

**DRAFT RESOLUTION
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
OIL WELL ORDINANCE
PROJECT NO. 2020-000246-(1-5)
PLAN NO. RPPL2020000624**

WHEREAS, the Regional Planning Commission of the County of Los Angeles conducted a duly noticed public hearing on June 8, 2022 to consider the Oil Well Ordinance, an amendment to Title 22 (Planning and Zoning) of the Los Angeles County Code to prohibit new oil wells and production facilities, designate existing oil wells and production facilities as nonconforming due to use, and establish consistent regulations for existing oil wells and production facilities during the amortization period.

WHEREAS, the Regional Planning Commission finds as follows:

1. On September 15, 2021, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) approved three motions "Protecting Communities Near Oil and Gas Drilling Operations in Los Angeles County," "Developing an Oil Well Cleanup Pilot Program for Los Angeles County," and "Developing a Comprehensive Strategy for a Just Transition Away from Fossil Fuels for Los Angeles County." These motions assigned several County agencies to work on these directives.
2. The motion "Protecting Communities Near Oil and Gas Drilling Operations in Los Angeles County" instructed the Department of Regional Planning (Department) to prepare the Oil Well Ordinance.
3. The Ordinance amends Title 22 (Planning and Zoning) of the Los Angeles County Code to prohibit new oil wells and production facilities, designate existing oil wells and production facilities as nonconforming due to use, and establish consistent regulations for existing oil wells and production facilities during the amortization period.
4. The Ordinance applies to the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County, except for the Baldwin Hills Community Standards District, areas designated as a specific plan, and uses operating under a valid discretionary permit.
5. The Ordinance affects approximately 473 existing oil wells and production facilities.
6. The Ordinance prohibits new oil wells and production facilities by adding "oil wells and production facilities" as a use "not permitted" in Zones A-1, A-2, O-S, R-R, W, R-A, R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4, R-5, RPD, C-H, C-1, C-2, C-3, C-M, C-

MJ, C-R, CPD, M-1, M-1.5, M-2, M-2.5, M-3, B-1, B-2, MPD, C-RU, MXD-RU, IT, MXD, and P-R.

7. The Ordinance amends the East Los Angeles Community Standards District and the Florence-Firestone Community Standards District in order to prohibit new oil wells and production facilities.
8. By adding "oil wells and production facilities" as a use "not permitted" in Title 22, the Ordinance designates existing, legally established oil wells and production facilities as nonconforming due to use.
9. The Ordinance adds consistent regulations to Title 22 for existing oil wells and production facilities, including: well and site signage, comment and complaint log, requirements for site maintenance, bonds for existing wells, and standards for well plugging and abandonment and restoration.
10. The Ordinance is consistent with and supportive of the goals, policies, and principles of the General Plan, including: Policy LU 7.1: Reduce and mitigate the impacts of incompatible land uses, where feasible, using buffers and other design techniques; Policy LU 7.8: Promote environmental justice in the areas bearing disproportionate impacts from stationary pollution sources; Policy LU 9.1: Promote community health for all neighborhoods; and Policy LU 9.4: Encourage patterns of development that protect the health of sensitive receptors.
11. The Ordinance is in the interest of the public health, safety, and general welfare and in conformity with good zoning practice.
12. The Ordinance is consistent with other applicable provisions of Title 22.
13. Pursuant to Chapter 22.244 (Ordinance Amendments) and Section 22.222.180 of the County Code, a public hearing notice was published in 14 local newspapers countywide, including the Spanish-language newspaper La Opinión. The public hearing notice and materials were posted on the Department website and promoted through social media.
14. The Ordinance is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the County CEQA Guidelines pursuant to CEQA Guidelines sections 15061(b)(3), 15061(b)(2), 15301 (Class 1), and 15308 (Class 8).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Regional Planning Commission recommends to the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles as follows:

1. That the Board hold a public hearing to consider the Oil Well Ordinance;

2. That the Board find that the Oil Well Ordinance is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act for the reasons in the record;
3. That the Board determine that the Oil Well Ordinance is compatible with and supportive of the goals and policies of the General Plan; and
4. That the Board adopt the Oil Well Ordinance.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by a majority of the voting members of the Regional Planning Commission on the County of Los Angeles on June 8, 2022

Elida Luna, Commission Services
County of Los Angeles
Regional Planning Commission

APPROVED AS TO FORM: OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL

By _____
Elaine Lemke
Assistant County Counsel
County of Los Angeles