

November 2, 2021

Eric Levitt
City Manager
City of Alameda

Cc: Yibin Chen, City Attorney



Dear Mr. Levitt,

We are writing this letter to address some of the recent concerns regarding the safety of Astra's operations at Alameda Point.

We are pleased that our community mirrors our own focus on ensuring safe operations. We have been in the community since 2017; we grew up here as a business, coming to Alameda shortly after we were founded. We chose Alameda because of its unique mix of former Naval assets that neatly mirror our present day uses. We have invested heavily to revitalize the buildings into productive and revenue generating assets. Today, out of more than 270 (and growing) employees, over sixty of us proudly call Alameda home. We look forward to this and future opportunities to provide transparency regarding our growth and safety culture in our collective Island City.

Safety is a core, underlying principle of the company. We fervently believe that a safe operation and profitable operation are inextricably linked. This is why we also have our own in-house Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) Team, in addition to complying with all external regulations. An EHS team is not a legal or regulatory requirement, but we have chosen to invest in it because we believe it will create the best outcomes for our company and community. This team not only ensures that our operations are running as safely as possible, but also ensure that Astra remains compliant with all regulatory requirements, train different parts of the company on incident command and emergency response, and lead a broader safety team (more than 17 people) to ensure a swift and efficient response to emergencies (eg: evacuation drills).

To contextualize some of the concerns, it is worth noting that we are heavily regulated – both as a tenant at Alameda Point, and an industry.

We are deeply engaged with five regulators for our development at the Point, including the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, California Environmental Protection Agency, Water Board, Navy, and Bay Area Air Quality Management District. Most of our work needs to be coordinated, and approved, by them, including work plans and associated health and safety plans. All work at Alameda Point must follow the Alameda Point Site Management Plan ("SMP", dated 12/3/2020), prepared by Terraphase for the City of Alameda. This SMP outlines the requirements to ensure all work at Alameda Point is completed in a manner that is safe for the environment, surrounding community, and workers.

We are also regularly inspected by the Alameda County Department of Environmental Health because we use and store reportable quantities of certain types of hazardous materials. They complete annual wall-to-wall inspections, and we are required to address any findings typically within one month.

We also fall under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-know Act (EPCRA). This requires us to report storage, use and releases of hazardous substances to local, state, and federal agencies. All employees must be properly trained on hazard communication, handling and storage of hazardous materials, hazardous waste disposal, spill response, and personal protective equipment.

And of course, we are regulated by Cal/OSHA. Based on being a business in the State of California, we are required to have an Emergency Action Plan per Cal/OSHA requirements, which includes the provision to work closely with local fire, police, and other applicable agencies to be prepared for potential emergencies.

Beyond regulators involved in our development, our industry is also heavily regulated. We fall under the jurisdiction of multiple federal groups including the Federal Aviation Administration, Federal Communications Commission, and, depending on the range, the Space Force, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) amongst others. These groups ensure that our operations and activities are safe for people and the environment.

Despite our lengthy regulatory oversight and new company status, we are proud that we have had zero fines or violations. This is exceptionally difficult, and a testament to our commitment to being a safe member of our Alameda community.

Regarding the safety of our engine testing operation, no one takes this more seriously than we do because our employees and their loved ones matter to us.

First, we do not test our assembled rockets in Alameda. We do not load them with fuel or propellants. We do not run the engines when they are on the vehicle while in Alameda. And we do not launch rockets in Alameda or the Bay Area. This is worth noting because assembled and fueled rockets represent the most potential to cause harm, which is why this is normally done on launch sites or other remote facilities. In our case, they are only built in Alameda and then transported offsite for testing at Castle Air Force Base in Atwater, California and launching at the Pacific Spaceport Complex in Kodiak, Alaska. They are effectively empty vessels while in Alameda.

Second, all engine testing is done in an entry-controlled facility specifically designed for precisely that purpose. We chose Alameda in part because of the presence of the former Navy engine test cells, massively over-designed concrete reinforced structures built for one purpose only – to test engines. We spent over \$10 million cleaning, renovating, and updating the Building 397 facility to bring it to 21st century standards, including the installation of a modern fire suppression system (which we test regularly). Worth noting, the buildings were built for engines multiple times larger than Astra's engines.

