

September 26, 2022

Supervisor Holly Mitchell, Chair, 2nd District
Supervisor Hilda Solis, 1st District
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, 3rd District
Supervisor Janice Hahn, 4th District
Supervisor Kathryn Barger, 5th District
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
500 West Temple St., Suite 383
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Via Electronic Mail

RE: Oil Well Ordinance, Plan No. RPPL2020000624 - **SUPPORT**

Dear Honorable Supervisors of Los Angeles County:

We are writing on behalf of over [REDACTED] environmental justice, environmental, health, community and faith organizations to commend your historic commitment to prioritize the health, safety and well-being of Los Angeles County residents by instructing the Department of Regional Planning (“DRP”) to amend LA County’s Planning and Zoning Code (Title 22) to prohibit all new oil wells and production facilities and designate all existing oil wells and production facilities as nonconforming uses. Our organizations are deeply concerned about both the acute and chronic harms to the people and communities we represent from pollution caused by the extraction, processing, and burning of fossil fuels. We support DRP’s amendments to Title 22 and urge the Board to adopt the proposed Oil Well Ordinance. We recognize that the adoption of the Oil Well Ordinance is a necessary first step to ensure oil drilling is eventually phased out throughout *all* of unincorporated Los Angeles County and we look forward to continuously working with this Board and DRP to ensure that residents living around the Inglewood Oil Field share this same benefit.

The Board’s adoption of the proposed Oil Well Ordinance is essential to protect our communities and is consistent with the growing body of scientific literature that demonstrates the risks and dangers of allowing oil drilling near homes, schools, and other sensitive sites. In unincorporated Los Angeles County, there are nearly 2,000 active and idle oil and gas wells and the majority are located within 2,500 feet of homes, schools, and hospitals.¹ More than 580,000 Los Angeles

¹ “Urban Oil and Gas Production in Los Angeles County,” USC Environmental Health, August 6, 2019.
<https://envhealthcenters.usc.edu/2019/08/urban-oil-and-gas-production-in-lacounty.html>

County residents live within one-quarter mile of an actively producing oil and gas well.² Los Angeles County communities of color live disproportionately near oil and gas wells and suffer greater health harms: 44 percent of Black, 37 percent of Latinos, and 38 percent of Asian residents live near oil and gas wells, compared to 31 percent of White residents.³ By adopting the proposed Oil Well Ordinance, the Board is protecting its residents from harmful local pollution that unduly burdens workers, low-income communities, and communities of color.

Our coalition understands that adopting the proposed Oil Well Ordinance is the first of many steps the County must take to phase out oil drilling in Los Angeles County. We also understand that with more than half of the oil wells in unincorporated Los Angeles County concentrated in the Inglewood Oil Field, the County must quickly ensure that this Board's September 2021 motion to phase out oil drilling applies to the Inglewood Oil Field. As such, once the proposed ordinance takes effect, this Board should ensure that the Department of Regional Planning concurrently amends the Baldwin Hills Community Standards District, as DRP stated its intention to do in its September 22, 2022 letter to the Board. We urge DRP to amend the Baldwin Hills Community standards District and individual specific plans to immediately prohibit new wells and to set a timeline to wind down existing production. Phasing out oil drilling throughout the County, including at the Inglewood Oil Field, is consistent with recommendations in LA County's own OurCounty sustainability plan, state and federal policies to reduce carbon emissions to maintain a livable planet, policies being pursued by a growing number of other local jurisdictions including the City of Los Angeles and Culver City, and recent legislative action in California that prevents new permits for oil drilling within 3,200 feet of a sensitive receptor.

We thank this Board for your commitment to make Los Angeles County a healthier place for all, particularly for residents most impacted by the harmful pollution and operational hazards associated with existing oil production. We urge you to adopt the proposed Oil Well Ordinance and look forward to our continued collaboration.

