

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE/ BOARD MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, February 10, 2016
WEST HILLS HOSPITAL

CALL TO ORDER: Steve Randall called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

MEMBER ATTENDANCE: Steve Randall, Alec Uzemeck, Marge Brown, Simone Best

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Chris Rowe, Christina Walsh and Brian Merritt

MINUTES: A quorum was present, and the members approved the minutes for the January 13, 2016 meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE CO CHAIRS:

Alec said that the Aliso Canyon wells and infrastructure were under scrutiny and the subject of future legislation, and his concern was that wells in other communities and West Hills should have the same attention and protections.

Steve said that a Canadian article discussed the Porter Ranch problems and the gas site in detail and described the harm being done to the environment and to the surrounding communities.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

Christina said that her contacts at DTSC felt that the gas leak at Aliso Canyon was a major disaster and compared it to the BP oil spill. Marge said that she read that radon was being released with the gas leak and Chris said that it could be a hazard within homes and that filters should be requested from the gas company. She also mentioned that radon testing in schools near the gas leak showed normal levels of radon.

AGENDA DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Chris said that maps from the Department of Conservation showed wells in West Hills, and that they were identified as being idle. Simone said that she would contact Senator Pavley's office and request that Dusty Russell, her staff member, come to an Environment Committee meeting to explain the legislation that the Senator is sponsoring regarding capping of the well at Aliso Canyon, well inspection, repair and safety.

There was no update information about the Corporate Pointe development, however it was mentioned that the building to be used appeared to be very large for 245 employees.

The next item that was discussed was the demolition of the former Rocketdyne facility in Canoga Park. Rumors have been circulating that the site was still radioactive from nuclear work that had been done in the past. Chris described her findings about that work that was done in the fifties, the lab sized reactors were decommissioned. The facility was inspected by the AEC, and after testing for any radiation the agency approved the action. Christina said that she felt that the site still had radioactivity, and Chris referred her to the Water Board, which is overseeing the demolition for their records and information. Chris interviewed a former worker at that site and he said that the test reactors were bench models with less than 15 KW rating.

Char said that the Dayton Canyon development was continuing, and house models are nearly complete, and home sales were expected to begin in the fourth quarter of this year. The intersection of Roscoe and Valley Circle is a concern and Alec was to write a letter to the developer recommending that the corrective work be moved up in their schedule.

Alec said that there was no soil test information from the DWP for the Nature Preserve pond.

Concerns were expressed regarding the use of rat poison and its negative effect on the wildlife food chain. Various organizations have publicized the problem and it was recommended that NC's get involved.

The committee unanimously approved a CIS supporting the construction of a wildlife bridge/ corridor over the 101 freeway. The bridge will be privately funded. The CIS will be presented to the WHNC for approval at the March meeting.

Christina said that the SSFL national monument project was moving ahead and had recently received the support of the California Native American Heritage Commission.

The meeting was adjourned.