

MOTION

PUBLIC SAFETY

The Rancho LPG facility in San Pedro accommodates the storage of approximately 25 million gallons of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) in above-ground LPG storage tanks, located in close proximity to residential neighborhoods, schools, recreational facilities, and critical infrastructure.

Existing federal and state policies provide regulations on above-ground LPG storage. It is unclear if these regulations are present in local regulations. The lack of oversight from agencies such as the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) or the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and local regulatory bodies has resulted in an absence of continuous risk assessments, failure to implement modern protective technologies, and insufficient coordination with emergency response teams to prepare for a worst-case scenario.

Rancho LPG’s facility has been grandfathered into compliance, allowing it to evade stricter modern safety regulations that would typically apply to newly constructed hazardous materials sites, creating an untenable situation where outdated infrastructure remains operational despite present-day risks. With no specific distance requirements nor mandated blast-zone buffer zones, no seismic safety requirements, and no uniform emergency response or evacuation protocols tailored to facilities of this scale, the facility presents a clear and present danger to the community.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council direct the Emergency Management Department (EMD) and the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) to report in 30 days on the continued operation of the Rancho LPG facility in its current location and calls for an immediate regulatory review to address the safety deficiencies surrounding above-ground LPG storage.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council direct the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA), in coordination with the EMD and LAFD, to report in 30 days on the state and federal regulations relative to code requirements or zoning laws related to distance requirements, blast-zone buffer zones, mandatory seismic reinforcements, standardized emergency response protocols, and stringent risk assessments for all above-ground LPG facilities.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council direct the City Administrative Officer (CAO), in coordination with the EMD and LAFD, to report in 30 days on the cost of an independent third-party hazard study on the Rancho LPG facility to determine its immediate and long-term risks, with findings used to guide the responsible decommissioning and relocation of hazardous LPG storage away from densely populated areas.

PRESENTED BY:

TIM McOSKER
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SECONDED BY:

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ORIGINAL