

PORTER RANCH
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting #2

Tuesday, December 29, 2015
Porter Ranch Community School Library

NOTES

Updated:

1/3/2016 at 10:30pm

1. Call to Order & Welcome: *Paula Cracium, Chair*

6:04: Paula welcomes observers and clarifies purpose to collect information and share it with constituents and be a conduit of ongoing communication.

Attending:

Members:

Paula Cracium

Vivian Ekchian

Craig Forry

Rana Ghadban

Mary Melvin

Issam Najm

Matt Pakucko

Andre Van der Valk

Guests:

LAPD Devonshire Division Captain Robert Marino

Gillian Wright: Vice President of Customer Services, Customer Assistance Officer (Aliso)

James Strader: Project Manager, Aliso Canyon Turbine Replacement

Glenn La Fever: Storage Manager, Deputy Incident Commander (Aliso)

2. Security Update: *Capt. Marino, LAPD Devonshire Division*

SoCalGas provided a map showing the impacted zip codes that have relocated housing as well as an AQMD map showing odor complaints. Using this map, it shows where the majority of relocations are without giving specific addresses or locations of vacant homes. (http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/compliance/aliso-cyn/porterranchrebuild_revmb6.pdf?sfvrsn=0)

Paula introduced Capt. Marino from LAPD Devonshire Division. Capt. Marino provided an overview of the LAPD response to this incident from the beginning, indicated that the area primarily affected in two basic car areas (SLOs Del Core and Delvalle) while still supporting the total 52 square miles of Devonshire Division (Ventura County Line on the west to the 405 on the east and Roscoe on the south through Porter Ranch on the north).

When they learned of vacant homes we were concerned for increased crime rate, so they met with SoCalGas immediately and presented them with LAPD's plan to protect the vacant homes. The plan adds extra support 24 hours each day with specific tasks for officers including checking on specific homes. The division leadership reviews the plans and the results daily to ensure its effectiveness. The plan was approved on 12/16/15 and was ramped up by 12/22/15. There are also three message board signs alerting anyone who passes them that LAPD is working in the area and to call 911 to report crimes (on Sesnon at Tampa and Porter Ranch Blvd and on Porter Ranch at Rinaldi). These measures are being funded by SoCalGas.

Crime for the last two weeks compare to the same period last year is down, and they haven't seen haven't seen any burglaries in vacant homes.

Issam asked if they have considered 24 hour cameras. Captain Marino replied that it is something that can looking into and discuss with SoCalGas to fund, but they'd need to also check with City Attorney about putting cameras on City Streets. Another option could be to place a license plate reader on the electronic reader boards.

Issam asked how often LAPD is getting an updated list of vacant homes. Captain replied that they've gotten 4 lists in the last week of updates and they are in regular communication with SoCalGas. New information is added to the daily crime analysis meetings and they participate in various conference calls each day on the issue.

Paula asked that they ask the City Attorney if residents can put cameras pointing to street if City can't.

Craig asked if permission was needed to come onto private property/into gated communities. The Captain said they don't. They have access to gated communities.

3. LAUSD Relocation Update

Vivian Ekchian updated the committee that the relocation of Porter Ranch Community School and Castlebay Lane on 12/19/15 and they will be ready by 1/11/16: 1100 PRCS students to Northridge MS. 700 to Sunny Brae ES. These schools were selected because of their distance from Porter Ranch and space for the relocated students. Priority was to stabilize the education program (keeping kids together) and calming students and staff. They have offered bus transportation to parents from the original school sites at the same time (450 PRCS parents have expressed interest; 320 from Castlebay). They will have supervision before and after school at all schools, and YMCA services will be offered at new locations. They also have had great cooperation with city departments to change signs and traffic patterns.

Paula asked if this relocation has seen an increase in independent study? Vivian responded that all students have opted to come back who has previously chosen independent study.

They will add a map to the school websites as to where the new schools are. Jan 11th will be a pupil free day: teachers will set up rooms during the first half, and tours will be given to students and parents in the afternoon so they can see the site before arriving for classes the next day. :

Matt asked who is paying for all of it. Vivian indicated the District is paying for it, though they've been talking to SoCalGas. Many factors went into the decision including student absence, visits to nurses office, dialogue in the classroom, increased teacher absence, etc. The decision also considered if the move would be too disruptive, but problems outweighed disruption. Schools will remain at the new sites through the end of the school year.

Vivian has had hundreds of conversations and correspondences with parents and asked that they not having these conversations in front of their children. Mary Melton indicated that she and her counselors met with the students to answer questions and assure students. Also, attendance awards were suspended to accommodate for the unusual circumstances.

Issam asked if Darby Elementary was part of the move. Vivian said she has received no complaints from parents from Darby but would work on a case by case basis with students requesting relocation, but not all schools have space and Magnets have their own process.

4. SoCalGas Updates:

a. Air Filtration update (capacity, contractors, etc.)

Gillian Wright presented that there are two solutions—air purifiers installed in HVAC system combined . SoCalGas has the capacity to install 160-200 per day with enough in stock to maintain that rate through February. They also have 8000 plug-in units, and the Porter Ranch size houses typically need 2 units. ARB says plug-in system is more effective because of deeper carbon bed. If a resident wants to install either themselves, they can request pre-approval for reimbursement.

*SoCalGas will provide information on the cost of the plug-in units

Gillian indicated they have received 1000 requests (combined for both systems). Continue to get about 150 inquiries each day.

When questions are asked about filtration and relocation, SoCalGas is working to have residents try move toward one or the other so that all requests can be met. They try filtration before relocation since hotels/short-term rentals are so limited

nearby. Porter Ranch community is priority for providing filtration or relocation and then they move on to other neighborhoods. If relocated, they won't

If a family is relocated but someone still has to be at the home, they can request pre-approval for filtration system and have it installed on their own. They have to prioritize the ones they install to those who don't have another option.

SoCalGas is implementing changes to speed up reimbursement, with the goal to go to a two-week turnaround time on reimbursements for air filtration and a two week schedule for allowances. They are behind now, but this is what they're moving towards.

Issam asked how to select a contractor to install if pre-approved?

Gillian indicated that any contractor can install, and it's about \$1300 for the HVAC system and the plug-in is less.

b. Daily Average Output Update

At the start of incident, the field was 77 billion cubic feet; on 12/28 it was 47.5 billion cubic feet. Pressure is correspondingly down. They can't measure the leak output, but it appears to be reduced, based on pressure. The priority is withdrawing from Aliso Canyon running it at maximum capacity over other sources to feed system demand. No other measure that would allow them to withdraw more than they already are (cold weather has helped).

SoCalGas continues to evaluate options. They just completed Phase 3 of the relief well (they passed out a handout with a diagram of the phases). Phase 4 is more complicated and therefore slower, as the digging takes place right next to the exist well as it reaches a targeted interception at 8500 feet. The relief well plan was to identify and get adjacent to well. Progress so far has been good. They are on schedule with the first 3 phases per the plan they gave to DOGGR to complete this relief well on 2/24/16. They did build in time for other, potential challenges.

Issam asked about the gas flow in the 7-inch cased and the 3-inch inner tube. Glenn La Fever responded that the gas is present in both casing and tubing. That's how it operates. For the relief well, there is no inner tube, so fluid is pushed into the well and it does not contain gas. As they drill down and intercept the well, it is filled with fluid. The Relief Well will intercept the leaking well below the cap rock.

c. Boundary Map/Plume information

SoCalGas provided a map showing the impacted zip codes that have relocated housing as well as an AQMD map showing odor complaints. Using this map, it shows where the majority of relocations are without giving specific addresses or locations of vacant homes. This information shows basically the extent of the

impacted area. (http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/compliance/aliso-cyn/porterranchrebuild_revmb6.pdf?sfvrsn=0)

Relocations are most closely from those nearest the facility, and they drop dramatically outside the 118 area. It is mostly concentrated in Porter Ranch. Craig asked if the gas coming up through other areas in the ground? Glenn answered that it was through a fissure at the well but not other locations.

