



Westside
Regional
Alliance of
Councils

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Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council
Brentwood Community Council
Del Rey Neighborhood Council
Mar Vista Community Council
Neighborhood Council of Westchester-Playa
North Westwood Neighborhood Council
Pacific Palisades Community Council

Palms Neighborhood Council
South Robertson Neighborhoods Council
Venice Neighborhood Council
West LA-Sawtelle Neighborhood Council
Westside Neighborhood Council
Westwood Community Council
Westwood Neighborhood Council

August 16, 2023

South LA Area Planning Commission
Hon. Karen Bass, Mayor, City of Los Angeles
Vincent P. Bertoni, Director, Los Angeles City Planning Dept.

Via email to all addressees

Re: Case No. ZA-1959-15227-O-PA6 – Murphy Drill Site: SUPPORT Director’s Determination Letter

Honorable City officials:

The Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC) is a coalition of all fourteen neighborhood and community councils on the Westside of Los Angeles, located in CDs 5 and 11 and portions of CDs 4 and 10.

WRAC’s member councils have long expressed concern about the environmental impacts of oil drilling in or near the Westside’s residential neighborhoods. To protect the health and welfare of Westside constituents, WRAC’s member councils and other Westside organizations have historically had the resources in many instances to prevent or achieve mitigation of the impacts oil drilling. We are also aware of the City’s discriminatory and disparate treatment of Los Angeles neighborhoods in terms of protections from oil drilling operations. Now, it has come to WRAC’s attention that fellow Angelenos in West Adams have similar concerns about the environmental impacts of the above-referenced drill site.

As a result, more than a majority of WRAC member councils (9 councils) have adopted the following motion (or modified versions in keeping with its spirit), which is an adopted position of WRAC:

“Whereas, the City of Los Angeles has a history of discriminatory and disparate treatment in its oil drilling environmental compliance requirements whereby some communities are afforded greater protections from pollution and noise from oil drilling operations while other communities are not;

“Whereas, the Murphy Drill site location in West Adams is an example of a community that has been exposed to toxic fumes and noise pollution that could be partially abated through facility enclosure and electrification of workover rigs and power supply, as has been done in wealthier communities, but have not been;

“Whereas, on February 28, 2023, the City’s Planning Department issued a Letter of Determination on Case No. ZA-1959-15227-O-PA6 requiring additional and modified conditions for the continued operation of the Murphy Oil Drill Site “to increase the protection of and to preserve the health, safety and general welfare of the residents and stakeholders of the neighborhood”;

“Whereas, on March 13, 2023, E & B Natural Resources the operator of the Murphy Drill site filed an appeal to the City’s Letter of Determination;

“Therefore, WRAC calls on the City of Los Angeles to uphold its February 28 Letter of Determination.”

The language of the above motion has been approved by the following WRAC member councils: Bel Air-Beverly

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Crest Neighborhood Council, Brentwood Community Council, Del Rey Neighborhood Council, Neighborhood Council Westchester-Playa, Mar Vista Community Council, Pacific Palisades Community Council,* Palms Neighborhood Council, Westside Neighborhood Council and Westwood Neighborhood Council (**modified version maintaining the spirit of the motion*).

No member councils have opposed the WRAC motion or submitted a minority letter to accompany this position.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the South LA Area Planning Commission to uphold the Director's Determination Letter of February 28th in the above-referenced matter and to implement its requirements as soon as possible for the health and welfare of the West Adams community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robin Greenberg

Robin Greenberg
Chair
Westside Regional Alliance of Councils

cc (via email):

Hon. Katy Yaroslavsky, CD 5
Hon. Traci Park, CD 11
Hon. Nithya Rama, CD 4
Hon. Heather Hutt, CD 10