

# PXP

## Quiet Mode Drilling Plan Inglewood Oil Field

Baldwin Hills CSD Condition

E.5.c; L.5.a

February 2009

Revision 1 – April 29, 2009

Revision 2 – July 30, 2009

Revision 3 – September 9, 2009

Prepared for:

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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**1.0 Introduction ..... 1**

    1.1 Background ..... 1

    1.2 Purpose of the Quiet Mode Drilling Plan ..... 1

    1.3 Drilling noise generating Activities ..... 1

**2.0 Quiet Mode Measures ..... 2**

**3.0 PXP Ombudsperson(s) ..... 4**

APPROVED

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 BACKGROUND**

Plains Exploration & Production (PXP) operates the Inglewood Oil Field in the Baldwin Hills zoned District of Los Angeles County. The Inglewood Oil Field, which covers approximately 1,000 acres, is surrounded by single and multiple family dwellings as well as recreational, institutional, commercial, and industrial uses. To address issues of land use compatibility with surrounding land uses, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors recently adopted the Baldwin Hills Community Standards District (CSD) to provide a means of implementing regulations, safeguards, and controls for activities related to drilling for and producing oil and gas within the Inglewood Oil Field.

**The Baldwin Hills CSD Section E.5.c states:**

*“Quiet Mode Drilling Plan. All drilling and redrilling on the oil field between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. shall be conducted in conformity with a quiet mode drilling plan that has been approved by the director and the director of public health. The quiet mode drilling plan shall be reviewed by the operator every year to determine if modifications to the plan are required. The operator shall make changes to the plan if requested by the director or the director of public health. Any modifications to the quiet mode drilling plan shall be submitted to the director and the director of public health for review and approval. The quiet mode drilling plan shall include any measures requested by the director or the director of public health.”*

### **1.2 PURPOSE OF THE QUIET MODE DRILLING PLAN**

Over the next 20 years, PXP plans to continue its development of the Inglewood Oil Field. Due to the nature of this activity, drilling continues during evening and night-time hours in addition to normal business hours. However, background noise levels are at their lowest during night-time hours and community noise standards are stricter during these periods.

The purpose of the Quiet Mode Drilling Plan is to identify methods that PXP can employ to prevent, reduce, or mitigate the noise generated by various drilling activities during the night within the Inglewood field. The Quiet Mode Drilling period, as specified in Section E.5.c., extends from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m.

### **1.3 DRILLING NOISE GENERATING ACTIVITIES**

Major noise sources associated with drilling activities can include metal on metal contact, internal combustion engines, electric motors, the brakes on the drawworks, mud mixers and shakers, cementing pumps, warning devices such as backup alarms on vehicles or hydrogen sulfide or hydrocarbon monitors, and personnel yelling while communicating to each other across the drilling pad.

There are a number of metal to metal contact activities during drilling that have a potential to generate noise, including the following:

- using tongs to make up or break out drill pipe;

- clanging of elevators against drill pipe; and,
- clanging of drill pipe and casing against metal parts of the rig and tools.

## **2.0 QUIET MODE MEASURES**

To reduce the noise from drilling activities, PXP will implement the following mitigation measures during the **Quiet Mode Drilling Period (6:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.)**:

### **A. Quiet Mode Personnel Training**

- All service company or other subcontractor personnel will be made aware of Quiet Mode operations.
- To ensure that the Quiet Mode measures are adhered to, prior to every drilling, redrilling or workover project, PXP will conduct an employee and contractor Awareness Training which will include all applicable Quiet Mode procedures and the importance of full compliance.
- The “Quiet Mode Drilling Flyer” will be displayed at the drilling, and redrilling location.

### **B. Materials/Equipment**

- The V-door will be covered with rubber matting. Crews will make sure the rubber matting stays on when handling pipe.
- The rig floor will be covered with rubber matting and wood.
- Rubber matting or wood will be placed on the pipe racks and catwalk when rolling pipe off the pipe racks onto the catwalk.
- Hydraulic tongs, instead of chain or pneumatic tongs, will be used.
- Hammer wrenches will be wrapped with rags.
- A sound barrier will be installed on the derrick at the “monkey board”.
- Soundproofing blankets will be installed around drawworks, rig floor, mud pumps and substructure.
- A temporary sound wall will be installed at the perimeter of the drill pad between the rig and sensitive receptors.

### **C. Operations/Scheduling**

- All drilling equipment will be regularly serviced, maintained, and repaired to minimize increases in noise output with time and to ensure that tonal noise from worn bearings, metal-on-metal contact, valves, etc. is avoided.
- Banging of pipe on the catwalk will be minimized by careful use of the forklift.
- Audible mobile equipment and truck backup alarms will be disabled during the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. (CSD Condition E.5.b).
- Cellar pump operation will be avoided; vacuum trucks will be used instead.
- Cementing operations will be avoided.
- Yelling will not be allowed. All personnel communications, outside of emergencies, will either be done over walkie-talkies or other communication devices.

- Unnecessary noise will not be allowed in parking lots or other non-work areas. No radios or other loud speaking devices will be operated or played during the Quiet Mode.
- No maintenance during the Quiet Mode will be allowed unless it is an emergency operation.
- Use of horns, whistles, or other loud devices to signal or summon the crew will not be allowed.
- As much as practical, handling of pipe and use of hammers and hammer wrenches will be minimized during the Quiet Mode period.
- The Derrick Man will take particular care when standing back stands while tripping out of the hole to ensure that there is minimal clanging of pipe in the derrick.
- While tripping in the hole, crews will ensure that the blocks are completely stopped prior to latching the elevators.
- When latching the elevators, pipe will be laid in the elevators and latches will be secured slowly and as quietly as possible.
- The high line will be used when laying down drill pipe or casing.
- When picking up pipe, it will be set on rubber mats on the "V-door". Crews will try to prevent hitting the pipe against the catwalk, V-door, and other tools.
- No equipment, trucks, vacuum trucks, tools or materials will be delivered to the oil field during the hours of 8:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. and on Sundays or legal holidays 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m., except in cases of an emergency. (CSD Condition E.5.e)
- Deliveries to the drill site within 500' of a residential property shall not be permitted during the hours of 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. and on Sundays or legal holidays 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m., except in cases of an emergency. (CSD Condition E.5.f)

#### **D. Compliance Assurance**

- Prior to every drilling or re-drilling project, the site foreman will assign personnel to check implementation of the Quiet Mode measures and monitor the drill rig noise.
- The assigned Monitor will be responsible to verify that the required measures are implemented. The Monitor will report any activities of noncompliance or questionable compliance to the site foreman as soon as possible so that these situations can be immediately addressed.

#### **E. Complaint Resolution**

- If a noise complaint is received by PXP, it will be communicated to the PXP on-call EH&S representative at 1(800)766-4108.
- The EH&S Representative will then contact the complainant and obtain and record the following information:
  - Verify name and phone number
  - Record address
  - Determine location where the noise was detected
  - Identify the noise type (e.g., intermittent or constant, pure tone, engine, clanging, other)
  - Document date and time when the noise was first detected
  - Document duration of time during which the noise continued, or is it still continuing

- Advise the complainant that PXP will begin investigation immediately and will call back with the results
- If the complaint is at night – ask if they want a call back immediately or the next morning.
- The EH&S representative will contact the Drill Site Supervisor or the Assigned Monitor at the drilling rig to communicate the details of the complaint. The Drill Site Supervisor or Assigned Monitor will commence an investigation of the complaint.
- The Drill Site Supervisor or Assigned Monitor will take actions as necessary to mitigate the identified source of noise.
- If similar complaints continue, the Assigned Monitor will monitor noise at the specific complaint location, if access is granted. Upon determination of the drilling operation's source of the noise, additional appropriate mitigation measures will be implemented.
- The Assigned Monitor will report the results of the noise complaint investigation to the EH&S representative, who will contact the complainant.
- The EH&S representative will report complaint to the County per the CSD conditions.

### **3.0 PXP OMBUDSPERSON(S)**

In accordance with the CSD, PXP has designated employees or authorized agents to serve as Ombudsperson(s) to respond to questions and concerns from the public relating to oil field operations, including noise complaints, if any. The Ombudsperson will be familiar with all the provisions of the CSD and all conditions of approval related to permits and approvals issued by the County or other agencies. The Ombudsperson is responsible for facilitating, to the extent feasible, the prompt resolution of any issues that may arise relating to compliance matters or impacts of the oil field operations.

