

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 first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, on October 23, 2015, Southern California Gas Company discovered a leak at a natural gas well in the Aliso Canyon storage facility, threatening the health and safety of thousands of residents in Porter Ranch and the surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, the leak was successfully capped on February 18, 2016, but it highlighted deficiencies in State regulations governing well safety and emergency response, demonstrating the need to substantially reform regulations governing oversight of natural gas storage wells; and

WHEREAS, currently pending in the State Legislature is SB 887 (Pavley) which would require the Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) to inspect all natural gas storage wells before December 1, 2018, convene an independent panel to develop best practices for natural gas storage wells, and develop a natural gas storage facility monitoring program to identify gas leaks; and

WHEREAS, SB 887 would require the eventual phase-out of all old wells and establish new safety standards for natural gas storage wells, as well as set new compliance requirements for all natural gas storage wells in existence on December 31, 2016; and

WHEREAS, SB 887 would require well operators to develop and submit to DOGGR for approval maintenance, operating, leak prevention and response, and monitoring plans; and

WHEREAS, SB 887 would establish new monitoring, safety, and permitting requirements for natural gas storage wells located near schools, hospitals, and residential housing; and

WHEREAS, in the event of a leak, SB 887 would require that operators provide DOGGR immediate notice, begin preparations for drilling a relief well within 24 hours, and provide public notice and updates on the internet; and

WHEREAS, SB 887 recognizes that natural gas storage facilities may be located near population centers, so to protect these populations, it would provide necessary reform of the current regulatory framework and prevent future environmental harm, ensuring the health and safety of California residents;

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 2015-16 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for SB 887 (Pavley) which would establish new safety standards for natural gas storage wells and require the eventual phase-out of all old wells.

PRESENTED BY:


MITCHELL ENGLANDER
Councilmember, 12th District

SECONDED BY:



MAR 29 2016

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