

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Mar Vista Community Council

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Date of NC Board Action: 07/10/2012

Type of NC Board Action: For Proposal

Impact Information

Date: 02/22/2014

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 13-1152-S1

Agenda Date: 02/25/2014

Item Number: 9

Brief Summary: The Mar Vista Community Council SUPPORTS an immediate ban on fracking in the City of Los Angeles

Additional Information:

MAR VISTA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

Tuesday, JULY 10, 2012, at 7:00 PM

Mar Vista Recreation Center Auditorium

11430 Woodbine Street, Mar Vista, CA 90066

www.marvista.org

The audience is requested to fill out a "Speaker Card" to address the Board on any item of the Agenda prior to the Board taking action on an item. Comments from the public on Agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the Agenda that are within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction will be heard during the public comment period. Public comment is limited to two minutes per speaker, unless waived by the presiding officer of the Board. Mar Vista Community Council meetings will follow Rosenberg's Rules of Order, the latest edition. For more information, please visit the MVCC web site.

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order and Welcome – Chair 7:09 pm**
 - a. Attending: Maritza Przekop; Geoffrey Forgione; Marilyn Marble; Bill Koontz; Michael Millman; Chuck Ray; Bill Scheduling; Kate Anderson; Yvette Molinaro; Sharon Commins
2. **Presentation of the Flag and Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Approval of Minutes** –Minutes of May and June were approved
4. **Public Comment & Announcements**
5. **Elected Officials and City Department Reports**-none presented
 - a. DWP Neighborhood Council Liaison Victoria Cross Victoria.Cross@WATER.LADWP.com
 - b. Mar Vista Recreation Center – Jason Kitahara, Director
 - c. CD 11 - Bill Rosendahl, rep. by Len Nguyen Len.Nguyen@lacity.org , Field Deputy
 - d. CD 5 – Paul Koretz, rep. by David Giron David.Giron@lacity.org , Field Deputy
 - e. US 36 – Janice Hahn
 - f. CA Senate 28 – Ted Lieu, rep. by Robert Pullen-Miles Robert.Pullen-Miles@sen.ca.gov
 - g. CA Assembly 47 – Holly Mitchell
 - h. CA Assembly 62 – Steven Bradford
 - i. 2nd Dist. L. A. County Board Super.– Mark Ridley Thomas, rep. by Karly Katona Karly.Katona@bos.lacounty.gov,
 - j. Mayor of Los Angeles – Antonio Villaraigosa, rep. by Joe Hari Joseph.Hari@lacity.org
6. **Officers and Liaison Reports**
 - a. **Chair**-Sharon Commins-no report
 - b. **First Vice Chair**-Bill Koontz-no report
 - c. **Second Vice Chair**-Chuck Ray-no report
 - d. **Secretary**-Michael Millman-no report
 - e. **Treasurer**-Bill Scheduling
 - i. Approval of JUNE 2012 US Bank Card Statement: **Approved unanimously**
 - ii. **FUNDING MOTION:** Executive Committee: Motion to allocate up to \$250 towards the costs of the annual Congress of Neighborhoods event calendared for September 22, 2012. Funds must be spent in Fiscal year 2012-13 and must conform to all Empower funding guidelines. **Approved unanimously**
 - iii. **FUNDING MOTION:** Outreach Committee [via email]: The MVCC will allocate up to \$200 for the Hilltop Neighbors Association Block party to be held in September 2012. Funds will be used to pay for a "bounce house" for the children, food for the barbeque (hot dogs, buns, condiments, etc.) supplies for the food service (paper goods, water, soft drinks, charcoal, etc.), as well as supplies for other community festivities such as face painting for children. Funds must be spent in Fiscal year 2012-13 and must conform to all Empower funding guidelines. See Attachment A. **Approved unanimously**
 - f. **Animal Welfare Agencies and Organizations** – Curt Steindler-no report
 - g. **DWP MOU** – Chuck Ray
 - h. **DWP/BOS Recycled Water Advisory Group**-Christopher McKinnon
 - i. the long term reliability and quality of the water supply was discussed as well as the safety of recycled water for everyday use
 - i. **Mar Vista Bi Monthly LADOT/CD11/LAPD Traffic Committee** - Linda Guagliano
 - i. The July meeting will be cancelled and the committee will resume activity in the fall
 - j. **LANCC Delegate Report** – Maritza Przekop, Chuck Ray
 - i. **POLICY MOTION:** Neighborhood Council Performance [LANCC] See Attachment B. **Approved 9-0-1 after discussion and amendment**
 1. Motion from LANCC drafted by Chuck Ray at the request of the chair
 2. Alternative language motion: to remove last two sentences of paragraph 3 due to concerns regarding the negative tone conveyed. Motion carried 5-4-1 with the Chair breaking the tie
 3. Kate Anderson supplied additional sentence on working with CD 11 and CD 5
7. **Committee reports - Action items included; items** may be received and filed by consent if no discussion or public comment
 - a. **Executive & Finance Committee**-Chair Sharon Commins
 - i. **POLICY MOTION:** Amend Standing Rules: Grants Funding Policies: See Attachment C for full text: **Approved Unanimously with language change under e. ii. and correction of typo in II.9.**
 - b. **Election & Bylaws Committee** – Bob Fitzpatrick & Geoff Forgione, Co-Chairs
 - i. Election update and future committee meeting schedule and the timeline were discussed
 - ii. additional ideas for outreach include publishing the timeline in the upcoming newsletter
 - c. **Green Committee** – Sherri Akers & Jeanne Kuntz, Co-Chairs

