

**Department of Regional Planning**  
**Department Statement**

**Board of Supervisors Meeting September 27, 2022**

**Hearing on the Oil Well Ordinance, Project No. PRJ2020-000246-(1-5) and Advance Planning Case No. RPPL2020000624;** an amendment to Title 22 - Planning and Zoning of the County Code to **prohibit new oil wells and production facilities, designate existing oil wells and production facilities as nonconforming due to use, and establish consistent regulations for existing oil wells and production facilities during the amortization period,** in the unincorporated areas; an amendment to Title 12 – Environmental Protection of the County Code to **remove the exception for oil wells from regulations for noise and vibration;** and find that the proposed project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act. (The Regional Planning Commission recommended approval of this project on June 8, 2022.) (Department of Regional Planning)

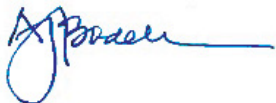
On September 15, 2021, the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors (Board) approved three motions that articulate the Board's vision to prioritize and protect the public health, safety, and welfare of residents living near oil wells, and begin the process of a just transition away from fossil fuels and decarbonization of the economy. These motions assigned several County agencies to work on these directives. The motion "Protecting Communities Near Oil and Gas Drilling Operations in Los Angeles County" instructed the Department of Regional Planning (Department) to prepare the Oil Well Ordinance (Ordinance).

The Ordinance amends Title 22 (Planning and Zoning) of the Los Angeles County Code to prohibit new oil wells and production facilities, designate existing oil wells and production facilities as nonconforming due to use, and establish consistent regulations for existing oil wells and production facilities during the amortization period. The Ordinance also amends Title 12 (Environmental Protection) to remove the exemption for oil wells and production facilities from the County's noise and vibration regulations.

This Ordinance is the first of several planned actions by the Department to fulfill the Board's directives. Concurrent to the development of the Ordinance, the Department will amend the Baldwin Hills Community Standards District and individual specific plans to prohibit new wells and production facilities and add additional standards, as applicable. Once the Ordinance is in effect, the Department will take separate actions to pursue modifications to valid discretionary permits in accordance with existing procedures in Title 22. The Department is also proceeding with the amortization study. If the amortization study determines that the phase-out period for

nonconforming uses is shorter than the 20 years prescribed in Title 22, the Department will prepare an amendment to establish the shorter phase-out period. The Department continues to partner with County agencies and the Just Transition Task Force to address the remaining Board directives.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Amy J. Bodek", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Amy J. Bodek, AICP  
Director of Regional Planning