

LETTER ADDRESSED TO MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

We, the members of the **Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council**, support this study of a setback separating oil and gas extraction operations from sensitive land uses such as homes, schools, and hospitals.

We also express gratitude to the members of the City Council for passing the motion which directs the Department of City Planning, with LA City Attorney Mike Feuer and Petroleum Administrator Uduak-Joe Ntuk, to perform a legal, land use, health, environmental, and economic study, researching the feasibility of a setback separating oil and gas extraction operations from sensitive land use sites.

The Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council considers the issue of neighborhood drilling to be of special importance and concern to our community. Northwest San Pedro and the Port of Los Angeles are located within City Council District 15, a district that contains approximately 55% of approximately 860 active oil wells located in the City of Los Angeles **(1-3)**.

As a result, our stakeholders - residents, students and workers - live their lives and conduct business in close proximities; in some cases within 200 feet **(4) (5)** of active oil and gas extraction sites. Oil and gas extraction sites routinely use and emit as byproducts toxic chemicals that are known carcinogens, endocrine disruptors and harmful to multiple organ systems; including, but not limited to, benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylene, formaldehyde, hydrogen sulfide and methylene chloride **(6-10)**. Based on current available research, a 2,500-foot setback recommendation is on the lower end of a range of distances where research has determined harmful health and quality of life impacts from toxic emissions and exposures associated with oil drilling. **(11)**

Emissions are at their highest and most dangerous concentration at the source of pollution, but also recognize **City Council District 15** contains a concentrated number of active wells in a small area. Emissions from multiple wells in one district surely creates a cumulative impact to our air quality that transcends simple distance to one, single, active well. **(12) (13)** Data we hope this approved study will bear out.

Additionally, a precedent exists for a health and safety buffer around drilling sites in Los Angeles. As described in a California Supreme Court opinion; the City of Los Angeles annexed a parcel of land in the mid-1920's and soon thereafter passed a zoning ordinance prohibiting drilling and production of oil near a dense residential development. In the 1940's the City of Los Angeles amended its zoning code, with an express declaration that "oil drilling and production in urbanized areas...are detrimental to the public health, safety, and welfare." **(14)** Classifying these operations as non-conforming uses — meaning incompatible with residential neighborhoods — was later contested and upheld by the California Supreme Court, which upheld the City of Los Angeles' authority to prohibit oil and gas extraction in this manner, resulting in the gradual closure of many oil wells, especially on the West Side.

Every Angeleno deserves to live in a safe and healthy neighborhood. Oil drilling operations are wholly incompatible with residential neighborhoods, and we urge swift completion of the legal and land use study.

Footnotes:

(1) MAP - City of Los Angeles PRODUCTIVE OIL FIELD SITE [LINK HERE](#)

http://navigatela.lacity.org/common/mapgallery/pdf/r1094_prod_la_A_size.pdf

(2) MAP #1 - Community Consequences of Expanded Oil Development in Los Angeles

www.libertyhill.org/sites/libertyhillfoundation/files/Drilling%20Down%20Report_1.pdf

(3) MAP - City of Los Angeles OIL WELL SITES [LINK HERE](#)

http://navigatela.lacity.org/common/mapgallery/pdf/oil_wells_fields_methane_sites.pdf

(4) DOCUMENTARY - www.univision.com/univision-news/environment/life-with-an-oil-rig-in-the-backyard

(5) MAP 7 - www.libertyhill.org/sites/libertyhillfoundation/files/Drilling%20Down%20Report_1.pdf

(6) Zielinska B, Campbell D, Samburova V. Impact of emissions from natural gas production facilities on ambient air quality in the Barnett Shale area: a pilot study. *J Air Waste Manag Assoc.* 2014;64(12):1369-1383. [LINK HERE](#)

(7) Moore CW, Zielinska B, Petron G, Jackson RB. Air impacts of increased natural gas acquisition, processing, and use: A critical review. *Environ Sci Technol.* 2014;48(15):8349-8359. [LINK HERE](#)

(8) Field RA, Soltis J, Murphy S. Air quality concerns of unconventional oil and natural gas production. *Env Sci Process Impacts.*

2014;16(5):954-969. [LINK HERE](#)

(9) Colborn T, Schultz K, Herrick L, Kwiatkowski C. An Exploratory Study of Air Quality Near Natural Gas Operations. *Hum Ecot Risk Assess An Int J.* 2013;20(1):86-105. [LINK HERE](#)

STUDY OF HEALTH IMPACTS IN COLORADO

(10) 12 Most Commonly Used Air Toxics in (Well Stimulation) [www.psr-](http://www.psr-la.org/files/13%209%205%20LA%20Air%20Toxics%20Report%20_final_.pdf)

[la.org/files/13%209%205%20LA%20Air%20Toxics%20Report%20_final_.pdf](http://www.psr-la.org/files/13%209%205%20LA%20Air%20Toxics%20Report%20_final_.pdf)

(11) Existing scientific literature on setback distances from oil and gas development sites Nicole J. Wong, MPH June 2017 **LIST OF ALL SUPPORT MATERIALS AT BOTTOM** http://www.stand.la/uploads/5/3/9/0/53904099/2500_literature_review_report-final_jul13.pdf

(12) Shonkoff S, Gautier D. A Case Study of the Petroleum Geological Potential and Potential Public Health Risks Associated with Hydraulic Fracturing and Oil and Gas Development in The Los Angeles Basin *California Council on Science and Technology (CCST)*

Vol. II and Vol. III [LINK HERE](http://ccst.us/publications/2015/vol-III-chapter-4.pdf) <http://ccst.us/publications/2015/vol-III-chapter-4.pdf> *Vol II and Vol III* [LINK HERE](#)

(13) Brief: Neighborhood Drilling Puts Angelenos at Risk www.stand.la/uploads/5/3/9/0/53904099/standla_ccst_issue_brief.pdf

(14) BEVERLY OIL COMPANY (a Corporation), Appellant, v. CITY OF LOS ANGELES (1953) 40 Cal. 2d *Id. at 552, Id. at 555-556. Id. at 559. Id. at 560.* www.ravellaw.com/opinions/ac4139857a93de07b8c7f2338980ada1