

COMMUNITY ADVISORY PANEL
Baldwin Hills Community Standards District
c/o Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning
320 W. Temple Street Los Angeles, CA 90012

January 17, 2020

Dr. Barbara Ferrer, Director
County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health
5050 Commerce Dr.
Baldwin Park, CA 91706

Dear Dr. Ferrer:

As we near the end of the timeline set for the DPH Phase II design of the Health Assessment and Environmental Justice Study by the Steering Committee we are concerned that the County continues to show a good faith effort in confirming that an allocation of an appropriate amount of funding has been made to date. It has been estimated by the Health Working Group and the Health Steering Committee that \$500,000 would be required to complete an effective Health Assessment and Environmental Justice Study specific to the Inglewood oil field. The Steering Committee is currently on target to have a set of possible study design strategies by January 2020. However, they have noted that having a sense of what funding is available along with a timeline for when those funds can be allocated or secured would allow them to create a realistic study design and potential completion dates.

We realize that in your previous letter dated April 23rd, you stated that “the Phase 3 timeline and scope will be dependent on the work and findings by the Steering Committee in Phase 2”. However, we **request that in order to ensure that the Department of Public Health is able to meet its contractual obligations (which at this point are past due) that there be an immediate commitment to secure an adequate amount of funds to support Phase 3.** We encourage the County to identify funding opportunities and places of leverage within the County infrastructure to support this work such as the Sustainability Plan and the County Health Improvement Plan. Additionally, we recommend drawing down a portion of the tax revenue that the County receives from oil operations to support the study.

Finally, it is the Community’s expectation that DPH abide by the terms of the Settlement Agreement so that they are not breached again. **We request that funds for the study be allocated in the Department’s budget, sufficiently in advance to ensure the delivery of the next Settlement Agreement Health Assessment and Environmental Justice Study.** This should be a protocol for each subsequent study, as most responsible government entities would consider this a best practice to avoid a potential costly breach of contract litigation.

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We thank you for the DPH employee support and good faith shown in the Phase II work done to date and make ourselves available to a continuing dialogue on how the Health Assessment and Environmental Justice Study will move forward.

Sincerely,



John Kuechle
Co-Facilitator
On behalf of the Community Advisory Panel

cc:

Mark Ridley-Thomas, LA County Board Supervisor District 2
Hilda Solis, LA County Board Supervisor District 1
Sheila Kuehl, LA County Board Supervisor District 3
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