- i. **POLICY MOTION:** Fracking: The Mar Vista Community Council supports a ban on fracking and approves the text of the attached letters to be sent to the Governor, the LA City Council, the LA Board of Supervisors and the Mayor. See Attachment D. **Approved 9-0-1**
 - ii. **POLICY MOTION:** California Homemade Food Act, AB 1616: The MVCC supports AB 1616, the California Homemade Food Act and approves the attached letter to be sent to the State Assembly and the Governor. See Attachment E. **Approved unanimously**
 - d. **PLUM Committee** – Steve Wallace, Michael Millman, Co-Chairs
 - i. **POLICY MOTION: 4007-4011 EAST BLVD: Small Lot Subdivision, 8 townhouses:** The Mar Vista Community Council supports the small lot subdivision proposed for 4007-4011 East Blvd. **Approved Unanimously**
 - e. **Community Outreach Committee** – Maritza Przekop & Kate Anderson, Co-Chairs
 - i. **Proposal** to establish an MVCC Facebook page for the Elections in coordination with Election & Bylaws Committee.
 - 1. **POLICY MOTION:** The Outreach Committee may proceed to develop an MVCC Facebook presence for the upcoming election and for MVCC use after the election. **Approved unanimously**
 - a. Tight controls will be utilized—no commenting or ‘friending’ during use of the page for the election outreach efforts
 - b. The standing rules for posting to the MVCC website will apply
 - c. Bill Koontz will present guidelines as quickly as possible
 - f. **Safety and Security Committee** – Rob Kadota & Bill Koontz, Co-Chairs
 - i. **POLICY MOTION:** Neighborhood Team Program
The Mar Vista Community Council supports the concept and implementation of a Neighborhood Team Program (NTP), an emergency support program organized through the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) of the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) and the Los Angeles Police Departments Block Captain Program. Under the Neighborhood Team Program community members who have taken the CERT training and LAPD Block Captain program volunteer as NTP Team Leaders, organizing and providing direction to other neighborhood residents in preparing for and responding to public safety issues, proactively plan for emergencies and led aid following disasters such as an earthquake or major fire. (Presented and supported by the WRAC- Westside Regional Alliance of Councils) **Approved unanimously**
 - g. **Santa Monica Airport Committee** – Bill Koontz & Yvette Molinaro, Co-Chairs
 - h. **Transportation & Infrastructure Committee** – Ken Alpern & Chuck Ray, Co-Chairs
 - i. **Education, Arts and Culture Committee** – Amy Lawrence, Co-Chair
 - j. **Historic FS 62 Ad Hoc Committee** – Rachel Swanger & Roy Persinko, Co-Chairs
 - k. **Recreation Open Space Enhancement Committee** – Jerry Hornof & Tom Ponton, Co-Chairs
8. **Zone Director Reports** (Public comment permitted)
9. **Unfinished Business** - Action items held over from previous meeting (Public comment permitted)
10. **New Business** -(Public comment permitted)
11. **Grievances**, if any, received
12. **Future agenda items**
13. **Adjournment** (9:30 PM)

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Hilltop Neighbors Association Block Party Community Improvement Grant Application

June 28, 2012

Amount Requested: \$200

Contact person: Sandra Casillas

Telephone number: 310-569-8418

Email: sandra74542@yahoo.com

Community organization: Hilltop Neighbors Association

Project Description: The Hilltop Neighbors Association (HNA) will hold an annual community block party on a as yet to be determined date in September 2012. We seek funding to assist carrying out this community function.

