

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS JANICE HAHN AND
SHEILA KUEHL

March 8, 2017

For over two decades, the residents of Torrance have lived in constant fear for their health and safety. This is because the Torrance Refinery located within the city has experienced fires, explosions, leaks, and releases of chemicals. ~~due to the use of hydrofluoric acid.~~ ***The potential that those incidents could have been further exacerbated should the storage units of hydrofluoric acid had been disrupted are very concerning to residents.***

Hydrofluoric acid is used to produce gasoline in the oil refining process. According to the U.S. Chemical Safety Board, the independent federal agency responsible for investigating chemical accidents, "Hydrofluoric acid can pose a severe hazard to the population and environment if a release occurs. After hydrofluoric acid vaporizes it condenses into small droplets that form a dense low-lying cloud that will travel along the ground for several miles and can cause severe damage to the respiratory system, skin, and bones of those who are exposed, potentially resulting in death."

-MORE-

MOTION

SOLIS	_____
KUEHL	_____
HAHN	_____
BARGER	_____
RIDLEY-THOMAS	_____

Despite the risks the use of hydrofluoric acid pose to surrounding communities, two refineries in California, PBF Energy's refinery in Torrance, and Valero's refinery in Wilmington, continue to use it.

The use of hydrofluoric acid is regulated by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). The SCAQMD is undertaking a rulemaking process that could result in the outright ban of hydrofluoric acid. We should support the SCAQMD's efforts to ban this toxic substance and encourage the SCAQMD to expedite its rulemaking process.

Additionally, Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi has introduced a series of bills (AB 1645-49) he is referring to as his "Torrance Refinery Safety Plan" to help address some of these issues.

AB 1645 would restrict the use of hydrofluoric acids in refineries in California.

AB 1646 would require petroleum refineries to post their risk management plans on their websites and provide an alarm system and automatic notifications to residents within a five- mile radius in case of emergencies.

AB 1647 would require the owner or operator of a petroleum refinery to install fence-line and community air monitoring systems.

AB 1648 would require the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) to increase the number of inspectors for its refinery inspector program.

AB 1649 would create an Interagency Task Force on Refinery Safety to examine ways to improve public and worker safety through enhanced oversight of refineries, and to strengthen emergency preparedness in anticipation of any future refinery incident.

The time to better enforce safety at our refineries is now.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Office to:

1. Send a five-signature letter in support of the Torrance Refinery Safety Plan (AB 1645, AB 1646, AB 1647, AB 1648, and AB 1649) to the Los Angeles County State Legislative Delegation and to Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. and;
2. Send a five-signature letter to the SCAQMD expressing Los Angeles County's support of the proposed rule banning the use of modified hydrofluoric acid and encouraging the SCAQMD to expedite this rulemaking process.

#

JH:SK:jro:ky