

Summary of Work: March 29, 2016 Board Motion

On March 29, 2016, the Board approved a motion titled “Proactive Planning and Enforcement of Oil and Gas Facilities Operating in Unincorporated Los Angeles County.” Before being superseded by the September 15, 2021 Board motion, staff completed outreach and prepared a draft ordinance based on the March 29, 2016 Board motion.

Staff held three listening sessions: December 4, 2018 at Castaic Library, December 6, 2018 at La Habra Heights City Hall, and April 9, 2019 at AC Bilbrew Library in Willowbrook. The listening sessions included a presentation by staff and a question, answer, and comment period. The listening sessions were attended by a total of 84 people.

On April 13, 2020, staff released the draft ordinance for public comment. On April 15, 2020, staff provided an overview of the draft ordinance to the Regional Planning Commission as a discussion item. Shortly thereafter, staff canceled scheduled community outreach meetings and postponed further work on the 2020 draft ordinance.

Staff received comments on the 2020 draft ordinance. All comments were in opposition to the draft ordinance. These comments are on file with the Department and are not included in this report.

Staff received 11 letters from the following organizations: Nielsen, Merksamer, Parrinello, Gross & Leoni LLP; Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council; Los Angeles County Business Federation; STAND-LA Coalition, Black Women for Wellness, Center for Biological Diversity, Esperanza Community Housing, Holman United Methodist Church, Liberty Hill Foundation, Natural Resources Defense Council, Redeemer Community Partnership, Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education (SCOPE), and Sierra Club; California Independent Petroleum Association (CIPA); Concerned Mineral Owners of California (CMOC); AMVETS Department of California; AMVETS of CA, State Commander; AMVETS of CA, Post 2 Commander; and STAND-LA Coalition, Natural Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club, Redeemer Community Partnership, SCOPE, Esperanza Community Housing, Center for Biological Diversity, and Liberty Hill Foundation.

Staff also received approximately 2,400 form letters requesting that the draft ordinance include “a 2,500-foot health-and-safety buffer zone between fossil-fuel infrastructure and homes, schools and other sensitive sites.” In addition, staff received 55 form letters opposing the draft ordinance because it would “eliminate or impact local oil and gas production” and “would significantly disrupt local production and in doing so, would negatively impact our local economy.”