



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY PREVENTION AND POPULATION HEALTH TASK FORCE

COMMUNITY PREVENTION AND POPULATION HEALTH TASK FORCE

313 N. Figueroa St., Suite 708
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 288-8252
www.ThinkHealthLA.org

TASK FORCE CO-CHAIRS

Veronica Flores, MA

Nomsa Khalfani, PHD, MFT

April 2, 2019

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ESTABLISHING AN OFFICE OF OIL AND GAS ADMINISTRATION AND SAFETY COMPLIANCE

Dear Supervisors:

As members of the Community Prevention and Population Health Task Force (Task Force), we write to express our collective concerns and recommendations regarding a recent Board Motion directing various County agencies to explore the feasibility of establishing an Office of Oil and Gas Administration and Safety Compliance. We appreciate your leadership in creating the Oil and Gas Strike Team to better inform County agencies about existing oil and gas operations, and to improve coordination among agencies to promote better public and environmental health. We also agree that establishing a more centralized and permanent County entity to regulate oil and gas operations could potentially allow for more efficient and comprehensive implementation of Strike Team recommendations, which, in turn, could lead to better public health outcomes.

However, it is the Task Force's considered view that such outcomes are only possible if the person selected to lead this new Office has the sensitivity, experience, and awareness of the public health implications of oil and gas operations, and not solely industry experience. **We strongly recommend that one of the requirements for the role of Administrator of the Office of Oil and Gas Administration include some experience and values of public health, environmental justice, and social equity.** The County currently employs contractors for oil and gas expertise, who demonstrate strong background in industry standards and technical knowledge, but have been reported to lack sensitivity for the importance of public health as it relates to oil and gas operations and potential safety risks to residents. It is our recommendation as the Task Force commissioned to uphold population health and social equity that the County Board of Supervisors equip the proposed Office of Oil and Gas Administration and Safety Compliance with leadership that goes beyond technical expertise and incorporates values of public and environmental health.

We have three additional recommendations regarding this new Office that would help ensure better public health outcomes for County residents. First, we recommend housing this Office outside of the Department

Community Prevention and Population Health Task Force Members:

Sonya Young Aadam · Manal Aboelata · Mayra Alvarez · Tamika Butler · Melinda Cordero-Bárzaga · Veronica Flores
Michelle Fluke · Cathy Friedman · Nancy Halpern Ibrahim · Anisha Hingorani · Anne-Marie Jones · Nomsa Khalfani
Jim Mangia · Ramella Markarian · Damon Nagami · Lauren Nakano · Elisa Nicholas · Theresa "Missy" Nitescu · Janae Oliver
Maryjane Puffer · Cori Racela · Margaret Smith · Amanda Staples · Benjamin Torres · Nicole Wong

Honorable Board of Supervisors

April 2, 2019

Page 2

of Public Health (DPH) in order to preserve DPH's critical role as an objective, outside collaborating agency. Second, we recommend that this Office be empowered to require all relevant agencies to coordinate effectively on all oil and gas issues impacting the County and its residents, including enforcement power when relevant ordinances and permits are in violation. Finally, we recommend that an open and transparent process be created to accept and consider public input on the scope of this Office's activities and its proposed leadership.

Please contact Nicole Wong at niki@redeemercp.org if you would like to discuss these recommendations in more detail. Thank you for considering our views.

Respectfully,



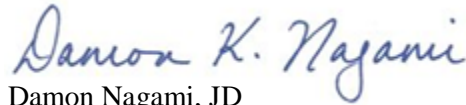
Veronica Flores, MA
Task Force Co-Chair



Nomsa Khalfani, PhD, MFT
Task Force Co-Chair



Nicole Wong, MPH
Task Force Member



Damon Nagami, JD
Task Force Member

Members:

Sonya Young Aadam, California Black Women's Health Project
Manal Aboelata, Prevention Institute
Mayra Alvarez, The Children's Partnership
Tamika Butler, Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust
Melinda Cordero-Bárzaga, Visión y Compromiso
Veronica Flores, Community Health Councils
Michelle Fluke, Antelope Valley Partners for Health
Cathy Friedman, Peace Over Violence
Nancy Halpern Ibrahim, Esperanza Community Housing
Anisha Hingorani, Advancement Project
Anne-Marie Jones, The LA 84 Foundation
Nomsa Khalfani, Essential Access Health
Jim Mangia, St. John's Well Child and Family Centers
Ramella Markarian, Adventist Health Glendale
Damon Nagami, Natural Resources Defense Council
Lauren Nakano, Beach Cities Health District
Elisa Nicholas, The Children's Clinic
Theresa Nitescu, Northeast Valley Health Corporation
Janae Oliver, Kaiser Permanente
Maryjane Puffer, The Los Angeles Trust for Children's Health
Cori Racela, Western Center on Law & Poverty
Margaret Smith, Policy Council, Los Angeles County Office of Women's Health
Amanda Staples, Investing in Place
Benjamin Torres, Community Development Technologies Center (CDTech)
Nicole Wong, Redeemer Community Partnership

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
Chief Sustainability Office
Los Angeles County Oil and Gas Facilities Strike Team