

MOTION **TRADE, TRAVEL AND TOURISM**

On October 23rd, 2015, the most environmentally-damaging, climate-damaging and largest methane leak in United States history occurred at the Aliso Canyon gas storage facility operated by the Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas), leaking 100,000 metric tons of methane gas into the atmosphere, forcing thousands of residents to evacuate, businesses and schools to close, and negatively impacting businesses and property values far beyond the 112-day leak duration.

The Playa del Rey gas storage facility, which was a government pilot project for the use of gas storage in California, whose operations are directly under homes in Westchester, Playa del Rey, Venice and Marina del Rey, and beneath the publically-owned Ballona Ecological Reserve, is set within an older operational infrastructure than that used at Aliso Canyon, and is situated less than five miles from Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), the second-busiest airport in the United States, and among the world's busiest cargo airports. LAX is a major economic and employment engine for the City and State.

The Playa del Rey gas storage facility is also situated in a vitally important area of Silicon Beach, where tech giants like Google, Verizon, and YouTube Space LA share the Playa Vista campus with the LA Clippers, Chargers and Rams. Above them, on the bluffs, sits Loyola Marymount University, home to nearly 10,000 students. All of these are also major economic and employment engines for the City.

Also, the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant, the City's oldest and largest wastewater treatment facility, is situated uncomfortably close to the gas storage facility. The recent leak at Hyperion emphasized how irreplaceable the reclamation plant is to the successful maintenance of the City's operations.

A report of the California Council on Science and Technology (CCST) published in 2018 and titled, "The Long-Term Viability of Underground Gas Storage in California" warns that the Playa del Rey gas storage facility, also operated by SoCalGas, poses one of the greatest risks of all gas storage sites in the state. Factors that could contribute to a loss-of-containment include aging infrastructure, scores of poorly-abandoned non-SoCalGas wells within the operational area, subsidence, sea level rise and earthquakes.

A catastrophic blowout similar to the one that occurred at Aliso Canyon would potentially deal a devastating financial and operational blow for months if not years to LAX, to Silicon Beach, to LMU and to the people and business communities of nearby Westchester and Marina Del Rey.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council request that Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) work with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the California Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM), the Office of Petroleum and Natural Gas Administration and Safety (OPNGAS), the Los Angeles Emergency Management Department (EMD), the Bureau of Sanitation, and the City Administrative Office (CAO), to report back on the potential physical and fiscal impacts to LAX, its flight patterns, businesses and passengers, to the Hyperion Reclamation Plant, to Silicon Beach, to Loyola Marymount University, and to the surrounding communities, should the Playa del Rey Gas Storage facility erupt in any manner like the similarly-equipped Aliso Canyon Gas Storage facility in 2015.

I FURTHER MOVE that the report should include a review of the current safety plans that outlines the industry standard of a proposed estimated evacuation radius to mitigate effusive fallout from a possible disaster.

PRESENTED BY:



PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY:



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