
Paula Cracium, President Patrick Pope, Vice President
Eric Nam, Secretary Sean O'Rourke, Treasurer 1, Armando Nunez II, Treasurer 2
Becky Leveque, Susan Hammarlund, Alex Kim, Cindy Lee, Cheri Derohanian and David Balen

General Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

Porter Ranch Community School Multipurpose Room, 12450 Mason Ave., Porter Ranch

1. Welcome -- President Paula Cracium called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

Reminder to sign in and that it is completely optional and not required for attendance. Ms. Cracium noted.

2. Roll Call – Secretary Eric Nam

Board Members who were present introduced themselves: Paula Cracium (President), Pat Pope (Vice-President), Eric Nam (Secretary) Armando Nunez II (Treasurer 2) Becky Leveque, Susan Hammerlund, Alex Kim, Cindy Lee, Cheri Derohanian, and David Balen. Board member Sean O'Rourke (Treasurer 1) was absent.

The PRNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needed to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is seven. (Please see <http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/PorterRanchNC-Bylaws.pdf>) so the Board could take such votes. All 11 of the 11 Board Seats were filled either by appointment or election. Also in attendance were approximately 150 stakeholders and guests.

3. Motion – Secretary Eric Nam: Motion to approve October minutes. Becky Leveque seconded the motion.

MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of nine of the ten eligible voters present with nine in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Pope, Nam, Nunez, Leveque, Hammarlund, Kim, Lee, Derohanian and Balen). Presidents/Presiding Officers can choose whether or not to vote; if they don't a vote can still be unanimous.]

4. Treasurers' Report -- Treasurer 1 Sean O'Rourke

This item was tabled.

5. Motion – Treasurer 1 Sean O'Rourke: Motion to approve MER for October

This item was tabled.

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6. Motion - Armando Nunez: The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment has established Saturday April 9th as the Election Day for Neighborhood Councils in Region 2. The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council is part of Region 2.

Motion to establish that the 2016 Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council Election be held on Saturday April 9th from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at Porter Ranch Community School located at 12450 Mason Ave in Porter Ranch.

MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of nine of the ten eligible voters present with nine in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Pope, Nam, Nunez, Leveque, Hammarlund, Kim, Lee, Derohanian and Balen). Presidents/Presiding Officers can choose whether or not to vote; if they don't a vote can still be unanimous.]

7. Special Presentation and Q and A regarding the So Cal Gas Natural Gas Leak in the Aliso Canyon Storage Field

- The Southern California Gas Company
- Supervisor Mike Antonovich's offices
 - County of Los Angeles Fire Department –Health Hazardous Materials Division
 - County of Los Angeles Public Health
 - South Coast Air Quality Management District-AQMD
- Los Angeles Fire Department

Paula Cracium stated that the PRNC worked hard to bring together a group of individuals to answer all questions that stakeholders may have regarding the gas leak in the community. Ms. Cracium asked that everyone who wished to speak to keep it to a 3 minute time limit in order to give everyone an opportunity to be heard.

The panel consisted of the following individuals

Edwin L. Pupka, Senior Enforcement Manager, Office of Engineering and Compliance; Bill Jones, County of Los Angeles Fire Department, Health and Hazardous Materials Division; Jerrod DeGonia, San Fernando Valley Field Deputy, County Supervisor Michael Antonovich; Katie Butler, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health, Health Impact Assessment Analyst, Environmental Epidemiologist; Bret Lane, Gas Company, Chief Operating Officer; Jimmie Cho, Senior Vice President for Gas Operations and System Integrity; Bruce Hesson, District Deputy, Division of Oil Gas and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR)

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Bret Lane, Gas Company, COO started off by apologizing to those in attendance for the poor communication from the Gas Company with regards to notifying the community timely but hopes to improve that so that the lines of communications continue to stay open. Mr. Lane stated that he has been onsite every day trying to resolve the gas leak Mr. Lane stated that he was there to answer all questions as well as the rest of the panel.

Mr. Lane stated that the leak was first discovered on Friday, October 23, 2015 and the Gas Company immediately called the appropriate departments in order to assess the situation. Jimmie Cho, Senior VP for Gas Operations and System Integrity also offered his apologies to the community and stated that "we have to do better". Mr. Cho said that natural gas is odorless and that is the reason that mercaptans are added as an odorant and that is what the residents of Porter Ranch had been smelling over the last several days.

Mr. Lane stated that the Gas Company has called in one of the top two experts in the world to assess the leak. He stated that the leak itself is unusual in that ice has formed around the gas line thereby making it difficult to get to. The Gas Company has brought in special equipment which will take a few days to assemble in order to begin try to stop the leak. However, the Gas Company does have other plans in place in the event that special equipment brought in does not work.

Mr. Lane and Mr. Cho then shared a brief power point presentation with everyone in attendance to try to give them a better understanding of what was happening. Their main concern with the gas leak is not only to insure the safety of the community but to insure the safety of their workers who are working directly at the site. The site is monitored twice daily, usually once in the early morning hours and in the evening. The timing of the monitoring is done when the winds are still in order to get an accurate reading. They encouraged everyone who smells gas to give them a call so that they can get a representative out to their location to assess the smell.

