



## NORTHWEST SAN PEDRO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

### Green COMMITTEE REPORT

Meeting held at *Peck Park Computer Room on Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014*

**Committee Member Attendees:** Sarah Valdez, Darlene Zavalney, Alexis Gelch, Janet Gunter

**Non-Committee Member Attendees:** Chuck Hart, Connie Rutter, Janet Grothe, Chip Stewart, Renee Orefice, Bill Brownell, Blair Bartlett, Bobbi Lisk, Daisy Zaarour, Ruth Boysen, Bill Boysen

**Committee Members not in attendance:** Laurie Jacobs

**Agenda Item:** *Discuss and consider motion in support of a moratorium on well stimulation, including hydraulic fracturing, and the use of waste disposal injection wells in the City of Los Angeles (Council File: 13-1152-S1)*

It is critical to Los Angeles that groundwater supplies remain safe

Connie brought to attention recent news regarding oil and gas operations and their affect upon water aquifers in California. According to an article published in the New York Times on February 10, 2015, California is “proposing broad changes in the way it protects underground water from oil and gas operations, after finding 2,500 instances in which the state authorized such operations in protected water aquifers.” Injection of oil-field fluids into these aquifers is especially concerning, as they “were supposed to be protected as current or potential sources of water for drinking and watering crops and livestock.”

In addition to contaminating precious water supplies in California, fracking activity may also trigger earthquake activity. Darlene commented on the existence of three earthquake faults that run under the Rancho LPG butane tanks. Darlene asked Janet Grothe, the Phillips 66 Public Affairs Manager, what impact of seismic activity are the Phillips 66 butane tanks built to withstand. Janet said she would find out and follow up with our committee.

Janet Grothe commented that the Phillips 66 refinery in Wilmington does not research and explore for oil/gas sources.

*A Motion* was made by Darlene Zavalney and seconded by Janet Gunter, stating that “*The Green Committee of the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council supports a moratorium on well stimulation, including hydraulic fracturing, and the use of waste disposal injection wells in the City of Los Angeles until measures identified in the motion are met. In addition, the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council urges the Los Angeles City Attorney, Mike Feuer, to take swift action in developing regulatory controls over hydraulic fracturing in the City of Los Angeles as requested by the Planning and Land Use Management Committee on February 28, 2014. Furthermore, the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council opposes any activity that could be characterized as well stimulation (including hydraulic fracturing) and use of waste disposal injection wells, within the boundaries of the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council.*” Alexis Geich, Janet Gunter, Darlene Zavalney, and Sarah Valdez passed the motion with a unanimous vote. Laurie Jacobs was not in attendance of the vote, as she was excused from the meeting due to professional engagements.

**Agenda Item: Reviewed the Joint Report from Public Works, Sanitation, Engineering and Street Services regarding the Green Sustainable Streets Council Motion (Council File: 14-0748)**

Tabled.

**Agenda Item: Discuss Phillips 66 flare-up events. Discuss possible tour of facilities. Attempt to obtain full disclosure reports from refineries, so that the public may keep record of flare-up events, their causes, and the impact they have on air quality (via AQMD)**

Janet Grothe, Phillips 66 Public Affairs Manager, and Chip Stewart, Phillips 66 Environmental Engineer, were in attendance at the meeting and answered questions without hesitation, to the best of their knowledge.

Briefly discussed the presentation given by Phillips 66 at the January NWSPNC Board meeting. Janet Grothe distributed a FAQ sheet answering common questions in regards to flare-ups.

Green Committee would like access to some type of full disclosure report that outlines the nature of each flare-up event and its impact on public health and the environment. Chip referred us to the South Coast Air Management District website. According to rule 118, refineries must post quarterly reports.

Chuck: "Which flares belong to Rancho LPG? We should monitor flares accordingly."

Janet Grothe said she would find a map of the flares (Phillips 66 vs. Rancho LPG), though she believes Rancho releases flares at the most southern, eastern portion of their property.

Chuck asked about the safety of the community and if the flare-up events that occurred in January posed any danger to local residents. Janet responded that there was no offsite impact from the flares. Chip commented further that there were no explosions that occurred and no danger of explosion.

