

MOTION

On April 19, 2017, a Los Angeles City Council Motion (Council File No. 17-0447) was introduced to report back on the feasibility of amending current city land use codes in connection with health impacts at oil and gas wells and drill sites. The Board of Public Works, Office of Petroleum and Natural Gas Administration and Safety (OPNGAS) staff conducted an extensive inventory of oil and gas facilities within the City, participated in a public hearing at the Los Angeles City Health Commission, collected historical records from multiple private and public databases, held dozens of meetings with numerous agencies, and retained a consultant to study the potential health impacts at oil and gas wells and drill sites. This effort has led to policy adoption and budgetary considerations relative to amortization studies as the City Council continues to lead on the phasing out of oil and gas land uses and production within the City of Los Angeles.

Due to the continued community concern for environmental and public health and safety—the same standard applied for oil and gas wells should be applied when it comes to sites such as the Rancho LPG facility located in San Pedro. The Rancho LPG 1) fails to meet the setback requirements of 200 ft. from neighboring land use, 2) is surrounded by uses on all sides including an oil refinery, a soccer field, and businesses, and 3) has failed to get the required permits in a timely fashion from the South Coast Air Quality Management Division (SCAQMD) after it became the owner of the facility.

The most recent studies conducted for this site indicate that a catastrophic incident at the Rancho LPG Facility, with a release of butane, could potentially cause more than 2,500 deaths, and 12,500 injuries and also major destruction for the Port of Los Angeles and its related infrastructure.

According to a 2023 petition to the Environmental Protection Agency on behalf of the San Pedro Peninsula Homeowners United, Inc. and the Tongva Ancestral Territorial Tribal Nation, no risk analysis was ever performed for the site. Neighborhoods and schools that existed at the time of the 1973 installation of the facility (within 1,000 to 2,000 feet) were ignored by the Environmental Impact Reports prepared in conjunction with the building of this facility. Studies and records gathered from the Department of City Planning (DCP) indicate that the storage tanks within the Rancho LPG facility are located on the active Palos Verdes Fault (magnitude 7.3) and in a recorded Earthquake Rupture Zone (with a convergence of multiple faults) on a United States Geological Survey (USGS) identified Landslide, Liquefaction and Methane Areas.

Multiple motions have attempted to address this facility—it is time for the City Council to seek an amortization study that can provide the expert information that can lead to the termination of the Rancho LPG Facility use and well as help address the remediation of the site for the safety of local residents and the greater Los Angeles community.

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I THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Public Works bureaus, specifically the Office of Petroleum and Natural Gas Administration and Safety (OPNGAS), in coordination with the Department of City Planning (DCP), the Los Angeles Fire Department, and the City Administrative Officer, to expeditiously report on the cost and timeline associated to conduct an amortization study related to termination of the Rancho LPG Facility use. The results of the study should be used to inform policy and decisions related to the future of the site and its land use.

PRESENTED BY:



TIM McOSKER

Councilmember, 15th District

SECONDED BY:



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