The community gathering will be held at the North Venice Little League (NVLL) site. We will hold the block party, which will include food, children’s’ play opportunities, emergency awareness discussions, a Mar Vista Historical Society presentation and community collaboration.

We seek this grant to help pay for a “bounce house” for the children, food for the barbeque (hot dogs, buns, condiments, etc.) supplies for the food service (paper goods, water, soft drinks, charcoal, etc.), as well as supplies for other community festivities such as face painting for children. HNA will also seek donations from local businesses to fund this endeavor.

This block party will benefit the community through “getting acquainted” activities, learning about community functions such as CERT volunteer activities as well as the general benefit of a communal meal and social function.

Attachment B: Neighborhood Council Performance and City Issues

Whereas Council Member Parks has made a motion, seconded by Council Member Perry, requiring Neighborhood Councils to report to the Education And Neighborhoods Committee on how NC's perform with regard to city issues,
Be it resolved that the Mar Vista Community Council, in its regular meeting of July 10, 2012, moves to approve the following response to the motion:

Neighborhood Councils, by charter and ordinance, are mandated to be the link between the City government and the citizens of Los Angeles. The Mar Vista Community Council recognizes its responsibility in this matter. In an effort to comply with the mandate, MVCC has inserted notices in its newsletter; created blast e-mails; organized events, town halls and other forms of outreach and has sent representatives to speak before the City Council and its committees.

HOWEVER, the City of Los Angeles has not, for the most part, established any kind of procedures that would facilitate Neighborhood Councils in fulfilling this duty. In fact, many of the current procedures are set up to work against any input from stakeholders and their elected Neighborhood Councils. Numerous examples can be provided of the failure of the City government to fulfill the spirit of the charter sections which create the Neighborhood Councils

THEREFORE, the Mar Vista Community Council requests that Council Member Parks submit a motion to the full City Council mandating the following:

All significant issues should be sent to the Neighborhood Councils at least 60 days prior to their first hearing so the NCs have adequate time to reach out to their stakeholders and take a position.

The City Council and all of its committees shall allow a five minute comment period to all speakers that are officially representing their Neighborhood Councils.

All Council District Offices shall meet regularly with the Neighborhood Councils and work with them to develop plans allowing for greater NC input in the decision making process.

The Education and Neighborhoods Committee shall investigate the funding of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment pertaining to its capacity to fulfill its mission. An additional staff position shall be funded with part of the job description being to track all impending legislation and department hearings and to notify the Neighborhood Council system in a timely manner.

Neighborhood Councils should be allowed to request a postponement of all upcoming legislation so that they may properly notify their stakeholders and have time to take a position.

Attachment C: Proposed Update Of MVCC Standing Rules I-3 Proposed language is in red

I. The Board

1. All Mar Vista Community Council communications and web postings to the general public or the full MVCC Stakeholder list must be approved by at least three directors of the MVCC Board. All such communications shall be from the Board of Directors, and not any one individual. The only exceptions to this rule are the posting of agendas, minutes, and E-calendars.
2. The Chair of the MVCC Board of Directors shall be the official representative of the Council. No individual Board member or MVCC stakeholder has the authority to speak for the Board on any topic or position unless the substance of his/her statement has been approved by the Board.
3. All MVCC expenditures:
 - a. which exceed \$1,000 shall be approved by the MVCC Board of Directors by a majority vote. These expenditures, if involving purchase of goods or services, shall be made only after consideration of alternate bids, or estimates. This requirement may be waived by action of the Board when specifics of an expenditure so dictate.
 - b. not exceeding \$1,000 but more than \$300 shall be approved by the MVCC Board of Directors by a majority vote.
 - c. under \$300 shall be approved by the Treasurer or Chair insofar as the purpose of the expenditure falls under one of the types listed in 3.d. of these Standing Rules and is in accordance with the annually approved MVCC budget.
 - d. shall be one of the following three types of purchases. These are the only acceptable purchases the City will fund:
 - i. Administrative expenses of the Mar Vista Community Council and its committees to assist in carrying out its duties.
 - ii. Outreach expenses which increase community knowledge and/or involvement in the MVCC, City, or any City department.
 - iii. Community improvement projects. All community improvement projects require that a Community Benefit Statement be submitted to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment.
 - e. must be fully compliant with all Department of Neighborhood Empowerment regulations.
 - i. All MVCC Committees submitting Community Improvement Grant and Neighborhood Purposes Grant Applications shall also provide a completed EMPOWER Neighborhood Purposes Grant Proposal Evaluation Form in order to be placed on the agenda. Additionally, a list of all the Committee's Community Improvement Grant or Neighborhood Purposes Grant funding recipients and amounts for the preceding 2 years shall be provided by the Committee as part of the total submission package to the Board. The finalized submission package shall be provided to the Chair at least two weeks prior to the Board meeting at which the requested action is to be taken.
 - ii. Community Improvement Grant or Neighborhood Purposes Grant Proposals shall not be placed on the Board agenda for consideration until all official paperwork is complete.
 - iii. Where appropriate, the Board may choose to require matching funds as a condition of any Community Improvement Grant or Neighborhood Purposes Grant. Where appropriate, the Board may choose to increase or reduce the requested amount in order to ensure the broadest possible benefits to the community at large.

