



Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council
SPECIAL Sustainability Committee Meeting
COMMITTEE REPORT

Meeting held at Via Dolce Coffee House, 29050 S Western Ave, on Friday, March 30, 2018, 9am-12pm

Committee member attendees: Gwen Henry, Chris Valle, Tom Maeder

Non-committee member attendees: Allen Franz, Al Sattler, Cynthia Gonyea, Tyler Ortiz

Committee members not in attendance: all in attendance.

1. **Welcome and Introductions.**

2. **Public Comment on Non-Agenda items.**

Al Sattler – Chair for the Palos Verdes/South Bay Chapter of the Sierra Club - Requests the NWSPNC Sustainability Committee support Proposed Rule 1410 at the AQMD <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/rules-compliance/rules/proposed-rules/proposed-rule-1410> in relation to the Torrance Refinery at 3700 W 190th St, and Valero Wilmington Refinery at 2402 E Anaheim St. Torrance and Valero Wilmington are the only refineries in the state that use hydrofluoric acid in a modified hydrofluoric acid alkylation process. The chemical is deadly if released into the atmosphere. Both refineries are a direct danger to the communities in San Pedro. As the Valero Wilmington is in CD15 and within the borders of Los Angeles, the Neighborhood Councils can have an impact. The potential death & irreversible injury radius includes communities as far as Santa Monica, Downtown Los Angeles, and well past Long Beach – depending on prevailing winds. There are two known safer processes in refining crude oil, which many communities have made requests to the refineries to use. (Flyer attached) The TRAA Torrance Refinery Action Alliance www.TRAASouthBay.com is an organization that is working to require the refinery to improve safety by moving to a safer process that does not use hydrofluoric acid. Please review the information and consider a communication regarding these health & public safety concerns.

Allen Franz – The Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy www.PVPLC.org has two events coming up for Earth Day. From 9am-2pm come to White Point Nature Preserve to help beautify the trails! There will be speakers, a Ranger walk, composting workshop, art and plant sale. That evening at 5pm at the Warner Grand Theater the PVPLC will be presenting the National Geographic documentary JANE.

3. **Discuss Sustainability Committee Promotion at First Thursday in Downtown San Pedro**

Sustainability will be on the corner of 7th and Mesa on April 5th for First Thursday Art Walk and Food Truck fun.

We will be promoting the Sustainability Committee – in order to gather email addresses, attract interest, participation & members!!! As well as display the www.RainBarrelsIntl.com sample rain barrel and promote the www.SocalWatersmart.org rebate program.

*Gwen Henry and Hector Inzunza - Director of Friendship Park will be promoting the **Saturday April 21st Earth Day** and the **Saturday April 28th BioBlitz**, as well as recruit **assistant trainees to help the Natural History Museum leaders** on the tours of the park and how to use the www.iNaturalist.org application.*

*Volunteers are needed to set up and break down. Diana Nave / Darlene Zavalney will be there to promote the upcoming election and call for candidates for the Board seats. **Tyler Ortiz** will help with set up & break down. Thanks Tyler!*

4. **Discuss EARTH DAY 2018 – April 21st at Deane Dana Friendship Park & Nature Center and Rain Barrels International \$65 rain barrel sale with \$50 rebate for residents of the City of LA & \$35 for unincorporated city residents.**

*20 exhibitors have signed up. The posters and flyers are done. The only work left is to spread information on Social Media & promote the events. Student volunteers will be helping with the activities at the event, but **a few volunteers to help with set up and breakdown would be appreciated.***

Sustainability will have a booth front and center. Sustainability is doing these activities:

1) **Face Painting.** A few artistic kids will be given the opportunity to try their hand at face painting. During EcoFest a few volunteers were taught basic techniques and the artwork was AMAZING.

2) The **Earth Day Photo Op Board** has a full underwater marine scene. Families can take photographs as the kids pose as fish, or with their head in a sharks mouth!

2) **Chalk Drawing** - a big **Earth Day logo outlined in chalk** at the entrance of the nature center, and we will have colored chalk available to kids who want to color it in.

3) **Native Plant Seed Balls.** Sustainability is going to be “Johnny Appleseed”. Kids who do the craft will create seed balls out of a special red clay and mulch combination. They will roll a little “mud ball” and add a couple of native plant seeds. Wrap it in tissue paper and with a little raffia, tie on a label with the instructions how to plant the seed ball. We have purchased a wide selection of seeds for plants that are necessary for the endangered Palos Verdes Blue Butterfly and for Monarchs that use the coastal route to get to Mexico. The seeds have been selected for attractiveness as well as hardiness in a low-water landscaping plan. If at every event a child and family goes home with a seed ball and plants it, over time the entire harbor area may have been transformed into gardens with habitat for these species to survive and thrive! **Leftover seeds** can also be used for the Deane Dana Volunteer Trainee program. Students from San Pedro are volunteering their time and training at the Nature Center. Trainees will take some seeds home with mulch and biodegradable pots, germinate them and the little plants will be given away at future events, and used to re-establish habitat on the hill, and also train other kids how to create a native plant garden. Great education opportunity.