Third, all engine testing at Astra is completed by competent and trained Astra personnel with test oversight completed from control centers outside the test cells. Furthermore, the engine testing is completed following strict company safety programs/policies and standard operating procedures that meet or exceed industry best practices, engineering standards, and regulatory requirements.

Fourth, all petroleum storage tanks at Astra are regulated by the Aboveground Petroleum Storage Act (ASPA) and enforced by our local CUPA, the Alameda County Department of Environmental Health. They are managed and inspected per our Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures Plan (SPCC Plan) – an EPA requirement. The SPCC defines how we store

petroleum substances, protect the environment, and protect against catastrophic failure. Petroleum tanks are inspected per the SPCC.

Cryogenic liquid storage tanks (liquid nitrogen and liquid oxygen) are leased by Air Products, a nationally reputable distributor, and are regularly inspected per ASME and California code requirements. It is worth noting that these are similar chemicals and storage methods commonly found at hospitals, universities, and research centers.

Finally, compressed gas cylinders (nitrogen, oxygen, and helium) are rentals that are also inspected and reproofed per code requirements (there is a physical stamp).

Regarding some specific concerns:

Catastrophic Events - The main source of such an event at Astra is the outdoor liquid nitrogen and liquid oxygen storage tanks that Astra uses to support its engine testing. These storage tanks are leased/maintained by industrial gas supplier Air Products and inspected per American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) code, California Building Standards Code, and California Fire Code requirements. Liquid nitrogen and liquid oxygen are cryogenic liquids, which means they are kept in their liquid state at very low temperatures. Based on this, liquid nitrogen and liquid oxygen storage tanks are designed to store these chemicals at very low temperatures and to vent/release any pressure buildup to prevent overpressuring and consequential rupture/explosion. Any pressure buildup is released as water vapor as the liquid nitrogen and liquid oxygen react with ambient air to produce water vapor. Liquid nitrogen is a common cryogenic fluid used in many industries, including food/beverage, medical, academic, and other industries. While the liquid nitrogen and liquid oxygen storage tanks at Astra are our main source of catastrophic explosion, the standards and control mechanisms in place greatly limit such a catastrophic event.

Catastrophic Events - We do not use or store organophosphates, explosives, unstable chemicals, water reactive chemicals, combustible dusts/fibers, organic peroxides, and most other types of hazardous materials. We do use and store certain types and quantities of combustible liquids, flammable liquids, inert gasses, flammable gasses, and oxidizing gasses at reportable quantities regulated by our local CUPA, the Alameda County Department of Environmental Health. The storage and use of these hazardous materials follows strict company safety programs/policies and all applicable codes/regulations.

Evacuation - In the case of an emergency, we have a company Emergency Action Plan (EAP) that outlines company- and site-specific emergency response plans for all potential types of disasters in Alameda. Our EAP outlines emergency equipment locations, emergency evacuation procedures (for medical emergencies, fires, explosions, chemical spills/releases, and earthquakes), emergency evacuation routes/assembly points, emergency contacts, emergency chain-of-command, and emergency training requirements. We actively practice our EAP, Astra just completed a company-wide emergency evacuation drill in October.

Earthquake - In the event of an earthquake, we can anticipate the same issues as any other facility: Namely potential overhead hazards, broken glass and debris, downed exterior power lines, and other various hazards. The building renovations Astra has completed in the past is currently completing follow the California Building Standard Code and all applicable building permits from the City of Alameda Building Division. Any applicable seismic requirements have been met. The liquid nitrogen and liquid oxygen storage tanks are designed per California Building Standard Code, which includes seismic requirements, so the potential for liquid

nitrogen and liquid oxygen storage tank failure due to an earthquake is low, but Astra incorporated storage tank checks and contingencies into our EAP.

