



Malibu's Only Daily News

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LOCAL

Global Warming Galvanizes Malibu

Advocates: Dear Governor, Terminate The Terminal!

by KRISS PERRAS RUNNING WATERS
PCH Press
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MALIBU - This last week was a show of force on all sides of the LNG issue. Not only did the big guns come out for the Gubernatorial race, but the local big guns made their case too. Malibu City Mayor Ken Kearsley, City Councilman Andy Stern and City Councilwoman Pamela Conley Ulich were at the forefront of an Anti-LNG rally held at Bluffs Park last Wednesday. And, those same faces were present for a press conference on LNG on Friday in addition to Malibu resident and local activist Ozzie Silna, Malibu resident and actor Daniel Stern (no relation to Andy Stern), previous council candidate Ed Gillespie and Susan Jordan who heads up the non-profit group California Coastal Protection Network (CCPN). The Anti-LNG gathering, which also drew corporate media coverage, produced a momentum reminiscent of the steam that propelled Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to office in his successful bid against then Governor Grey Davis.

"We're the first people to use this air that flows into the L.A. basin," Kearsley said at the press conference on Wednesday. "It finally ends up only ten-miles away from us with all the greenhouse gases, smog and dirt right on the other side of this hill. The Governor is signing a bill to limit greenhouse gases, but it just doesn't make sense. He's in favor of stopping greenhouse gases, yet he's not in favor of helping us with this large industrial barge that is going to be sitting in the middle of the ocean spewing out greenhouse gases. To me, it is the epitome of hypocrisy.



Global warming is only recently accepted as a real threat. The US EPA definition of Global Warming is, "The progressive gradual rise of the earth's surface temperature thought to be caused by the greenhouse effect and responsible for changes in global climate patterns. An increase in the near surface temperature of the Earth. Global warming has occurred in the distant past as the result of natural influences, but the term is most often used to refer to the warming predicted to occur as a result of increased emissions of greenhouse gases."

"Signing AB32 in Malibu is great irony. Remember we are in an election year, so the Governor is looking for those votes," Kearsley said.

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"Everybody knows Malibu and a lot of people who live here in Malibu. So we will use our moral authority. We're not indigent about this. We're just outraged," Kearsley said when asked how influential did the Mayor think Malibu's opposition to LNG was when the Governor's close circle of staff and associates were directly involved in lobbying for LNG.

Kearsley said the people of the L.A. basin should "take note" because "We're the ones who are going to be affected. The world is going to be affected if we don't put our foot down now. It's a good thing to limit greenhouse gases. It's a bad thing, on the other hand, to increase those gases that creates the smog and eventual global warming."

Councilmember Andy Stern spoke at the press conference "challenging" the Governor to veto the Cabrillo Port project when it comes across his desk. The Governor has the options to either veto the bill, sign it or do nothing which in effect would be his rubber stamp on the BHP Billiton project.

"We stand here united, the citizens of Malibu and Oxnard, in opposition to this terminal. I m proud that LA County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky has also come out in opposition to this terminal," Stern said in his remarks at the Wednesday press conference. "Malibu is a small town but hosts in excess of 15 Million beach visitors every year. That means 15 million people will be brething polluted air as a result of this terminal."

When asked how Malibu's \$50,000 in the fight against LNG was put to work, Stern said the total amount donated was \$250,000 of which the city's portion was \$50,000 and was used for the initial comments to the State Lands Commission.

"That was just a down payment," Stern said. "I've never seen any particular issue in this town that people are so unified about. And, the City of Malibu will continue to fight this at any cost to stop this."

Councilwoman Pamela Conley Ulich said if a terrorist attack or natural disaster such as an earthquake happened, the explosion from the terminal would be the equivalent of over 100 atomic bombs.

"So, this is an issue that is important to everybody," Conley Ulich said. "No matter where you live. If the fire starts in Malibu its going to go inland. And, we all have to act together. We all have to work with the Governor to give him the courage to do the right thing for his kids, our kids and the world's kids. You matter. Everyone matters."

Ozzie Silna was also present at the Friday press conference. He interviewed with PCH Press on the subject of LNG and the Energy Commission Study the Governor's staff says is being used to support a need for LNG.

"I saw an interview of a group by the energy committee on TV, I think it was CNN about five six months ago, where everybody that reported from the lawyers to everybody else, opposed the installation of LNG facilities, particularly without the appropriate studies to discern the safety issues and the impact on the environment," Silna said.

Previous council candidate Ed Gillspie was present at the Friday Bluffs Park press conference. He said the U.S. is not selling the LNG that is being produced in the Eastern states.



ADV

"To put our dependence again on foreign energy sources, I think is a very big mistake," Gillespie said. "Not to mention the environmental impact here. I attended the Arnold Schwarzenegger event the other day. And he was asked specifically whether he was going to come out against the LNG. AB32 is a good bill, but this LNG is going to pour 20 Million tons of greenhouse gas into the atmosphere where this bill is suppose to save over 200 tons over a year's period. So that's a counteractive thing. If he doesn't come out against LNG, it is hypocritical."

Actor Daniel Stern, perhaps known most for his work in the film *Home Alone*, was present for the Friday press conference in endorsement support of the Democratic candidate for Governor, Phil Angelides. When asked if he felt the study the Governor was using to support LNG was adequate enough, Daniel Stern said he was not even aware of such a study.

"I have no idea what that study says. That study has not really been made clear to the public. I don't understand the big energy picture in this state at all under Schwarzenegger, or in the country for that matter," Daniel Stern said. "The Republicans in this country and state talk about security and national security, and one of our biggest issues in national security is how we get our energy and who we're paying our dollars to. We are disregarding that issue and putting band-aids on it. This LNG thing is not part of a big picture. Not part of a larger energy program. It's just one thing out there destroying the economy of this coastal community. I don't know that study in particular. And as a citizen, if he's not making me aware of the facts behind it, then he's not doing his job."

GLOBAL WARMING

At one point in time all climate changes occurred naturally. However, the EPA also states during the Industrial Revolution mankind began altering the climate and environment through changing agricultural and industrial practices.

According to the US EPA, before the Industrial Revolution, human activity released very few gases into the atmosphere. But now, through population growth, fossil fuel burning, and deforestation, humans are affecting the mixture of gases in the atmosphere.

Some greenhouse gases occur naturally in the atmosphere while others result from human activities. Naturally occurring greenhouse gases include water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and ozone. Certain human activities add to the levels of most of these naturally occurring gases:

Carbon dioxide which is released into the atmosphere when solid waste, fossil fuels (oil, natural gas, and coal), and wood and wood products are burned.

Methane is emitted during the production and transport of coal, natural gas, and oil. Methane emissions also result from the decomposition of organic wastes in municipal solid waste landfills, and the raising of livestock.

Nitrous oxide is emitted during agricultural and industrial activities, as well as during combustion of solid waste and fossil fuels.

Very powerful greenhouse gases that are not naturally occurring include

hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆), which are generated in a variety of industrial processes.

According to a NSA Study on Global Warming, the highest global surface temperature in more than a century of instrumental data was recorded in 2005. However, 2005 was practically in a dead heat with 1998, the warmest previous year. The study showed Global warming is now 0.6°C in the past three decades and 0.8°C in the past century. It is no longer correct to say that most global warming occurred before 1940. More specifically, there was slow global warming with large fluctuations over the century up to 1975 and subsequent rapid warming of almost 0.2°C per decade.

As these emissions continue to rise, some experts are warning the world may be reaching a "point of no return" meaning the global average temperature rise that has already occurred will result in "runaway" warming as heat reflecting polar ice sheets melt and Arctic permafrost thaws releasing even more naturally occurring greenhouse gases such as methane.

Changes brought about by global warming have already been observed around the world, particularly in the Arctic, where the ice cap is retreating, permafrost is melting (no longer "permanent") and never-before seen Southern species like ticks and robins are appearing for the first time in history.

Climatologists predict many more drastic changes worldwide including: sea level rise and coastal erosion; more extreme weather events such as flooding, violent storms, heat waves and drought; increased intensity of hurricanes, cyclones and typhoons; and spreading of pests and noxious plants.

Rising global temperatures are expected to alter forests, crop yields, and water supplies. It could also affect human health, animals, and many types of ecosystems. Deserts may expand into existing rangelands, and features of some of our National Parks may be permanently altered.

LNG is a fossil fuel. Sources report using LNG, like coal or oil, will only exacerbate global warming. LNG results in increased emissions of both carbon dioxide and methane. Sources report importation and use of LNG results in GHG emissions 25% over and above those from domestic natural gas use due to the energy needed to liquefy gas produced overseas, transport it on supertankers over thousands of miles, and regasify it for consumption in the US.

The proposed BHP Billiton Cabrillo Port LNG project planned for offshore of Ventura and LA Counties would spew almost 25,000,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions per year into the earth's atmosphere. Sources report this is the equivalent of more than what would be emitted over the entire lifetime of 400,000 cars.

The huge capital costs required to establish an LNG infrastructure, including the costs of constructing huge import terminals and supertankers and long term contracts gas distributors must enter into for LNG supplies, could divert investment from clean renewable energy supplies such as wind, solar, geothermal and biomass.

Importing LNG means increasing U.S. dependence on foreign countries

for our electricity, heating and cooking fuels much like our dependence on foreign oil for transportation fuel.

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