July 10, 2015

Ms. Susan Hackwood
Executive Director, California Council on Science and Technology
1130 K Street, Suite 280
Sacramento, CA 95814-3965

RE: Independent Scientific Assessment of Well Stimulation in California

Dear Ms. Hackwood:

I write to thank the California Council on Science & Technology for your extensive research on well stimulation, including hydraulic fracking, in California.

As you know, the Inglewood Oil Field (IOF), which is located in the heart of my district, is one of the largest urban oilfields in the nation. I am concerned that your report may have not taken into consideration the extensive amount of environmental review and monitoring that has been done, and is required on an ongoing basis, to ensure that the IOF continues to operate in a manner that protects the health, safety and wellbeing of surrounding residents.

In 2008, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors adopted a Community Standards District (CSD) to regulate drilling and related operations at the field. The CSD was put in place after a comprehensive Environmental Impact Report was prepared that evaluated the impacts of drilling activities over a 30 year period. Included in the CSD are hundreds of requirements, including a 400 foot buffer from developed areas, 800 feet from sensitive developed areas unless special conditions are met, as well as ongoing monitoring of air quality, seismic activity and ground water.

However, when I came into office following adoption of the CSD, I was concerned that the CSD did not go far enough. In coordination with environmental and community advocates, the City of Culver City and the oilfield operator, 15 additional mitigations were put in place in 2011 to provide the surrounding communities with assurances that the IOF would operate in a manner that protects public health and safety. These additional mitigations included a comprehensive peer-reviewed community health assessment, a study of the impacts of hydraulic fracking, as well as a multi-year long air quality monitoring study of the perimeter of the oil field that addressed air toxics. These studies have been completed and found no significant health or environmental impacts that could be correlated with drilling activities. These documents, and other required reports can be reviewed at http://planning.lacounty.gov/baldwinhills.

It is important to note that besides from two wells which were hydraulically fractured (one in September 2011 and one in January 2012) for the purposes of completing a required study on the impacts of hydraulic fracking, no other wells have since been hydraulically fractured at the Inglewood Oil Field.

High pressure gravel pack well completions also ceased at the IOF in August 2013. The County is not aware of any plans for future hydraulic fracturing at the IOF. In fact, no drilling has occurred at the IOF since June 2014.

My team welcomes the opportunity to further discuss your report in order to ensure that you have the most accurate and up-to-date information regarding drilling activities at the IOF.

With hope,

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Supervisor, Second District

c: Members of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
The Hon. Sebastian Ridley-Thomas
The Hon. Holly Mitchell
Members of the Culver City Council
Los Angeles Times