

Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting was held the Wednesday after Memorial Day

WEDNESDAY MAY 30, 2018 - 5:30 - 7:00PM

San Pedro City Hall, Room 452 638 S. Beacon Street, San Pedro, CA 90731

There was not a quorum of NWSPNC members.

Committee Attendees: Gwendolyn Henry

Non Committee Attendees: Leeor Alpern SCAQMD, Al Sattler from the Sierra Club, Connie Sullivan from the Torrance Refinery Action Alliance attended.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda items.

Leeor Alpern is with the Legislative and Public Media Affairs department of the SCAQMD.

The South Coast AQMD is the air pollution control agency for all of Orange County and the urban portions of Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernadino Counties.

The SCAQMD is holding meetings regarding **Assembly Bill 617**, which is a wonderful opportunity to improve air quality in disadvantage communities most burdened by air pollution.

The SCAQMD is **conducting public meetings to seek input on how to prioritize communities in our region for future air monitoring and emission reduction programs.**

Come to the meeting for the South Los Angeles / South Bay region

Wednesday June 13, 2018

6:00PM – 8:00PM

South Gate Park

4900 Southern Ave.

South Gate, CA 90280

For more information visit the SCAQMD website at www.aqmd.gov/AB617 or **contact Fabian Wesson**, SCAQMD Public Advisor, at **(909) 396-2432** or at publicadvisor@aqmd.gov

Connie Sullivan from the Torrance Refinery Action Alliance presented a PowerPoint on the background regarding hydrofluoric acid, modified hydrofluoric acid, and the history of getting the Torrance and Valero refineries to move away from its usage, in favor of processes using sulfuric acid.

The Torrance Refinery at 3700 W 190th St, and **Valero Wilmington Refinery** at 2402 E Anaheim St. are the only refineries left in the state of California 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.

Hydrofluoric acid in its unaltered form, if released, is a heavy vapor that hugs the ground. Without modification, it will continue to spread at ground level. Even the smallest whiff can cause death & irreversible injury in a radius that can potentially include 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. All other refineries in California have converted to use these other, safer, processes.

In the past, there was an agreement that Torrance and Wilmington would put chemical additives into the hydrofluoric acid that would change its qualities, so that the vapors would disperse in the atmosphere, rather than stay at the ground where it can infiltrate homes, businesses, and harm every living thing that lives at ground level. This is called MODIFIED Hydrofluoric acid. It has recently been disclosed that the percentages that were agreed upon were adjusted over the years to essentially remove the effectiveness of these dispersal qualities.

Therefore, the TRAA requests the NWSPNC join other groups to request the SCAQMD Board consider as soon as possible a strong Rule 1410 - which outlines a proposed regulation for a ban of HF and MHF (Modified HF) within three years, and only extended to five years if confirmed as essential by the Air District.

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.

NEXT Sustainability Committee Meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 25, 2018 5:30 – 7:00pm

San Pedro City Hall, Room 451 (Board of Engineering meeting room) 638 S. Beacon Street, San Pedro, CA 90731

Please note Sustainability Committee meetings are scheduled for the last Mondays of the month until further notice.