



NEWS

Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke

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Burke Announces Temporary Oil Drilling Moratorium in Baldwin Hills Area

Modified ordinance continues to impose development standards & restrictions on the drilling of new oil wells or deepening of existing wells. May 29 public hearing is set

LOS ANGELES COUNTY – Stating that it is urgently needed for the immediate preservation of public health, safety and welfare, Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke today announced that she is proposing a temporary moratorium on all new oil drilling for the next twelve months as part of the proposed extension to the County's current Interim Ordinance governing oil drilling operations in Baldwin Hills.

The current Interim Ordinance is set to expire on June 26, 2007. This latest ordinance will extend and modify the previous Interim Ordinance for a period of one year to June 26, 2008.

In announcing the temporary moratorium, Burke stated: "Throughout the past twelve months I have received numerous complaints about the ongoing problems of noise, strong unpleasant odors and ground vibrations associated with PXP's oil drilling program. We had sought to reduce the problems by curtailing the oil drilling by 50 percent, and requiring additional odor and noise monitoring. As we continue to receive complaints, we think it is best, at this time, to place a temporary moratorium on all new drilling while the County prepares its Environmental Impact Report and ascertains the extent of the problems."

The Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning has begun a comprehensive zoning study and is preparing an environmental impact report to review the potential impacts associated with the establishment of a community standards district and other permanent zoning regulations in an ordinance that is expected to be completed in approximately one year. Burke added that "these temporary restrictions on drilling will allow the county time to complete its environmental review of the Baldwin Hills-zoned district and allow us to develop appropriate land use regulations for the ongoing oil field operations and drilling."

The extension of the previous ordinance requires a public hearing and approval by four of the five County Board of Supervisors for adoption. The public hearing will take place at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 29 in the Board of Supervisors Hearing Room, 500 W. Temple Street, Los Angeles.

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