II. Committees

9. An item shall be placed on the agenda of any MVCC committee upon the request of a Director. In addition, an item may be placed on the agenda of a MVCC committee meeting by a petition signed by not less than five (5) stakeholders. Such a petition shall be submitted to the Chair of the committee at least five (5) calendar days prior to the scheduled meeting. Community Improvement Grant or Neighborhood Purposes Grant funding proposals requested by a Director, or by stakeholder petition, shall fulfill the requirements of Section 1.3.e. i, ii, and iii of these standing rules.

Attachment D: Text of Fracking Letter

July 2012

Governor Jerry Brown
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Mayor of the City of Los Angeles
Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa
200 North Spring St., Room 303
Los Angeles, CA 90012

County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors

Los Angeles City Council
City Hall Office
200 N. Spring Street, Room 410
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Fracking in California-Ban

Dear Governor Brown:

CC: Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa; The County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors; Los Angeles City Council

In order to protect California public health and environment, the Mar Vista Community Council urges you to place an immediate ban on fracking in California. Culver City Council has already unanimously passed a resolution calling on the state to ban fracking. The Los Angeles City Council has introduced the same resolution which the Mar Vista Community Council wholeheartedly endorses. The mere disclosure of where fracking is occurring and the chemicals used in the process does not prevent them from polluting our air and water. The fracking process is simply too dangerous to be properly regulated. As fracking operations continue to threaten California, we urge you to take swift action and issue an immediate ban on all fracking operations in California.

From the Sacramento Valley to Los Angeles County, the oil and gas industry has only just begun to frack California. Next generation fracking is now here, and will affect the Mar Vista Community.

Millions of gallons of a mixture of water, sand and chemicals can now be injected deep underground at high pressure to fracture shale and other tight rock formations, allowing oil or gas to flow. This is a radical departure from the fracking traditionally done in California to "rework" wells, wringing out more production after wells were first drilled.

While modern drilling and fracking may be an engineering marvel, it results in millions of gallons of toxic wastewater and thousands of tons of solid waste for each new well. It causes serious air pollution problems and creates serious short- and long-term risks to drinking water resources. And it compounds the already alarming threats that global climate change poses to the California economy.

Fracking pollutes water

Known and suspected carcinogens, including naphthalene, benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and acrylamide, have been consistently used in fracking fluid. In a draft report published in December 2011, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently found that fracking likely explained groundwater contamination in Pavilion, WY. In addition to fracking chemicals, fracking wastewater contains potentially extreme levels of naturally occurring but harmful contaminants, such as toxic metals and radioactive material.

The Plains Exploration and Production Corporation (PXP) has already fracked two wells at the Inglewood Field in Los Angeles – which is bordered by Culver City on the west, on the north by the Los Angeles Mid-City district, and on the east by the Crenshaw district. However PXP plans to continue fracking, and a large amount of the untapped oil reserves are located underneath Culver City residential homes which is miles outside the actual borders of the oil field. Fracking on the Inglewood Oil Field threatens to contaminate local groundwater and Ballona Creek, which discharges into Santa Monica Bay. In June of 2011, the EPA found that the Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) is not adequately safeguarding California's water from pollution from faulty wells citing inadequate staffing among other problems. In addition, many of the industry's targeted wells are in the Sacramento River watershed and San Francisco Bay Delta areas, a source of drinking water for over 23 million Californians.

In 2002, California agencies reviewed oil exploration and production wastes to consider whether such wastes should continue to be considered "non-hazardous". Thanks to a special oil and gas industry exemption, the non-hazardous status was maintained. However, waste from fracking was not considered in this review.

