilmember.rodriquez@lacity.org <councilmember.rodriquez@lacity.org>, councilmember.ryu@lacity.org <councilmember.ryu@lacity.org>, councilmember.koretz@lacity.org <councilmember.koretz@lacity.org>, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org <councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org>, councilmember.lee@lacity.org <councilmember.lee@lacity.org>, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org <councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org>, councilmember.deleon@lacity.org <councilmember.deleon@lacity.org>
Cc: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>, mike.n.feuer@lacity.org <mike.n.feuer@lacity.org>, erica.blyther@lacity.org <erica.blyther@lacity.org>

Dear Members of the Los Angeles City Council,

The Liberty Hill Foundation has been a strong advocate for the work being done by STAND-LA against oil extraction that is harming Angelinos. Attached you will find a letter stating our support for the adoption of a 2,500ft human health and safety buffer ordinance for oil and gas extraction operations.

In Solidarity,

Bayoán

A. Bayoán Rosselló-CornierSenior Program Manager, Environmental Health & Justice | [Liberty Hill Foundation](#)

Direct: (323) 556-7205

**Liberty Hill Letter to LA City Council re Oil Seback-11.30.30.pdf**

140K



December 1, 2020

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

**Re: Support for Setbacks Around Oil and Gas Operations –
Council File 17-0447 and 17-7-0447-S1**

Dear Members of the Los Angeles City Council:

On behalf of Earthjustice, I am writing to urge the City Council to move quickly to adopt a 2500-foot human health and safety buffer ordinance for oil and gas extraction operations in the City of Los Angeles. Specifically, we urge the Council to take the next step: formally requesting the Planning Department and City Attorney to draft such an ordinance.

At the Energy, Climate Change, and Environmental Justice Committee meeting on November 17, the City Attorney's office clearly indicated there is a legal path for the City to establish such an ordinance. We urge the City Council not to be cowed by oil industry threats or bully tactics, and to move expeditiously to protect community public health and advance environmental justice.

Earthjustice has an office in Los Angeles, and we are one of over 80 organizations across the city standing in solidarity with directly impacted communities who have been fighting for four-plus years for the establishment of this ordinance. We share those communities' frustration at this slow extremely slow pace and what it says about the priority the City places on protecting these communities.

As Los Angeles positions itself nationally and internationally as a leader on environmental and climate issues, and at the end of a historic year of racial justice protest, bold leadership by the City Council and Mayor Garcetti to challenge environmental racism and fossil fuel production is long overdue.

In conjunction with efforts to phase out oil drilling in the City, we also strongly support the establishment of a workforce development, clean-up, and economic revitalization plan. The City should work with a range of stakeholders to ensure that oil extraction workers who stand to lose their jobs years from now when these sites close down can transition well in advance to safer and more stable employment with comparable pay in other industries. The proposed phase-out of oil extraction would allow oil companies to continue operating for several years after the City declares oil operations a non-conforming use, giving the City ample time to support oil workers in making this transition.

Equally important, the work of plugging wells and remediating oil sites will be a source of employment—and of well-paying, unionized employment with the right policy approach—and will ensure that communities burdened by this polluting industry will not be left with its toxic legacy. Remediating oil sites will allow this land to be repurposed for uses that can benefit communities, create jobs, and revitalize neighborhood economies.

Thank you in advance for your leadership and action on this matter.

Sincerely,



Colin C. O'Brien
Deputy Managing Attorney
California Regional Office
Earthjustice

Fwd: Support for Setbacks Around Oil and Gas Operations – Council File 17-0447 and 17-7-0447-S1

1 message

Anna Martinez <anna.martinez@lacity.org>
To: City Clerk Council and Public Services <Clerk.CPS@lacity.org>

Tue, Dec 1, 2020 at 10:03 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Colin O'Brien** <cobrien@earthjustice.org>

Date: Tue, Dec 1, 2020 at 9:54 AM

Subject: Support for Setbacks Around Oil and Gas Operations – Council File 17-0447 and 17-7-0447-S1

To: <councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org>, <councilmember.martinez@lacity.org>, <councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org>, <councilmember.blumenfeld@lacity.org>, <councilmember.bonin@lacity.org>, <councilmember.price@lacity.org>, <councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org>, <councilmember.wesson@lacity.org>, <councilmember.rodriguez@lacity.org>, <councilmember.ryu@lacity.org>, <councilmember.koretz@lacity.org>, <councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org>, <councilmember.lee@lacity.org>, <councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org>, <councilmember.deleon@lacity.org>
Cc: <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>, <mike.n.feuer@lacity.org>, <erica.blyther@lacity.org>

Dear Members of the Los Angeles City Council:

As described more fully in the attached letter, on behalf of Earthjustice, I am writing to urge the City Council to move quickly to adopt a 2500-foot human health and safety buffer ordinance for oil and gas extraction operations in the City of Los Angeles.

Thank you in advance for your leadership and action on this matter.

Sincere thanks,

Colin

Colin C. O'Brien*Pronouns: he/him/his*Deputy Managing Attorney
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12/2/2020

City of Los Angeles Mail - Fwd: Support for Setbacks Around Oil and Gas Operations – Council File 17-0447 and 17-7-0447-S1

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