



PRESS RELEASE

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VICTORY! Kern County Superior Court Orders City of Arvin to Set Aside Permit for Four Oil Wells Near Homes

Arvin, CA| May 17, 2019 – On May 10, 2019, the Kern County Superior Court ruled that the City of Arvin illegally approved four new oil and gas wells near homes within city limits.

Last year, the Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment (CRPE), along with Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger, LLP, filed a lawsuit on behalf of the Committee for a Better Arvin (CBA). The lawsuit challenged the City of Arvin's decision to approve the wells — proposed by Petro-Lud, Inc.— without conducting any environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act. At the conclusion of last Friday's hearing, the Court ordered the City of Arvin to set aside the illegally approved permits. The City of Arvin has 120 days to comply with the court's ruling once the final judgment is issued.

"This case sends a really strong signal that the oil industry cannot just do whatever it wants—it must follow California's environmental laws," said Chelsea Tu, Senior Attorney at the Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment.

Already, more than 10 active oil and gas wells operate within City limits, many of which are located within hundreds of feet from schools and homes. Oil and gas drilling, production and transportation cause 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.

"For us, this case is very important because our community is surrounded by a lot of pollution," said Estella Escoto, Arvin resident and President of Committee for a Better Arvin. "In my community, there are a lot of people suffering from asthma, allergies and cancer. That's why we believe it's not just or fair that the industry wants to build new wells in our community."

CBA and CRPE hope that the City of Arvin will complete a full environmental impact report and apply its [updated oil and gas ordinance](#) prior to any reconsideration of this project, to ensure that the environmental health and safety of the residents of Arvin are protected.

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](#).

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](#).

Shute, Mihaly and Weinberger LLP (<http://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.