

Fracking: Oil & Gas Committee
Angeles Chapter



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February 22, 2014

Councilmember Jose Huizar
Council District 14
Planning Land Use and Management Committee
City Council, City of Los Angeles

Re: Resolution 13-1152, Parks & Huizar
Resolution 13-1152, S1, Bonin & Koretz

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Dear Councilman Huizar,

Whereas unconventional well stimulation, including but not limited to hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking,” and acidization has become an important and timely environmental and community issue for the City of Los Angeles and other communities served by the Angeles Chapter, we are concerned about the effects of fracking on air and water quality, community infrastructure, human health and safety, wildlife, geology/seismicity, and energy/climate change. This is especially true in a dense urban environment where residents live in close proximity to oil fields and where water conservation is critically important;

Whereas the St. James Oil Company took responsibility for a 2006 blowout in downtown LA resulting in evacuation of over 100 individuals and extensive damage to city streets, businesses and utilities, and disruption of communities and businesses;

Whereas Freeport McMoRan (formerly PXP) took responsibility for the 2010 blowout of an abandoned oil well resulting in spills of oil-contaminated water into a Culver City park;

Whereas AllenCo’s Oil and Gas operations at the Good Shepherd Production Facility led to their closure and numerous violations and disruption of the surrounding community;

Whereas Freeport McMoRan plead guilty to 17 counts of violating State water pollution laws in the 2010 Montebello Hills oil spill which contaminated the Rio Hondo River;

Whereas it is the policy of the National Sierra Club and Sierra Club California that there be a moratorium on fracking activities and all other unconventional stimulation methods until these can be performed without risk to public health and safety, environmental quality and natural resources;

Therefore, the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter’s Fracking Oil & Gas Committee supports the two proposed resolutions especially if combined to provide an immediate moratorium on and suspension of all oil and gas permits and revisions of conditional use permits pertinent to hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking,” and acidization within the City of Los Angeles until the municipal code sections pertinent to oil and gas are thoroughly revised and updated to protect the health and ensure the safety of the residents of the City of Los Angeles.

Sincerely yours,

Tom Williams, Co-Chair

David Haake, Co-Chair