

MOTION

The Playa Del Rey oil field was converted to a gas storage field by the Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) in 1955. Although primarily used for gas storage, SoCalGas continues to produce oil and gas from the oil field. These areas require careful scrutiny to ensure public health and safety are protected, primarily because of the poisonous and combustible methane gas associated with petroleum deposits and gas storage facilities, as well as the toxic chemicals used for regular maintenance and operations.

Since 1955, the surrounding character of the community has changed drastically. A vibrant low density neighborhood developed along the perimeter of the site. In addition, the facility is adjacent to the Ballona Wetlands coastal resource area, which historically has been threatened by the impacts of encroaching development. Further, since 1955, the nearby Los Angeles Airport (LAX) has grown from a smaller local airport into a world-class facility, and now serves a hub for regional, national, and international flights at every hour of the day.

Local residents in the neighborhoods of Playa del Rey, Del Rey, Playa Vista, Marina Del Rey, Venice and Westchester have expressed concerns to the city about odors, oily mist, oil field rigs and equipment left idle at sites for long periods of time, lack of information on operations, possibly unpermitted well maintenance activities, and hillside soil erosion. Moreover, recent activity at the site, including the installation of tall, unsightly rigs for the maintenance and testing of wells and the long overdue remediation of slope erosion, have raised questions about the site's adherence to zoning regulations and the suitability of this use in the community.

In the wake of the 2015 Aliso Canyon Gas Leak, a careful review of operations at the site is required to provide necessary information that could help keep the public and the environment affected by this facility safe, and a review process would give neighbors an opportunity to voice concerns they may have regarding the ongoing operations at the site.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Planning Department be directed to work with the Petroleum Administrator, the Department of Building and Safety, the Los Angeles Fire Department, and the City Attorney's Office to immediately investigate and report back within 90 days on the oil, natural gas, and gas storage field operations at the Playa del Rey field located at 8141 S Gulana Ave, Playa Del Rey, CA 90293 per the Los Angeles Municipal Code. The investigation should include a thorough site review for all equipment and wells onsite, including a full site review of conditions to verify the site's city permits; adherence to approved zoning and use conditions; remediation of subsidence and erosion issues; compliance with the new state gas storage rules; and, compliance with any and all facility and operational requirements of the California Coastal Commission, the California Public Utility Commission (CPUC), the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD), and the California Department of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources (CA DOGGR).

PRESENTED BY:


 MIKE BONIN

Councilmember, 11th District


 SECONDED BY:

ORIGINAL


 OCT 7 4 2019