

Inglewood Oil Field Specific Plan Project Comments:



March 14, 2018

City Attorney's Office

9770 Culver Boulevard

Culver City, CA 90232

Att: Heather Baker, Assistant City Attorney

Subject: Inglewood Oil Field Specific Plan Project

IOFSpecificPlanProject@culvercity.org

Dear Members of the Culver City City Council:

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing to call on you to reject the proposed Specific Plan for the Inglewood Oil Field ("IOF"). Ongoing oil drilling and production in the IOF threatens the health and environment of Culver City and surrounding communities. It exposes Culver City and surrounding communities to toxic chemicals trucked in and used at the site.¹ It can increase the risks of health impacts including, inter alia: loss of smell; low birthweight and APGAR scores and congenital defects; cancer; asthma and other respiratory ailments; and endocrine, neurological, and skin disorders.² In addition, fracking and other well stimulation has the potential to increase seismic activity.³

For these reasons, among many others, we are asking the Culver City City Council to:

- Ban on fracking and all other well stimulation techniques;
- Enact a health and safety buffer of 2,500 feet--in which no wells can be drilled--between the oil field and sensitive receptors, including parks, schools, places of work, and homes;
- Limit diesel-emitting and truck traffic, as well as the transportation of toxic and hazardous chemicals through neighborhoods and storage of these substances at the IOF;
- Provide adequate financial safeguards to protect residents in the case of a spill, explosion, or other disaster;
- Adopt specific expiration and abandonment dates for individual wells and for all oil and gas activities at the IOF;⁴
- Create a plan for the cleanup and restoration of the site.⁵

In a time threatened by a climate emergency, when we as a country should be pulling back from oil production, expanding any drilling near densely populated neighborhoods is both out of step with the realities of climate change, and ignores the facts and the science about the toxicity and other harms of drilling and production operations.

Please prioritize the public health and safety of the residents, especially those who are most vulnerable and live, work, and play closest to the IOF. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

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Center for Biological Diversity

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¹ Center For Biological Diversity Report, John C. Fleming, PhD, Candice Kim, MPH, Danger Next Door: The Top 12 Air Toxics Used for Neighborhood Oil Drilling in Los Angeles (Dec. 2017). <http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/publications/papers/DangerNextDoor.pdf>.

² Wong, Niki, Existing Scientific Literature on Setback Distances From Oil and Gas Development Sites (November 2017). See also An Independent Scientific Assessment of Well Stimulation in California, 2015 by the California Council on Science and Technology, Vol II at 418-420, <http://ccst.us/publications/2015/160708-sb4-vol-II.pdf>; Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Public Health and Safety Risks of Oil and Gas Facilities in Los Angeles County (Feb. 2018), http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/docs/PH_OilGasFacilitiesPHSafetyRisks.pdf (“DPH Report”).

³ DEIR, pp. 4.5-11, 4.5-14; Ellsworth, W.L., Injection-induced earthquakes, 341 *Science* 6142 (2013) (“Ellsworth 2013”); Nicholson, C. et al., Triggered earthquakes and deep well activities, 139 *Pure Applied Geophysics* 3/4 (1992); National Research Council, *Induced Seismicity Potential in Energy Technologies*, National Academies Press, 2013.

⁴ Proposed IOF Specific Plan, Section 57.

⁵ *Ibid.*