

SPEAK OUT – SAVE OPEN SPACE

FAQ on Whittier/Matrix Oil Drilling Project & Board Oct. 29th Public Hearing

► What is the Whittier-Matrix Oil Drilling Project?

The City of Whittier and Matrix Oil Corporation have entered into a lease to drill and extract oil and gas from 1280 acres in the Whittier Hills that were purchased with County taxpayer dollars given to Whittier for the express purpose under Proposition A (Prop A) of preserving and maintaining wilderness, recreation and open space for the public in perpetuity.

The County Board of Supervisors has opposed the Oil Drilling Project as a violation of Prop A and of Whittier's Project Agreement with the County that requires the Board's approval of any lease or projects on Prop A land.

On Tuesday, October 29th at 9:30AM, the Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing for all residents of the County to express their views regarding whether to allow the Whittier/Matrix Oil Drilling project to proceed on Prop A open space land in the Whittier Hills.

► Why is Oil Drilling in the Whittier Hills a Problem?

Proposition A allocated \$9.3 million to the City of Whittier to acquire natural lands in the Whittier Hills including oil field lands formerly owned by CHEVRON and UNOCAL, which Whittier pledged to acquire, restore, and preserve for public recreation, habitat, and open space in perpetuity. Now, after 20 years, Whittier is proposing to re-open these former oil fields to Matrix Oil in exchange for royalty payments for the City's general fund. Whittier's actions threaten the future of all Prop A open space land throughout the County!

Whittier is seeking to profit from county public taxpayer dollars, violating its promise to preserve open space and instead opting to destroy open space by allowing oil drilling in a Core Habitat Management Zone that area biologist characterize as a "native wildlife nursery site." The area is an integral part of the Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor that provides an unbroken zone of natural habitat for nearly 31 miles.

Apart from the impact of 24/7 oil drilling operations in a sensitive wildlife area and the impacts of truck travel, construction, noise, air and water pollution for residents, the Oil Project sits next to an active Whittier Fault line which increases the potential for oil pipe ruptures or spills.

► What do the Board of Supervisors have to do with Prop A?

In 1992, the voters of Los Angeles County approved Prop A and agreed to tax themselves for 22 years to pay for a bond to provide a broad range of park, habitat restoration, and open space acquisition projects throughout Los Angeles County.

Prop A also created an Open Space District overseen by the County Board of Supervisors to safeguard the purposes of the initiative and the will of the voters. Prop A is particularly important in low-income and densely populated urban areas where open space is expensive and difficult to acquire.

► What Can I Do?

On October 29, at 9:30 a.m., the Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing for all residents of the County on the Whittier/Matrix Oil Drilling Project. **Make your Voice Heard to Save Open Space!**

1. Attend the Board hearing and Oppose the Whittier/Matrix Oil Drilling Project
2. Write a Letter to the Board of Supervisors Opposing the Project
3. Call the Board of Supervisors:

**Supervisor
Gloria Molina**

(213) 974-4111

**Supervisor
Mark Ridley-Thomas**

(213) 974-2222

**Supervisor
Zev Yaroslavsky**

(213) 974-3333

**Supervisor
Don Knabe**

(213) 974-4444

**Supervisor
Michael D. Antonovich**

(213) 974-5555