

**CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH
LEGAL NOTICE**

**ORDINANCE NO. 4138
Adopted by the City Council on SEPTEMBER 18, 2017**

“AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH AMENDING SECTIONS 15.08.010 AND 15.32.090 THROUGH 15.32.120 OF THE HUNTINGTON BEACH MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO DEVELOPMENT OF PROPERTY WITH ABANDONED OIL WELLS, AND AMENDING RELATED DEFINITIONS IN THE MUNICIPAL CODE”

SYNOPSIS:

The Ordinance allows for safe development over or near oil wells that do not meet the current California Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) standard. DOGGR is the governing agency for all oil well abandonments in the state. The current DOGGR standard requires plugs at specific depths regardless of the well's history or production zones. If one or more of the plugs are not appropriately placed, then the abandonment will not meet the current DOGGR standard. It is not uncommon to have difficulty reaching the bottom of an abandoned well since it may be lodged with obstructions.

To assist and facilitate development in the community with safe methods to build over or adjacent to abandoned oil wells, Municipal Code Title 15 has been modified in Section #4 of the Ordinance.

City Specification (CS) #422, Oil Well Abandonment Permit Process, has been revised to be consistent with Title 15. The revised City Specification (CS) #422 requires the developer to submit an engineering report to the Huntington Beach Fire Department (HBFD) detailing why and how it would be safe to develop the property if an oil well was not abandoned to the current DOGGR standard. The HBFD reviews each oil well abandonment engineering report to determine if the parcel is safe to develop. The HBFD retains the services of a third party consultant, to assist in reviewing the report and accompanying documents, and the owner pays all fees for the consultant.

The types of safety factors used to review the oil well abandonment include:

- Location and size of abandonment plugs
- Reason the well abandonment did not meet current DOGGR standards
- Additional mitigation measures (e.g. methane barrier, detection and alarm system, etc.)
- Location of building(s) in respect to the oil well

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Huntington Beach at a regular meeting held September 18, 2017 by the following roll call vote:

AYES: O'Connell, Semeta, Delgleize, Hardy, Brenden,

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Posey, Peterson

THE FULL TEXT OF THE ORDINANCE IS AVAILABLE IN THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE.

This ordinance is effective 30 days after adoption.

**CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH
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HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA 92648
714-536-5227
ROBIN ESTANISLAU, CITY CLERK**

