

13-0002-5108

AUG 06 2013

RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, hydraulic fracturing, commonly known as fracking, is a method of extracting petroleum and gas used for energy from rock layers and shale, and may pose public health risks and lead to property damage, contaminated air and groundwater, and increased seismicity; and

WHEREAS, the oil and gas industries have been granted exemptions from several environmental and public health laws and regulations to allow them to engage in fracking, and current fracking operations in and around the communities of Baldwin Hills, Inglewood, and Culver City may be seriously endangering the health and wellbeing of nearby residents through the risks associated with fracking; and

WHEREAS, it is vital that the health and wellbeing of all Los Angeles residents is protected, and until a full and proper study on fracking – complete with risk mitigation strategies and public health and environmental protection requirements – is complete, Los Angeles residents should not be subject to the increased risks that come with fracking operations in and around their communities; and

WHEREAS, currently pending in the state legislature is SB 4 (Pavley), which would strengthen regulations surrounding fracking activities by requiring a complete scientific study on the impacts of fracking on surrounding communities and the environment, followed by the issuance of public notices, permits, and details of chemicals used during the fracking before fracking operations are permitted; and

WHEREAS, while SB 4's regulations may help ensure that fracking operations are not allowed to have any negative impact on public safety, the bill could be improved by providing more clarity on how the proposed study will be conducted, how its terms will be defined, and ensuring that the impacts of fracking on seismic activity are fully and accurately represented;


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2013-2014 State Legislative Program SUPPORT of SB 4 (Pavley), which would strengthen regulations surrounding fracking activities by requiring the issuance of public notices, permits, and details of chemicals used during the fracking process, and would require a complete scientific study on the impacts of fracking on surrounding communities and the environment, IF AMENDED to:

1. Ensure that any language and provisions related to 'trade secrets' do not conflict with mandates to ensure that the chemicals used – including formaldehyde, acetic acids, citric acids, and boric acids – are fully disclosed, along with the amount of contaminated 'flowback' fracking fluid that remains underground;



2. Ensure that the required scientific study include information on the seismic impacts of fracking, including microseismic monitoring, specific risk geographies, areas and properties that are at increased risk of earthquake damage, and the correlation between base-water injection on seismic activity;
3. Include requirements that industry conform to best management practices that protect water resources and do not negatively impact the state's supply of clean and potable water, and that industry undergo full CEQA review of proposed fracking projects;
4. Provide full access to any and all information about community and employee health concerns, and ensure that residential zoned areas are fully protected from any health impacts; and
5. Ensure that the public is given a full opportunity to provide input during any and all permitting processes.

PRESENTED BY:


Bernard Parks
Councilmember, 8th District

SECONDED BY:



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