In California, wastewater from fracking and conventional drilling is often injected underground into wells not designed to hold fracking wastewater. In 2008 oil companies in Kern County pumped 425 million barrels of wastewater into such wells. These wells have been known to leak, resulting in groundwater pollution. One farmer in Kern County suffered \$2 billion in economic loss when his crops died as a result of groundwater contaminated from oil drilling wastewater. In 2011 alone, industry wastewater from the Inglewood Oil Field of Los Angeles produced over 126 million barrels of wastewater that was then pumped back into over 200 wells.

Fracking pollutes air

Fracking is resulting in serious local and regional air pollution problems across the country. Hazardous air pollutants found near fracking sites include methanol, formaldehyde, and carbon disulfide. Volatile organic compounds, including nitrogen oxides, benzene and toluene, are also discharged during fracking. These compounds mix with emissions from heavy-duty truck traffic, large generators and compressors at well sites and contribute to smog

formation. A recent study by the University of Colorado found rates of air pollutants five times above a federal hazard standard near fracking sites in Colorado. Increased air pollution from fracking is of particular concern in California, with many areas having some of the worst air quality in our nation.

In addition, widespread drilling and fracking in California will only undermine the state's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, pursuant to AB 32. In addition to emissions generated by producing, refining and burning shale oil, drilling and fracking for shale oil can result in significant uncontrolled emissions of methane; a potent greenhouse gas often associated underground with oil.

Fracking: earthquakes and ground movement

What is known is that oil and gas extraction has caused earthquakes in California in the past, most notably in Wilmington, California from 1947 to 1961, and more recently a dozen small earthquakes shook Eastern Ohio due to fracking wastewater being disposed of in underground injection disposal wells. What is unknown is whether the modern fracking in California, and the disposal of massive volumes of fracking wastewater, will end up causing potentially destructive earthquakes in California's future.

The Inglewood Oil Field, situated in a community of 300,000 people, lies over two earthquake faults. One of the fault lines is already expected to have a 7.4 earthquake. Since PXP escalated its drilling in 2006, local residents in communities such as Culver City and Baldwin Hills have seen their homes crack and their land sink. Ever more powerful and intense fracking could result in much greater and more costly property damages for these local residents.

Fracking and property values

In addition fracking is causing further economic woes for communities across the country, leaving plummeting property values in its wake. A homeowner in Pennsylvania was recently denied a mortgage based on fracking underway on his neighbor's property and Quicken Loans has cited plummeting values near fracking sites as consideration in its loan-making decisions. If PXP moves ahead with increasing fracking operations on the Inglewood Oil Field, and in and under Culver City, this could have a real impact on the Mar Vista Community.

Conclusion

Because of these severe consequences, a ban is essential to protect California.

Attachment E: California Homemade Food Act

Christina Oatfield
Sustainable Economies Law Center
436 14th St., Suite 1120
Oakland, CA, 94612

June 2012

Dear Members of the California Legislature:

On behalf of the Mar Vista Community Council, I am writing to officially express our support for AB 1616, the California Homemade Food Act, authored by Assembly member Mike Gatto. The California Homemade Food Act will legalize artisanal food production and promote neighborhood-based economic opportunities for micro-entrepreneurs.

We recognize the Act's potential to help residents more easily launch small businesses by using their home kitchens and encourages the use of fresh, locally sourced ingredients like those available at our Mar Vista Farmer's Market on Grandview Boulevard. We believe this will enhance our neighborhood's food environment and is aligned with the efforts of the Los Angeles Food Policy Council.

By helping return food production to the local level, the Homemade Food Act represents an effort to strengthen bonds between local residents and businesses as neighbors produce food specifically for their community. We believe that those who prepare food for loved ones, friends and neighbors naturally hold themselves to a high standard and level of accountability for the health and safety of those they feed and that the human connection is an important ingredient in food prepared by local residents for local residents. At the same time, we recognize the importance of protecting the public against food-borne illness, and we are confident that the education, training, registration, permitting, and inspection provisions of the California Homemade Food Act will enable California's Environmental Health Departments to safeguard the public's health as these not-potentially-hazardous foods enter the marketplace.

We also support the California Homemade Food Act's stance on zoning laws. It will require local governments to classify such operations as an allowable use of residential property in accordance with local zoning ordinances and in no way create an inappropriate public use of a residential community.

Thank you for giving the California Homemade Food Act, AB1616, the strongest consideration at a time when our economy and our food system would benefit greatly from it.

Sincerely,