

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT / NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY NEGATIVE DECLARATION

for the Long Beach Building Standards Code Amendments – Construction in the Vicinity of Oil Wells/Methane Gas Mitigation

This serves as the City of Long Beach’s Notice of Intent to adopt an Initial Study/Negative Declaration for the Long Beach Building Standards Code Amendments – Construction in the Vicinity of Oil Wells/Methane Gas Mitigation, prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), CEQA Guidelines, and local implementation procedures.

Name of Project: Long Beach Building Standards Code Amendments – Construction in the Vicinity of Oil Wells/Methane Gas Mitigation

Project Location: The City of Long Beach (City) is located in the southern portion of the County of Los Angeles. The City encompasses approximately 50 square miles and is bordered by the cities of Compton, Paramount, and Bellflower, and the unincorporated community of Rancho Dominguez to the north; the cities of Lakewood, Hawaiian Gardens, Cypress, Los Alamitos, and Seal Beach, and the unincorporated community of Rossmoor to the east; the Pacific Ocean to the south; and the cities of Carson and Los Angeles to the west. In addition, the City of Signal Hill is completely surrounded by the City. Regional access to Long Beach is provided by a number of freeways, including Interstates 710, 605, and 405, and State Routes 1, 22, and 91.

Lead Agency: City of Long Beach, 411 West Ocean Boulevard, 3rd Floor, Long Beach, California 90802

Project Description: The project proposes to amend Title 18 of the *Long Beach Municipal Code* (LBMC) by adding Chapter 18.78, *Construction in the Vicinity of Oil Wells*, and Chapter 18.79, *Methane Gas Mitigation*. Chapter 18.78 requires the permittee of construction activities in the vicinity of oil/gas wells to submit documents with details on proposed well abandonment, future accessibility, above-well mitigation, and long-term safety evaluation to the California Geologic Energy Management Division and the City. Chapter 18.79 details the applicability of methane mitigation requirements, definitions, methane soil gas investigation, exemptions, site design levels, methane mitigation components, operations and maintenance, plan review and inspections, and post construction protocols, among others. Adopting Chapters 18.78 and 18.79 into LBMC Title 18, *Long Beach Building Standards Code*, would provide clarity and procedures for future development in the vicinity of oil/gas wells in Long Beach.

Discretionary approvals for the proposed project include adoption of Negative Declaration 02-20 and approval of Ordinances associated with the amendments to LBMC Title 18 (Chapter 18.78, *Construction in the Vicinity of Oil Wells*, and Chapter 18.79, *Methane Gas Mitigation*).

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the City proposes to adopt a Negative Declaration for the above-cited project. The Negative Declaration is based on the finding that the project would not have any significant adverse impacts on the environment. The reasons to support such a finding are documented by an Initial Study prepared by the City.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all City facilities including City Hall and the Billie Jean King Main Library have been closed until further notice. The Initial Study, proposed Negative Declaration, and supporting materials are available for public review on the City’s website at <http://www.longbeach.gov/lbds/planning/environmental/reports/>.

For questions regarding the Negative Declaration, please contact:

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Public Review Period: Begins – May 27, 2020

Ends – June 25, 2020

Hazardous Waste Sites: As the proposed project applies to the entire City, it involves a large geographic area with varying uses, and there are numerous sites listed pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.

In accordance with the CEQA Guidelines, any comments concerning the findings of the proposed Initial Study/Negative Declaration must be submitted in writing and **received by the City no later than 4:30 p.m. on the closing date of the public review period as cited above**, in order to be considered prior to the City’s final determination on the project. Should you decide to challenge this project, you may be limited to the issues raised during this public review period.