

Christian Guzman, President
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Council, Certified 2002

August 13, 2018

South Coast Air Quality Management District
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

Dear Chairman William Burke and SCAQMD Governing Board:

The Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council recently adopted 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; and

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;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that 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.

Sincerely,



Christian Louis Guzman
Board Member and President
On behalf of the Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council

CC:

Los Angeles City Councilman Joe Buscaino
200 N. Spring St. Room 410 Los Angeles, CA 90012

Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn, District 4
500 W. Temple Street, Room 822 , Los Angeles, CA 9001