# PXP QUIET MODE DRILLING RULES

PXP Inglewood Oil Field drill sites are located in a highly sensitive area. Noise and nuisance complaints from neighbors **need to be taken extremely seriously.**

**Quiet Mode Drilling: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.**



**SHHH!**

**Keep Noise Down!**

**Think Before You  
Start Each Job!**

- Think NO NOISE**
- Think before you do**
- Operate quietly**
- It's everyone's job**

- Minimize banging of pipe.
- Wrap hammers and hammer wrenches.
- While tripping in the hole, ensure that the blocks are completely stopped prior to latching the elevators.
- When latching the elevators, lay the pipe in the elevators; latch slowly and as quietly as possible.
- When laying down drill pipe or casing, use the high line.
- When picking up pipe, set pipe on rubber mats on the “V-door”, and try to prevent hitting the pipe against the catwalk, V-door, and other tools.
- No equipment, trucks, vacuum trucks, tools or materials will be delivered to the oil field during the hours of 8:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. and on Sundays or legal holidays 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m., except in cases of an emergency. (CSD Condition E.5.e)
- Deliveries to the drill site within 500' of a residential property shall not be permitted during the hours of 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. and on Sundays or legal holidays 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m., except in cases of an emergency. (CSD Condition E.5.f)
- No backup alarms during 8:00 p.m. – 8:00 a.m. (CSD Condition E.5.b).
- No horns, whistles, or other loud devices to signal or summon the crew.
- No Yelling! Use Walkie-Talkies.
- No noise in parking lots, or other non-work areas.
- No radios or music during the Quiet Mode period.

DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL PLANNING

CASE NUMBER: RPP 200900007  
R2009-00283

This plot plan is APPROVED subject to the requirements of the Los Angeles County Code and to the conditions noted herein. It is applicable only as specifically noted and must be used prior to any change in ordinance requirements within two years. Such approval shall not be construed to permit the violation of any provision of any County Ordinance or State law.

Signature: Larry A. Jewell

Date: 11.12.09

APPLICANT'S COPY

**RPPB T200900007**  
**R2009-00283**  
**5640 S. Fairfax Ave.**

- This is approval of the Quiet Mode Drilling Plan.
- All drilling and re-drilling on the oil field between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. shall be conducted in conformity with the Quiet Mode Drilling Plan that has been approved by the Regional Planning Department and Public Health Department.
- The Quiet Mode Drilling Plan shall be reviewed by the operator every year to determine if modifications to the plan are required. The operator shall make changes to the plan if requested by the Regional Planning Department or the Public Health Department.
- No grading proposed and none approved.
- Any modifications to the quiet mode drilling plan shall be submitted to the Regional Planning Department and the Public Health Department for review and approval.



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
Public Health**

**JONATHAN E. FIELDING, M.D., M.P.H.**  
Director and Health Officer

**JONATHAN E. FRIEDMAN**  
Chief Deputy

**Environmental Health**  
**ANGELO J. BELLOMO, REHS, Director**

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November 9, 2009

Ms. Candace L. Salway  
Plains Exploration & Production Company  
EH & S Manager, California Onshore  
5640 S. Fairfax Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90056

**RE: Approval of the Drilling Quiet Mode Plan for the Inglewood Oil Field, Baldwin Hills  
Community Standard District**

Dear Ms. Salway:

The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health has completed the review of the Plain Exploration & Production Company (PXP) Quiet Mode Drilling Plan Inglewood Oil Field, Baldwin Hills Community Standard District (CSD) Condition E.S.c;L.S.a. We have determined that the plan will help minimize noise impacts generated by various drilling activities during the night within the Inglewood field, and thus the Drilling Plan meets the conditions proposed in the final EIR.

If you have any questions or require further assistance regarding this matter, please contact Evenor Masis at (626)430-5435.

Sincerely yours,

Cole Landowski, MS, CIH  
Head, Environmental Hygiene Program

EM:qapbh

cc: Ken Habarados, Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division  
Larry Jaramillo, Department of Regional Planning, Land Development Coordinating Center