



# Baldwin Hills Oil Field Factsheet

## GREATER BALDWIN HILLS ALLIANCE

The Baldwin Hills Oil Field has been in operation since 1924 without community oversight or an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to document and assess impacts on community health and safety. There are more than 1,600 wells, of which 436 are currently active producing wells. The oil field operator, Plains Exploration and Production Company (PXP), has proposed a new plan to expand the drilling for an additional 1,000 new wells over the next decade.

In June 2006, the Board of Supervisors issued an Interim Ordinance prohibiting PXP from drilling new wells for two years or deepening existing wells. The ordinance also called for the completion of an EIR study and the development of new zoning regulations in the form of a Community Standards District (CSD).

The Greater Baldwin Hills Alliance (GBHA) was convened by Community Health Councils and partner agencies—The Baldwin Hills Conservancy, The City Project and UCLA Department of Public Health—to ensure community oversight in the EIR/CSD development process. The GBHA is composed of local residents, homeowners and community groups working to ensure that drilling practices are compatible with the health and well-being of our communities and with long-range conservation and environmental goals.

The Draft EIR was released on June 19, 2008 triggering a 60 day public comment period. During this time the County will hold community workshops and public hearings to solicit community input on the draft EIR. The Alliance has developed a CSD from the perspective of the community that has much stronger public and environmental health mitigation measures than does the CSD submitted by PXP and contained in the draft EIR. Both CSD's and the DEIR can be found at the GBHA website [www.baldwinhillsoil.org](http://www.baldwinhillsoil.org) or [www.chc-inc.org](http://www.chc-inc.org).

### Greater Baldwin Hills Alliance

**"Our standard is a clean and green oil field"**

### What's at Stake for Area Residents

Among the issues of great concern to the residents surrounding the oil field operations are noise, vibrations and emissions. This is caused in part due to a process called, "flaring". Flaring is the term used to describe the burning off of surplus natural gas found in oil and gas reservoirs. It is often used as a safety measure during plant shut downs or when there is no facility to capture and transport the gas for sale.

Flaring is a common occurrence in the Baldwin Hills oil fields. While it is used as a safety control, gas flaring emits toxic substances including benzene and particulates that may expose communities to health and environmental problems. There are alternatives to flaring to reduce emissions outlined in the GBHA proposed Community Standards District.

Other issues and concerns include: air quality; erosion and geological subsidence; regulatory enforcement; preservation of the natural habitat; clean up and transition to parkland; hours of operations; etc., We invite you to join us in ensuring the strongest mitigation measures possible are adopted by the County Board of Supervisors in October.

For more information or to join, contact  
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