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Rosalie Preston - Recording Secretary
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David Matthews - District 1 Rep.
Clyde Noguchi - District 2 Rep.
Reynaldo Paduani - District 3 Rep.
Betty Hawkins - District 4 Representative



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Llewyn Fowlkes - District 5 Rep.
Marvin Bell - District 6 Rep.
Janet Mitchell - District 7 Rep.
Larry J. Morrison - District 8 Rep.
Deborah Lee – Community Org. Rep.
Richard Lee - Youth Representative
Outreach Representative - vacant
Eva Cooper-Pace - At-Large Rep.

June 19, 2019

Council President Herb Wesson
City Hall
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Resolution to phase out Hydrofluoric Acid and Modified Hydrofluoric Acid at two local refineries

Dear Councilmember Wesson:

On the recommendation of our Planning and Land Use Committee, on June 11, 2019, our Board voted 10-0-0 to adopt the following resolution for City Council adoption:

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Chemical Safety Board, the 2015 Torrance Refinery explosion resulted in a near miss of a catastrophic release of hydrofluoric acid, a deadly, ground-hugging cloud that would have killed and/or permanently injured thousands of Los Angeles residents and residents of immediately contiguous cities;

WHEREAS, a major leak from the Torrance Refinery would reach nearby residents and schools within minutes; a rapid evacuation of Los Angeles is impossible; hospitals and emergency responders are not prepared for a massive leak and mass casualties,

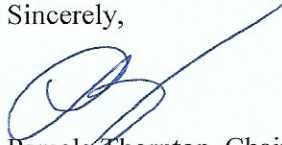
WHEREAS, only two refineries in the entire State of California, Torrance Refining Company in Torrance and the Valero Refinery in Wilmington, use and store this toxic chemical in very large quantities, while all other California refineries use a vastly safer chemical process in the alkylation units that refine high octane gasoline;

WHEREAS the modified form of hydrofluoric acid currently in use by these two refineries has been deemed by the South Coast Air Quality Management District to be ineffective at reducing the properties of hydrofluoric acid that cause it to form a ground-hugging gas and escape refinery confines upon accidental release; and

WHEREAS the South Coast Air Quality Management District is currently considering a rule to require a phase out of the use of modified hydrofluoric acid by a date certain,

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council supports a phase out of hydrofluoric acid and modified hydrofluoric acid at refineries by the South Coast Air Quality Management District as soon as possible, and requests the Los Angeles City Council to go on record to also support a phase out.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Thornton', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Pamela Thornton, Chairperson
Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council

cc: Councilmember Joe Buscaino – Council District 15
Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson
Jenny Chavez, Chief of Staff – Council District 15
Alison Becker, Senior Advisor – Council District 15
Arely Garcia, Constituent Services – Council District 15
Luciralia Ibarra, Chief Deputy, Planning and Land Use Policy – Council District 8
Albizael Del Valle, Field Deputy – Council District 8
Mayor Eric Garcetti
Denny Shaw, Senior Public Information Specialist, South Coast Air Quality Management District