



Malibu's Only Daily News

Sunday Oct 1, 2006 | 2:47pm

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LOCAL

Signing of Landmark Global Warming Bill Marred By Governor's Security

Governor Silent On LNG, Sidesteps The Press

by KRISS PERRAS RUNNING WATERS
PCH Press
September 29, 2006 3:38 PM PT

MALIBU - Assembly Member Fran Pavley celebrated Wednesday the signing of her second landmark global warming bill, AB 32 (Núñez-Pavley) in signing ceremonies in San Francisco and in her home district at Pepperdine University in Malibu with joint author Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez, Governor Schwarzenegger and dozens of political, business and environmental leaders.

"I am very proud that this legislation is the first in the country to cap greenhouse gas emissions," said Pavley. "I hope that our representatives in Washington D.C. are taking note, because it is past time for our nation as a whole to take action to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that are causing global warming."

The bill requires the state to reduce by 25% its greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2020, requires mandatory reporting of emissions from significant sources of greenhouse gas emissions and requires the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to complete an inventory of greenhouse gases, set up a mandatory reporting system, and develop and implement regulations to reach the 2020 cap that must be enacted by 2012. The bill also includes strong provisions for enforcement and allows for the use of market mechanisms to achieve the cap.

MALIBU COUNCILMEMBER PAMELA CONLEY ULICH'S FIVE-YEAR OLD SON TOLD TO REMOVE SHIRT

However, the environmental triumph was marred by the Governor's security who saw Malibu City Councilmember Pamela Conley Ulich's five-year old son as a threat to the Governor's safety because of the lettering on the young boy's shirt.

The five year old Ulich boy was wearing a "NO LNG" shirt many Anti-LNG demonstrators had worn at the Bluffs Park LNG Protest press conference about an hour prior to the Governor's arrival.

"When I was with him they tried to get him to take it off, and I said no," Conley Ulich said in an interview Friday.

However, Conley Ulich reports that when she was speaking with the dignitaries present, the boy's nanny took him inside where the Governor's security team asked the boy once more to remove his shirt.

"Security came over and asked him to take it off and he wouldn't," Ulich

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said. "So the nanny had to take off one of her LNG shirts, because she had on two shirts, and turned her's inside out and had to put it over his."

When asked if her son was afraid Conley Ulich said, "No. My son is not afraid of anything."

Conley Ulich reports her son's nanny is a Junior at Pepperdine University, a student teacher at Point Dume Elementary School and a "great kid."

LOCAL MALIBU REPORTER SILENCED BY GOVERNOR'S SECURITY

The Governor's protocol at the bill signing was to rope off the press and did not make himself available to answer any questions from the media at all during or after the proceedings.

And during the proceedings, one well-known Malibu freelance reporter named Hans Laetz shouted out a question to the Governor when after about a forty-minute line-up of high profile people spoke on behalf of the bi-partisan legislation Mr. Schwarzenegger jokingly asked if anybody else wanted to speak.

The Governor shouted back, "I am not finished yet."

Within an instant after Laetz began asking his press question, the Governor's security surrounded him and silenced him, and in intimidating tones started asking for his ID. This was so despite the fact all media was press credentialed and checked-in prior to entering the back lawn of Pepperdine University where the event was held.

But, Mr. Schwarzenegger never did make himself available to the multitude of press at the back of the ceremony.

Instead, during the signing of the bill, the Governor posed for photos. Then he made his way into the crowd of dignitaries present for the landmark legislation's birth.



Reports from Councilmember Andy Stern at a press conference today revealed the Governor further avoided answering any questions regarding LNG. Stern reports he approached the Governor after the bill signing and the Governor's staff intervened at Stern's mere mention of LNG.

"We know who you are. And, we know your face," Stern reports the Staff said to him.

The media was not allowed by security to step outside of their ropes. And, when Laetz asked one of the Governor's staff why he'd not received a return phone call after weeks of leaving messages, the staff member told Laetz he must not be telling the truth since Deputy Press Secretary Darrel Ng was standing behind Laetz shaking his head no.

That same staff person who silenced Laetz was asked a question by PCH



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Press and side-stepped the issue tossing the opportunity off to Dan Skopec, the California Environmental Protection Agency Undersecretary, even though the staff member knew PCH Press was looking for answers directly from the Governor's staff.

When Skopec was asked by PCH Press if the Governor supported bringing LNG into California, he said yes. And when asked what study the Governor was using to base his premise that California needed LNG, Skopec pointed to a study recently completed by the California Energy Commission (ECC). However, Skopec could not recall the name of the study for the press to reference.

Ng was also asked if the Governor supported LNG. He too said yes, but also could not recall the name of the study which the Governor uses to support LNG.

And, a follow-up call to the Governor's office this evening did not resolve the matter. The Governor's media office also did not know what study the Governor was using to base his premise that California needed LNG.

SPECIAL INTEREST MONEY

Many remember the following words from Schwarzenegger made on the NBC Today Show on March 8, 2005 during his campaign: "I said I would never let special interests tell me what to do. I cannot be bought."

But, the Governor's potent campaign promise that he would not let special interest money run his office seems to be wearing thin. And the question now is, can Schwarzenegger's staff be bought?

Influential Los Angeles Attorney George Kieffer's giant law firm Manatt, Phelps and Phillips has been hired by BHP Billiton to lobby for LNG. Kieffer is also First Lady Maria Shriver's personal attorney. The law firm insists that Kieffer is not involved in the lobbying for BHP Billiton. According to the law firm's biographical information, Mr. Kieffer in 2000 was named by the San Francisco Daily Journal and the Los Angeles Daily Journal one of the 100 most influential attorneys in California and is listed in The Best Lawyers in America 2005-2006 Edition.

The firm touts Kieffer as a former member of the Firm's Board of Directors and current co-chairs of the Firm's Government and Regulatory Division, one of three firm divisions. And the firm further states Kieffer has extensive general business and regulatory practice experience and oversees major business litigation, business transactions and land use matters.

The Governor's aides also have ties to a major LNG firm. Rob Stutzman, former Deputy Chief of Staff for Communications for Schwarzenegger was hired by the Governor's lobbying firm, DC Navigators/Navigators LLC - a firm with offices in Washington DC, Sacramento and Florida. This is the same firm that now has a \$1 Million deal to lobby for Australia's BHP Billiton LNG terminal off Oxnard and Malibu. In fact, the right wing lobbying firm is so proud of the addition of Stutzman and the connection with the Governor that the firm touts the hire in a [press release](#) on their site's news section. And as is no surprise, Stutzman works out of the firm's Sacramento office.

A few of the DC Navigators' political clients are: Schwarzenegger, Florida Governor Jeb Bush, Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson, Michigan

Governor John Engler, New Jersey Governor Christie Whitman, Arizona Senator John McCain, former Georgia Senator Paul Coverdell and The Republican Party of Florida Senate Campaigns.

The firm states their mission as: "Navigators specializes in providing corporate and trade association clients with integrated public affairs campaigns that include lobbying, policy development, strategic communications, and grassroots coalition building to solve difficult public affairs problems. We also have extensive experience in helping industries and companies manage their reputations with lawmakers, opinion elites and the media."

But, it appears Navigators didn't have a strategy for the Governor's visits to Malibu since the M.O. that day was to keep the Governor silent on the subject of LNG and keep the press and political opponents - even the five-year old kind - at arms length.

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