



Green Team Committee Minutes

Wednesday, October 9th, 2013 6:00PM **NOTE TIME CHANGE**
Room 607 , LAB BUILDING (Behind the main Administration Building)
Hamilton High School
2955 S. Robertson Blvd.,
Los Angeles, CA 90034

Doug Fitzsimmons
President

Brian Kite
Vice-President

Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

Beth Ryan
Secretary

**South Robertson
Neighborhoods Council**

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- I. Call to Order & Roll Call of Committee Members- Saran Kirschbaum, Karen Smith-Laramay, Charmaine Colina, Paula Waxman, Barry Levine, Veronica Cabello
- II. Visitors Present: Grant Cohen, 3 students from the Hamilton Marching Yankees
- III. General Public Comment: Saran Kirschbaum has been noticing that businesses along Pico (especially Starbucks) who pledged to maintain trash bins are not honoring their commitments. She is working with Councilman Koretz's office to trace those who signed up for the program to see if the situation can be rectified.
- IV. New Business
 - A. New Board member Grant Cohen was unanimously elected to Co-Chair and member of the Green Team Committee. (**6 yes's/ 0 no's**) Grant will be replacing Paula Waxman who is stepping down for personal reasons and Larry Hess who recently moved to London. Paula will still be a committed committee member and has pledged to help Grant make an easy transition into leadership. Congratulations to Grant Cohen!
 - B. Strategic Plan under new leadership: projects, legislation considerations. The 2013 Strategic Plan was reviewed. The members were asked to bring back to the November meeting, ideas that they might want to add to the strategic plan. Grant is hoping that the committee can join in the Soro Board's efforts to revitalize the South Robertson business district.
- V. Old Business
 - A. Results of the Board Vote on the FiT-100 Program. The SoRo Board voted not to support the motion proposed by the Green Team to continue the DWP's FiT-100 Program without interruption. However, they also did not vote for a motion which asked to suspend the FiT-100 Program. These two votes mean that the Board has decided not to take a position one way or another on the feed-in-tariff program.
 - B. The Green Team voted unanimously in favor of (**7 yes's/ 0 no's**) submitting a motion to the SoRo Board supporting the new Koretz/Bonin Motion asking for a moratorium on fracking in the City of Los Angeles until further studies and conditions have been met.



SOUTH ROBERTSON NEIGHBORHOODS COUNCIL

Green Team Committee Strategic Plan

2013

I. PURPOSE AND MISSION

The purpose, mission and goals of the SOUTH ROBERTSON NEIGHBORHOODS COUNCIL as determined in the By-Laws are to:

- Act on the City Charter Mandate to identify and address community concerns in sustaining the economic and social well being of the COUNCIL AREA.
- To serve as an inclusive forum for public discussion of issues, needs, and concerns of the COUNCIL that will provide the BOARD with knowledge empowering it to make decisions that strengthen and maintain the purpose of the COUNCIL.
- Encourage STAKEHOLDER participation in addressing community concerns.

II. ACTION AREAS

The mission of the SORONC GREEN TEAM COMMITTEE is to support the above stated objectives of the COUNCIL through the following action areas:

1. COMMUNICATION WITH THE COMMUNITY: to learn the environmental concerns of the SORONC community, form relationships with other green organizations within the South Robertson Neighborhood and beyond, develop a newsletter as a forum for neighborhood concerns and for disseminating current information.
2. EDUCATION: provide environmental education through field trips, debates, lectures, workshops, classes, and form close relationships with neighborhood schools to promote green campuses and environmental awareness.
3. ACTIVITIES & ADVOCACY RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT: sponsor activities such as neighborhood clean-ups and beautification, water/energy/resource conservation related activities, encourage and promote organic and drought tolerant gardens, legislative advocacy on environmental issues.
4. GRANT WRITING
5. CHARITABLE ASSISTANCE



Motion to Support the Koretz/Bonin **Motion** calling for a Moratorium on Hydraulic Fracturing

Agenda item:

Date: October 9, 2013

Proposed By: The Green Team Committee

Full Proposal

In August of 2012, the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council approved the Koretz/Wesson **Motion** calling for a **statewide moratorium** on hydraulic fracturing. The current Koretz/Bonin **Motion** is a **citywide moratorium**.

BILL SUMMARY (Full text of Koretz/Bonin Resolution attached.)

Hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) is an oil and natural gas extraction process that involves the very highly pressurized injection of hydraulic fracturing fluids containing a mixture of water, sand and unreported amounts of unknown chemicals into underground geologic formations in order to fracture the rock, thereby increasing flows of oil or gas from a well. Extraction processes called “acidizing” and “gravel packing” involve similar techniques. These practices threaten to contaminate drinking water supplies, cost taxpayers in Los Angeles hundreds of millions of dollars, release dangerous greenhouse gases into the atmosphere and potentially cause earthquakes.

Contaminated Drinking Water

Chemicals used in fracking may leach into aquifers, contaminating drinking water. In communities throughout the US, there have been 1000+ documented cases of water contamination next to fracking sites, and cases of sensory, respiratory, and neurological damage due to ingesting contaminated water.

These processes are unregulated, utilizing large volumes of water which compete for and jeopardize regional, state, and local water supplies.

The DWP states that, because the well operators are not required to disclose the chemicals used in fracking, it does not know all the chemicals for which DWP should be testing in the City’s water

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supplies. It is critical to the future of LA that groundwater remain safe.

Financial Liability For Taxpayers

Treatment of contaminated groundwater after the fact is costly and identification of responsible parties is not always possible, especially regarding unregulated fracking, acidizing, gravel packing, and related wastewater disposal. (It will cost the taxpayers between \$600 and \$800 million to restore contaminated groundwater in the San Fernando Valley.)

Undermining Work to Address the Climate Crisis

Higher emissions can be generated by drilling, and fracking can result in the massive release of unregulated emissions of methane, a potent greenhouse gas often associated with underground oil. This seriously compromises the State's efforts to address the climate crisis by reducing greenhouse gas to 1990 levels by 2020.

Earthquake Risk

US Geological scientists have found that at some locations an increase in seismic events coincides with the injection of fracking fluids into wells and wastewater into deep disposal wells triggering earthquakes in Oklahoma, Arkansas and Ohio, among other states.

California and Los Angeles are located in one of the most active earthquake zones in the US.

Comprehensive Study Needed

The Los Angeles Municipal Code, Section 13.01 allows the City to regulate through its land use process, various activities related to oil and gas drilling and production.

The City's regulations for these extraction processes need to be reviewed to determine if existing regulations are sufficient to assure public health, safety, environmental quality, and welfare. Approval of oil and gas extraction before the City can examine the impact of these processes can cause irreparable harm to public resources, health, safety, and welfare.

Proposed Motion

MOTION, that the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council send a letter to the appropriate legislators supporting the LA City Council Koretz/Bonin **Motion** requesting that...



“...the City Attorney, and relevant departments, be requested to prepare and present an ordinance to change the zoning code to prohibit all activity associated with well stimulation, including, but not limited to, hydraulic fracturing, gravel packing, and acidizing, or any combination thereof, and the use of waste disposal injection wells in the City of Los Angeles, with such a prohibition to remain effective until:

- The City Council is assured that companies conducting fracking within the City of LA, or in areas providing drinking water to the City, can mitigate the effects on climate change, protect environmental quality and natural resources, promote community awareness, allow government access to and testing of chemicals used, anticipate and include related older and emerging extraction technologies such as hydraulic fracturing, acidizing, gravel packing and all wastewater disposal, and require full disclosure and testing of sites, with adequate time for public input;
- The City Council is assured of the long-term safety, security and reliability of current and future Los Angeles water supplies, the overall health and safety of the people of Los Angeles and the safety of their property from seismic or subsidence concerns related to the exploration and production of oil, natural gas, or other hydrocarbons, and the maintenance of environmental quality;
- State and federal legislation and regulations are put in place that include protections from the adverse effects of hydraulic fracturing, gravel packing, acidizing, wastewater disposal and related activities, consistent with the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Considerations

Committee review: Votes For: 6 Votes against: 0 Unanimous



Arguments for:

Currently it is difficult to connect well contamination to fracking because oil companies are not required to disclose fracking chemicals.

Wells can crack in earthquakes. No monitoring of leaks.

Most of DWP's natural gas comes from out-of-state.

We pay for the effects of climate and health degradation without proper attention to the consequences of the fracking process to the environment.

Arguments against:

Although evidence of aquifer contamination exists, it is hard to prove contamination comes from fracking.

