



**Date:** February 28, 2018  
**To:** Patrick H. West, City Manager *T.M.*  
**From:** Larry Rich, Sustainability Coordinator /s/  
**For:** Mayor and Members of the City Council  
**Subject:** **Sustainable City Commission Oil Operations Letter**

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At its meeting of March 23, 2017, the Sustainable City Commission (Commission) received a presentation from Long Beach Gas and Oil Department staff on current gas and oil operations in Long Beach. The attached letter was drafted by staff based on comments expressed by Commissioners at that meeting.

If you would like further information regarding this communication, please contact me (562) 570-5839 or via email at [larry.rich@longbeach.gov](mailto:larry.rich@longbeach.gov).

ATTACHMENT

CC: CHARLES PARKIN, CITY ATTORNEY  
LAURA DOUD, CITY AUDITOR  
TOM MODICA, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER/INTERIM DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES  
KEVIN JACKSON, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER  
REBECCA GARNER, ASSISTANT TO THE CITY MANAGER  
DEPARTMENT HEADS

## Sustainable City Commission

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February 28, 2018

Honorable Mayor and City Council  
City of Long Beach  
333 West Ocean Boulevard, 14th Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802

### **Subject: Current Oil Operations in the City of Long Beach**

Dear Mr. Mayor and City Council,

The Sustainable City Commission received a presentation from Long Beach Gas & Oil staff on March 23rd, 2017 on Current Oil and Gas Operations in Long Beach. The City of Long Beach has committed to addressing the issue of climate change through the Compact of Mayors and the ongoing Climate Action and Adaptation Plan. The Commission believes oil is an important issue to consider in the City's response to climate change and respectfully requests that City Council consider commissioners' position on this matter:

- **Greater awareness and education are needed:** more effort is needed for the public to be aware of what processes are being used and their risk to the environment and public health.
- **Long-term planning is needed:** the city is facing the impacts of climate change, and oil operations contribute emissions which exacerbate this problem. the City needs to make long-term decisions now regarding oil operations and climate change.
- **Long Beach is an international city and should be an international leader:** Long Beach should be setting the example to be stewards of the Earth.
- **Accidents happen despite best efforts:** gas and oil leaks can be catastrophic to ecosystems. The only way to guarantee there will be no major gas or oil leaks is to stop gas and oil operations.
- **Long Beach should prepare for a sustainable future:** transitioning to sustainable energy sources would help the city reduce its dependency on oil. Community Choice Energy is one way the City can control its energy source and gain revenue to invest in these sustainable options.

The Commission is grateful to the Gas & Oil department for coming to the Commission and answering questions. Long Beach is lucky to have its own Gas & Oil department to approach with these issues, and one that is run so professionally. Regardless of how well it is operated, oil cannot be drilled sustainably, it is inherently detrimental to the environment. Long Beach needs to be planning for a future without oil, one that includes sustainable, renewable energy.

Sustainability is providing for people's needs while conserving natural resources for generations to come. The Commission believes it is possible to meet the city's energy needs while transitioning away from oil towards sustainable energy sources, and the time to start this process is now.

Sincerely,



Coby Skye

Chair, Sustainable City Commission