



# Media Advisory

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## As Search for California Budget Continues, Residents in Baldwin Hills Call for Big Oil to Pay Its Fair Share

### *Eliminating Oil Drilling Loophole Would Raise \$1.2 Billion to Help Fill State Budget Gap and Save Jobs & Vital Services*

**Los Angeles** –Californians will gather on Thursday, August 19, near the Baldwin Hills oil fields for a forum about how oil companies can help protect public services and the environment. Legislators have proposed a \$1.2 billion oil severance tax to fund public services and help close the oil drilling loophole.

**California is the only one of 22 oil-producing U.S. states that allows oil companies to drill oil tax-free.** The top four oil producers in the State of California, Chevron, ExxonMobil, Shell, and Occidental made more than \$45 billion in profits in 2009 and \$106 billion in 2008. Analysts say an oil tax would not decrease production but would raise funds to prevent hundreds of thousands of families and students from losing healthcare and education benefits in this recession.

Community members and families who live and work near the oil fields will ask Legislators to hold big oil accountable and get the facts about the oil severance tax.

- WHAT:** Community forum on big oil and the California budget
- WHERE:** 5150 West Goldleaf Circle  
(enter through gates on Fairfax, between Slauson and Stocker)
- WHEN:** Thursday, August 19 @ 6:30 PM
- WHO:** Community members and families who will be affected by the proposed budget cuts, members of Mujeres de la Tierra, Community Health Councils, California Partnership, and Service Employees International Union (SEIU) California.

*Community Health Councils is a non-profit, community-based health promotion, advocacy and policy organization. Established in 1992, CHC’s mission is to improve health and increase access to quality healthcare for uninsured, economically-disadvantaged, and underserved populations.*

*Mujeres de la Tierra is a nonprofit organization that supports women in becoming active participants in environmental issues impacting their families and neighborhoods.*

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