



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Lawsuit Filed Challenging New Oil Drilling Project in Arvin

Four Wells in Residential Areas Scheduled to Break Ground Next Week Circumventing Proper Environmental Review

Arvin, CA|October 2, 2018 -- Yesterday morning, the Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment (CRPE) along with Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger, LLP submitted [a petition](#) to the Kern County Superior Court on behalf of the Committee for a Better Arvin (CBA) to stop Petro-Lud, Inc., an oil and gas production company, from constructing and drilling four new oil wells adjacent to homes within the city limits of Arvin. The City approved the project without conducting the environmental review required by the California Environmental Quality Act.

“Petro-Lud intends to drill next to homes in Arvin as soon as possible, even though the City has not done the required environmental review for this potentially harmful project. Petro-Lud must not be allowed to circumvent California’s environmental law that has been put in place to protect environmental health,” said Chelsea Tu, a senior attorney at CRPE.

Oil and gas drilling and transportation results in air and water contamination, noise, traffic, and other negative environmental impacts. These activities can also produce both short and long-term health impacts and diminish the quality of life for nearby residents.

“This Project will likely harm my community for decades to come. Petro-Lud, plans to drill exploratory and production wells for an indefinite period of time, but has no idea how much oil is even under the proposed site. Without knowing this, we have no way of knowing how long the wells will stay active. During this indefinite drilling time, the wells will produce not only oil, a toxic substance, but will also air, water, and soil contaminants before this project is rushed through without understanding the consequences,” said Estela Escota, president of CBA. She adds, “We are simply asking for a proper environmental impact review.”

As a result of this legal action, CRPE and CBA hopes that a full environmental impact report can be completed in order to make sure the health and safety of the residents of Arvin is prioritized by all, especially those who stand to profit.

...

***The Center on Race, Poverty, & the Environment (CRPE)** is an environmental justice organization providing legal, organizing, and technical assistance to grassroots groups in low-income communities and communities of color. Our mission is to achieve environmental justice and healthy, sustainable communities through collective action and the law. 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, inform and unite the community, address problems facing the community, and 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 us on [Facebook](#).*

***Shute, Mihaly and Weinberger LLP** (www.smwlaw.com) specializes in government, land use, natural resource and environmental law. Since 1980, the firm has provided representation to public agencies and community groups throughout California.*



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Demanda presentada desafiante nuevo proyecto de perforación petrolera en Arvin
Cuatro pozos en áreas residenciales programadas para abrirse paso la próxima semana
Evitando la adecuada revisión ambiental

Arvin, CA | 2 de octubre de 2018 - Ayer mañana, el Centro de Raza, Pobreza y el Medio Ambiente (CRPE) junto con Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger, LLP presentaron [una demanda](#) en nombre del Comité para un Mejor Arvin (CBA) para evitar que Petro-Lud, Inc., una compañía de producción de petróleo y gas, construya y perfore cuatro nuevos pozos de petróleo adyacentes a las casas dentro de los límites de la ciudad de Arvin. La Ciudad aprobó el proyecto sin realizar la revisión ambiental requerida por la Ley de Calidad Ambiental de California.

"Petro-Lud tiene la intención de perforar cerca de las casas en Arvin lo más pronto posible, a pesar de que la Ciudad no ha realizado la revisión ambiental requerida para este proyecto potencialmente dañino. A Petro-Lud no se le debe permitir eludir la ley ambiental de California que se ha implementado para proteger la salud ambiental ", dijo Chelsea Tu, un abogado senior de CRPE.

La perforación y el transporte de petróleo y gas dan como resultado la contaminación del aire y el agua, el ruido, el tráfico y otros impactos ambientales negativos. Estas actividades también pueden producir impactos en la salud tanto a corto como a largo plazo y disminuir la calidad de vida de los residentes cercanos a los cuatro pozos nuevos.

"Este proyecto probablemente dañará a mi comunidad en las próximas décadas. Petro-Lud, planea perforar pozos exploratorios y de producción por un período de tiempo indefinido, pero no tiene idea de cuánta cantidad de petróleo hay en el sitio propuesto. Sin saber esto, no tenemos forma de saber cuánto tiempo permanecerán activos los pozos. Durante este tiempo de perforación indefinido, los pozos producirán no sólo petróleo, una sustancia tóxica, sino también contaminantes del aire, el agua y el suelo antes de que este proyecto se realice sin comprender las consecuencias ", dijo Estela Escota, presidenta de CBA. Ella agrega: "Simplemente estamos pidiendo una revisión adecuada del impacto ambiental".

Como resultado de esta acción legal, CRPE y CBA esperan que se pueda completar un informe de impacto ambiental completo para garantizar que todos tengan prioridad sobre la salud y la seguridad de los residentes de Arvin, especialmente aquellos que se benefician.

...

***The Center on Race, Poverty, & the Environment (CRPE)** is an environmental justice organization providing legal, organizing, and technical assistance to grassroots groups in low-income communities and communities of color. Our mission is to achieve environmental justice and healthy, sustainable communities through collective action and the law. 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, inform and unite the community, address problems facing the community, and 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 us on [Facebook](#).*

***Shute, Mihaly and Weinberger LLP** (www.smwlaw.com) specializes in government, land use, natural resource and environmental law. Since 1980, the firm has provided representation to public agencies and community groups throughout California.*