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## City Council Moves to Ban Oil Drilling in Beverly Hills

Beverly Hills, CA - The Beverly Hills City Council has passed an ordinance that will shut down the one remaining oil well drill site in Beverly Hills, operated by Venoco Inc. next to Beverly Hills High School, at the end of 2016 when the current lease for that drill site expires. The ordinance was introduced at the Sept. 27, 2011 City Council meeting on a 4-1 vote.

Officials and residents have expressed concern over impacts of an industrial use so close to a school and residential neighborhoods.

"This is a proud moment for Beverly Hills," said Mayor Barry Brucker. "Many people in the community have long recognized that oil wells are an incompatible land use in Beverly Hills and worked tirelessly for years to get the oil well shut down. This community is grateful to the efforts of those citizens."

The ordinance does not prohibit oil wells from being drilled beneath the City from sites located outside of the City limits, provided that those sites are located at least 500 feet from a school or park. These wells will continue to require a permit from the City Council and will continue to be regulated by the current municipal code provisions. The ordinance also allows the School District to request an extension of time to allow oil drilling to continue on the School District property after 2016 if the extension is found to be in the public interest.

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