Respectfully,

Alan Weiner, Chapter Lead, 350 Conejo - San Fernando Valley
Alex Marquardt, Co-Founder and Staff Attorney of Climate Defense Project
Alison Hahm, Associate Attorney, Communities for a Better Environment
Allis Druffel, Southern California Director, California Interfaith Power & Light
Amanda Perez, Executive Director, Maravilla Historical Society
Amanda Tapia, Co-Founding Organizer, The People of South Gate
Andrea Leon-Grossmann, Director of Climate Action, Azul

² O'Connor et al. "Filling the Void," Environmental Defense Fund, 2017
https://www.edf.org/sites/default/files/california-monitoring_filling-the-void.pdf

³ Srebotnjak, Tanja and Miriam Rotkin-Ellman, "Drilling in California: Who's at risk?," Natural Resources Defense Council, October 2014, p. 4. <https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/california-fracking-risks-report.pdf>

Andy Hattala, Co-Chair, The Climate Reality Project Los Angeles
Anna Cummins, Executive Director, The 5 Gyres Institute
Bahram Fazeli, Director of Research and Policy, Communities for a Better Environment and Co-Chair of STAND-LA
Belen Bernal, Executive Director, Nature for All
Ben Lara, President, El Sereno Stallions
Ben Stapleton, Executive Director, United States Green Building Chapter - Los Angeles
Brigid Lawlor, Province Advocacy Liaison, Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
Brooke Lenker, Executive Director, FracTracker Alliance
Bruce Gagnon, Coordinator, Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space
Bruce Reznik, Executive Director, LA Waterkeeper
Caroline Henderson, Senior Campaigner, Greenpeace USA
Carolyn Chriss, Group Leader, East Valley Indivisibles
Cassia Patel, Program Director, Oceanic Global
Catherine Dodd PhD RN, Policy Advisor, CA Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
Celia V. Andrade, Co-Chair, A3PCON Environmental Justice Committee
Chelsea Kirk, Research and Policy Analyst, Strategic Actions for a Just Economy
Cheryl Auger, President, Ban SUP
Damon Nagami, Senior Attorney, Natural Resources Defense Council
Dan Ress, Staff Attorney, Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment
Daniel Tamm, Chair, Interfaith Solidarity Network
Danny Hom, Strategy, GRID Alternatives Greater Los Angeles
David Diaz, Executive Director, Active San Gabriel Valley
David Haake and **Nicole Levin**, Chair of Clean Break Committee and Campaign Representative, Beyond Dirty Fuels, Sierra Club
David Levitus, Executive Director, LA Forward
Dean Toji, Co-Chair, A3PCON Environmental Justice Committee
Dereck Smith, Executive Vice President SEIU Local 2015
Derek Steele, Interim Executive Director, Social Justice Learning Institute
Dianna Cogen, CEO and Co-Founder of Plastic Pollution Coalition
Dorinda Moreno, Founder and Principal of Fuerza Mundial Global
Doug Bender, Member of Steering Committee, Indivisible South Bay LA
Dr. Catherine Garoupa White, Executive Director, Central Valley Air Quality Coalition
Eddie Martinez, Executive Director, Latino Equality Alliance
Elva Yanez, Director of Health Equity, Prevention Institute
Ethan Senser, Southern California Organizer, Food & Water Watch
Fatima Malik, President, League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County
Fredric Evenson, Director, Ecological Rights Foundation
Genny Guerrero, Secretary, El Sereno Bicentennial Committee
George Leddy, PHD Director, Sustainable Environment Institute
LA Community College District
Gladys Delgadillo, Climate Organizer, Center for Biological Diversity
Graham Hamilton, Manager, Surfrider Foundation Los Angeles Chapter

