

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

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### **General Board Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

In Christ Community Church 19514 Rinaldi St, Northridge, CA 91326

Located at the southeast corner of Corbin and Rinaldi -The parking lot is accessible from Corbin

#### **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) Sean O'Rourke, (Treasurer 1), Armando Nunez II (Treasurer 2) Becky Leveque, Susan Hammerlund, Alex Kim, Cindy Lee, Cheri Derohanian, and David Balen.

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 more than 1,000 stakeholders and guests.

At this time, Ms. Cracium announced that all matters on the agenda would be tabled and the entire meeting would be devoted to the gas leak at the Aliso Canyon Storage facility and its effect on the Porter Ranch Community.

#### **3. Motion – Secretary Eric Nam: Motion to approve November minutes - Tabled**

#### **4. Treasurers' Report -- Treasurer 1 Sean O'Rourke - Tabled**

#### **5. Motion – Treasurer 1 Sean O'Rourke: Motion to approve MER for October/November – Tabled**

6. Discussion - Eric Nam, Secretary: Update from Porter Ranch Land Use Committee on presentation by representative(s) from Pieology regarding their Los Angeles Department of City Planning application for a conditional use permit for beer and wine service at their new Porter Ranch location. PRLUC will have deliberated on the matter at a meeting prior to this and will or will not recommend the Board to write a letter of support for the CUP approval. **Tabled**

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7. Motion - Eric Nam, Secretary: Motion to approve drafting and submitting a letter of support to the Los Angeles Department of City Planning, and any other relevant offices, for the approval of a beer and wine conditional use permit application submitted by Cotti Foods Pizza California, dba Pieology. Motion shall depend upon the recommendation to move on the matter by PRLUC. Mover may amend, table, or strike motion as needed. **Tabled**

8. Brief Presentation regarding the So Cal Gas Natural Gas Leak in the Aliso Canyon Storage Field

1. Representatives will be on hand from the following agencies:
  - i. The Southern California Gas Company - including claims department
  - ii. Supervisor Mike Antonovich's offices
2. County of Los Angeles Fire Department –Health Hazardous Materials Division
3. County of Los Angeles Public Health
4. South Coast Air Quality Management District-AQMD
  - i. Senator Pavley's office
  - ii. Assemblyman Wilk's office
5. DOGGR
  - i. Councilmember Mitchel Englander
  - ii. Mayor Eric Garcetti's office
6. Los Angeles Fire Department
7. Los Angeles School Board
8. Los Angeles Emergency Management Department

Councilman Mitchell Englander welcomed everyone in attendance this evening. He stated that the gas leak did not just affect Porter Ranch but the surrounding communities. Mr. Englander also informed everyone that his own mother-in-law who lives in the area is being affected by the gas leak. Mr. Englander also wanted to thank the PRNC for all of its hard work in keeping the community informed. Mr. Englander asked that everyone in attendance show courtesy and respect to the PRNC. Mr. Englander stated that health problems continue to affect the residents of Porter Ranch and that at this time there were currently 1,200 requests for relocation with more to come. There will be an increase of LAPD patrols in the area in order to insure that those who have relocated will have their property protected. Mr. Englander also stated that all of the representatives here tonight will be at tables which were set-up outside after the conclusion of the meeting to answer further questions.

The following representatives were in attendance this evening:

Ms. Gillian Wright, Vice President, Customer Service, So Cal Gas Company; Mr. Jimmy Cho, Senior Vice President for Gas Operations and System Integrity, So Cal Gas Company; Mr. Jerrod DeGonia, San Fernando Valley Field Deputy, County Supervisor Michael Antonovich; Mr. Bill Jones, County of Los Angeles Fire Department, Health and Hazardous Materials Division; Ms.

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Vivian Ekchian, Superintendent of Local District Northwest, Los Angeles Unified School District; Mr. Robert Laughton, Director, Office of Environmental Health & Safety, Los Angeles Unified School District along with representatives from the County of Los Angeles Public Health Department, and South Coast Air Quality Management District-AQMD.

Ms. Gillian Wright just wanted to take a quick moment to introduce herself as the Public Information Officer (PIO) for So Cal Gas Company. Mr. Wright apologized to the residents of Porter Ranch for having to deal with this gas leak and that everyone involved main focus is to fix the gas leak and get residents back into their homes.

Jimmy Cho wanted to thank everyone for attending this evening's meeting and once again expressed his sincere apologies to the residents of Porter Ranch. Mr. Cho says the well itself is 500 feet below the surface and is 8500 feet deep with a thick steel tube surrounding it. Mr. Cho says that on windy days at the facility no work is done and as of this date, they have been unsuccessful in stopping the leak. However, Mr. Cho stated that the ultimate goal was to stop the flow of gas and that they will continue to pump fluids down the well directly or through a relief well. Mr. Cho stated that the gas leak will take approximately four months to contain.

Ms. Wright stated that air sampling is done twice a day usually in the early morning hours as well as the late evening. They are also working with multiple relocation agencies in order relocate those residents who have made such request timely. They have also set-up a 24/7 call center and update their website daily.

Representatives from the Public Health Department stated that they wanted to offer their perspective on the evolving situation in a manner in which is understandable to the public. Their primary concern is that of the workers who are at the site daily. They stated that economics does not come first. There is currently no mandate for evacuation and that for whatever reason a resident can leave voluntarily i.e. family sick, not comfortable, etc.

LAFD Assistant Chief stated that there are additional support teams in the area and that they are monitoring the activity in the area. Their primary concern is for the safety of the citizens and that they are engaged daily here in Porter Ranch.

Bill Jones, County of Los Angeles Fire Department, Health and Hazardous Materials Division, says that they are monitoring the situation and that there is a flow of information between all agencies involved. Although there is a potential risk at the site, precautions are being taken. They are looking closely at the situation and will be staying for the duration.

AQMD stated that they are responsible for air quality control in four counties, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino. Anyone wishing to make a complaint can do so by calling 800-CUT-SMOG 24 hours a day/7 days a week. Residents can also log on to their website to log

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a complaint at [www.aqmd.gov](http://www.aqmd.gov) . Inspectors are currently assigned to the area and crews are working around the clock, evenings, weekends and holidays. So Cal Gas is currently being investigated for a violation of being a public nuisance. The AQMD will share the results of its findings with the public.

Mr. Robert Laughton, Director, Office of Environmental Health & Safety, Los Angeles Unified School District, made a request to each individual on what they would like to see happen with regards to the schools in the area. They are currently looking at temporarily relocating students to other schools in the area. At the time, the schools in the area have a nurse on campus full-time. Staff has also been increased and students are being kept indoors. They are here to facilitate what parents would like to see happen. The school district is currently planning for all scenarios. They say at this time the kids need stability and not any added trauma from the gas leak.

#### 9. Pre-submitted Community questions presented by President Paula Cracium

At this time, agencies then took pre-submitted questions. Some of those questions involved inquires as to how does So Cal Gas plan on stopping a reoccurrence, what is the next step in relief, is closing the well an option, is more gas being brought in, is the well connected to others. Other questions involved residents wanting to know what an investigation consists of, what will be the final product, how much gas went into the air on the 1<sup>st</sup> day, how much gas was in the storage facility at time of leak? In addition, how many other communities are being impacted and is it possible to add other odorants that would not affect the health of the community.

Many residents angrily expressed their frustration with not only with the length of time it is and will be taking to stop the gas leak, but also with the health issues many are dealing with, the relocation of their children to other schools, not to mention having to be relocated from their homes into hotels for an unspecified amount of time. Some residents flat out stated that they want the facility shutdown altogether and for So Cal Gas Company to leave the area altogether.

Others questioned the transparency of So Cal Gas Company with regards to why it took so long for them to confirm to the public that there was in fact a leak. Some residents said that they would be joining a class action lawsuit currently in the works. Others said they do not wish to see Terno add 12 more wells to the area and that nothing more should be put into the hillside.

Residents wanted to know what went wrong and that they want answers. Why can't So Cal Gas shutdown the facility? Residents from neighboring Chatsworth can smell the gas and wanted to know what other communities are being affected? Some individuals said that they could smell the gas on the 118 freeway driving into Porter Ranch this evening.

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What seemed to be the biggest concern for residents was the safety of their children in attending school. Some wanted the school shutdown until the gas leak is stopped, whether it be for the rest of the semester or until the end of the school year.

10. Public Comment – speaker cards will be used with a time limit of 2 minutes each with a maximum of 30 comments

At this time, Ms. Cracium stated she would be adjourning the meeting and Secretary, Eric Nam would then oversee a Q&A with LAUSD representatives from here on out and that would conclude the PRNC regular monthly meeting.

Other agency representatives would be available outside at tables for a one-on-one interaction with residents who wanted further information.

11. Motion to adjourn – Paula Cracium moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

12. Presenters available at tables for stakeholders