

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, on October 23, Southern California Gas Company crews discovered a leak at one of its natural gas wells located in its Aliso Canyon storage field in the County Unincorporated Area adjacent to the Porter Ranch Community; and

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LADPH) was notified of the leak on October 28; odors related to the gas leak have been affecting residents in the Porter Ranch area; LADPH advised that methane gas itself poses little direct health threat upon inhalation in an outdoor space; mercaptans, however, do pose a health threat to the community, including short-term neurological, gastrointestinal, and respiratory symptoms that may result from inhalation; and community complaints of nosebleeds, headaches, nausea and other symptoms persist; and

WHEREAS, the City Attorney has filed suit against SoCal Gas and recently, the County of Los Angeles joined that effort; the City also went to court to guarantee an expedited relocation process, provide accommodations for those with special needs and to provide for pet boarding costs; and

WHEREAS, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) has entered into a Stipulated Order of Abatement with SoCal Gas that requires on site monitoring, enhanced inspections, additional air quality monitoring, carbon absorption and thermal oxidation; and they have joined the City Council in asking for a third-party Health Study; and

WHEREAS, in response to the Council's request, the Porter Ranch Community Advisory Committee has been formed on this issue and has been meeting regularly; and

WHEREAS, So Cal Gas' most recent estimate is that it may take 2-3 more months before the actual leak is found and repaired; in the meantime, more than 4,674 households have requested relocation with 2,855 households placed and 1,819 households in process; and Porter Ranch Community School and Castlebay Elementary have been closed by LAUSD; and

WHEREAS, last week, the Governor issued a Proclamation of a State of Emergency for the Aliso Canyon Gas Leak; and

WHEREAS it has become increasingly obvious that the status quo is not sufficient to protect the public health and ensure the safety of our community, and sweeping regulatory reform legislation is needed;

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 2015-2016 State Legislative Program sponsorship and support of legislation and administrative action which would accomplish the following:

- ▶ Increase the public disclosure requirements for oil and gas storage facilities including but not limited to the number of wells; the current status of emergency valves; age of the wells and related infrastructure and make publicly available the inspection history for each well.
- ▶ Establish a moratorium for new gas wells and gas storage wells until all existing wells are brought up to current standards.

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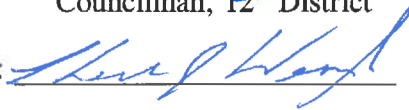
- ▶ Require immediate disclosure of leaks to the local community and government representatives.
- ▶ Require new/best available technologies to be incorporated for monitoring and preventing future leaks.
- ▶ Require yearly updates of safety and prevention plans and emergency plans to be filed with the appropriate regulatory agencies for review.
- ▶ Require equipment necessary to enact the emergency plan to be located on site so that there is no lag time between an incident and the necessary remediation.
- ▶ Create a permanent moratorium on remediation costs being passed onto ratepayers or taxpayers.
- ▶ Create a mechanism for calculating the environmental damage so that the true cost of remediating additional GHG emissions will be borne by the polluter and not the ratepayer/taxpayer.

PRESENTED BY:



MITCHELL ENGLANDER
Councilman, 12th District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL