

From: Anna Christensen [mailto:annachristensen259@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 18, 2023 4:23 PM
To: CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>; Council District 7 <District7@longbeach.gov>; Council District 8 <District8@longbeach.gov>; Council District 3 <District3@longbeach.gov>; Council District 1 <District1@longbeach.gov>; Council District 2 <District2@longbeach.gov>; Council District 4 <District4@longbeach.gov>; Council District 5 <District5@longbeach.gov>; Council District 6 <District6@longbeach.gov>; Council District 9 <District9@longbeach.gov>; Mayor <Mayor@longbeach.gov>; City Manager <CityManager@longbeach.gov>
Subject: Comment, City Council Meeting 2/21/23, Agenda Item 11, 23-0118

-EXTERNAL-

Comments 2023 Draft State Legislative Agenda

To: The Long Beach City Council, Mayor, and City Manager
From: The Los Cerritos Wetlands Task Force, Sierra Club (LCWTF)
Re: City Council Meeting 2/21/23, Agenda Item 11, State Legislative Agenda 2023 and SB 1137

NOTE:

Excerpts below from the 2023 Draft State Legislative Agenda are in Regular Text.
Comments from LCWTF are in ITALICS

LCWTF: SB 1137 would prevent new permits for oil and gas drilling within a 3,200-foot comprehensive health and safety zone. The bill also will create a pathway to an end of existing drilling in the setback zone by prohibiting operators from seeking rework permits. Rework permits are granted to operators to repair or maintain the functionality of wells- SB1137 blocks any rework permits within 3,200ft, and will order the plugging of wells within that distance. This is a monumental win led by frontline communities and environmental justice groups that have been fighting to end neighborhood drilling in California for over a decade.

Draft State Legislative Agenda 2023

INTRODUCTION

“To reflect legislative and funding priorities”

Priority Legislative and Budget Items

“Support policies, legislation, and funding that allocate direct financial resources to mitigate the City’s liability for oil well abandonment and ensure the State saves for their abandonment costs in the Tidelands.”

Rationale: Item recommended by the Energy Resources Department as a result of the passage of SB 1137 (Gonzalez and Limon), which significantly expedites the City’s current timeline relative to the phase-out of oil and gas extraction activities. With the City’s abandonment liability estimated between 140-180 million dollars, direct financial resources are needed to fully fund abandonment.

LCWTF: SB 1137 does not restrict the ability of the city to address oil well abandonment. Expediting the timeline reduces the impacts and potential financial, health, and environmental risks of drilling overall. Income from Tidelands operations is now and will be offset by costs (financial and otherwise) borne by the city and residents due to pollution from existing and proposed wells. This calculation is not part of the City Manager's analysis of SB 1137 nor is support for legislation to address the health impacts of urban wells included in the 2023 Draft State Legislative Agenda. The discussion of SB 1137 has been limited to reduced revenues from oil drilling. However, SB 1137 has actual and potential outcomes that align with the City's "legislative and funding priorities" and its core value of "Resilience and Adaptability" which deserve consideration.

Recovery

"Support legislation and funding that will reduce the impact of climate change on the most vulnerable populations ..."

LCWTF: SB 1137 addresses the impacts of wells and pollution located primarily in low income communities of color.

ENERGY

3.1. Energy Resiliency

"Support the state's Alliance for Renewable Clean Hydrogen Energy Systems (ARCHES) to pursue Department of Energy federal funding for a California Hydrogen Hub."

LCWTF: Hydrogen is not necessarily a clean or green energy source, At this time more than 90% is produced from natural gas at this time. Another consideration is the amount of water needed for hydrogen energy production vs. that available.

Rationale: Items recommended by the Recovery team to highlight the need for additional resources and support for upstream preventative solutions to key challenges the City is facing in its effort to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

LCWTF: The expansion of the City's dependence on fossil fuels has nothing to do with recovering from COVID-19.

ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND RECREATION 4.1. Air Quality and Environmental Sustainability

LCWTF: This topic must not be limited to the shipping industry and corridors. Note: SB 1137 would positively impact air quality in the City overall.

EQUITY

"Support policies, legislation, and funding that allocates resources to advance the City's equity and reconciliation priorities."

“Support policies, legislation, and funding that focuses on racial healing with Black, Latinx, Asian, Indigenous, and other people of color most impacted by systemic racism.”

LCWTF: SB 1137 addresses the inequality of wells and pollution - located in low-income communities of color.

Draft State Legislative Agenda 2023 MAIN DOCUMENT

LCWTF: Overall, and in spite of its core values, this draft document fails to support legislation which transitions away from fossil fuels and instead, relies on and endorses existing and expanding fossil fuel development at the expense of public health and the environment.

Core Values

Resilience and Adaptability

The City has been greatly tested in the last year as we and the rest of the world faced unprecedented challenges brought on by the global COVID-19 public health pandemic and economic downturn. Resilience and adaptability are crucial as we continue to recover and adapt to ever changing surroundings. Resiliency is the capacity for communities and organizations to heal from trauma, and adaptability refers to the ability to cope with adversity and adapt to challenges or change.