Hugo Garcia, Chairperson, El Sereno Organizing Committee
Ingrid Steinberg, President and Co-Founder of Resilient Palisades
Irena H Varjabedian, CSAN
Irene Kao, Executive Director, Courage California
Jack Eidt, Co-Founder, SoCal 350 Climate Action
Jackie Nuñez, Founder, Climate Health Now
James M. Limbaugh, President, West Los Angeles College
Jamie McConnell, Deputy Director, Women's Voices for the Earth
Jan Victor Andasan, Co-Chair, A3PCON Environmental Justice Committee
Janet Gollery McKeithen, Reverend, The Church in Ocean Park
Janette Robinson-Flint, Executive Director, Black Women for Wellness
Jennifer Ferrigno, Co-Director, National Network for Immigrant & Refugee Rights
Jennifer Krill, Executive Director, Earthworks
Jennifer Tanner, founder Indivisible California Green Team
Jerry Rivers, North American Climate, Conservation and Environment(NACCE)
Jesse N Marquez, Executive Director, Coalition For A Safe Environment
Jessica Aldridge, Founder and Director of Adventures in Waste
Jessica Craven, member, Los Angeles County Democratic Party AD51, Feminists in Action Los Angeles
Jesus Alonso, Kern Community Organizer, Clean Water Action
Joanie Steinhaus, Gulf Program Director, Turtle Island Restoration Network
John Davis, Executive Director, The Rewilding Institute
Jonathan Zeichner, CEO, A Place Called Home
Jorge Garcia, President, El Sereno Historical Society
Jorge Gutierrez, Executive Director, Familia: Trans Queer Liberation Movement
Judith Enck, President, Beyond Plastics
Julie Levine, Co-Chair, MLK Coalition of Greater Los Angeles: Topanga Peace Alliance
Julie Meltzer, Executive Director, Clockshop
Junior Sanchez, Organizer with SELA Chisme, SELA Chisme
Karen Reside, Secretary, Long Beach Gray Panthers
Karina Maher, MD, Climate Health Now
Katherine Pease, Director of Science and Policy, Heal The Bay
Kathi Cervantez, Co-Director of Community Transformation, Promesa Boyle Heights
Kathy Seal, Group Leader, Citizens Climate Lobby, LA West Chapter
Katie Bolin, RN, Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
Kaya Allan Sugerman, Illegal Toxic Threats Program Director, Center for Environmental Health
Kelsey Jessup, Urban Conservation Project Director, The Nature Conservancy
Kerry Kriger, Executive Director, Save the Frogs!
Kevin Bryan, Lead Instructor Wilson, HS Environmental Science Academy
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Laura Deehan, State Director, Environment California
Laura Hickernell, State Manager, Mothers out Front - California
Laura Raymond, Director, Alliance for Community Transit - Los Angeles

Laura Velkei, Communications Director, Arts District Community Council LA
Lawrence Couch, Director, National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
Liz Beall, Executive Director, Climate First: Replacing Oil and Gas (CFROG)
Lydia Cardona, Climate & Clean Air Program Manager, GreenLatinos
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Mala Wingard, Normal Heights Indivisible
Margaret Meyncke, SoCal Broadband Leader, Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Martha Camacho Rodriguez, Director, Social Ecological Education LA
Martha Dina Arguello, Executive Director, Physicians for Social Responsibility - Los Angeles and Co-Chair of STAND-LA
Marty Perimutter, co-leader Indivisible Media City Burbank
Mason Funk, Executive Director, The Outwards Archive
Matt Krogh, US Oil & Gas Campaign Director, Stand Earth
Melanie Winter, Founder and Director, The River Project
Michael Schneider, Founder, Streets for All
Michael Stocker, Director, Ocean Conservation Research
Micheal Doshi, Director of Partnerships, Algalita
Micheal J. Painter, Coordinator, Californias for Western Wilderness
Michele Prichard, Senior Director for Strategic Initiatives, Liberty Hill
Nancy Buermeyer, Senior Policy Strategist, Breast Cancer Prevention Partners
Nancy Halpern Ibrahim, Executive Director, Esperanza Community Housing Corporation, Los Angeles
Natalie A Backman, Co-Founder and Owner of Sakti Rising
Nathan Taft, Senior SAFE Cities Campaigner, Stand Earth
Neena Mohan, Climate Justice Program, California Environmental Justice Alliance
Nicole Ghio, Senior Fossil Fuels Program Manager, Friends of the Earth
Nina Zvaleko, Co-Organizer, Converging Storms Action Network,
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Rachel Smith, Partnerships Lead, Sunrise Movement Los Angeles
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Reverend Louis Chase, Holman United Methodist Church
Richard Parks, President, Redeemer Community Partnership
Ruth Brech, Senior Campaigner, Rainforest Action Network
Ruth Richardson, Rooted in Resistance (Indivisible- Pasadena)
Sandy Emerson, Board President, Fossil Free California
Sarah Stewart, President, Animals Are Sentient Beings Inc.
Shannon Biggs, Co-founder, Movement Rights
Shelley Silbert, Executive Director, Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Sherry Lear, Organizer, 350 South Bay Los Angeles
Sheryl O Warren- Carey Harris, Owner, New Genesis Enterprises
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Sonya Vasquez, Chief Operations Officer, Community Health Councils
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Taylor Thomas, Co-Executive Director, East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice
Teresa Bui, State Climate Policy Director, Pacific Environment
Teresa Kotturan, Main NGO Representative, Sister of Charity Federation
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Veronica Padilla, Executive Director, Pacoima Beautiful
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