

# WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

December 12, 2018

Agenda Item #6

## **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ESTABLISHING A 2500-FOOT HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY BUFFER AROUND OIL DRILLING OPERATIONS IN THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES**

Whereas Los Angeles is one of the only places in the United States where oil drilling occurs right in the middle of a densely-populated urban metropolis. Over 620,000 Angelenos live within a mile of an active oil well;

Whereas the City of Los Angeles contains over 1,000 active oil wells and 80% are located within 2,500 feet of a sensitive land use, impacting residents, students, and workers;

Whereas neighborhood drilling threatens the health and safety of those living along the fence line of these oil wells;

Whereas oil and gas extraction sites routinely use and emit as byproducts toxic chemicals that are known carcinogens, endocrine disruptors, and are harmful to multiple organ systems. These include but are not limited to formaldehyde, hydrochloric acid, hydrofluoric acid, naphthalene, xylene, benzene and volatile organic compounds;

Whereas the primary health risk factor associated with oil and gas development within urban areas is proximity to active sites, because any toxic emission will be at its highest and most dangerous concentration at the source of pollution;

Whereas the closer you live, work, and play to an active oil well, the more severely your health and safety are threatened. Whereas living next door to neighborhood drilling means chronic headaches and migraines, frequent nosebleeds, exacerbated asthma and other respiratory illness, reproductive harm and an increased risk of cancer;

Whereas the transport, onsite storage and use of toxic and flammable chemicals in industrial facilities in close proximity to homes and other sensitive land uses also raises the risk of catastrophic accidents;

Whereas neighborhood drilling is incompatible with public health and has no place near sensitive land uses such as homes, schools, churches or daycare facilities; and studies show that a buffer of at least 2,500 feet between active oil wells and these sensitive land uses is necessary to protect community health from oil extraction;

Whereas the City of Los Angeles is a leader at the forefront of enacting policies to protect the environment and address global climate change, including the Sustainability City pLAn requiring dramatic reductions in GHG emissions with an 80% GHG reduction target by 2050;

Whereas the City of Los Angeles has a duty to protect the health and safety of its residents and can use its power over land use and oil operations to protect those residents in this instance;

The Westwood Neighborhood Council resolves to call on the City of Los Angeles, and the Los Angeles City Council specifically to establish a human health and safety buffer that prohibits oil drilling within 2,500 feet of sensitive land uses including homes, schools, early childhood centers, senior centers, hospitals and medical clinics, parks, etc.

The Westwood Neighborhood Council resolves to submit a Community Impact Statement to Council File 17-0447 and to communicate support to our City Council member expressing support for this position.