Gillian indicated that the Mercaptan blows, but not the methane, which rises. The leak is 2500 feet above the community. Mercaptan is heavier than air and that is what is dropping onto the community. She indicated that samples haven't shown significant levels of methane in the community.

Matt asked if they can explain the camera footage where the cameras show it going down. Gillian indicated that they can't tell exactly what's going on in someone else's image. She did say that the methane that comes out of the ground, as explained by their experts, moves along the ground because the gas is very cold. It drops in pressure due to its low temperature, which keeps it closer to the ground until it warms up. Gas coming over the hillside is generally related to the air temperature. If you pull back at a wider angle, the plume gets wider and the top gets higher. That's because it's rising. One image showed a cloud between two hillsides. You can see the billowing behavior as the gas warms.

Matt asked if this depends on the winds as well. Gillian indicated that the key thing to know is that the air sampling is not showing methane. Methane isn't a problem to breath, but the concern is ignition. When asked if breathing methane inside of a home is an issue, Gillian responded that if you are only breathing methane than you aren't breathing oxygen and that's the problem.

Matt asked if the plume coming down is 90-95% methane, is what is coming down making us sick? Gillian responded that Public Health has said that symptoms reported are a physiological reaction to the odor that they are smelling.

Paula requested that one of the agencies should do their own study with the FLIR camera and give the committee an understanding of what we are looking at. "We need an expert to explain it."

Paula indicated that public trust is a huge issue here. The PRCAC is here to help navigate and determine if we can come up with a solution. The work we do here will impact the entire country in trying to come up with a good understanding and securities related to these types of wells.

d. Relocation Update

Gillian indicated about 2400 households relocated (100 of which are staying with friends/family). They've received a number of duplicate calls, but they believe the number of inquiries is about 5000 unique inquiries about the situation. There is limited capacity in local hotels and short term rentals, and they anticipate significant relief after holiday when hotel capacity will open up. They are also looking for good corporate housing for normal as possible living situations.

Paula then mentioned that ARB has installed sensitive instruments in homes to collect data. First data came out today.

Issam asked what the expectation is for a return call for relocation. Gillian indicated their target is within 72 hours. They are making changes on Jan 2, 2016 where they are letting go of their contractor and bringing the intakes "in house". They passed out a copy of the plan. Gillian indicated it is the largest anyone has ever attempted. They are learning and making changes and improvements as they go.

Issam requested that families being relocated to hotels should be offered one bed per person and not have families of 4 in two-bed hotel rooms. Gillian indicated that hotels are meant to be short term and they are really working toward apartment units.

Issam indicated that the message SoCalGas delivers is not trickling down to the relocation companies.

Gillian said they are looking at each of those circumstances. They are making reasonable policies that apply generally. Gillian updated that the per diem will be transitioning from a complex, variable rate based on age to a flat \$45/day/person in a household, regardless of age.

e. Turbine Construction Project Update (including injection capacity)

James "Jim" Strader presented an update on the Turbine Construction Project. In 2008 California Public Utilities Commission agreed that the turbines needed to be replaced. In 2009, SoCalGas filed application with PUC and funding approved. They conducted an EIR through the CEQA process that was completed in Nov 2013, and they were issued a decision to move forward.

There are 3 turbine compressors that 40 years old and "D rated". Project is on schedule to be completed at the end of 2016, 3 years after PUC decision. The injection capacity will go from 300-325 to 450 million per gig minimum.

Issam asked why was current injection capacity increased. Jim indicated that a settlement agreement was reached with various parties, which compelled them to do this. Various energy providers and users in the state and customer interest groups all agreed that it was in the best interest to increase injection capacity.

Paula asked what was gained by increased injection capacity. They bring gas in from out of state and inject the gas that's available in the storage field. This injection rate is important to customers as it allows us to bring more gas in faster.

Paula asked if it does anything to with rates? Since gas is commodity rates fluctuate. Increased injection capacity allows SoCalGas to purchase low rate and store.

There is a slightly higher pressure, but the system won't let pressure exceed maximums of the pipes. The discharge rate also might be slightly higher.

Paula asked how many wells go back to the 1950s – SoCalGas will get back to the committee.

Paula asked about any plan to make sure those wells are inspected before the new turbines go online in Nov. 2016. Glenn said he'd confirm, but that regulators have final say. PUC regulates the Facility & compressors; DOGGR regulates the wells.

Regulators are looking at SoCalGas for expertise and as the experts.

Paula said that somehow we have to come to a determination that wells have been inspected and are safe before operating or we somehow need to navigate that. Increased pressure to all of us means risk. Those are concerns we have. We need data to understand. We have a year, and we need to make sure we don't wake up and they have been turned on.

Jim said that compressor starting operation isn't just the pressure. Time is also involved. Wells are all rated for a certain pressure. Their compressors are designed to never go over that pressure. Different mechanisms exist to ensure they don't go over the pressure. During an injection season, the storage field will be injected into the field faster but operating pressure doesn't increase.

Craig asked what connects the compressor. Jim replied that at pipeline comes in from out of State into the compressor. 50-60 wells are just injection wells, some are both injection and discharge.

Andre asked if there was a hold on the Turbine Replacement Project. Jim indicated they have been directed by the PUC to complete project. They plan to test in August, but there is currently a moratorium on injections.

f. Technical Update on Storage Field

Craig asked if there was a plan to identify and replace the oldest wells by drilling new wells. Do you know which ones are most troublesome?

They can do that have done 2 such replacements each of the past two years. They do have integrity management program for the wells that evaluates inspected wells on risk ranking basis. They indicated they could present a summary of that program.

Paula asked if the new wells have a shut off at base to address this potential leak in the future. Jim indicated that they did not at the bottom of the well but the technology does exist.

SoCalGas does have systems in place to address leaking wells, and those were implemented on this well early on but were ineffective. They are continuing to address this process.

The capacity of the field cannot be increased nor can the full field be emptied to relieve the pressure. Increasing the injection capacity does not increase the capacity of the field. It just changes the ability to put gas in and out quicker. They can only put in so much gas at any given time.

If they could operate at maximum, it would take 40-50 days to be able to draw down to operating capacity, but this varying according to demand. Even if it were “empty” there would still be gas.

Craig asked that if it were empty, would there be lower pressure? Gillian answered that drawing down would reduce the pressure.

Further questions tabled until next meeting, as many questions were asked during the meeting.

Questions for next time:

Matt— Why no safety valves installed at the bottom?

Paula—Help us understand the technology that is out there and available.

5. Business Impacts Update: *Chatsworth/Porter Ranch Chamber*

Rana updated the committee that businesses have the same complaints: not getting calls back. Everyone she spoke to has had a complaint. The smaller businesses have all seen at least a 20% decrease in business. Businesses are having trouble paying bills because they don't have customers.

Paula asked that SoCalGas please come prepared to talk about the business plan at the next meeting.

Gillian said she'd meet with the chamber separately to work thorough this and have an organized process.

Matt asked how do SoCalGas addresses employee whose employer doesn't have a problem with them working outdoors in area. Gillian responded that that would be a workplace issue.

6. Action Item Review

Andre requested materials in advance, if available

Paula also asked that committee members submit questions in advance and we can share those with the committee to know what's coming.

Future topics will include health experts and other experts from outside agencies

7. Adjourn

Paula adjourned the meeting at 8:15