

PLANNING & LAND USE MANAGEMENT
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

13-1152

MOTION

One of the most important commitments that the City has to its residents is that their health and wellbeing is looked after. To this end the City and other local agencies have long established programs designed to ensure a healthy public and to ensure that the environment of the Los Angeles does not pose significant health risks to those who live and work in the City.

Recently, energy companies have expanded their use of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, to extracting petroleum and gas from rock layers and shale. The fracking process involves injecting water and chemicals into those rock layers at very high pressures in order to extract the petroleum and gas. In several cases this has led to contamination of groundwater and air quality, and many have questioned the impact of fracking on increased seismic activity. Several Los Angeles communities – including Baldwin Hills, Inglewood, and Culver City, are impacted by fracking operations.

While there are few regulations on fracking at the state and national level, several towns and cities have implemented zoning laws designed to ensure that fracking operations do not harm their residents health and wellbeing. The town of Dryden, New York, for instance, has won several legal battles against large gas companies in its regulation of drilling and fracking activities. The City of Los Angeles should investigate the possibility of establishing its own regulations on fracking in order to ensure that its residents and communities are protected.

I THEREFORE MOVE, that the Planning Department, with assistance from the City Attorney, Chief Legislative Analyst, Department of Water and Power, and other departments as needed, be instructed to report on establishing land use regulations and zoning laws, per Section 12.32 of the Los Angeles Planning and Zoning Code, that would ensure that public health and safety is protected from the negative impacts of fracking activities.

PRESENTED BY:


Bernard Parks
Councilmember, 8th District

SECONDED BY:

