

## **Re: 17-0447 and the Los Angeles City Planning oil-drilling and gas ordinance draft**

The Harbor City Neighborhood Council supports the Los Angeles City Planning oil-drilling and gas ordinance draft. Many Harbor City residents live within 600 feet of active and idle gas and oil wells as well as being surrounded by nearby oil wells and refineries in Carson, Torrance, Wilmington, and the highly dangerous butane storage tanks in San Pedro. The HCNC applauds the city for moving us forward to safer and healthier environmental conditions and helping our community members from suffering from elements out of their hands. We urge the city to approve enact the proposed drilling and gas ordinance promptly. We look forward to working with the city to continue making progress toward environmental justice and it is our hope that the Planning Department can take this first draft and strengthen it with the input of frontline communities and public health experts.

The Harbor city Neighborhood Council urges the city to:

- move quickly to adopt this ordinance that will zone out oil drilling city-wide.
- The city should commit to shortening the phase-out period from the existing 20-year timeframe and phase out oil wells on a schedule like Culver City's five-year phase-out. A city's amortization study found that most older wells had already paid off their costs. Los Angeles is performing its own amortization study as required by council motion 17-0447.
- The city should mandate oil companies pay for comprehensive well plugging for active and unactive wells and site clean up after oil sites are shut down, and promote community-benefiting redevelopment based on feedback from impacted residents.
- The city code should maintain health existing protections during the phase-out period and immediately prohibit dangerous activities like acidization.
- Engage public health experts to report on community impact of [highly toxic substances such as hydrofluoric acid](#) used in oil wells, and draft regulations to prohibit any that pose a significant risk to the surrounding neighborhood.
- Encourage redevelopment of well sites in a way that benefits the community, with neighborhood input.
- Encourage South Coast AQMD to hire more investigators in each council district to respond in a timelier manner, to perform proper investigations.