No earth instability directly linked to LA's Inglewood Oil Field.

A moratorium could result in the lay-off of oil company employees and impact oil company revenues.

Fracking releases natural gas which is clean burning and critical to reversal of climate change.



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To Whom it May Concern:

The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council is writing to support passage of the Korezt/Bonin Fracking **Motion** calling for a moratorium on the practice of extracting oil and natural gas through the processes of hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”), acidizing and gravel packing.

Hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) is an oil and natural gas extraction process that involves the very highly pressurized injection of hydraulic fracturing fluids containing a mixture of water, sand and unreported amounts of unknown chemicals into underground geologic formations in order to fracture the rock, thereby increasing flows of oil or gas from a well. Extraction processes called “acidizing” and “gravel packing” involve similar techniques.

These practices threaten to contaminate drinking water supplies, cost taxpayers in Los Angeles hundreds of millions of dollars, release dangerous greenhouse gases into the atmosphere and can potentially cause earthquakes.

We agree that the City Attorney, with the assistance of the Planning and other relevant departments prepare an ordinance to prohibit all activity associated with these processes until the City Council is assured that they are safe and in compliance with all requirements stipulated in the Resolution.

Given the potential impact on the environment, water resources, and health of our citizens, we greatly appreciate your support of this resolution.

Yours truly,

Doug Fitzsimmons

President, South Robertson Neighborhoods Council

MOTION

Hydraulic fracturing (also known as “fracking”) is an oil and natural gas extraction process that involves the very highly-pressurized injection of hydraulic fracturing fluids containing a mixture of water, sand and unreported amounts of unknown chemicals into underground geologic formations in order to fracture the rock, thereby increasing flows to and furthering the production of oil or gas from a well. Other unconventional highly-pressurized extraction processes called “acidizing” and “gravel packing” involve similar techniques.

In total, fracking, acidizing, gravel packing and other associated well-stimulation practices threaten to contaminate drinking water supplies, cost taxpayers in Los Angeles hundreds of millions of dollars, release potent and dangerous greenhouse gases into the atmosphere and cause earthquakes.

CONTAMINATED DRINKING WATER

After being injected into the ground, the chemicals used in the fracking process may leach into groundwater supplies, contaminating drinking water for local residents. In fact, there have been more than 1,000 documented cases of water contamination next to fracking sites, as well as cases of sensory, respiratory, and neurological damage due to ingested contaminated water in communities throughout the United States.

Fracking, acidizing and gravel packing of oil and gas wells are unregulated and are spurring oil and gas extraction and exploration in California and other states, including within the City of Los Angeles. Additionally, fracking is used in the Colorado River and State Water Project watersheds, as well as near local Southern California groundwater aquifers, utilizing large volumes of water, which competes for and jeopardizes regional, state, and water supplies needed by the people of Los Angeles.

The Department of Water & Power (DWP) has stated that, because the well operators are not required to disclose the chemicals used in fracking, other operations and injections, it therefore does not know all the chemicals for which DWP should be testing the City’s water supplies.

Groundwater banking and storage is a critical alternative to building new surface reservoirs and plays an essential role in moving the City of Los Angeles toward greater self-reliance on local water resources. It is critical to the future of Los Angeles that groundwater supplies remain safe.

A FINANCIAL LIABILITY FOR TAXPAYERS

Protecting the City’s water supply resources from contamination is a financial necessity for Los Angeles, as treatment of contaminated groundwater resources after the fact is costly and identification of potential responsible parties to determine financial liability is not always possible, particularly in regards to unregulated activities such as fracking, acidizing, gravel packing and

related wastewater disposal. The DWP has announced plans to build the world's largest groundwater treatment center over one of the largest Superfund pollution sites in the United States: the San Fernando Basin. Two plants, costing a combined \$600 million to \$800 million, will restore groundwater pumping of drinking water from scores of San Fernando Valley wells that the DWP began closing in the 1980s and ensure that other wells remain productive while curtailing the pollution plumes steadily migrating in their direction. Additional measures to address and treat water supplies potentially contaminated by fracking chemicals pose a tremendous financial liability for taxpayers in Los Angeles.

Allowing activities like hydraulic fracturing, acidizing and gravel packing, which threaten to contaminate the City's imported and local groundwater supplies, is inherently dangerous to the long-term safety, health, security and reliability of Los Angeles' water supplies.

