

IT'S OUR NEIGHBORHOOD. LET'S BUILD A COMMUNITY.



West Hills Neighborhood Council

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JOINT ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE/BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday November 9, 2016

Chaminade College Preparatory – Condon Center

23260 Saticoy St., West Hills, CA 91304

Alec Uzameck Co Chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Committee members in attendance were Alec Uzameck, Brad Vanderhoof, Steve Randall, Marge Brown, Bonnie Klea, Charlene Rothstein, Joan Trent; a quorum was established.

Public Members Present: Tom Williams, Art Lee.

The September 14th meeting minutes were approved.

Alec Uzameck and Steve Randall Co Chairs did not have any opening remarks.

Marge Brown introduced Tom Williams as our speaker for the evening. He is a geologist who is familiar with the Porter Ranch (Aliso Canyon) accident, has done work in geology, zoology and palaeontology through his career and worked on construction of the first arctic platform. He spoke about underground gas storage facilities, accidents that have occurred in the past and the Montebello facility that has been closing for 15 years and that closure has not been completed. The Department of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) is the governing agency that is funded by the corporations that it monitors and instructs. Wells for all of these resources are scattered throughout California and there are numerous wells in West hills and Canoga Park.

During the Porter Ranch accident, it was discovered that the Southern California Gas Company did not have an emergency plan, inventory of the wells and gases, inspection or maintenance. There was no agency enforcement. Many wells in the San Fernando Valley area are not recorded and their status, active, idle or closed, is not known. Many of these wells are leaking methane gas and other associated dangerous gases and the state agency is not monitoring the wells. Williams encouraged the committee to write to the DOGGR to ask for well inspection and enforcement of regulations. He recommended that the Committee contact the local Petroleum Administrator, asking for improved data collection and regulation of wells. Williams said the two laws originated by State Senator Pavley helped with regulation and repair at Porter Ranch and improved regulation throughout the state.

The committee members and the public asked numerous questions at the end of Williams' presentation.

The remaining agenda items were postponed until the December meeting.

Alec Uzameck Co Chair adjourned meeting at 8:45 PM.