

MOTION

In January of 2017, the office of Council District 5 was made aware of the presence of unpermitted equipment located onsite at the Rancho Park Drill Site, including in particular, a CEB 1200 Enclosed Gas Burner, which would have been used to burn excess natural gas produced at the site in the course of oil drilling operations, creating additional air pollution in the area. Councilmember Koretz introduced a motion on this matter (CF#17-0149) directing the City Departments to do a thorough site review.

A site review was conducted by the City's Petroleum Administrator, which resulted in the removal of the CEB 1200 Enclosed Gas Burner. The Hillcrest Beverly Oil Company (HBOC) subsequently made proactive efforts to work with the City, the Council office, and the surrounding community group on bringing the site up to code.

Additionally, on November 29, 2017, Council District 5 residents surrounding the Rancho Park golf course began complaining of a strong and noxious odor, which reportedly could be detected across a four-mile area all the way to Playa Vista. The source of the odor was a spill of Mercaptan odorant from a pump failure of Southern California Gas Company equipment at the Rancho Park Drill Site. Residents were understandably frightened and shaken by the incident and, until then, many were not aware of the drill site located within their neighborhood. Councilmember Koretz introduced another motion (CF#17-0149-S1) directing City staff to report back on causes and solutions for the spill and City response.

Hillcrest Beverly Oil Company agreed to fund and perform a 3rd party inspection of the Rancho Park Drill Site with a deadline of August 17, 2020, to install air monitoring equipment, and to work towards ways to remove the Mercaptan odorant equipment from the site altogether.

The current COVID-19 pandemic has underlined how essential it is to reduce air pollution in every way possible in order to prevent the worst outcomes of infection by the virus.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council direct the City's Petroleum Administrator to work with the Hillcrest Beverly Oil Company to report back within 60 days on the results of the 3rd party inspection of the Rancho Park Drill Site, the status and results of the ongoing air monitoring, and ongoing efforts to remove the Mercaptan equipment, with the overall goal of protecting the health of the surrounding neighbors, particularly the health of the children at the three schools within close proximity, from toxic emissions.

PRESENTED BY:

PAUL KORETZ (verbal)
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY:

MIKE BONIN (verbal)
Councilmember, 11th District