Alameda has been a wonderful home to Astra, helping us grow into one of the fastest growing space companies on the planet. Benefitting from Alameda's unique assets and location, we have created more than 270 jobs, most of which are not easily exportable, with plans to potentially double or more in size. Over one-fifth of our workforce calls Alameda home, and we project this fraction and number to grow quickly in the coming years.

However, we recognize that our intense focus on developing our technology coupled with the pandemic's limits on engagement may have created local misinformation and concerns – and we get that. To address this, we have not only begun partnering and engaging with a host of local suppliers, businesses, and non-profits, but we have been hosting tours and inviting members of the community into our factory. In fact, we will be hosting a large neighborhood event in mid-November to continue to address questions and provide transparency about our Alameda operations, and we encourage all of our neighbors to come out.

As always, we encourage you to reach out with any concerns. We welcome all partnership opportunities to make our operation as safe as possible as we continue to grow with our community.

Sincerely,

Matthew Ganser
VP of Business Operations
mganser@astra.com | M: +1 936.827.9521
he/him/his

From: [Geza Gergo](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Astra emissions and explosive hazards
Date: Tuesday, November 2, 2021 4:06:45 PM

Dear Clerk,

Have agencies been notified regarding Astra's intent to manufacture and test rocket ships at the scale they are planning?

Where is the data showing that they will comply with emissions and explosive hazards at this scale?

How can they test rocket engines when existing urban residential, public soccer fields, new multimillion dollar condominiums and restaurants are within a few hundred feet away?

Is the city aware that they burn kerosene and house a huge tank of it on the premises? Is it aware that even now it can be smelled in their air?

There are no businesses on the base that are or plan to mass produce and test environmental concerning, emission polluting products, like rocket ships. How does this address climate change when global leaders are attending COP26 in Glasgow?

I have also sent an email I sent to Mayor Ashcraft a few weeks ago voicing personal concerns, being a long-time business owner and tenant of almost 20 years at Alameda Point.

Sincerely,

Géza Gergő
Mosaic Metals
1800 Orion St, Alameda, CA 94501
www.mosaicmetals.com
415.638.7200

In California, it is easy to fall into the false comfort that "someone else will regulate that" or "that won't happen here" or "someone else will prevent this from becoming a problem." Disasters can and do happen, as the global pandemic has shown us.

Over the years, I have seen giant plumes emerge from the factory. These are huge clouds that go hundreds of feet into the sky during the day and at night.

I dread the very real prospect of an explosion or fire. That site is so toxic from former Navy activities that housing will not be allowed there -- will we have to evacuate if there is a fire? By definition, an island has limited exits and this will present a logistical nightmare. How will those substances affect our firefighters and EMS personnel if there is an accident?

Astra hopes to manufacture a rocket a day here by 2025 and, until their IPO this summer, billed themselves as "the biggest rocket company you've never heard of." Their promotional materials focus on how *other* rocket companies have to go test in the Mojave or rural Texas, but they can test right here in Alameda.

The forest is being missed for the trees here by city planners: there is a strong risk of what is termed a mass casualty incident.

On October 11th, the Alameda Planning Board voted 5-0 to allow large amounts of combustibles behind the Main Street soccer field. These include: a new 10,000 gallon kerosene rocket propellant storage tank and storage racks for 100,000 cubic feet of pressurized helium. Right behind a soccer field.

It's not the noise but the *risk* that's the problem.

The company's SEC disclosures clearly state : "***We routinely conduct hazardous operations ... which could result in damage to property or persons...***fires, floods and other natural disasters, power losses, telecommunications failures, terrorist attacks, human errors and similar events." Of note, the disclosures read: "***the disaster recovery and business continuity plans we have in place currently are limited and are unlikely to prove adequate in the event of a serious disaster or similar event.***"

This company is on a Superfund site on top of a liquefaction zone in a dated building where they are manufacturing and testing rockets in a residential neighborhood chock full of schools.

The following information is from the American College of Emergency Physicians regarding pediatric concerns in an MCI:

"Because children have a greater surface area relative to body mass and more permeable skin than adults, they receive proportionally higher doses of agents that either contact or seep into the skin.

