

MOTION

A little after 9 pm on November 29th, 2017, Council District 5 (CD5) residents surrounding the Rancho Park golf course began complaining of a strong and noxious odor. Reports of the source of the odor were confusing as the smell spread across a four-square mile area in West Los Angeles.

Hillcrest Beverly Oil Corporation crews found that the odor originated from behind a fenced and locked area containing Southern California Gas's (SoCalGas) odorant tank equipment located on the Rancho Park Drill Site at 10460 W. Pico Blvd. The site, operated by the Hillcrest Beverly Oil Corporation, is located above the Cheviot Hills Oil Field within the City-owned golf course.

According to a California Office of Emergency Services report, SoCalGas investigated and found the source of the smell was "a pump failure on an odorant tank, which caused the material to release into a secondary containment unit." SoCalGas halted the release, conducted temporary repairs and waited for the smell to dissipate. SoCalGas has reported publicly that the odorant is harmless.

Even so, residents near the spill have complained about nausea and headaches. Nearby schools closed (Overland Elementary) or kept their students inside out of an abundance of caution. Three schools, Temple Isaiah Preschool, Le Lycee Francais de Los Angeles and St. Timothy School, are located within a 1,500 foot radius of the facility. Schools and day care facilities are recognized as sensitive receptors. These are areas where the occupants are more susceptible to the adverse effects of exposure to toxic chemicals and other pollutants and extra care must be taken. Plus, concern must also be raised for the health of first responders and workers cleaning up the spill.

Additionally, affected CD5 residents have expressed concern that, particularly in an age of Twitter and instant information, there was no effective way to find out information about what was going on in real time and to know when the situation was resolved.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council direct the Petroleum Administrator, in partnership with the Planning Department, the Department of Building and Safety, the Fire Department and the Recreation and Parks Department, to work with Southern California Gas, Hillcrest Beverly Oil Corporation, CAL/OES and CAL/OSHA to investigate and report back immediately on the size and cause of the spill, the chemicals involved in the odorant and any potential health impacts, and what can be done to prevent such a spill from ever happening again.

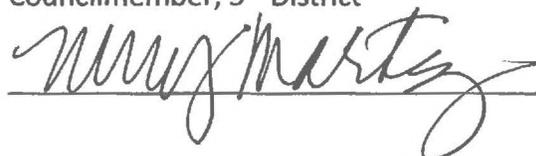
I FURTHER MOVE that the Council direct the Emergency Management Department, in partnership with the Department of Public Works, the Fire Department, the Police Department, local utilities like SoCalGas and LADWP, and other relevant departments, to report back on effective communication methods and tools that could be used in any future emergency situations.

PRESENTED BY:


PAUL KORETZ

Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY:



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