

Presented to Brea City Council 07/15/14 by Alejandra Crespo

Once again Mayor Murdock has impeded the ability of Brea citizens to publicly engage with Council. This is in direct contradiction to his campaign rhetoric claiming to be the people's candidate and an advocate of transparency in government.

A month ago several of us, Brea residents, representing a growing group of concerned friends and neighbors, voiced our reservations regarding the application of fracking occurring in Brea. In response, the City Manager promised to put the topic on the agenda for the second meeting in July. That would be two weeks from now.

Having not received either timely notice or invitation to participate, we feel blindsided. We are not happy about this.

Under the guise of educating themselves, the Mayor invited Linn Energy to make a presentation this evening. How much could you possibly learn listening to only one side of the issue? Your colleagues believe tonight's presentation to be a waste of time and publicly have said so. Why would you extend to Linn Energy this opportunity to carry out preemptive damage control with no fear of opposition?

This is not a level playing field. Either require Linn Energy and other oil and gas interests to speak during Matters From The Audience, or afford us the same privilege of putting us on the agenda to make a public presentation of our own. What is happening tonight is totally inequitable.

This likely impedes our first amendment rights... our right to have equal time. Matters From The Audience is not equal time.

You're sending a message to Brea citizens that you're already in the pocket of local oil interests.

The fracking issue is a matter of public health and safety. It is a matter of making a prudent decision having all relevant information at hand. Fracking is not a political issue...

Pull this item off of the agenda. Like your colleagues, be patient until the regional conference in Fullerton occurs in September, or prepare to face the consequences.

The ball is in your court.