

Policy Motion Informative: “Enhance Safety at Oil Drill Sites Including the Residential Neighborhood Surrounding Rancho Park Public Golf Course”

A large flare for burning gas (“CEB 1200”) on the Rancho Park Drill Site in Cheviot Hills, is currently under consideration by the City Zoning Administrator (ZA). This resolution before MVCC is a proposal to oppose the project.

The gas flare is being considered along with a compliance review that resulted from a multiagency City Report pursuant to CF 2017-1049 moved by CD5 member Paul Koretz.. The 110 page report of April, 2017 (available online) documents a 20+-year history of violations of City Code and Conditions-of-Use. Of note, installation and operation of this particular CEB 1200 gas-burning flare without approval from the ZA, was one of dozens of findings detailed from State, County and City agencies. As a result of this City investigation the flare was shut down, but now the oil company is asking for ZA approval to install and use it to burn up to 12 million cubic feet of gas per month.

The arguments Hillcrest Beverly Oil Company presents for operating this equipment are basically identical to those denied by now-Chief ZA Charlie Rausch in 2016 for a drill site in West Adams. (See online reports by Emily Alpert Reyes at the LATimes from this time). The application to operate a smaller CEB 800 gas-burning flare was rejected at the Murphy Site because “...it constitutes an industrial use not needed for oil production and thus, belongs in an M3 industrial zone”.

Likewise, though this drill site at Rancho Park has been in existence for sixty years, it has operated all along with no necessity for a gas-burning flare. The present need for what is therefore described as a “redundant” system to process gas byproduct, is hard to understand as “no change in operations”. The permit would enable burning 24/7.

Further tarnishing trust, the history of violations at Rancho Park is punctuated by accidents in 1977 (tank explosion and fire), 1993 (oil spill) and the mercaptan odorant release of last November 29, 2017. Mar Vistans intimately experienced this recent event adversely affecting several square miles across LA’s Westside, from Zone 1’s

interchange of I10 at Overland all the way to Zone 6’s Venice HS.

MVCC should ask our council members and the ZA to follow Zoning precedent and oppose the gas flare.

At least as important, MVCC should champion imposition of Conditions consistent with the best practices for public safety around extractive operations recently reported by the LAC Department of Health, and set out in this resolution.

Thank you for supporting this effort to represent the safety needs of Mar Vistans to our City council members the ZA, and other regulatory agencies.

Proposed MVCC Resolution:

WHEREAS industrial oil drilling operations at Rancho Park Public Golf Course are ongoing and in close proximity to thousands of residents, and

WHEREAS there is an extensive history at this Drillsite of City Code violations, Conditions-of-Use violations, and repeated industrial accidents, and

WHEREAS considerable and widespread concern regarding potential jeopardy to human health and safety from extractive oil and gas operations in close proximity to dense residential areas is demonstrable from the widely reported physical symptoms and complaints about communications following the odorant spill of November 29, 2017, reminiscent of the 2015 natural gas leak further north at Aliso Canyon.

THEREFORE be it resolved to exhort that the Zoning Administrator (ZA) follow precedent and deny Drillsite approval of CEB industrial equipment within the residentially zoned Rancho Park Public Golf Course, and

FURTHER mandate all the following safety conditions:

- (i) 24/7 emissions monitoring using up-to-date laser-based equipment,*
- (ii) Annual compliance inspections by the ZA’s office and Petroleum Administrator,*
- (iii) Mandatory periodic Reviews of Conditions by the ZA on a 5 year cycle to allow for updating of ZA assigned conditions of use,*
- (iv) A clear emergency and accident reporting plan by which the oil company must notify LAFD, LAPD, the Petroleum Administrator, and Council District 5.*

What Constituents Can Do

Stand up and support the primary stakeholders in Rancho Park. Attend their NC meeting this Thursday, 5/10/18 at 7pm, Westside Pavilion Mtg Room A (3rd flr behind food court).

Sign the [petition at Change.org](#) entitled “SAY NO TO A GAS FLARE IN RANCHO PARK AND YES TO MODERN SAFETY EQUIPMENT” #NOGASFLAREINRP

Write to the Zoning Administrator **BEFORE JUNE**, *copied* to all the following:

- **Connie.Chauv@lacity.org, City Planning Associate**, 200 N Spring St, Rm 720/721, LA, CA 90012. 213/978-0016
- **Theodore.Irving@lacity.org, Associate Zoning Administrator**, 200 N Spring St, 7th Flr, LA, CA 90012. 213/978-1366
- **Andy.Shrader@lacity.org, Director of Environmental Affairs, CD5 member Paul Koretz**, 200 N Spring St, Rm 440, LA, CA 90012. 213/473-7005
- **Make sure to include your address, and**
- **Reference Case No. ZA 14560-PAD**
- **Krista.Kline@lacity.org, CD11 Planning Director**