



Via Email

The Honorable Hilda Solis, Chair
The Honorable Holly Mitchell
The Honorable Sheila Kuehl
The Honorable Janice Hahn
The Honorable Kathryn Barger
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
500 West Temple Street, Suite 303
Los Angeles, CA 90012

September 14, 2021

Dear Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors,

We, the undersigned members of the Los Angeles City Council, write to applaud the Board of Supervisors for placing three important items related to the regulation of oil and gas in LA County on the agenda for September 15, 2021 and urge their approval:

- Board Item #9: Hahn/Mitchell: Developing an Oil Well Cleanup Pilot Program for Los Angeles County
- Board Item #22: Mitchell/Kuehl: Protecting Communities Near Oil and Gas Drilling Operations in Los Angeles County
- Board Item #24: Mitchell/Hahn: Developing a Comprehensive Strategy for a Just Transition Away from Fossil Fuels in Los Angeles County

The people of Los Angeles are deeply concerned about the immediate and long-term harms caused by the extraction of fossil fuels. In light of the health and climate emergencies, we urge you to protect the health, safety, and well-being of all Los Angeles County residents by phasing out drilling, safely remediating abandoned wells, and promoting union jobs for any displaced workers in the industry.

The City of Los Angeles is on a parallel path as we prepare for our own fossil-free future. The Planning and Land Use Management and Energy, Climate Change, Environmental Justice, and River committees of the LA City Council recently heard CF 17-0447, setting regulations around oil and gas extraction in the City of Los Angeles. We expect that the full City Council will adopt the committee's recommendations later this year and declare oil and gas extraction a non-conforming use in all zones citywide, ending all new oil and gas drilling. This ordinance will be accompanied by an oil and gas amortization study that, where justified, will allow for an accelerated timeline to end extraction and remediate sites throughout the city.

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. For comparison, the City of Los Angeles has a total of 5,229 oil wells, of which 296 are idle. More than 580,000 Los Angeles residents live within one-quarter mile of a productive oil and gas well. As you know, communities of color live disproportionately near oil and gas wells and suffer greater health harms: in Los Angeles County, 44 percent of Black residents, 37 percent of Latino residents, and 38 percent of Asian residents live near oil and gas wells, compared to 31 percent of White residents.

Given the recent financial difficulties of the oil and gas industry, the toxic burden from carelessly abandoned oil and gas wells by financially insolvent or negligent operators should not become a burden to taxpayers. No new permits for oil and gas drilling should be issued while there is no financial mechanism to properly plug and decommission every well in Los Angeles County without the remediation, public health, and environmental costs being borne by taxpayers. Recent Council action (CF 21-0065: Krekorian-Raman) instructs our City Administrative Officer to report on fees, administrative procedures, and bonding requirements that can be used to assure that the City of Los Angeles is not left holding the bag and paying to clean up oil companies' dangerous messes.

Recognizing that we are in a climate emergency, and given the grave public health costs and environmental injustices of fossil fuel production in Los Angeles County, we respectfully urge you to **create a plan for a swift, managed phase out of all fossil fuel production in Los Angeles County** in alignment with the LA County Sustainability Plan's Fossil Fuel Free Goal 7 and Action 84.

We know that each of you cares deeply about achieving a better outcome for Los Angeles neighborhoods impacted by petroleum extraction activities. We also know that you care deeply about potential impacts that these efforts may have on the workers at drill sites. Although none of these jobs is at any short term risk from the policies being considered by the County or the City, it is nonetheless our obligation to support oil and gas extraction workers in Los Angeles by building successor career paths for the long term.

The City of Los Angeles recently completed an historic study of the costs and benefits associated with reaching 100% clean energy by 2035 known as LA100. Our analysis found that just within the City of Los Angeles, transforming the Los Angeles Department of Water and

Power to 100% clean energy will produce 17,079 average annual capital jobs, and 2,076 operations and maintenance jobs, through 2035. Recently enacted Council Motion CF 16-0243-S2 (O'Farrell-Krekorian) instructs LADWP to report back on a plan to ensure those jobs include project labor agreements, prevailing wage, and targeted hiring requirements. Likewise, as the County moves towards its own clean energy goals, many new clean energy jobs undoubtedly will be created in support of moving away from extractive industries. As the County moves its Just Transition Taskforce forward, we would propose that it work collaboratively with the City of Los Angeles on this shared priority to ensure the greatest economic result for our region.

Thanks to your collective leadership, the County has an historic opportunity and obligation to choose a path away from fossil fuel production. The City of Los Angeles stands in solidarity with you as we work together to provide a safe, healthy, and prosperous Los Angeles.

Very truly yours,



Paul Krekorian
Councilmember, 2nd District



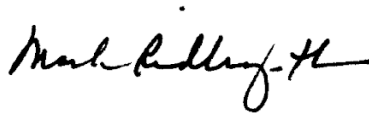
Nithya Raman
Councilmember, 4th District



Paul Koretz
Councilmember, 5th District



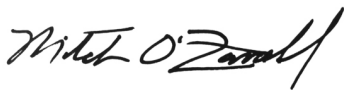
Marqueece Harris-Dawson
Councilmember, 8th District



Mark Ridley-Thomas
Councilmember, 10th District



Mike Bonin
Councilmember, 11th District



Mitch O'Farrell
Councilmember, 13th District