RESOLUTION NO. 2012-R057

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA, URGING THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION, DIVISION OF OIL, GAS & GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES (DOGGR) TO PLACE A BAN ON HYDRAULIC FRACTURING ("FRACKING").

WHEREAS, currently, and over the next several years, hundreds of new oil wells will be drilled in the Inglewood Oil Field (the "Oil Field"), which spans across the jurisdictions of the City of Culver City and unincorporated Los Angeles County and is located in a heavily populated urban area; and

WHEREAS, hydraulic fracturing, also known as "fracking," is generally a technique to increase oil and gas production by injecting fluids at pressures sufficient to create fractures in subsurface rock or other tight geological formations in order to release petroleum or natural gas for extraction; and

WHEREAS, the neighborhoods and communities surrounding the Oil Field, including Culver City residents, have expressed alarm about the potential impacts of fracking on the public health and safety and the environment; and

WHEREAS, the California State Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas & Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) is currently engaged in the process of studying potential regulations on fracking. As part of this effort, DOGGR has held several community meetings throughout the State seeking public comment relating to potential regulation of fracking; and

WHEREAS, On June 12, 2012, DOGGR held one such community meeting in the City of Culver City, during which a significant number of people in the Los Angeles County Region, including Culver City residents and the Culver City City Council (the "City Council").
Council"), provided testimony regarding the potential risks of fracking, the concern that fracking is generally unregulated and that no further fracking should occur, at least until DOGGR has adopted fracking regulations that can ensure protection against the risks to air quality, water quality and ground movement; and

WHEREAS, at the community meeting, little or no evidence or testimony was offered that fracking was safe in the absence of such regulations while numerous members of the public offered considerable testimony that fracking posed a substantial risk to the community and the environment; and

WHEREAS, at the City Council meeting of June 18, 2012, in response to the community’s concerns, the Council directed staff to agendize the consideration of a resolution urging DOGGR to place a ban on fracking and the disposal of fracking wastewater by injection wells until such time as DOGGR enacts legislation to regulate fracking.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Culver City DOES HEREBY RESOLVE as follows:

1. The City of Culver City urges Governor Jerry Brown and the California State Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas & Geothermal Resources (DOGGR), to immediately place a ban on hydraulic fracturing and on the disposal of fracking wastewater by injection wells until DOGGR takes all necessary and appropriate actions to adopt, implement and enforce comprehensive regulations concerning the practice of fracking that will ensure that public health and safety and the environment will be adequately protected.

2. The City Clerk is hereby directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Governor Jerry Brown and DOGGR.
APPROVED and ADOPTED this 2nd day of July 2012.

ANDREW WEISSMAN, MAYOR
City of Culver City, California

ATTEST:

MARTIN R. COLE, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

CAROL A. SCHWAB, City Attorney