

From: Brady Bradshaw [mailto:bbradshaw@biologicaldiversity.org]

Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 8:55 AM

To: Tom Modica <Tom.Modica@longbeach.gov>

Cc: Mayor <Mayor@longbeach.gov>; Council District 1 <District1@longbeach.gov>; Council District 2 <District2@longbeach.gov>; Council District 3 <District3@longbeach.gov>; Council District 4 <District4@longbeach.gov>; Council District 5 <District5@longbeach.gov>; Council District 6 <District6@longbeach.gov>; Council District 7 <District7@longbeach.gov>; Council District 8 <District8@longbeach.gov>; Council District 9 <District9@longbeach.gov>; Dawn McIntosh <Dawn.McIntosh@longbeach.gov>; CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>; Nicole Levin <nicole.levin@sierraclub.org>

Subject: Support for Health and Safety Buffer Zones

-EXTERNAL-

Dear Mr. Modica,

Please find the attached letter from 14 organizations representing membership in Long Beach in support of 2022 Senate Bill 1137. We request your office's support for, and cooperation with, necessary 3200-foot health and safety buffer zones for the Long Beach community.

All the best,

Brady Bradshaw (he/el)
Senior Oceans Campaigner
Center for Biological Diversity

Living and working from sacred Chumash and Tongva lands



March 21, 2023

Tom Modica, City Manager
411 W. Ocean Blvd.
Long Beach, CA 90802

Re: Support of Setbacks in Long Beach

Dear Mr. Modica,

We, the undersigned organizations with membership and constituents in Long Beach – the traditional homelands of the Acjachemen and Tongva Peoples – are writing in support of Senate Bill 1137 (SB 1137) and setbacks between oil and gas wells and sensitive sites. We are deeply disappointed to see your office’s letter to Governor Newsom in defiance of SB 1137¹. This position undermines critical health and safety protection zones for your constituents. Furthermore, the City Council did not formally approve this letter.

This stance runs contrary to well-established science and fails to accurately represent the voices of the Long Beach community. We encourage you to retract your statements on SB 1137 and prohibit new oil drilling and rework permits within the 3,200 foot setback zone while we await the results of the referendum. Furthermore, we encourage your office to identify alternative sources of revenue to cover the cost of cleaning up oil wells and ensure a just transition for impacted workers.

1

<https://www.longbeach.gov/globalassets/city-manager/media-library/documents/government-affairs/position-letters---state/2021-2022/letter-to-governor-newsom-expressing-concerns-for-senate-bill-1137--gonzalez-and-limon-oil-and-gas>.

The Referendum Process Undermines Democracy and Allows the Industry to Buy Their Way out of Regulation

As you know, last September the state legislature passed SB 1137, a historic and long overdue bill that prohibits new oil drilling within 3,200 feet of homes, schools, hospitals and other sensitive sites.

The oil industry spent over 20 million dollars to overturn this law with a referendum which will go to the ballot in 2024, delaying these long overdue health protections. Throughout the state, there have been numerous documented accounts of petitioners misleading voters while collecting signatures for the referendum.² In fact, the LA Times reported canvassers fabricating misinformation to voters that the referendum would ban new oil drilling within setbacks.³

Thousands of Residents in Long Beach Live Too Close to Oil Drilling Operations

Neighborhood oil drilling exposes Long Beach residents to toxic chemicals and smog-forming gasses, which can cause **respiratory illness, cardiovascular disease, leukemia, lymphoma, lung cancer, nervous system damage, reproductive and endocrine disruption, birth defects, and premature death**. Neighbors adjacent to urban oil drilling suffer the most from these health effects. Even once a well is no longer active, it can continue to leak oil, methane, and other gasses, leaving nearby communities at continued risk.

An estimated 140,138 Long Beach residents live within 3,200 feet of an operational oil and gas well within the city limits. This amounts to about 30.2% of the population. Of those, 101,498 (72.4%) are people of color.

Communities of color and low-income households are most affected by neighborhood oil drilling. Many neighborhoods with urban oil drilling operations are currently exposed to other environmental hazards and pollution, such as heavy transportation corridors and port operations.

The stance on setbacks as currently set by your office is allowing for the expansion of an already catastrophic public health crisis. And as evidenced by these organizations who have signed on, it does not represent the stance of the people you represent.

²

<https://www.kvpr.org/local-news/2022-12-30/why-an-oil-industrys-signature-gathering-effort-is-seen-as-misleading>

³ <https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2023-02-07/oil-drilling-referendum-qualified>

Instead of using city resources fighting these overdue health and safety protections, we urge you to use your time and resources to identify alternative revenue sources to fund oil well clean up and work with impacted workers and community members to enable a just transition.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Signed,

Nicole Levin - Campaigner, Sierra Club Dirty Fuels

Nancy Woo - Hub Coordinator, Sunrise Long Beach

Brady Bradshaw - Campaigner, Center for Biological Diversity

Tina Calderon - Director, Sacred Grounds™

Jeannine Pearce - CEO, Fierce Courage

Jeannine Pearce - Convener, The Climate Council

Charles Miller - Chair, Los Angeles Climate Reality Project

Jan Victor Andasan - Community Organizer, East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice

Bill Sive - West Coast Coordinator, Queers 4 Climate

Karen Reside - Executive Director, Long Beach Grey Panthers

Ellie Cohen - Executive Director, The Climate Center

Maro Kakoussian - Climate Justice Organizing Manager, Physicians for Social Responsibility

Kobi Naseck - Coalition Coordinator, Voices in Solidarity Against Oil in Neighborhoods (VISIÓN)

Paulina Torres- Staff Attorney, Natural Resources Defense Council