Jerrod DeGonia San Fernando Valley Field Deputy, County Supervisor Michael Antonovich wanted to thank the PRNC for changing their agenda at the last minute and allowing the panel to come in to speak with the community. Mr. DeGonia said that the communications between all the agencies is flowing and the presence of all agencies is overwhelming.

Mr. Bill Jones, County of Los Angeles Fire Department, Health and Hazardous Materials Division said that his department has teams on call 24/7 and that they roll out immediately from their offices and homes and that they are there to insure that the public's health is protected. Mr. Jones said that he and his team will be onsite until the gas leak is resolved.

Edwin L. Pupka, Senior Enforcement Manager, Office of Engineering and Compliance South Coast AQMD said that his agency covers four counties, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino

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and Orange. Their primary function is to regulate the air pollution and that they have inspectors in the field to make

sure that compliance is in place. Mr. Pubka said that since October 24th, his office has received over 180 complaints. He encourages anyone who has a complaint to call 1-800-CUT-SMOG. Mr. Pupka said that he has staff staged in the area that will spend time with the complainants to interview them. He encourages everyone to ask questions.

Katie Butler County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health, Health Impact Assessment Analyst, Environmental Epidemiologist said that her department was reviewing air samples and would like to review the samples for the short and long term affects that it will have on individuals. Ms. Butler said that no one should have to smell the gas in the air and hopes that the issue will be resolved shortly.

Numerous stakeholders then got up and spoke wanting to know what was being done about the gas leak. Many expressed their concern that they and their family members have been getting sick with many complaining of headaches, dizziness and nose bleeds. They also stated that their family pets have fallen ill. Many residents were concerned with the long-term affects of the gas leak and how soon would the situation be resolved. Others expressed concern with the fact that many of the medical facilities were not aware of the gas leak and therefore were not prepared to treat those that had become ill.

Other concerns were for how often the lines were tested and did they show erosion. Another resident requested that another monitoring station be put in at the top of the hill closet to the site. Most residents were very angry in the lapse in time in which they were notified, because initially the Gas Company denied that there was even a leak.

Overall the panel answered all questions to the best of their ability stating that they are constantly assessing the situation and when they know more they would let the residents of Porter Ranch know. However some questions could not be addressed and the panel encouraged those residents to meet with them after the meeting so as to get specifics of the particular concern so that they could then follow-up with those residents at a later date.

Contact Information for the Gas Company and Public Officials who were present:
Gas Company, Chief Operating Officer Bret Lane and Senior Vice President for Gas Operations and System Integrity Jimmie Cho, 818 435-7707, AlisoCanyon@SoCalGas.com

South Coast AQMD: Edwin L. Pupka, Senior Enforcement Manager, Office of Engineering and Compliance, 909-396-3332, epupka@aqmd.gov

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County of Los Angeles Fire Department, Health and Hazardous Materials Division: Bill Jones, Chief, 323-890-4042, Bill.Jones@fire.lacounty.gov

County Supervisor Michael Antonovich: Jerrod DeGonia, San Fernando Valley Field Deputy, 818 993-5170 JDeGonia@lacbos.org

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health: Katie Butler, Health Impact Assessment Analyst, Environmental Epidemiologist, 213-738-3220, KButler@ph.lacounty.gov

State of California, Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources: Bruce Hesson, District Deputy, 805-654-4761, Bruce.Hesson@conservation.ca.gov

8. Public Comment

Joe Phillips, Sierra Club board member stated that he spends a lot of time outdoors hiking in Lime Canyon and Mission Peak. He said there has been a strong odor in Mission Peak for quite some time and wanted to know what was going on.

Susan Gorman Chang wanted to thank everyone for coming to tonight's meeting and requested that she would like a study done on the long term affects by the CDC.

Vicky just wanted to say how upset she was that there was not a representative for the Porter Ranch residents sitting up on the panel.

Matt Pakucko, Save Porter Ranch, stated that the Gas Company was unprepared for this event. How can Termo be allowed to add 12 more wells when they could not even handle the existing 140 wells

Warren Stone, says he lives in the Twin Lakes development and that new homes were being built that should not be.

Richard Matthews, State Senate Candidate, says that too many people are smelling the odorant and he is concerned with the exposure to the heavy chemicals. Please visit his webpage at voterichard.org

Tim O'Connor wanted to take the time for the Gas Company CEO to show up to tonight's meeting. Mr. O'Connor says that he would like to know how much gas is actually being released into the community

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Sharon Dormani, who is a Porter Ranch resident and stated that she has had a migraine for the last several days. Her children attend Castle Bay Elementary and that both have suffered from nose bleeds and shortness of breath. The family dog has also fallen ill.

Kyoko Hibino says that all of the comments heard tonight should be taken seriously and that the residents need to be heard. What would happen if more gas leaks occurred?

Michelle Theriault wanted to know how the Gas Company planned on getting the information requested back to the community? Can they put their contact information up on the PRNC website. She also thanked the PRNC for having this meeting.

Arlene Matthews wanted to know how often the gas lines are checked? Did they show any erosion?

9. December 2 Holiday party – Updates forthcoming

10. Motion to adjourn - Ms. Cracium made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.