They are among the most susceptible community members when catastrophes occur."

In 1988, there was an explosion at the PEPCON factory in Henderson, Nevada. This involved rocket propellant oxidizers. The Henderson Commission investigated this catastrophe and found that: "hazardous businesses must never be located too close to residential areas" and that "certain businesses pose more of an immediate danger to life and property than others....businesses that store large quantities of hazardous materials pose the greatest threat to public safety."

In the words of an Astra co-founder: "Our collective experience is that one should be very humble with rockets."

Worst-case scenarios must be anticipated and prevented. This is one of the essential roles of government.

What will your legacy be regarding this issue?

Thank you,

Lindsey Strandberg

<https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1814329/000095017021001401/astr-20210630.htm>

<https://fire.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/firenv.gov/content/Resources/Henderson%20Commission%20Final%20Report%20-%20PEPCON%2008101988.pdf>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PEPCON_disaster

<https://www.acep.org/globalassets/sites/acep/media/disaster-medicine/niche-groups/disaster-and-mass-casualty.pdf>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK482373/>

<https://www.bloomberg.com/features/2020-astra-rocket/>

<https://seekingalpha.com/filing/5688591>

From: [Yibin Shen](#)
To: [CityCouncil-List](#)
Cc: [Eric Levitt](#); [Gerry Beaudin](#); [Lisa Maxwell](#); [Lara Weisiger](#); [Elizabeth Mackenzie](#)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] 1800 Orion ST
Date: Tuesday, November 2, 2021 2:45:48 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear Mayor and Council,

My office received the following communication from Sustainable Technologies this afternoon which I am forwarding.

Many thanks

Y

Yibin Shen
City Attorney
City of Alameda
2263 Santa Clara Avenue, Room #280
Alameda, CA 94501
(510)747-4750

City of Alameda Mayor, City Council Members, All:

My name is Ernesto Montenero president of Sustainable technologies a 20 Year tenant at Alameda Point. Sustainable Technologies does Environmental clean up and solar energy systems. We have participated in the cleanup of Alameda Point with our Solar Remediation system technology and other remediation systems.

There are 3 issues that the City Council should consider before approving a long term lease agreement and terms of sale with Astra; Safety Risk of a Rocket and 10,000 gallon kerosene tank explosion in a residential area next to a soccer field and Schools. The harmful emissions of burning Kerosene without emission controls. And the increase in CO2 emissions that a rocket propulsion facility means to the City of Alameda. Is this the future that the city Council visions for Alameda? Do we want our children to breed polluted air that is potentially harmful? Do we want the risk of a large casualty event? Yesterday afternoon; We could smell the burning of Kerosene right outside our shop. We are being exposed to untreated emissions already. During the Climate conference Cop26 does the city Council wants to approve more Emissions of greenhouse gases in the City of Alameda for years to come? How many tons of CO2 per year? How many pounds of cancer causing emissions? Have these questions been asked? Has a risk assessment been done? Has an Environmental impact study been done on the emissions of rocket fuel?

While I would like if the City of Alameda would be talking to me about a long term lease with the terms to purchase; If Sustainable technologies would have to relocate, the silver lining would be that we will not have to worry about the potential risk of a catastrophic explosion of a rocket and a 10,000 gallon Kerosene tank next door or worry about breeding kerosene emissions.

Please consider these issues as part of your discussions.

Thanks You,

Ernesto Montenero

Ernesto Montenero

Sustainable Technologies

<https://sustech.cc/index.html>

510-523-1122



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From: [lalita](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Concerns about the ASTRA rocket company
Date: Tuesday, November 2, 2021 1:17:48 PM

Hello, can you please add the discussion of the Astra company to the meeting tonight? I'm not able to attend but there are concerned citizens who will.

Thank you!

