

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council

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Date of NC Board Action: 01/14/2014

Type of NC Board Action: For Proposal

Impact Information

Date: 01/29/2014

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 13-1152-S1

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Brief Summary: Because the Harbor Gateway North NC area is one where oil and gas extraction took place in the early 1900's to 1920's and because there are still a number of active wells, there is a potentially significant amount of such resources below residences and businesses.

Additional Information: If a recent sound wave imaging project has identified adequate resources, then hydraulic fracturing will very likely be the means used to extract these resources impacting health and property. The unpermitted testing process alone has caused damage to some properties.

## Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 14, 2014

135<sup>th</sup> Street School Auditorium, 801 W. 135<sup>th</sup> Street

Present: Delores Allmond (Chairperson), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), Neodros Bridgeforth (Corresponding Secretary), Joan Jacobs (Treasurer), Adrian Valenzuela (District 2), Betty Hawkins (District 4), Llewyn Fowlkes (District 5), Marvin Bell (District 6), Rosario Rico (District 7), Mary Hinton (District 8), Richard Lee (Youth Representative), and Donald Cook (Outreach Representative)

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chair Delores Allmond.

**1) Public Comment:** Joseph Martinez, LAUSD District 7 Field Deputy, encouraged stakeholders to attend the Wed. February 5 meeting at the Narbonne High School Auditorium, 24300 S. Western Avenue, at 6 p.m. to hear about the State of California's proposal for funding public schools, including the LAUSD, and to hear the community's thoughts on school budget priorities. The local control funding formula will impact certain local schools which need additional support.

**2) Approval of the December 10 Board minutes:** It was moved by Rosario Rico, seconded by Llewyn Fowlkes and passed 10-0-0 to approve the minutes as presented.

**3) Treasurer's report:** In the absence of Treasurer Joan Jacobs, Recording Secretary Rosalie Preston reviewed the monthly expenditure report for December 2013. As of the end of December, total HGNNC expenditures of the \$37,000 allocated are \$13,866.36, with \$23,515.67 remaining. The more detailed "Expenditures to Date" form, dated January 13, 2014, was also attached. It was moved by Neodros Bridgeforth, seconded by Marvin Bell, and passed 10-0-0 to accept the Treasurer's report.

**4) Setting of meeting with Councilman Buscaino to discuss critical issues of the HGNNC:** Richard Lee discussed the concern of many Board members that regular Board meetings with Councilman Buscaino are needed to encourage focus on the significant issues of the HGNNC, to better seek solutions, and to know what progress is being made. Richard suggested contacting the Council's scheduler to set up such a meeting for the end of March, ideally for a Saturday morning when more Board members would be available. In the meantime, the Board will compile its current list of items needing action.

(Joan Jacobs entered the meeting at 7:35 p.m.)

It was moved by Richard Lee, seconded by Donald Cook, and passed 10-0-1 for Chair Delores Allmond to send such a letter to Councilman Buscaino.

**5) Recommendation from the Planning and Land Use Committee on the revised proposal for 27 condominiums at 15812 S. Vermont Avenue in District 2 (TT-69586-CN):** On Saturday December 14, the Planning and Land Use Committee met with developer Steve Stapakis so that he could review the revised proposal for the townhouse-style condominium project at 15812 S. Vermont Avenue. Because the City requires 10% of the units to be fully handicapped accessible, he has revised the project to incorporate those features and more handicapped parking spaces. Therefore, there will now be 27 units. The R1 property running north and south along the property line on the east side (next to the walls of the homes on Ainsworth) will become communal recreational space for the residents. A row of trees will be planted along the boundary wall to provide privacy. It was moved by Rosario Rico, seconded by Richard Lee, and passed 11-0-0 to support the Planning and Land Use Committee's recommendation of support for the revised proposal for this project.

**6) Position on File No. 13-1152-S1, City of L.A. restrictions on fracking for oil and gas:** Many HGNNC stakeholders have a strong concern that if the Rosecrans 3D Imaging Project underground testing has discovered adequate oil and gas reserves, they will be extracted using hydraulic fracturing or "fracking." Since the L.A. City Council has recently introduced a proposal to ban well stimulation activities, including hydraulic fracturing, within City limits until stronger safeguards are put in place, it

was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Marvin Bell, and passed 11-0-0 to support File No. 13-1152-S1, send a letter, and file a CIS to that effect.

**7) Position on the need for DOGGR (California Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources) to have greater oversight of oil and gas-related activities and impacts:** Due to the passage of SB4, the State Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) has been placed in charge of overseeing the study of “well stimulation activities,” also known as hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) to remove remaining petroleum and natural gas resources from ground within the State of California. Comments on the implementation of these new oversight responsibilities are being sought. Therefore, it was moved by Joan Jacobs, seconded by Mary Hinton, and passed 11-0-0 to write a letter reflecting the Board’s position that DOGGR have stronger oversight capabilities for well stimulation activities including testing for oil and gas, have funding to hire adequate numbers of inspectors, and that the State of California institute an oil severance tax to fund the inspectors and other needed public services.