4) **Sustainability promotional items and committee recruitment** – we will have an email sign up sheet so community can learn about upcoming events from Sustainability and other environment related activities going on in San Pedro.

5. **Discuss [City Nature Challenge 2018](#) – April 28th at the Nature Center – Here is an [article](#) that explains the program. Global crowd sourcing for science website & app [iNaturalist.org](#)**
There are now 150 mobile phone and tablet “clip on” macro lenses & 12 “clip on” telephoto lenses available to participants so they can capture “close up” photographs of bugs OR capture creatures and other living species that are too far away or difficult to approach. Supplies of **Pencils** and **Earth Day themed note pads** are available to write down scientific observations that will be added in documentation on the **iNaturalist.org APP**.
*The **Boys & Girls Clubs** are bringing kids, there are going to be **teen Assistant Leaders** to help the NHMLA staff run the program, and the **LAUSD** is helping to promote the event.*
[Citizen Science Symposium](#) – Gwen went to the all day symposium at Aquarium of the Pacific. Speakers from all over the United States discussed the development of technologies that people all over the globe are using to help with scientific research. This is a type of program that has a lot of STEAM educational opportunities, provide an activity that Sustainability can support through the year & great potential for getting kids and adults and seniors active in scientific projects!
6. **[Discuss Council File 18-0112](#) – Inclusion of Harbor Communities in the Federal Opportunity Zones** – This was brought to attention on February 26, 2018 and approved by the Mayor on March 6, 2018. **TABLED**
7. **Discuss the Protected Tree and Shrub Ordinance – City Planning Commission** – Goal is to write a letter regarding the vote of approval by the City Planning Commission. The ordinance helps to protect certain qualifying native trees and shrubs should they be on property slated for development. But there is some wording the been some .
8. **[Council File 15-0499](#) and [Amendment](#)** – a CIS on Protecting Biodiversity, City Practices, Working Group
This Council File is active until May 2019. Goal is to write a CIS and use this CF as the basis of many other action letters.
9. **Discuss [Council File 18-0997](#) – excess levels of Chromium 6 motion for city-wide inspection.** Last day to act 08/30/2019 reports from **[Public Works Sanitation](#)** & the **[SCAQMD](#)** *Nothing added to the motion. TABLED*
10. **Discuss [Council File 17-1063](#) – a condition survey of Community Parks** – possible collaboration with Planning & Land Use, Public Safety and Community Vision. <http://parkgrade.la/> See Ron Galperin letter. Last day to act 09/13/2019 *Nothing added to the motion. TABLED*
11. **Discuss [Council File 15-0198-S1](#) – the motion to form a **Committee on Cooling and Urban Heat Impacts** – ADOPTED Sept 26th Valley Glen NC filed CIS. Possible NWSPNC action strategy – send a letter. Possibilities include request Neighborhood Council representation on this Committee. *Nothing added to the motion. TABLED***
12. **[Council File 17-0447](#) –Resolution to study Resident Health and Safety and assess feasibility of amending current land use codes in relation to oil wells and oil drilling sites – exp 6/22/2019 **20 NCs have submitted CIS’s****
TABLED
13. There are STILL opportunities for **ALL STAKEHOLDERS to comment on [Open Space](#)** portion of the General Plan. **[OurLA2040.org](#) !!!!**
14. **Continue to monitor [Urban Greening Plan](#).**
15. **Adjourn – next meeting Monday, April 30, 2018 at 5:30 – 7:00pm**

**EXXONMOBIL EXPLOSION 2/18/2015:
NEAR-MISS ON 50,000 LB. OF MHF**



from Animation of 2015 Explosion
 "We were really, really lucky... It could have been much more catastrophic... If I were in the community I absolutely would be concerned" – Chemical Safety Board Chair V. Sutherland



Areas with the most HF exposure that day due to wind direction would've been: W. Torrance, Redondo Beach, and S. Hermosa Beach.



HYDROFLUORIC ACID (HF)

Used as an alkylation catalyst to make high octane gas, HF can cause severe burns and is a systemic poison, readily absorbed through skin and into the blood stream. It can cause internal organ damage and death. The heart can stop, while lungs fill with blood & fluid. Immediate treatment is needed.

A RISK TOO GREAT

Released HF can travel as a ground-hugging fog for miles.

The 1986 Goldfish tests showed an 8,300 lb. HF release produced a deadly ground-hugging aerosol fog. Two miles from the release spot, the HF cloud was 4 times the concentration at which death can occur.



Photo courtesy of
 Dr. Ron Koopman, Test Director



Don't let this happen here!

South Korea, 2012, 16,000 lb. HF released

Five dead, twelve hospitalized up to ten days, 12,243 treated for HF exposure, 1,000's evacuated for weeks, Millions of \$ in losses at 80 surrounding businesses. The area was declared a "special disaster zone." All this, even though prevailing winds carried the HF cloud away from the city.



TAKE ACTION to PROTECT the SOUTH BAY from MHF!

