


**REPORT OF THE
CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST**

DATE: April 7, 2014

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

FROM: Gerry F. Miller 
Chief Legislative Analyst

Council File: 14-0002-S28
Assignment No.: 14-03-0190

SUBJECT: Resolution (Koretz-Bonin-Wesson-Parks) to support SB 1132 (Mitchell), which would impose a moratorium on fracking and acidization in order to protect California's air and water from pollution caused by this dangerous form of oil and gas extraction.

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution (Koretz-Bonin-Wesson-Parks) to include in the City's 2013-2014 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for SB 1132 (Mitchell), which would impose a moratorium on fracking and acidization in order to protect California's air and water from pollution caused by this dangerous form of oil and gas extraction.

SUMMARY

Resolution (Koretz-Bonin-Wesson-Parks), introduced March 27, 2013, proposes that the City of Los Angeles support SB 1132 (Mitchell), which would impose a moratorium on fracking and acidization in order to protect California's air and water from pollution caused by this dangerous form of oil and gas extraction. As Resolution (Koretz-Bonin-Wesson-Parks) articulates, until a detailed and comprehensive study has been performed on the potential public health and environmental risks associated with fracking – and subsequent risk mitigation strategies and public health and environmental protection requirements have been implemented - Los Angeles residents should not be subject to the increased risks that come with fracking operations in and around their communities. Resolution (Koretz-Bonin-Wesson-Parks) therefore recommends that the city support SB 1132 (Mitchell), which would impose a moratorium on fracking and acidization in order to protect California's air and water from pollution caused by this dangerous form of oil and gas extraction.

BACKGROUND

SB 1132, introduced by California State Senator Holly Mitchell on February 20, 2014, if passed, would impose a moratorium on fracking and acidization in order to protect California's air and water from pollution caused by this dangerous form of oil and gas extraction. Hydraulic fracking, commonly referred to as simply "fracking," is a common but hazardous method of petroleum extraction that involves the fracturing of rock using a pressurized liquid. In this process, a mixture of water, sand, and other chemicals of various types are combined into a mixture, which is then injected at high pressure into a wellbore, thereby creating small fractures (typically less than 1mm), along which fluids such as gas, petroleum, uranium-bearing solution, and brine water may migrate to the well and be extracted.

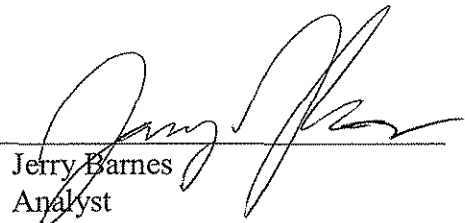
On May 15, 2013, councilmember Bernard Parks introduced a resolution (CF #13-002-S79) in support of a similar bill, AB 1323 (Mitchell), which is passed, would have imposed a statewide moratorium on fracking. Fracking is widely believed to be a particularly hazardous method of petroleum extraction, one that poses serious and unnecessary public health risks, leading to air and groundwater contamination, increased greenhouse gas emissions, increased seismicity, and personal and public property damage. Under existing law, numerous companies across 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 within and surrounding the City of Los Angeles may be seriously endangering the health and wellbeing of nearby residents through the risks associated with fracking. It is therefore critical that City affirm its stance relative to hydraulic fracking and acidization by adopting the attached Resolution (Koretz-Bonin-Wesson-Parks) to support SB 1132 (Mitchell).

DEPARTMENTS NOTIFIED

None

BILL STATUS

02/20/2014	Bill introduced
03/06/2014	Referred to Coms. on N.R. & W. and E.Q.
03/18/2014	Set for hearing April 8.



Jerry Barnes
Analyst

GFM:jb

Attachment: Resolution (Koretz-Bonin-Wesson-Parks)

H-0002-S28

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RESOLUTION RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

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 government 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, increased greenhouse gas emissions and increased seismicity; and

WHEREAS, under existing law, numerous companies across 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 within and surrounding the City of Los Angeles may be seriously endangering the health and wellbeing of nearby residents through the risks associated with fracking; and

WHEREAS, currently pending before the State Senate is a bill, SB 1132 (Mitchell), which would impose a moratorium on fracking and acidization in order to protect California's air and water from pollution caused by this dangerous form of oil and gas extraction; and


WHEREAS, Councilmember Bernard Parks has previously introduced a resolution (CF #13-0002-S79) supporting Senator Mitchell's 2013 bill, AB-1323, calling for a statewide moratorium on fracking; and

WHEREAS, until a detailed and comprehensive study has been performed on the potential public health and environmental risks associated with fracking -- and subsequent risk mitigation strategies and public health and environmental protection requirements have been implemented -- Los Angeles residents should not be subject to the increased risks that come with fracking operations in and around their communities;

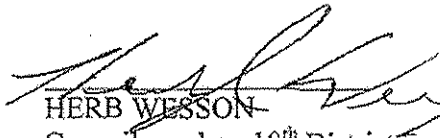
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that by adoption of this Resolution, with the concurrence of the Mayor, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2013-2014 State Legislative Program support for SB 1132 (Mitchell), which would impose a moratorium on fracking and acidization in order to protect California's air and water from pollution caused by this dangerous form of oil and gas extraction.

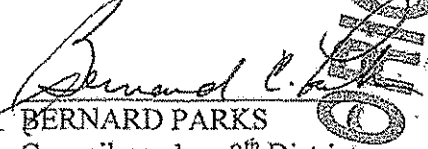
PRESENTED BY:


PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District


MIKE BONIN
Councilmember, 11th District


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HERB WESSON
Councilmember, 10th District


BERNARD PARKS
Councilmember, 8th District

TRANSIT
ORIGINAL

SECONDED BY:

