

September 15, 2020

Honorable Mayor and City Council of Long Beach
411 W. Ocean Blvd
Long Beach, CA 90802

Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council,

I expect the oil production tax to pass in November. And with that the expectation that we have a strategic analytic and innovative plan to collect environmental impact data and project and test alternatives. This modeling will put Long Beach into a 'safer place' moving forward and be a source for our Southern California region as well as similar environments globally.

I urge you to take action now so that we can collectively harness the many city, i.e. CAAP and regional CBO's actions into a cohesive and effective effort. As others have said, *the City needs to be prepared for what that means in terms of future revenues and on-going maintenance of oil fields and capping of leaking wells*. And that is just the beginning.

I hope I don't live to see a fire storm in Long Beach. But it could very well happen. This year, over 3 million acres have been burned to the ground in our state. And we continue to battle some of the most destructive fires known in the last century.

I applaud the City Council for the steps they have taken thus far to add the Oil Barrel Production Tax on this November 3rd ballot and now urge you to prioritize our Climate Crisis, as it affects our health, our youth, and **our older adults**. Here is a set of starting points:

- Create a Climate Adaptation Fund specifically for reducing dependency on oil, that could fund capital improvement projects, Home Weatherization Programs, Appliance upgrades, cool pavement and cool roof programs, and tree planting.
- Allocate \$700k in the first year of collections of the Oil Barrel Tax income to implementation of the Climate Action and Adaptation and 50% of tax revenue there after.
- Utilize the Equity Toolkit and the CalEnviroScreen to assess priority spending areas.

Today is the day to make the down payments on our shared vision of a safe climate future for everyone in Long Beach.

Working to live the next 30 years!

In Community,

Gretchen Swanson DPT MPH

Rose Park Neighborhood
Wendy Nystrom
Luz Vazquez-Ramos
Sona Coffee
Clay Sandiage
Marianne Buchanan



September 14, 2020

The Honorable Robert Garcia and City Council Members
City of Long Beach
411 W Ocean Boulevard, 11th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

Re: File Item 20-0909 - Oil Barrel Production Tax Revenue Spending Intent Resolution

Dear Mayor Garcia and the Members of the City Council,

This letter is to submit comments regarding the proposed intent resolution for the Oil Barrel Production Tax revenues should an increase be approved by the voters. Our comments focus on Section 2(A) of the proposed resolution, which is related to the climate and environment.

Understanding the intent resolution is designed to outline the high-level priorities for potential new revenues, we appreciate and are supportive of the resolution. The resolution's priorities include reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving air and water quality, and implementing the city's Clean Air Action and Adaptation Plan or other environmental strategic plans.

We do urge; however, the City Council to make a commitment to climate and environmental equity during the implementation phase or in the resolution itself. Both the "Community Health" and "Children and Youth Services and Programs" sections of the proposed resolution include equity language. Disadvantaged and low-income communities are disproportionately impacted by poor air and water quality as well as the climate crisis. As such, it is important for climate and environmental equity to be prioritized as well.

Further, our prior letters and testimony to the City Council and the Sustainable City Commission included other recommendations for the allocation and implementation of potential new revenues. Particularly important is a guaranteed minimum percentage of new revenues that will be spent in disadvantaged and low-income communities. We ask the City Council to consider these other recommendations should the measure pass.

Lastly, we also ask the city to seek the advice and guidance of local environmental and environmental justice organizations when designing and implementing the climate and environmental aspects of this initiative. Ensuring the community has a say in the design and priorities of the effort will be important to its long-term success.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher Chavez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right from the end of the name.

Christopher Chavez

Deputy Policy Director

Member, Wilmington, Carson, and West Long Beach AB 617 Community Steering Committee
6th District resident

Cc: The Honorable Charles Parkin, City Attorney, City of Long Beach

Cc: Sona Coffee, Chair of the Sustainable City Commission, City of Long Beach

From: Norma Rodriguez [mailto:norma@caljustice.org]
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 4:43 PM
To: CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>
Subject: Agenda item 1 support for Measure US

-EXTERNAL-

My name is Norma Rodriguez, I am the Organizing Director for Californians for Justice here in Long Beach. We are an education nonprofit focused on racial justice and education equity. We work with highschool youth of color across the state and locally. This comment is in support of Measure US and for you all to vote to adopt the resolution to prioritize the spending of the Oil Barrel Production Tax Revenues for the specific purpose to fund our fight against climate change and to support the health and well-being of our youth and communities most harmed by COVID and institutional racism.

Right now, Long Beach has an opportunity to increase revenue for communities most impacted by systemic and environmental racism. When we vote #YesOnUs, we hold local oil companies accountable to pay their fair share in taxes. Now is the time for Long Beach to vote #YesonUS and ensure young people and those most impacted will receive the care they deserve!

Close to one-third of Long Beach's youth population were already living in poverty before the pandemic. And, close to 7,000 students attending LBUSD reported homelessness. In this crisis, we know things are getting worse so we need to act now. This is a critical step towards ensuring youth and families who live in historically and systemically under-resourced neighborhoods will benefit from equitable programs and public infrastructure to support strong, healthy, communities.

We hope that you will vote to adopt this resolution and continue to have youth voices and equity centered in this process because we need all of US!

Norma Rodriguez
Organizing Director
She/Her/Hers
[Californians for Justice](#) | 1205 Pine Ave Suite 101, Long Beach, CA
| Twitter: @normita83

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