manatt

October 27, 2026

VIA EMAIL & ONLINE PORTAL (LACOUNCILCOMMENT.COM)

Chair Bob Blumenfield
Los Angeles City Councilmembers Raman, Jurado, Lee, and Nazarian
City of Los Angeles
200 N Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Candy Rosales - Legislative Assistant
(clerk.plumcommittee@lacity.org)

Re: Proposed Oil and Gas Drilling Ordinance, Council File No. 17-0447-S2, October 27, 2026 Los Angeles City Council Planning and Land Use Committee Special Meeting Agenda Item 1

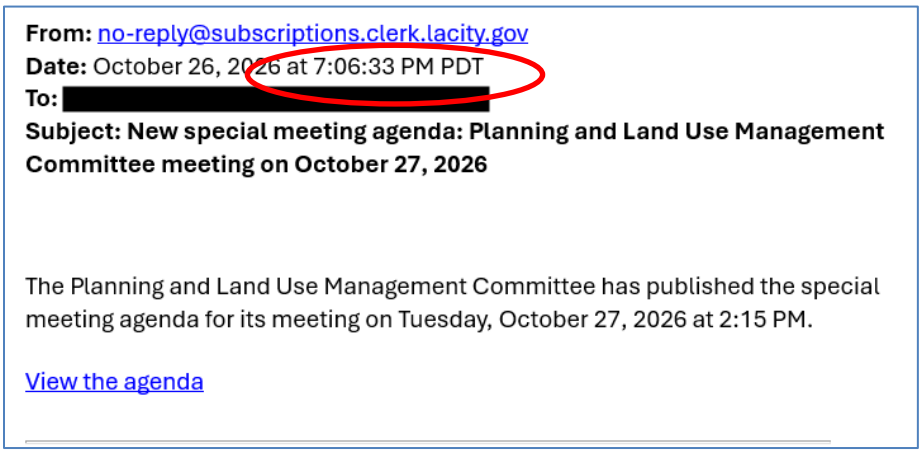
Dear Chair Blumenfield and Councilmembers:

The undersigned counsel jointly submit this letter on behalf of their respective clients as noted on the signature lines below and as listed here: Pacific Coast Energy Company, LP ("PCEC"), an oil and gas producer operating within the City of Los Angeles ("City"); the Native Oil Producers and Employees of California ("NOPEC"), a non-profit association that promotes, protects, and defends the interests of all oil and gas producers in the State of California; Warren E&P, Inc., Warren Resources of California, Inc., Warren Resources, Inc., Warren Management Corp., and Warren Operating LLC (collectively, "Warren"), an oil and gas producer operating within the City; E&B Natural Resources Management Corporation, Hillcrest Beverly Oil Corporation, E&B ENR I, LLC, and Elysium Natural Resources, LLC (collectively, "E&B"), oil and gas producers operating within the City; and those producers' employees, vendors, and other entities associated with the oil and gas industry (collectively, the "Commentors"). The Commentors submit the below comments regarding the City of Los Angeles' ("City's") proposed Oil and Gas Drilling Ordinance, CF No. 17-0447-S2 ("Ordinance"), and the Mitigated Negative Declaration ("MND") for the Ordinance, Environmental Case No. ENV- 2025-2885-MND.

We have serious concerns regarding the City's attempt to rush adoption of the Ordinance through a special meeting that violates the Commentors' due process rights and fails to comply with the notice requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act (Gov. Code § 54950 *et seq*., the "Act") as well as the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"). Given these concerns, we respectfully request that the Planning and Land Use Management Committee ("PLUM") table this item, cancel the October 27, 2026 special meeting ("Special Meeting"), and defer consideration of this item until such time as the City can comply with its legal notice and due process obligations.

The Special Meeting as Noticed Does Not Comply with the Brown Act

The Brown Act requires at least 24 hours' written notice to each member of the legislative body and to requesting media prior to a special meeting, and the notice must specify the time, place, and business to be transacted. Gov. Code § 54956. Here, the City sent an email with notice of the Special Meeting at approximately 7:06pm on Monday, October 26, 2026, for a meeting agendized and scheduled for 2:15pm the following day, October 27, 2026. The City thus provided approximately 19 hours and 9 minutes of notice, less than the required 24 hours' notice specified by the Brown Act. The email header confirms that notice was provided at 7:06pm:

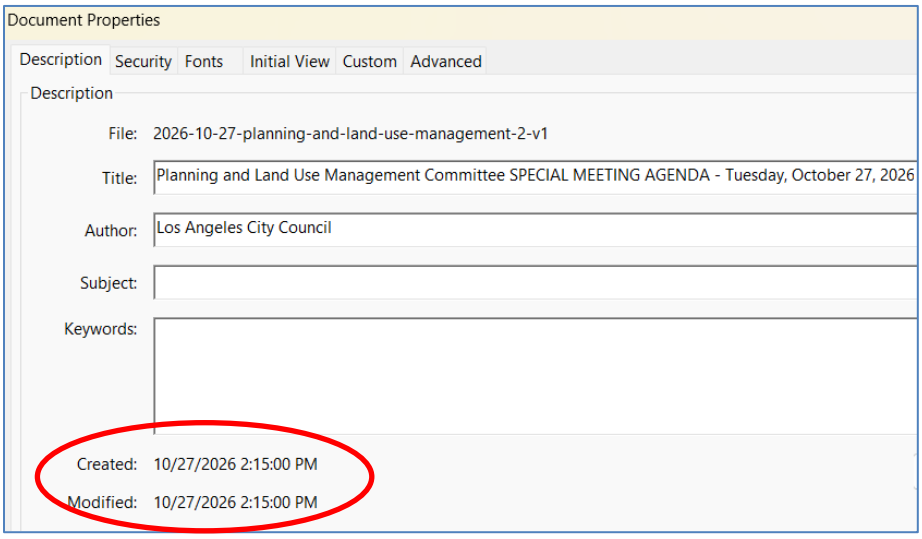


From: no-reply@subscriptions.clerk.lacity.gov
Date: October 26, 2026 at 7:06:33 PM PDT
To: [redacted]
Subject: New special meeting agenda: Planning and Land Use Management Committee meeting on October 27, 2026

The Planning and Land Use Management Committee has published the special meeting agenda for its meeting on Tuesday, October 27, 2026 at 2:15 PM.

View the agenda

In addition, the metadata of the Special Meeting agenda indicates that it was created on October 27, 2026 at 2:15pm (the date of the meeting itself and the day ***after*** it was transmitted), making it impossible to determine when exactly the agenda was created and actually distributed:



Thus, there is no evidence to suggest that the City has provided legally-compliant notice for the putative special meeting to be held on October 27, 2026. To the contrary, publicly available evidence indicates that the City did not provide legally compliant notice. Any action taken at the October 27, 2026 Special Meeting will be subject to challenge as to its validity on the basis that it was adopted in violation of the Brown Act.

Violations of CEQA

The City ostensibly adopted the MND for the Ordinance at its June 24, 2026 meeting. However, that adoption and MND document do not cover the action agendized for the October 27, 2026 Special Meeting. The items before PLUM at the Special Meeting include a newly-drafted proposed ordinance that runs to 42 pages in length, along with a 2,796 page report from the Department of City Planning, new mitigation measures, and a report from the City Attorney on the proposed ordinance, newly presented with less than 24 hours for review. [1] None of these items were available or even in existence at the time the City Council previously adopted the MND at its June 22, 2026 meeting. Therefore, the prior adoption cannot be considered sufficient to meet the City's notice and disclosure obligations under CEQA, and even compliance with the Brown Act's special meeting requirements—which the City has failed to do—does not excuse the City's failure under CEQA.

The special meeting framework also does not excuse compliance with CEQA's notice and review requirements. Before PLUM or the City Council can adopt the MND, CEQA requires a minimum 20-day public review period. *See Citizens for the Restoration of L Street v. City of Fresno*, 229 Cal.App.4th 340, 360 (2014). Further, the City as the lead agency for CEQA must provide public notice of its intent to adopt the MND sufficiently prior to adoption to allow this review period. Pub. Res. Code § 21092. Meaningful public scrutiny requires mitigation measures to be set forth and available for public review before the MND is adopted. *Quail Botanical Gardens Foundation, Inc. v. City of Encinitas*, 29 Cal.App.4th 1597, 1605 FN 4 (1994). To the extent that the City contends that circulation of the MND earlier this summer covers the ordinance and mitigation measures now on the Special Meeting agenda for consideration, that that contention is flawed. As explained above, what is now being considered by the PLUM is not the same as what was evaluated in the previously prepared MND. As such we again urge PLUM to table this issue.

Additional, Fundamental Concerns with the Ordinance

As a separate note, the Commentors and others have previously submitted detailed comments to the City regarding prior iterations of this Council File item (*See, e.g.* June 22, 2026 letter from the Western States Petroleum Association and NOPEC to the City Council; Warren's prior submissions and evidence dated June 22, 2026, December 1, 2025, December 9, 2025, and

[1] Note that it would require reading at a speed greater than 2 pages per minute for the entire 19-hour notice period provided for a member of the public to review all of the materials agendized for the special meeting, setting aside the City's failure to provide the legally-required 24 hours' notice, in order to review all of the materials.

December 29, 2025; and E&B's prior submissions and evidence dated December 29, 2025). We incorporate those prior comments herein in their entirety by reference.

Request to Table the Ordinance

Given the significant concerns raised above and the reality that any action taken at the October 27, 2026 Special Meeting will certainly be subject to challenge as to their validity, we respectfully request that PLUM and the City Council table consideration of the Ordinance and delay this item until legally-sufficient notice can be provided.

Sincerely,

/s/ Sigrid S. Waggener

MANATT, PHELPS & PHILLIPS, LLP
on behalf of PCEC and NOPEC

/s/ Tracy K. Hunckler

DAY CARTER MURPHY LLP
on behalf of Warren

/s/ Matthew C. Wickersham

ALSTON & BIRD
on behalf of E&B