



# Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning

*Planning for the Challenges Ahead*



Richard J. Bruckner

November 21, 2013

*Thought you might  
find this to be of  
interest  
-Richard*

Dear Neighbor:

## **UPDATE ON THE BALDWIN HILLS COMMUNITY STANDARDS DISTRICT (CSD)**

The following serves as an update regarding the Baldwin Hills Community Standards District (CSD), which is the County's zoning ordinance that regulates drilling activities at the Inglewood Oil Field.

In September 2013, Governor Brown signed Senate Bill 4, which requires that the State of California conduct a comprehensive environmental assessment and develop regulations for hydraulic fracking. In light of recent efforts to begin rulemaking related to the legislation (The State's Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources, which has ultimate authority for regulating drilling activities, recently released draft fracking regulations for public comment on November 15, 2013), it is prudent to clarify that **hydraulic fracking is not currently taking place at the Inglewood Oil Field.** Specifically, no wells have been hydraulically fracked subsequent to those required for the purposes of the 2011 Hydraulic Fracking Study. **Furthermore, the Department of Regional Planning has not authorized any wells to be hydraulically fracked at the Inglewood Oil Field.**

By way of background, since the CSD's adoption by the Board of Supervisors in October 2008, the County of Los Angeles has been active in ensuring that the oil field operator Freeport McMoran (previously Plains Exploration and Production Company, or PXP) meets all requirements to establish safe operations at the oil field in order to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of the surrounding communities. Significant elements of the CSD include a 400-foot buffer of drilling away from residential and other sensitive areas, air quality monitoring at drill rigs, reduction of noise levels, and the submittal of an annual drilling plan and other monitoring plans to the County.

Furthermore, in July 2011, the County of Los Angeles, the City of Culver City, community organizations and Freeport McMoran reached a settlement to add 15 additional mitigations. The settlement included reducing the total number of wells that can be drilled on the oil field through 2028 from 600 to 500, further reducing acceptable noise levels, completing a community health assessment and an air quality monitoring study, and assessing new clean technology that could be used to reduce environmental impacts of oil field operations.

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Included in the settlement was also a requirement that Freeport McMoran complete a study on the impacts of hydraulic fracking at the Inglewood Oil Field. Hydraulic fracking or fracturing, involves pumping water, sand and a mixture of chemicals to free oil and natural gas trapped in underground formations. The study looked at 14 specific criteria, including seismic activity, ground movement, air quality, noise, and water quality, and was the first of its kind to comprehensively examine the potential impacts of fracking at any oil field in the nation. Based on fracking two wells at the Inglewood Oil Field in Winter 2011, the study did not find any significant environmental impacts associated with hydraulic fracking. However, no further hydraulic fracking has been authorized. Moreover, further analysis is necessary to determine whether the findings from the study can be applied beyond those two wells. A link to the study can be found at [www.inglewoodoilfield.com](http://www.inglewoodoilfield.com).

As my staff continues to monitor oil field operations, we have benefited from feedback and input from surrounding residents and stakeholders. Community Advisory Panel (CAP) meetings occur on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area Community Room and the public is welcome. The next meeting will be on December 12, 2013. Information regarding the CAP agendas and other relevant documents can be found at [planning.lacounty.gov/baldwinhills](http://planning.lacounty.gov/baldwinhills).

If you have any questions regarding drilling activities at the Inglewood Oil Field or enforcement of the CSD, please do not hesitate to contact Timothy Stapleton at (213) 974-6453 or [tstapleton@planning.lacounty.gov](mailto:tstapleton@planning.lacounty.gov).

Sincerely,



Richard J. Bruckner  
Director

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