

PRESS ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 20, 2018

CONTACT: Valerie Gorospe, (661) 303-1032, [vgorospe@crpe-ej.org](mailto:vgorospe@crpe-ej.org)

## Appeal Planned to Ask Arvin Planning Commission to Stop New Oil and Gas Project

ARVIN, CA -- On August 21, 2018, the Arvin City Council will decide whether to allow the construction of four new oil wells next to residential areas and schools. The Arvin Planning Commission initially approved the new wells on May 30, 2018. The Center on Race, Poverty, & the Environment (CRPE) and Committee for a Better Arvin (CBA) [appealed the initial decision](#) on June 13, 2018. Since the Planning Commission's preliminary approval of these four wells, the Arvin City Council adopted a comprehensive update to the City's oil and gas ordinance, which went into effect on August 16. The new ordinance prohibits the construction of oil and gas wells so close to a residential area.

The City Council recognized the negative environmental and health impacts of oil and gas activities, and specifically adopted the ordinance to protect the health and safety of Arvin residents from these harmful activities. Unfortunately, the Planning Commission voted to approve the wells based on the previous, outdated oil and gas ordinance. CRPE and CBA are requesting that the Council overturn the Planning Commission's decision, and require that the Project comply with the updated ordinance and other laws.

"These four wells are being proposed in the heart of the City next to hundreds of homes. Although these wells may be active for 20 or more years, they have not gone through any environmental review, and do not meet the requirements of the oil and gas ordinance that the City just passed," said Chelsea Tu, Senior Attorney at CRPE. "Therefore, the Council must deny the permit for these wells; they cannot ignore their duty to protect the health and welfare of Arvin residents."

In a [letter](#) sent in advance of Tuesday night's appeal hearing, the residents stressed the damage the proposed new project would bring to the community. "Allowing four new oil wells in the community goes against everything the community members want for the future of this community," the President of Committee for a Better Arvin, Estela Escoto, said. "We need to let go of an economy that pollutes and invite instead businesses that have a vision of a more green and sustainable community."

The hearing for the appeal will be taking place on August 21, 2018 at 6:00 pm in the Arvin City Council Chambers located at 200 Campus Drive, Arvin, CA 93203. For more information on the agenda, please call the City Clerk's Office at (661) 854-3134.

.....

***The Center on Race, Poverty, & the Environment (CRPE)*** is a environmental justice organization providing legal, organizing, and technical assistance to grassroots groups in low-income communities and communities of color.

Follow us on [twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#).

***Committee for a Better Arvin (CBA)*** is a nonprofit organization whose members reside in Arvin, CA. CBA's mission is to improve the quality of life in Arvin, to inform and unite the community, to address problems facing the community, and to secure equality for all residents. CBA and its members have engaged in advocacy for improved local and regional air quality for many years and are concerned about the impacts of increased oil and gas development in the San Joaquin Valley. Follow CBA on [Facebook](#).