**8) Letter to Councilman Buscaino and DOT on measures to mitigate illegal large-truck traffic on residential streets in District 4:** District 4 Representative Betty Hawkins has noted an increasing number of 18-wheeled trucks and large trash trucks from four different companies using 135<sup>th</sup> Street, past the 135<sup>th</sup> Street School, as well as illegally cutting through the neighborhood both north and south on Hoover Street. The Council District 15 office says that the trucks cannot be blocked on 135<sup>th</sup> Street because it is listed as a State highway. They are looking into measures to more strongly indicate that Hoover Street, both north and south of 135<sup>th</sup> Street is posted as prohibited for large truck usage.

(Joan Jacobs left the meeting at 8:30 p.m.)

It was moved by Rosalie Preston, seconded by Neodros Bridgeforth, and passed 10-0-0 to write a letter of support for mitigating this type of vehicle traffic in District 4.

**9) Report on the Budget Advocates:** This item was tabled until the next meeting since Joan Jacobs had had to leave the meeting.

**10) Report on HGNNC activities and events:** The long-planned Figueroa Corridor Business Breakfast will take place on Thurs. January 16 at the WSS corporate headquarters, 13425 S. Figueroa Street. About 120 businesses, mostly industrial, have been identified and 24 have said they will attend.

The HGNNC Board election has been set for Tues. May 6 at the 135<sup>th</sup> Street School. The Ad Hoc Election Committee will attend a meeting with IEA Rashad Rucker on Thurs. January 23 to learn more details. The current goal for voting is an increase of 15%. At least four Board seats need to be contested.

The Board has not done any further work on the Strategic Plan for 2013-2014.

**11) Report on the Harbor Alliance meeting of January 8:** Octaviano Rios, Mayor’s representative for the Harbor Area, announced that he now holds open house hours at the San Pedro City Hall, 638 S. Beacon Street, San Pedro, CA 90731, every Wednesday from 2-5 p.m. Stakeholders can drop by or call (213) 473-2388 for an appointment. The Mayor has a Great Streets initiative and possibly the HGNNC can recommend that Imperial Highway be one of the 50 Great Streets. There will be three Mayor’s budget meetings, with one possibly in the Harbor Gateway or Watts area.

**12) Announcements:** Lydia Gutierrez, teacher and Board member of the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council, is running in the primary election for State Superintendent of Education on June 3. She discussed her background and qualifications and gave out campaign literature.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston, Recording Secretary

Delores Allmond - Chairperson  
Pamela Thornton - Vice Chairperson  
Rosalie Preston - Recording Secretary  
Neodros Bridgeforth - Corres. Secretary  
Joan Jacobs - Treasurer  
Ramon Montoya - District 1 Rep.  
Adrian Valenzuela - District 2 Rep.  
Reynaldo Paduani - District 3 Rep.  
Betty Hawkins - District 4 Representative



Harbor Gateway North  
Neighborhood Council

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Llewyn Fowlkes - District 5 Rep.  
Marvin Bell - District 6 Rep.  
Rosario Rico - District 7 Rep.  
Mary Hinton - District 8 Rep.  
Deborah Lee - Community Org. Rep.  
Richard Lee - Youth Representative  
Donald Cook - Outreach Rep.  
Gloria Christmas - At-Large Rep.

January 24, 2014

Councilman Joe Buscaino  
City Hall - Room 410  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Councilman Bernard Parks  
City Hall - Room 460  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: City-wide fracking ban File No. 13-1152-S1

Dear Councilmembers Buscaino and Parks:

On January 14, 2014, our Board voted 11-0-0 to support File No. 13-1152-S1 which is the City-wide prohibition on all activity associated with well stimulation, including, but not limited to, hydraulic fracturing, gravel packing, and acidizing, or any combination thereof, and the use of waste disposal injection wells until a comprehensive study can be conducted on the long-term safety of these processes.

As you may be aware, last August 2013 the Rosecrans 3D Imaging Project on behalf of BreitBurn Energy Partners L.P. and with a permit from the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering began sound wave testing below properties of the Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council, including under the industrial properties along Figueroa Blvd. between El Segundo Blvd. and Redondo Beach Blvd. Many of our residential stakeholders have reported to us that they felt very strong vibrations from the testing process alone and many have reported that the testing process alone has created significant new cracking in the plaster of their homes, interior and exterior, cracking of concrete driveways, damage to a block wall, oil coming up from a bathtub drain, bursting of a DWP water main on 132<sup>nd</sup> Street, and subsidence of a home on 129<sup>th</sup> Street.

Therefore, we are extremely concerned that if the location of significant oil and gas reserves has been identified below our properties by this study, then hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") and other "well stimulation" processes may be used to extract these reserves for the profit of energy

company interests and to the detriment of our health and properties as well as to our existing underground water resources. These processes are also known to be sources of new air pollution and definitely have the potential to generate earth subsidence and future major earthquake damage to the whole surrounding region.

As your constituents, we ask that you support us in working to have this measure passed by the full Los Angeles City Council as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Neodros Bridgeforth, Corresponding Secretary  
Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council

Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.  
Mayor Eric Garcetti  
Councilmember Paul Koretz  
Councilmember Mike Bonin  
Alison Becker, Economic Development and Planning Director – Council District 15  
Daisy Ybarra, Field Deputy – Council District 15  
Noel Pallais, Legislative Deputy- Council District 8  
Berny Motto, Field Deputy – Council District 8  
State Senator Roderick D. Wright  
Assemblyman Isadore Hall  
Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas