

CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OXNARD

RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OXNARD  
IN THE MATTER OF SUPPORT FOR PHASING OUT  
OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION IN CALIFORNIA  
CFROG - CLIMATE FIRST: REPLACING OIL & GAS RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS**, California is the nation’s seventh-largest oil-producing state, producing over 150 million barrels of oil per year, refining around [500 million barrels of oil per year](#),<sup>1</sup> and estimated to contain half of the nation’s heavy oil; and

**WHEREAS**, nearly [7.5 million Californians](#)<sup>2</sup> live within one mile of an active oil or gas site, and over [2.7 million Californians](#)<sup>3</sup>, disproportionately people of color, live within 3,200ft of an oil or gas well; and

**WHEREAS**, Ventura County is the [third-largest producer](#)<sup>4</sup> of oil and gas in California with more than [8,000 Ventura County residents](#)<sup>5</sup> living within 2,500 feet of an oil well, and approximately 60 percent of those residents are Latino; and

**WHEREAS**, if current fossil fuel production rates stay constant, [scientists predict](#)<sup>6</sup> that irreversible effects of climate change will be visible before 2050 and as early as the next decade, years before California Governor Newsom’s current plan to phase out fossil fuel production; and

**WHEREAS**, climate change predominantly fueled by burning fossil fuels has already intensified unprecedented natural disasters, devastating storms, historic droughts, wildfires, and extreme heat which are affecting Oxnard citizens’ physical and mental health; and

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<sup>1</sup> Oil Supply Sources To California Refineries. (2021). Retrieved from <https://www.energy.ca.gov/data-reports/energy-almanac/californias-petroleum-market/oil-supply-sources-california-refineries>

<sup>2</sup> Ferrar, K. People and production: Reducing risk in California extraction. (2020). Retrieved from <https://www.fractracker.org/2020/12/people-and-production/#top>

<sup>3</sup> Ferrar, K. Implications of a 3,200-Foot Setback in California. (2022) Retrieved from <https://www.fractracker.org/2022/04/implications-of-a-3200-foot-setback-in-california/>

<sup>4</sup> Oil & Gas Activity in Ventura County, CA. Retrieved on November 15, 2023 from <https://www.shalex.com/california/ventura-county>

<sup>5</sup> Attorney General Bonta Files Brief in Defense of Ventura County Policies to Protect Communities from Harmful Effects of Oil and Gas Drilling. (2022). Retrieved from <https://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-bonta-files-brief-defense-ventura-county-policies-protect#:~:text=In%20Ventura%20County%2C%20more%20than,gas%20drilling%20are%20well%20established.>

<sup>6</sup> Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. *Climate Change 2023 Synthesis Report*. (2023). Retrieved from [https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/downloads/report/IPCC\\_AR6\\_SYR\\_SPM.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_SYR_SPM.pdf)

**WHEREAS**, by the mid-21st century, researchers project that the number of days with a heat index over 100°F will double and days with an index of [105°F will triple nationwide](#)<sup>7</sup> due to climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has found that children, older adults, pregnant people, athletes, and outdoor workers are [more vulnerable to heatwaves](#)<sup>8</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, if state regulators do not reduce oil and gas emissions, California will not meet its [legislative mandate](#)<sup>9</sup> of lowering greenhouse gas emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 16, 2022, California Governor Newsom [signed legislation](#)<sup>10</sup> into law that will introduce [3,200-ft setback buffer zones](#) between new oil wells and sensitive sites like homes, schools, and hospitals; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 6, 2023, California's oil and gas regulatory agency, CalGEM, suspended implementation of the 3,200-ft setback buffer zones rule after the oil industry qualified a ballot measure challenging the setbacks rule that will be voted on by all Californians in November 2024; and

**WHEREAS**, areas of the Oxnard Plain that surround neighborhoods contain many wells near people's homes, the [California Council on Science and Technology](#)<sup>11</sup> recommendation of a health and safety buffer zone between sensitive sites and oil and gas wells, which cites studies on the harms oil drilling poses to human health should be adhered to; and

**WHEREAS**, [352,782](#)<sup>12</sup> students in California, predominantly from Black, Indigenous, and Latinx communities, attend school within one mile of an oil and gas well; and

**WHEREAS**, frontline communities residing in Ventura County are [disproportionately harmed](#)<sup>13</sup> by climate change and environmental impacts, including significantly worse air pollution, causing residents to develop asthma, heat island effect, and elevated infectious diseases; and

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<sup>7</sup> Heat Waves and Climate Change | Center for Climate and Energy Solutions. Retrieved from <https://www.c2es.org/content/heat-waves-and-climate-change/>

<sup>8</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Heat and Health Tracker. (2024). Retrieved from <https://ephtracking.cdc.gov/Applications/heatTracker/>

<sup>9</sup> Governor Brown establishes most ambitious greenhouse gas reduction target in North America. (2015). Retrieved from <https://www.ca.gov/archive/gov39/2015/04/29/news18938/index.html>

<sup>10</sup> Bill Status - SB-1137 Oil and gas: operations: location restrictions: notice of intention: health protection zone: sensitive receptors. (2022). Retrieved from [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billStatusClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202120220SB1137](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billStatusClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB1137)