VISIT TRAASouthBay.com TO... send letters supporting Rule 1410 & AB 1645; sign our petition; sign up for our newsletter. GET SIGN: LawnSign@TRAASouthBay.com

COME TO A TRAA MEETING.

1st and 3rd Monday each month, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Sizzler 2880 Sepulveda Blvd, Torrance

Contact : TRAASouthBay@gmail.com
 Twitter: @TraaNow
 Instagram: TorranceRefineryActionAlliance



Like/Share: fb.me/BanMHF



**MODIFIED HF (MHF)
 MHF is just as deadly as HF**

One of the world's most dangerous industrial chemicals, hydrofluoric acid (HF) is used in massive quantities in only two California refineries, Torrance and the Valero in Wilmington. The refineries claim an additive mixed in with the HF makes it safe. But at only one or two additive molecules per hundred, it's too little to make a difference.

"Modified" HF (MHF) is just as deadly as HF. If released, it forms a ground-hugging cloud that can drift for miles, causing death and injury. The refineries' other mitigation measures, like water sprays and barriers, are also ineffective. Mass casualties can result from an MHF release — wind direction determines who dies.

The Danger is Very Real

From 1987 to 2015 a total of 8,282 lb. of HF was accidentally released at the Torrance refinery, averaging 286 lb. per year. Most releases were not reported by the press, e.g., 890 lb. (2004) and 750 lb. ('88 & '89). At the Wilmington Valero 4,995 lb. HF was accidentally released between 1987 & 2016, averaging 167 lb. per year. Virtually no releases were reported by the press, including a 2300 lb. release in 1987.

Dangerously large HF releases have occurred

1980 Matamoros, Mexico	83,000 lb.
1987 Marathon, TX	53,000 lb.
2009 CITGO, TX	42,000 lb.
2012 South Korea	16,000 lb.



This accident nearly happened during the 2/18/2015 explosion

Modified Hydrofluoric Acid (MHF) at the Torrance Refinery

A tank of 50,000 lb. MHF was nearly struck during the explosion. It was a calm day (that's worst-case). That much released MHF would create a ground hugging plume toxic enough to cause death up to 8-mi away (red circle) & irreversible & serious injuries up to 16-mi (black), if emergency systems failed. The red curve shows the path the acid plume would've taken that day due to wind direction.



Join Us in Protecting The South Bay!

**THIS IS A NEEDLESS RISK
 There are ALTERNATIVES**

Sulfuric Acid (H₂SO₄)

Used by 8 CA alky units, all but the Valero Wilmington & Torrance. H₂SO₄ might be piped in from Carson (using existing pipeline) or brought in by rail. New processes use ½ the acid.

Ionic Liquid Alkylation

New & environmentally more benign than H₂SO₄. Chevron, SLC switching by 2020.

Any alternative would eliminate MHF's airborne toxic risk

WHAT ABOUT THE COST?

THE REFINERY'S COST TO REPLACE MHF
 The cost to convert: ~\$100-300M. The refinery wasted over \$100M on MHF development. Since 1997 it has falsely claimed MHF is far safer than HF. There is a precedent: the AQMD-mandated ESP cost \$300M to build and \$161M to repair after ExxonMobil blew it up due to negligence.

THE COST TO THE PUBLIC TO KEEP MHF
 Mass casualties could occur. Even a moderate MHF release could injure and kill, reduce property values, and cause business losses to mount. An orderly ban and transition now prevents that and would be far less disruptive and costly to our lives and the economy.

To contact us: www.nwsanpedro.org , board@nwsanpedro.org , or 310-918-8650

PUBLIC INPUT AT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS – The public can address the Committee on any agenda item before the Committee takes an action on an item. Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Committee is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future Committee meeting. Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker, unless adjusted by the Committee Chair.

THE AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT - As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and upon request will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, assisted listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services please make your request at least 3 business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting by contacting the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council at 310-918-8650.

PUBLIC ACCESS OF RECORDS – In compliance with government code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to all or a majority of the Board members in advance of a meeting may be viewed at 1840 S Gaffey St, San Pedro, CA 90731, at our website: www.nwsanpedro.org, or at a scheduled meeting. In addition if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the Agenda, please contact the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council at 310-918-8650.

PUBLIC POSTING OF AGENDAS– Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council agendas are posted for public review as follows: • Harbor Division Station, 2175 John S. Gibson Blvd, San Pedro, CA 90731 • www.nwspnc.org • You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to L.A. City's Early Notification System at: <http://www.lacity.org/government/Subscriptions/NeighborhoodCouncils/index.htm>

RECONSIDERATION AND GRIEVANCE PROCESS: For information on the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council's process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the NWSPNC Bylaws. The Bylaws are available at our Board meetings and our website <http://nwsanpedro.org/board/>

SERVICIOS DE TRADUCCION Si requiere servicios de traducción, favor de avisar al Concejo Vecinal 3 días de trabajo (72 horas) antes del evento. Por favor contacte a Secretary, 310-918-8650 o por correo electrónico board@nwsanpedro.org para avisar al Concejo Vecinal.