LCWTF: In addition to COVID-19, the City, the State, the Nation, and the world face “unprecedented challenges” brought on by climate change as a result of past, present, and projected fossil fuel operations. The State Legislative Agenda must include guidance on and support for “legislation and funding priorities” that address this crisis, including reducing the City’s production of oil and gas and its dependency on revenues from oil drilling operations.

2023 Focus Statements

Priority Legislative and Budget Items

- **Support policies, legislation, and funding that allocate direct financial resources to mitigate the City’s liability for oil well abandonment and ensure the State saves for their abandonment costs in the Tidelands. (New language proposed by Energy Resources)**

LCWTF: SB 1137 will reduce the City’s liability for oil well abandonment by limiting the number of new wells. Wholesale support for “funding that allocate direct financial resources to mitigate the City’s liability for oil well abandonment,” regardless of the source, ensures that the City will stand with the fossil fuel industry, no matter the cost to public health and the environment. Allocation of previous Tidelands Funds shows that setting aside monies for oil well abandonment (\$70 million total) has not been a priority for the City. A single capital improvement project, The Belmont Beach and Aquatic Center, was allocated \$61 million in 2015 and is proposed to get \$3 million more in 2023.

Infrastructure

- • Support infrastructure investments that reduce long-term operations and maintenance expenditures for the City.
- • Support sustainable infrastructure funding to advance the City's climate resiliency efforts.
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expenditures for the City.

- • Support sustainable infrastructure funding to advance the City's climate resiliency efforts

LCWTF: SB 1137 is aligned with and contributes to these goals.

Recovery (Additional language in this section proposed by Recovery team)

- Support legislation and funding that will reduce the impact of climate change on the most vulnerable populations

LCWTF: SB 1137 addresses inequality of wells and pollution located primarily in low income communities of color.

1.5 Industry needs

- • Support policies, legislation and grants to attract and retain local green collar jobs in industries such as green building, renewable energy technologies, and energy efficiency.
- • 1.6. Quality of Life
- • Support policies, legislation and grants to increase or maintain resources dedicated to

infrastructure that contribute to economic development and neighborhood quality.

a 3200 ft buffer zone protecting communities from toxic emissions from oil

LCWTF: SB 1137 improves quality of life by creating wells.

3. ENERGY

- Support policies, legislation and funding to are consistent with the City's long-term objectives for reliable, competitively priced energy supply

LCWTF: Where is language that specifically supports solar/wind?

3.2 Utilities and Waste Management

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LCWTF: Oil and gas extraction are not “consistent with the City’s long-term objectives for reliable, competitively priced energy supply.” Wind, solar, and other green energy is proving to be less costly. Additionally, “price” must be calculated in terms of financial risks and obligations not simply in projected revenues to the City budget and the economy.

- • Support policies, legislation and funding for the maintenance of existing oil property infrastructure, repair and improvement.
- • Support the full funding of the State’s future obligation for abandonment and cleanup of oil fields located in the Long Beach Tidelands.

LCWTF: Obligating the City to continue to support the extraction of oil is counter to the Goal of Resilience and Adaptability as well as to multiple State Legislative Agenda categories including Equity, Air Quality, and Environmental Sustainability. Support for State monies to clean up of oil fields in the Long Beach Tidelands should not obligate the City or encourage the State to support, advocate for, or invest in fossil fuel development.

4. ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION 4.1. Air Quality and Environmental Sustainability

- • Support policies, legislation and funding to provide funding for local government actions that address climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, while protecting recognition of early local government actions that were taken to address climate change.
- • Support policies, legislation and funding to couple planning efforts with greenhouse gas emission reduction, green building, and transit-oriented development strategies.
- • Support policies, legislation and funding in alignment with the City’s Climate Action Plan (CAP), Los Angeles County’s Community Climate Action Plan, and the State’s climate change initiatives.
- • Support policies, legislation, and funding to reduce air pollutants adversely impacting the environment and population's wellbeing while ensuring equitable access to healthy air quality.
- • Work closely with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the South Coast Air Quality

Management District (SCAQMD) to mitigate the impacts from stationary and non-stationary sources of air pollution in the Long Beach and greater Los Angeles air basin.

LCWTF: SB 1137 is aligned with and contributes to these goals

4.2. Stormwater Management and Recreational Water Quality

- Support policies, legislation and funding that would provide local governments with resources to implement stormwater management best practices, including low impact development (LID) ordinances to capture stormwater at its source, municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4) permit compliance, infrastructure improvements and other initiatives to improve recreational water quality at the City's beaches and local waterways.

LCWTF: The State Legislative Agenda must include language that addresses Water Quality overall, not limited to stormwater and sewers. Oil and gas operations, on and offshore, contribute to water pollution. In addition to the impacts of regular operations, "accidental" spills have had and are predicted to have catastrophic impacts on water quality.

5. FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

- ● Oppose policies and legislation that would reduce City revenues.
- ● Support policies and legislation that sustain financial wellbeing for the City

LCWTF: These statements are potentially contradictory as some legislation (SB1137) may reduce City revenues from one source but will actually sustain the financial well-being for the City overall. Additionally, reducing City revenues from industrial and other sources that negatively impact the quality of life of residents and/or the environment, must be left open to consideration.

8. PUBLIC HEALTH

- ● Support policies, legislation and funding to improve and innovate public health functions through ongoing evaluation, research, and quality improvement.
- ● Support policies, legislation and funding to investigate, diagnose, and address health problems and hazards affecting the population.
- ● Support policies, legislation and funding for the quality, use, transparency and public availability of data to inform decisions and actions that improve quality of life outcomes for Black communities and communities of color.
- ● Support funding for the implementation of programs that promote community wellness at the neighborhood level.

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Sent: Saturday, February 18, 2023 4:46 PM

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Subject: City Council Meeting 2/21, Agenda Item 11 and SB 1137

-EXTERNAL-

Dear Mayor and City Council Members, The Draft 2023 Legislative Agenda echoes the City's current position on SB 1137 as expressed by the City Manager to this Council, to the State Legislature, and most recently to the Belmont Shore Community Association and the Marine Advisory Committee. In addition to providing a detailed response to the proposed Legislative Agenda, the Los Cerritos Wetlands Task Force also submits the following handout and requests that the City revise both the Draft Legislative Agenda and its stance on SB 1137. Respectfully, Ann Cantrell/Anna Christensen, Co-Chairs, Los Cerritos Wetlands Task Force, Sierra Club

FYI re SB 1137 - The Sky is NOT Falling!

The Long Beach City Manager's reporting on SB 1137 does not consider or include the measures' financial benefits and positive health and environmental impacts. Instead, it focuses entirely on reduced revenues from the City's wells and from taxes on private oil operators.

Additionally, the hidden costs (financial and otherwise) borne by the City and residents due to pollution from oil and gas wells and local fossil fuel infrastructure are not measured against revenues.

SB 1137 prevents new permits for oil and gas drilling within a 3,200 ft. health and safety zone. It also prohibits rework permits for existing wells and orders the plugging of inactive wells within the setback zone, thus gradually phasing out drilling impacting those most at-risk.

There are 2,762 operational wells in Long Beach, active wells account for 71.3%, idle wells for 27.3%, and new wells 1.4% of the total. An estimated 140,138 residents live within 3,200 feet of an oil or gas well, 30.2% of the population. Thousands more work, recreate, and attend school in these zones. Those most impacted by urban wells are primarily low income people of color.

Harm from oil and gas wells is most severe at a distance of 3,200 feet or less. Studies link proximity to a host of health impacts, including asthma and other respiratory illnesses, high-risk pregnancies, preterm births, and cancer. Wells emit toxic pollutants including the volatile organic compounds benzene and formaldehyde, fine/ultra-fine particulate matter, and hydrogen sulfide.

In addition to the impacts on air and water quality from regular operations, “accidental” releases and spills can be catastrophic. How can the City oppose SB 1137 when the consequences of doing so are so clearly harmful to so many?

SB 1137 does not restrict the ability of the City to address oil well abandonment. By limiting the number of new wells, SB 1137 actually decreases this liability. Expediting the City’s 2035 timeline reduces the impacts and risks (financial and environmental) overall.

Allocation of Tidelands Funds shows that setting aside monies for oil well abandonment is not the first priority for the City. So far \$70 million, 45% of total required, has been set aside. A single capital improvement project, the Belmont Beach and Aquatic Center, was granted \$61 million in Tidelands Funds in 2015 and will get \$3 million more in 2023.

SB 1137 has actual and potential outcomes that align with the City’s funding priorities and its core value of “Resilience and Adaptability.” Oil and gas revenues must be calculated in terms of overall realities and risks, not merely as short-term gains to the City budget.

Oil and gas extraction are not consistent with the City’s long-term objectives for reliable, competitively priced, energy supplies. Wind, solar, and other green energy are proving to be less costly.

SB 1137 is not the wolf at the door, it is the way forward.

To find out if there is an active oil or gas well within 2500 ft of your home see:
<https://maps.fractracker.org/latest/?appid=39cac8f3cd404d1f8a4211f9be580da2>

For more info on urban oil drilling see:**<https://cleanbreak.info/reportsresearch/>**

From: Christina Alfaro [mailto:mulletcrews@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 20, 2023 12:30 PM
To: CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>
Subject: Public Comment Cherry Ave Warehouse Development

-EXTERNAL-

I am a resident of Long Beach and oppose this development. I urge you to consider the environmental impacts on our city and it's residents and request a full Environmental Impact Report on this project.

Thank you,
Christina Gomez