UNDERMINING WORK TO ADDRESS THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Higher emissions generated by producing, refining and burning unconventional-produced oil and gas, and drilling and fracking for tight oil and gas can result in massive release of unregulated emissions of methane, a potent greenhouse gas often associated underground with oil.

The California Public Resources Code states that "methane gas hazards...are a clear and present threat to public health and safety" and that "due to the cost and complexity of methane hazard mitigations, property owners and local governments are often unable to mitigate these hazards." These provisions are of grave import to Los Angeles County and City, as Exploration and Production activities has caused and is causing massive releases of methane and hydrogen sulfide gases into communities and the atmosphere.

Fracking in California can also thereby seriously undermine the State's efforts to address the climate crisis by reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. Unregulated and unchecked fracking must not be allowed to offset the air quality benefits of natural gas used in certain applications.

INCREASED EARTHQUAKE RISKS

Further, all high-pressure fracking and injection creates "seismic events," but not all are felt as earthquakes. The United States Geological Study (USGS) reports that the number of noticeable earthquakes (greater than a 3.0 Richter magnitude) has increased dramatically over the past few years within the central and eastern United States. More than 300 earthquakes above a Richter magnitude 3.0 occurred in the three years from 2010-2012, compared with an average rate of 21 events per year observed from 1967-2000. USGS scientists have also found that at some locations the increase in seismicity coincides with the injection of wastewater into deep disposal wells.

The USGS has determined that fracking wastewater disposal is responsible for triggering earthquakes in Oklahoma, Arkansas and Ohio, among other states. A magnitude 2.1 earthquake matching the description of micro earthquakes caused by fracking wastewater disposal occurred in the Baldwin Hills on August 27, 2013, at a magnitude and depth compatible to stated USGS concerns about earthquakes induced by fracking.

Much of the State of California and the City, in particular, is located on top of fault lines within one of the most active and potentially dangerous earthquake zones in the United States.

COMPREHENSIVE STUDY NEEDED

The Los Angeles Municipal Code, Section 13.01, allows the City to regulate through its land use process various activities related to oil and gas drilling and production.

The City's land use regulations for oil and gas exploration, extraction, and related operations and activities are in need of comprehensive review to determine whether the existing zoning and land use regulations of oil and gas exploration, extraction, and related operations and activities are sufficient to assure public health, safety, environmental quality, and welfare; or whether additional regulations are necessary to address the impacts of oil and gas exploration, extraction, and related operations and activities, including, but not limited to: hydraulic fracturing, acidizing, gravel packing, and related wastewater disposal.

If land use applications, permit applications, or any other applications requesting approval to conduct oil and gas exploration, extraction, production and related operations and activities within the City limits are granted prior to the City examining the impact of such activities and taking all steps necessary to protect public health, safety, and welfare, irreparable harm may be done to the public health, safety, and welfare.

WE THEREFORE MOVE that the City Attorney, with the assistance of the Planning and other relevant departments, be requested to prepare and present an ordinance to change the zoning code to prohibit all activity associated with well stimulation, including, but not limited to, hydraulic fracturing, gravel packing, and acidizing, or any combination thereof, and the use of waste disposal injection wells in the City of Los Angeles, with such a prohibition to remain effective until:

- the City Council is assured that companies conducting fracking within the City of Los Angeles, or in areas providing drinking water to the City, can mitigate the effects on climate change, protect environmental quality and natural resources, promote community awareness, allow government access to and testing of chemicals used, anticipate and include related older and emerging extraction technologies such as hydraulic fracturing, acidizing, gravel packing and all wastewater disposal, and require full disclosure and testing of sites, with adequate time for public input;

- the City Council is assured of the long-term safety, security and reliability of current and future Los Angeles water supplies, the overall health and safety of the people of Los Angeles and the safety of their property from seismic or subsidence concerns related to the exploration and production of oil, natural gas, or other hydrocarbons, and the maintenance of environmental quality;
- state and federal legislation and regulations are put in place that include protections from the adverse effects of hydraulic fracturing, gravel packing, acidizing, wastewater disposal and related activities, consistent with the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

PRESENTED BY Paul Koretz
PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

Mike Bonin
MIKE BONIN
Councilmember, 11th District

SECONDED BY Jose Ho

Bl Blum
Demond C. Park