

*Los Angeles Unified School District  
Board of Education*



**DR. RICHARD VLADOVIC**  
*Board Member, District 7*

August 29, 2011

Hon. Carmen Trutanich  
City Attorney  
Los Angeles City Attorney's Office  
200 North Main Street  
8th Floor, Room 800 CHE  
Los Angeles, Ca. 90012

Dear City Attorney Trutanich:

As you are aware, the neighbors of the Taper Avenue Elementary School community in San Pedro have been concerned about the Rancho LPG butane storage facility on Gaffey Street for many years. I have supported their pleas for help and assistance in relocating the tanks to a much safer location such as pier 400 or terminal island. I have also written a letter to District Attorney Steve Cooley asking for assistance in this very important issue.

I have been informed that this facility was introduced without a proper Environmental Impact Report or Risk Assessment in 1973 to transport their liquid energy gas through a wharf at the adjacent Port of Los Angeles. The Los Angeles Unified School District Office of Environmental Health and Safety investigated this location. They expressed concern about the facility and informed me that the City of Los Angeles has jurisdiction.

In 2005, The Port of Los Angeles refused to renew the facility's wharf lease, which altered Rancho LPG's business operation and also forced 100% of the transportation of the butane by truck and rail. This change should have triggered a new CEQA process under the California Code of Regulations, but it never happened. I actually remember Amerigas fighting this change and using scare tactics to get the community to support them. This campaign highlighted the dangers to the community if they had to use rail and truck instead of ship.

Both The Port of Los Angeles and City of Los Angeles currently have jurisdiction over the rail line that Rancho LPG now uses to conduct its business through rail. It is clear that this change of operation has missed a giant step in proper procedure by not having to comply with CEQA law with respect to that change. I support the community's request that your office and The Port of Los Angeles withdraw rail permission rights until Rancho LPG has completed their overdue environmental review process that reflects the current operation and adequately meets the legal requirements of CEQA law and ensures our children and community are safe. There are over 1000 students within a 1 mile's distance to this facility and something needs to be done to insure their safety.

Sincerely,

Dr. Richard Vladovic  
LAUSD Board Vice President

C: Anthony G. Patchett  
Janet Gunter

