

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL PLANNING

AMY J. BODEK, AICP
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JOSEPH HORVATH
Administrative Deputy,
Administration

May 13, 2025

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**REPEAL OF THE OIL WELL ORDINANCE
PROJECT NO. PRJ2020-000246-(1-5)
ADVANCE PLANNING CASE NO. RPPL2020000624
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3-VOTES)**

SUBJECT

The Department of Regional Planning (Department) is seeking to repeal the Board of Supervisors' (Board) actions related to zoning regulations for oil wells, specifically the Oil Well Ordinance (Advance Planning Case No. RPPL 2020000624), which the Board adopted on January 24, 2023. These actions are necessary to apply and affirm the grant of authority pursuant to AB 3233 (Addis), effective on January 1, 2025, which allows local governments to enact ordinances to limit or prohibit oil and gas operations or development in its jurisdiction. This will be done through a revised Oil Well Ordinance, which will be brought before the Board of Supervisors in early 2026.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD,

1. Find that the repeal of the Oil Well Ordinance (Oil Well Ordinance) (Advance Planning Case No. RPPL 2020000624) is exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080, subdivision (b)(5);
2. Repeal its adoption of the Oil Well Ordinance as recommended by the Regional Planning Commission, on January 24, 2023; and
3. Adopt the attached ordinance repealing the Oil Well Ordinance.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Board's repeal of the Oil Well Ordinance is necessary to apply and affirm the grant of authority pursuant to AB 3233. This legislation, which became effective on January 1, 2025, allows local governments to enact ordinances to limit or prohibit oil and gas operations or development in its jurisdiction. Since AB 3233 is not expressly retroactive, it is therefore inapplicable to the Oil Well Ordinance, which was enacted prior to AB 3233's effective date. As such, it is necessary to repeal the Oil Well Ordinance and adopt a revised Oil Well Ordinance shortly. The ordinance repealing the Oil Well Ordinance is included as an attachment.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The Board's actions will support the County's Strategic Plan *North Star 2: Foster Vibrant and Resilient Communities; Goal D. Sustainability; Strategy iv: Environmental Justice* by helping the County strengthen its local policies to prohibit new oil wells and to phase out existing oil wells, and support communities that have experienced longstanding environmental impacts from this use.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The County of Los Angeles' (County) repeal of the Oil Well Ordinance potentially reduces litigation costs. AB 3233 (Addis) grants local government the authority to enact ordinances limiting or prohibiting oil and gas operations or development in its jurisdiction. AB 3233 (Addis) will not insulate the County from all legal challenges, but the County's repeal of the existing Oil Well Ordinance and introduction of a new ordinance, consistent with AB 3233 (Addis), will likely reduce litigation costs.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

On September 15, 2021, through a series of three motions, the Board articulated its vision to prioritize and protect the public health, safety, and welfare of residents living near oil wells and to begin the process of a just transition away from fossil fuels and decarbonization of the economy. The motion titled "Protecting Communities Near Oil and Gas Drilling Operations in Los Angeles County" instructs the Department, in collaboration with County Counsel, to limit or prohibit oil and gas operations or development in its jurisdiction.

In response to the motion, the Department prepared the Oil Well Ordinance, which the Board adopted on January 24, 2023. The Oil Well Ordinance amended the Los Angeles County Code to prohibit new oil wells and production facilities, designated existing oil wells and production facilities as nonconforming uses, and established consistent regulations for existing oil wells and production facilities during the amortization period. The Board further determined the Oil Well Ordinance is categorically exempt from CEQA.

On September 26, 2024, AB 3233 (Addis) was enacted, and it became effective on January 1, 2025. AB 3233 (Addis) clarifies the law by authorizing the County to limit or prohibit oil and gas operations or development in its jurisdiction. However, AB 3233 (Addis) is not expressly retroactive, and therefore inapplicable to the County's Oil Well Ordinance because the ordinance was enacted prior to AB 3233's effective date.

A map of existing wells in the unincorporated areas can be found on the Los Angeles County Oil and Gas [Dashboard](https://oilandgas.lacounty.gov/resources) (<https://oilandgas.lacounty.gov/resources>), which is maintained by the County of Los Angeles Office of Oil and Gas.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The Board action is to repeal the ordinance, and is therefore exempt from CEQA, pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080, subdivision (b)(5).

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

This action will not significantly impact County services.

For further information, please contact Connie Chung, Deputy Director, at (213) 974-6457 or cchung@planning.lacounty.gov.

Respectfully submitted,



AMY J. BODEK, AICP
Director of Regional Planning

AJB:DJS:CC:lj

cc: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Public Works

Attachment:
Ordinance to repeal the Oil Well Ordinance



County of Los Angeles

April 29, 2025

Dawyn R. Harrison
County Counsel



Amy J. Bodek, Director
Department of Regional Planning
320 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012


Re: Repeal of Ordinance No. 2023-0004 – Oil Well Ordinance

Dear Ms. Bodek:

As requested, our office has prepared an ordinance repealing Ordinance No. 2023-0004, which removed the exemption for oil wells and production facilities from Chapter 12.08 – Noise Control, and amended 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 enclosed analysis and ordinance may be presented to the Board of Supervisors for its consideration.

Very truly yours,

DAWYN R. HARRISON
County Counsel

By 
STARR COLEMAN
Assistant County Counsel
Property Division

APPROVED AND RELEASED:



JUDY W. WHITEHURST
Chief Deputy


SC:II

Enclosures

ANALYSIS

This ordinance repeals Ordinance No. 2023-0004, which removed the exemption for the operation of oil and gas wells from Chapter 12.08 – Noise Control, and amended 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.

DAWYN R. HARRISON
County Counsel

By 
STARR COLEMAN
Assistant County Counsel
Property Division

SC:ll

Requested: 04/09/25

Revised: 04/24/25

ORDINANCE NO. _____

An ordinance repealing Ordinance No. 2023-0004, which removed the exemption for the operation of oil and gas wells from Chapter 12.08 – Noise Control, and amended 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 Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. Ordinance No. 2023-0004, adopted January 24, 2023, which removed the exemption for the operation of oil and gas wells from Chapter 12.08 – Noise Control, and amended 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, is hereby repealed.

[REPEALORD2023-0004KPCC]

REGULATING OIL WELLS & PRODUCTION FACILITIES: JANUARY 2025 SUMMARY OF RELEVANT POLICIES

POLICY	AUTHORITY	NEW WELLS	EXISTING WELLS	HEALTH & SAFETY	PLUGGING & ABANDONMENT
SB 1137 (2022)	California statewide law	Prohibits new wells in health protection zones (3,200 ft from sensitive receptors) beginning 1/1/23	Requires compliance with new health/safety rules by 1/1/25; annual sensitive receptor mapping; leak detection plans implemented by 1/1/27	Strict controls on noise, dust, emissions, water sampling, notice to neighbors in health protection zones	Drilling approvals allowed only for plugging/replugging in health protection zones; indemnity bond required if court-ordered drilling
AB 2716 (2024)	California state law applicable only to Inglewood Oil Field	Not applicable	Requires identifying low-production wells by 3/1/2025; owners cannot keep them low-production >12 months after 3/1/2026; all must be plugged by 12/31/2030	Directs penalties to community reinvestment	Mandatory plugging by 12/31/2030; \$10k/month penalty after 1/1/2031
AB 3233 (2024)	California statewide law	Local jurisdictions may limit or prohibit new oil & gas operations	Local bans or limits override existing state well permits	Empowers local entities to adopt stricter health and environmental safeguards	Requires compliance with state plugging and decommissioning rules upon local prohibition