




R-25

Date: August 16, 2005

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Tonia Reyes Uranga, Seventh District 

Subject: **AGENDA ITEM: Request the Public Safety Advisory Commission to Consider Risk and Hazard Assessments for the Proposed LNG facility**

The debate regarding a proposed Liquefied Natural Gas facility at the Port of Long Beach has been focused on legislative issues concerning Federal and State jurisdiction over the project. Now that the Federal Energy Legislation has been finalized by Congress, with language to ensure local involvement in the decision making process, we should focus our attention to ensuring that safety remains the most important issue to be considered for this project. When the City Council voted on June 7, 2005 to continue the non-binding discussions regarding the future long-term natural gas contract to benefit the citizens of Long Beach, it also directed the City to "conduct a risk assessment and a hazardous assessment, including fiscal impact, by qualified experts as soon as feasibly possible" per the memorandum of understanding.

There has been extensive discussion of the public safety impacts of this project beginning as early as May 11, 2005 when the City Council requested a status report on the LNG negotiations (attached). The City Council's Federal Legislation Committee received a report from our Police and Fire department regarding the operations of the Boston LNG facility and there has been a number of LNG workshops and forums throughout the community. At all the discussions, repeatedly and appropriately – safety is the number one concern.

I believe that the risk assessment and a hazards assessment approved by the City Council action of June 7, 2005 should be referred to the Public Safety Advisory Commission for its involvement and consideration. I would also like to request that the City Council formally request the Port of Long Beach to consider public safety as its overriding consideration in any decision concerning the proposed LNG facility.

Suggested Action: **Request the Public Safety Advisory Commission to consider the risk and hazardous assessments for the proposed LNG facility; and, Direct the City Manager to communicate a City Council position regarding safety considerations for the proposed LNG facility to the Port of Long Beach.**