



DATE: September 21, 2012
TO: City Councilmembers
FROM: Mayor Art Madrid
SUBJECT: AB 1234 Report – National League of Cities, Energy and Natural Resources (EENR) Steering Committee in North Little Rock, AR

ABSTRACT

Key Outcomes

Natural Gas and Hydraulic Fracturing continues to be a topic of great interest to the EENR committee. To gain a broader overview, the committee heard from local representatives of the natural gas industry, state regulatory bodies and the environmental sector regarding the processing of natural gas drilling and production.

“Fracking” is the term used by everyone to describe this ever increasing method of extracting the more difficult natural gas sources deposited in the deep shale found as deep as 5000 feet, or greater, underground.

The primary concern is the environmental impact/damage fracking has on the immediate and surrounding properties and air quality caused by the burning of gas flare offs.

Presentations were also made on the topics of energy efficiency and sustainability. The Director of NLR’s “Fit 2 Live” spoke about the city’s program which focuses on health eating and active living to address the obesity epidemic in their community.

The committee also approved policy changes relating to sustainability, climate change, climate change adaptation, energy efficiency, transportation and energy product stewardship and invasive species and harmful infestation.

Additionally, the committee made recommendations for the renewal, or expiration, of each of the nine current resolutions, recommending that four be expired and approved two additional resolutions pertaining to consumer protection in natural gas rate cases and hydraulic fracturing and the protection of municipal water supplies.

cc: City Council
City Manager
City Treasurer
City Clerk