**Agenda Item: Discuss next action steps regarding Rancho LPG. Discuss possible tour of the facilities. Brainstorm questions to present at such tour.**

In regards to advocacy: Janet Gunter announced that Mayor Garcetti would be answering questions on KNX 1070 AM radio on Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> (the morning after our meeting). Mayor Garcetti will be discussing his recent efforts to raise seismic standards of housing and businesses in Los Angeles. This presents an opportunity for concerned citizens in our community to ask him about the Rancho LPG tanks, e.g. Rancho LPG tanks are currently substandard, so why doesn't the Mayor address this issue?

Discussion by community members present at the Green Committee meeting regarding noise pollution near their home, created by train transportation of butane and propane from Rancho LPG.

Correspondence to/from Mayor Garcetti thus far, regarding Rancho LPG: Janet Gunter posed question to Mayor Garcetti when he appeared live on Channel 7 morning news a month ago. Janet Gunter asked him about his lack of action on Rancho LPG tanks, despite his current campaign to address substandard homes and businesses in Los Angeles. His response was apathetic and unacceptable.

Committee discussion: In next months, Green Committee will focus on increasing communication with Mayor Garcetti regarding the issue.

Darlene Zavalney suggested that the Green Committee also spearhead a campaign directed at President Obama, pressuring him to address the Rancho LPG issue. Connie commented on his lack of meaningful action after a West Texas explosion occurred to similar compounds, though his administration did release a statement on the issue. Committee noted that Senator Ted Lieu has taken no action on the issue. Renee Orefice commented that as long as the tanks are "in compliance"—albeit in compliance with outdated standards that would not be approved today—public officials will shy away from the issue. Renee further commented that Rancho LPG is regulated by 9 agencies at the local, state, and federal level, and concerned citizens must create legislation that would change existing

standards.

Janet commented on the unfortunate circumstances: like so many other similar situations, if public officials do not act with foresight, it may take a true catastrophe to drive change.

Connie commented that the Holy Trinity Peace and Justice group has written to the EPA and the Sierra Club regarding problems with regulation.

Renee commented that it would take multiple actions between Representative Waxman, EPA, and AQMD in order to change existing code.

Darlene asked Renee, "How many of these types of facilities exist in the U.S.?" Renee: "Thousands."

Action that may currently be taken up by the Green Committee, as a branch of local government: Pressure Mayor Garcetti, especially with youth advocates who are educated and concerned about the issue. Committee member, Alexis Geich, mentioned that she would get in contact with the leaders of Green Clubs at local schools such as Mary Star, POLAHS, and SPHS.

The objective of such action: move Rancho LPG out of our community.

Obstacle(s) to such objective: outdated regulations, and the deep pockets of Plains America.

**Agenda Item: *Continued discussion regarding hydration stations and alternative source for water at NC Board meetings***

Tabled

**Agenda Item: *Other Items for Consideration***

Announcement: Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015 is the Venice Green Expo to be held from 12-6 PM at the Mark Twain Middle School

Announcement: opportunity for phone advocacy with GMO Free LA regarding a bill that was recently re-introduced by Senators Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) and Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) and Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.) The bill calls for a GMO labeling across the U.S.

**Agenda Item: *Public Comment***

Janet Grothe used this opportunity to announce that LADWP will be replacing 300 feet of water main in front of the Phillips 66 refinery, at the South side of Anaheim. The project will commence in the next two weeks, and will take 2-3 months to complete. LADWP Project Manager: Joseph Nundine, Water Utilities Manager of Harbor District, (310) 522-1471

**Agenda Item: *Adjourn***

### **New business**

**In next months, Green Committee will focus on increasing communication with Mayor Garcetti regarding the issue. Use our youth membership to mobilize and educate family and peers regarding the Rancho LPG issue.**

Add Chuck Hart and Bobbi Lisk to the Green Committee.

### **Announcements & Next Meeting Date**

**Next meeting to be held on *Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 from 6:00-7:30 pm*, located at the Peck Park Community Center Computer Room.**