

Item 11. A. Resolution on the use of Modified Hydrofluoric Acid

Possible adoption of the following resolution:

Whereas, the City of Los Angeles has a duty to protect the health and safety of its residents

Whereas, on February 18, 2015 an explosion at the Torrance Refinery (formerly owned by ExxonMobil) shook the community and registered a 1.7 on the Richter scale.

Whereas, at a January 2016 hearing the federal Chemical Safety Board (CSB) investigated and declared this a "near miss" on a catastrophic modified hydrofluoric acid (MHF) release.

Whereas, according to the chairperson of the CSB, hydrofluoric acid (HF) and MHF are hazardous and deadly chemicals.

Whereas, with even minimal exposure HF causes painful, slow-healing chemical burns and damages internal organs and bones.

Whereas, in worst-case scenarios at deadly levels, it causes asphyxiation because once inhaled it causes respiratory problems that build up fluid and you ultimately drown.

Whereas, when released, HF and MHF forms a dense, rolling cloud of toxic gas and since heavier than air, it can travel for miles with the wind.

Whereas, the Torrance Refinery (formerly owned by ExxonMobil) and the Wilmington Valero Refinery continue to use HF and MHF and are within an 8 mile radius of San Pedro

Whereas, if another accident occurs at either facility and HF and MHF is released, the residents of our town **are at risk** of being injured or killed by this poisonous gas.

Whereas, the Wilmington and Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood councils have written letters of support to the South Coast Air Quality Management District to end the use of HF and MHF.

Resolved, the Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council support a strong Rule 1410 which would require that hydrofluoric acid (HF) and modified hydrofluoric acid (MHF), which is currently used at Los Angeles County oil refineries, be replaced with a safer alternative within four years, with a monitoring and enforcement procedure put in place.