<sup>11</sup> California Council on Science and technology. (2015). *An Examination of Hydraulic Fracturing and Acid Stimulation in the Oil and Gas Industry* [Ebook]. Retrieved from <https://ccst.us/wp-content/uploads/2015SB4-v2ES.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> Ferrar, K. People and production: Reducing risk in California extraction. (2021). Retrieved from [https://www.fractracker.org/a5ej20sfwe/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Fractracker\\_SchoolEnrollmentReport\\_11.17.14.pdf](https://www.fractracker.org/a5ej20sfwe/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Fractracker_SchoolEnrollmentReport_11.17.14.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities Map (2022). Retrieved from <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/1c21c53da8de48f1b946f3402fbae55c/page/SB-535-Disadvantaged-Communities/>

**WHEREAS**, children are [more vulnerable to the diseases caused by poor air quality](#)<sup>14</sup> because they spend more time outside, have immature/developing lungs, and breathe in more per body weight; and

**WHEREAS**, Ventura County has [2,367 orphan and idle wells](#)<sup>15</sup>, with hundreds surrounding the City of Oxnard in the Oxnard Plains, that leak methane and other pollutants at an average of 67 percent; and

**WHEREAS**, the cost for cleaning up all idle and orphan wells in Ventura County is estimated at [\\$776 million and has the potential to create over 1,800 jobs](#)<sup>16</sup>, but the current funds available from oil operators is [significantly inadequate](#)<sup>17</sup>, posing a major threat to taxpayers; and

**WHEREAS**, On September 1, 2023, the State of California Legislature endorsed a [Fossil Fuel Nonproliferation Treaty](#)<sup>18</sup>, making California the largest global economy to support a global plan to stop fossil fuel expansion and phase out coal, oil, and gas; and

**WHEREAS**, The City of Oxnard adopted a [Climate Action and Adaptation Plan](#)<sup>19</sup> in 2023 to commit to sustainability and to counteract the effects of the climate crisis that residents of Oxnard face; and

**WHEREAS**, On January 17, 2024, the largest school district in Ventura County, the Oxnard Union High School District, passed a resolution calling for the end of oil drilling in California and urged the state and all local government agencies to take similar action.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Oxnard City Council urges Governor Newsom and the Ventura County Board of Supervisors to immediately stop issuing permits for oil & gas production and to accelerate the process of phasing out oil and gas extraction in California through a just transition that protects workers and frontline communities; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Oxnard City Council implores Governor Newsom's support for 3,200 ft health and safety setback distances between oil extraction and sensitive sites and urges him to do everything in his power to defend these setbacks from efforts to overturn or otherwise undermine them; and

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<sup>14</sup> Danelski, D. (n.d.). *Health: Children are more vulnerable to air pollution effects*. (2013). Retrieved from <https://centerforhealthjournalism.org/fellowships/projects/health-children-are-more-vulnerable-air-pollution-effects>

<sup>15</sup> Sierra Club. *\$23 Billion Question: What created California's orphan and idle well crisis?* (2023) Retrieved from <https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/default/files/2023-12/Idle%20Wells%20Report.pdf>

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> Kretzmann, Hollin. *Undercover risks: how Big Oil's 'blanket bonds' jeopardize the environmental and state budgets* (2020). Retrieved from [https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/programs/climate\\_law\\_institute/pdfs/Undercover-Risks-20-10-21-Blanket-Bond-Report.pdf?\\_gl=1\\*11nzgl\\*\\_gcl\\_au\\*OTQ5NTQ2Mzg3LjE3MDYwNjA3MzY](https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/programs/climate_law_institute/pdfs/Undercover-Risks-20-10-21-Blanket-Bond-Report.pdf?_gl=1*11nzgl*_gcl_au*OTQ5NTQ2Mzg3LjE3MDYwNjA3MzY).

<sup>18</sup> State of California Becomes the Largest Economy to Endorse the Call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. (2023). Retrieved from <https://fossilfuel treaty.org/california-assembly>

<sup>19</sup> City of Oxnard. *Climate Action and Adaptation Plan*. (2022). Retrieved from [https://www.oxnard.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Oxnard-CAAP\\_2022-12-07\\_Adopted.pdf](https://www.oxnard.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Oxnard-CAAP_2022-12-07_Adopted.pdf)

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Oxnard City Council urges Governor Newsom and the Ventura County Board of Supervisors to ensure polluters are held accountable for the timely and complete plugging of idle and orphan wells; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Oxnard City Council will continue to recognize climate change and climate justice as issues of importance to Ventura County; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Oxnard City Council will continue to transition to renewable energy sources with the urgency that the climate crisis calls for; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that, regarding the November 2024 ballot referendum challenging the 2022 law prohibiting new oil and gas wells near homes, schools, and hospitals (SB 1137), the Oxnard City Council supports upholding SB 1137 and opposes repealing SB 1137, and urges a vote to “Keep the Law.”

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 21<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2024, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

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John C. Zaragoza, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Rose Chaparro, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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Stephen M. Fischer, City Attorney