



City of Carson

Report to Mayor and City Council

August 5, 2014
NEW BUSINESS CONSENT

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION TO PROVIDE A PROGRESS REPORT ON THE OIL CODE UPDATE

Submitted by Jeff Westbrook
Acting Director of Community Development

Approved by Nelson Hernandez
City Manager

I. SUMMARY

On May 20, 2014, the City Council (Council) directed staff to update the City's oil code, Municipal Code Section 9148.2, within 90 days or to provide a progress report within that time. Council also requested staff to hold two (2) community workshops to allow City residents to participate in this process. This report serves as staff's progress report on the oil code update.

II. RECOMMENDATION

RECEIVE and FILE.

III. ALTERNATIVES

TAKE another action that the City Council deems appropriate.

IV. BACKGROUND

Per Council's direction, staff and the City Attorney (Staff) initiated a search for qualified firms to update the City's Oil Code. During May and June, Staff prepared the scope of work for the oil code update. In doing so, cities with significant oil operations were contacted, as were planning and environmental firms, to help identify qualified consultants to update the Code as it relates to oil wells. Three consulting firms were identified that were qualified to perform this work. The three firms were:

FIRM

LOCATION

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| • Dyett & Bhatia | - | San Francisco, CA |
| • PlaceWorks | - | Santa Ana, CA |
| • Marine Research Specialists (MRS) | - | Ventura, CA |

Dyett & Bhatia could not meet City's accelerated schedule due to previous commitments. After interviewing the remaining two firms, Staff identified MRS as the most qualified to update Carson's oil code (Exhibit No. 1). MRS has initiated the code amendment process as OXY has executed a reimbursement agreement to pay for the cost of the oil code amendment.

A community workshop has been scheduled for 6:00 PM on August 21st in the Dominguez Room of the Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald

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Community Center. Notices of the meeting will be sent to the same residents that received notice for the OXY draft EIR and the Oil Drilling Moratorium. In addition, because this is a citywide ordinance, the City will issue a press release to inform the entire community of the community workshop.

Staff anticipates the hearing process for the oil code update and the OXY project to mirror each other. The current schedule anticipates Planning Commission and City Council hearings by the end of this year. Although, many factors could potentially delay this schedule.

V. FISCAL IMPACT

None. Any and all expenses will be paid by OXY.

VI. EXHIBITS

1. About MRS. (pg. 3)

Prepared by: Saied Naaseh, Associate Planner

TO: Rev05-13-2014

Reviewed by:

City Clerk	City Treasurer
Administrative Services	Public Works
Community Development	Community Services

Action taken by City Council

Date _____ Action _____

About MRS

Marine Research Specialists (MRS) will provide the City with a group of highly qualified technical experts who understand complex oil and gas development and oil and gas codes and policies. This knowledge is coupled with a strong understanding of CEQA. Together these skill sets enable MRS to produce specific oil and gas regulations and write high-quality EIRs for oil and gas development projects.

MRS staff has prepared more than 70 environmental reviews for oil and gas development projects. MRS specializes in preparing CEQA documents for complex, controversial oil and gas industrial projects, and for the preparation of oil and gas regulations. MRS is very experienced in managing large, contentious projects. MRS staff has logged more than 2,000 hours in public hearings in support of local and State agencies in California. MRS's local staff is well known and respected by many decision makers in Southern California.

Since 1984, MRS staff has worked with local agencies in California to support industry and the regulatory community with major permitting projects. Since that time, the major focus of their work in southern California has been assessing environmental impacts for industrial development projects. We have been able to combine the very broad range of MRS's Land Use, Environmental, Health, and Safety (EHS) and technological expertise with a strong local presence to address the complex issues often associated with these types of projects. MRS consistently works for regulators, making us uniquely qualified to assist with complex permitting projects. MRS is well known for expertise in atmospheric sciences, land use, system safety, risk of upset, air quality, health risk assessment, noise, aesthetics and fire protection.

MRS staff also has a long history of providing specialized services to State and local agencies covering energy projects. MRS's specialization in preparing CEQA documents for complex, controversial industrial projects has included for the County of Los Angeles, updating the regulatory framework of the Inglewood Oil Field; for Santa Barbara County, focusing on oil and gas development projects handled by the Energy Division; and for San Luis Obispo County, focusing on the controversial Avila Beach and Guadalupe Oil Field cleanup projects. MRS has also provided valuable services to the City of Carpinteria, the City of Whittier, the City of Hermosa Beach, the California Coastal Commission, the California Energy Commission, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the South Coast Air Quality Management District, the City of Adelanto, Contra Costa County, and the Bureau of Land Management.