

## **Oxy USA Inc., Dominguez Oil Field Development Project – CBE and CBD CEQA Comment Summary and 2014 Project Updates**

**Summary of the Proposed Project:** 202 well (including two existing test wells) drilling project in a mixed light industrial-zoned area.

### **Status of the Project approval process:**

- Oxy submitted its application and to the City of Carson, and the City of Carson has taken steps to analyze the Project's potential impacts by issuing a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR);
- The City of Carson provided the public with a 40 day public comment period on the DEIR.
- Given the technical nature of the analysis contained in the draft document, residents and other interested members of the public requested more time, and were denied their request. The deadline for submission of comments was March 27, 2014.
- The City of Carson is currently reviewing comments on the DEIR and is reviewing proposals to impose potential moratoria and/or bans on fracking.

### **Main Problems Relating to Oxy's "assurances" That This Project Will Not Involve Fracking:**

1. Oxy may be transferring out of CA – so the corporate entity cannot speak to who will own and operate – this is one of the reasons that the Carson City Council considered adopting a moratorium on fracking.
2. Given the industry trends, there is no guarantee, despite Oxy's "assurances" that they will not "frack;" moreover, we know that Oxy is engaged in fracking related drilling and unconventional well stimulation activities elsewhere in the South Coast basin, per their reported activity via SCAQM Rule 1148.2.
3. The definition of what is "fracking" at this time is too limited to be meaningful; and
4. The drilling project proposed holds harmful implications from an emissions standpoint, regardless of whether the project immediately entails any "fracking" or fracking-related well stimulation.
5. Finally, as demonstrated by the recent ordinance proposals presented at the City of Carson, it appears that Oxy is more interested in using the notion of "fracking" and its exclusion from their proposed project, to obtain a rubber stamp from the City in order to immediately begin construction and operation, than it is in meaningfully committing to not frack! The vested rights language, which Oxy appears to have influenced, and which was presented by the City Attorney's office in the recent proposed fracking "ban" demonstrates this lack of commitment. Based on that language, Oxy would essentially be legally entitled to frack, and/or acidize in the City of Carson based on its "investment backed expectation" under the proposed ordinance language, making its non-binding "commitment" not to frack, entirely irrelevant.

### **Examples of some specific flaws contained in the DEIR analysis:**

- I. The DEIR analysis was based on an inadequate and piecemealed project description.
  - a. The DEIR failed to disclose reasonably foreseeable present and future project components including the use of acidizing, gravel packing and other forms of extreme extraction practices with direct, indirect and cumulative impacts that must be analyzed.
- II. The DEIR's baseline analysis was severely flawed.
  - a. Among other baseline flaws, the DEIR failed to include the emissions from two existing test production wells in its analysis – this was a major error impacting the entire EIR and rendering the document inadequate for the purpose of meaning environmental review.
- III. The DEIR failed to adequately analyze the true range of potential impacts from the Project
  - a. The DEIR lacked a full analysis of the project's air quality impacts including underestimating the emissions from the two existing test production wells, as well as potential toxic and hazardous air emissions resulting from chemical use.
  - b. The DEIR failed to address potential risks of hazards and increased accident risks, as well as well and pipeline failure.
  - c. The DEIR failed to adequately analyze cumulative impacts – i.e., it failed to identify, analyze and mitigate the project's impacts in light of existing pollution sources in the proposed Project area, which is a highly burdened and vulnerable environmental justice area.