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HARBOR GATEWAY NORTH NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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December 11, 2019

Mayor Eric Garcetti
Councilmember Joe Buscaino
Council member Marqueece Harris-Dawson
City Attorney Mike Feuer
City Hall
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Reaffirmation of support for establishment of a 2,500 foot buffer from oil and gas production facilities

Dear Mayor Garcetti, Councilmembers, and City Attorney Feuer:

On December 10, 2019, our Board voted 11-2-0 to support the following, as a reaffirmation of our April 11, 2017, letter regarding oil and gas drilling within 2,500 feet of residential and other sensitive uses, which would phase out existing uses over a period of time and prohibit new drilling within that setback.

We write to reiterate our support for the establishment of a 2,500-foot human health and safety buffer that will protect Angelenos from dangerous oil and gas production facilities near homes, schools, and other sensitive land uses.

For decades, Los Angeles has largely allowed the oil and gas industry a free reign without regard to the impacts of their activities on the safety, health and well-being of fenceline communities or our environment. Low income communities of color, especially in Wilmington and South Los Angeles, have borne a disproportionate burden of those impacts.

There is one large active oil and gas well (API 03713578) at 809 W.126th Street which is owned by Carson Oil Corp. This well is impacting the health and safety of residents near its location. And there are three other active wells nearby, (API 03713622 operated by Hitchcock and Ort), (API 03714404 operated by Sentinel Oil Company), and (API 03713623 operated by Hitchcock and Ort). Additionally, many closed oil wells are located within our boundaries, particularly south of 120th Street and north of Rosecrans Avenue, between Vermont Avenue and Figueroa Street, which are also impacting our stakeholders, the great majority of whom are persons of color.

We appreciate steps the City has taken in the last three years to begin to redress these injustices. Yet we are deeply concerned at the slow pace of progress, especially given that the Petroleum Administrator's oil and gas production report was released 630 days beyond its deadline. As time passes with no action from the City, impacted communities remain exposed to all the health and safety risks associated with these facilities. While the report suggests more study is necessary, leading scientists and health professionals are clear that sufficient evidence exists to act now to enact a 2,500-foot setback.

We are asking now for the City Council, the Mayor, the City Attorney and all relevant policymakers to move with all deliberate speed to advance this policy. The immediate next step should be an analysis from the City Attorney to clarify that a buffer zone is squarely within the law and would not subject the City to excessive financial liability. We expect that this analysis will be formally requested and underway before the end of 2019.

We also urge the City Council and Mayor's office to pursue a workforce development and economic revitalization program that benefits impacted oil and gas industry workers, cleans up polluted neighborhoods, and sets Los Angeles on a course toward a family-supporting, health-promoting ecologically sustainable economy.

We applaud City leaders' desire to play a leadership role on the national and international level in our response to the environmental crisis. Yet we cannot fulfill our leadership role without taking bold action to protect residents from oil drilling right here in our city.

Sincerely,



David Matthews, Chairperson
Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council

cc: Office of Petroleum and Natural Gas Administration – City of Los Angeles