Lalita Nayak

Dear Alameda City Councilmembers,

On behalf of my family, I wanted to write to let you know about our concern about Astra rocket company. As you know, it is in the business developing "to make rocket launches to low Earth orbit so frequent, routine and automated, that they're almost – dare we say it – boring. No need for the usual launch fanfare and great expense if we're shipping satellites to space every day. We provide a launch you can plan your business around" (per [their website](#) as of 10/27/21). This concerns me and my family, as well as many others I've been talking with due to the nature of air quality that we already struggle with, the concern about possible additional pollution and lack of awareness of what this could mean in an emergency. We are concerned about them planning to store high explosive materials in this area (liquid nitrogen, helium, high pressure nitrogen, liquid oxygen in huge tanks).

The numerous tests burning fuels and plan for rocket launches in the future from the bay urge me to write to you. The notes indicate that the main goal is to: *"Replace the jobs lost by the departure of the Navy and fostering new economic development opportunities on the former federal lands."* AMC Section 30-4.24.a.2. This makes sense economically but not at the expense of our health. The naval base is already dealing with issues of hazardous waste from decades ago, why include more potentially dangerous materials? It may bring some jobs and more development to Alameda but it seems potentially hazardous to our health and especially for those that are already compromised and may suffer from asthma or other difficulties. I'm not clear on the effects of the tests and if there has been any testing of the air around the building to determine if there is a hazard to all the rocket tests, but it seems that it should be investigated before they permanently reside here and make their tests and eventual rocket launches from the bay routine. Please consider further safety measures and making all precautionary measures more public. Having residents understand a contingency plan in case of a leak, or explosion, monitoring the air quality after tests, and further sound quality testing may be helpful to alleviate concerns.

Only owners and residents within 300 feet of the company were notified of the public hearing. I'm not sure limiting the amount to 300 feet is really realistic considering it would impact the whole vicinity of the west end if something happened. These plans and activities should be more public as it would potentially affect the whole west end. A rocket launching and testing site should not be in residential areas. It is too close.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lalita Nayak, Alameda Resident and taxpayer

--

we all smile in the same language :)

From: marymcmuldren@comcast.net
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter to City Council re Closed Session to be held today at 5 pm 11/2/2021
Date: Tuesday, November 2, 2021 10:21:32 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am the neighbor of Astra's already on record as having had concerns re noise and ground vibration.

Apparently in the last Planning Board meeting held only a few weeks ago Astra received votes to continue its lease.

How is it that no mention at all was made in that public meeting that Astra was going to be negotiating a real estate sale behind closed doors with the City of Alameda?

The public has concerns and **the Astra manufacturing has not even gone to scale**. I toured the factory in October 2019. Astra wants to build one rocket per hour at scale. How much traffic will that generate along Central going the length of the island? One rocket is a tall metal cylinder that travels on a long truck. One rocket per hour driving by truck toward its launch site in Alaska (by air). The raw materials will have also travelled along our roadways, which although designated as the major roads, are still quite residential—Central/Main passes mostly residences, Washington Park, Paden Elementary, Encinal High School. Will those trucks rumble through our rush hours, or late at night when most are sleeping and pedestrians and cyclists are hard to see?

How is it that no mention at all was made of the hazardous materials storage adjacent to the Main Street Soccer Field? The Planning Board discussed and approved Astra's lease. This detail was buried in an attachment.

I grew up in Texas where there has never been much concern about zoning and the result has been disasters such as the West, Texas chemical plant that blew up --- built in town near schools, homes, etc.

I never expected a California town to be complacent about this sort of risk.

It seems like our city government is trying to make the Astra rocket factory a permanent feature and it has not yet proven itself to be a safe, reasonable enterprise for the area. Until we know what it will be like at full scale how can we know that that noise and hazards are worth having here in our backyard?

Have council members already invested in Astra? Is money behind this obliviousness? Adjacent to this toxic Navy relic is a residential neighborhood of homes built in the early 20th to mid-century – over 55 years ago. These are homes where people live and breathe and deserve to live in safety. The city has allowed investment nearby in new, dense housing. The city shelters low income residents at the Esperanza Housing. There is a very popular soccer field at Main Street. Twice a day the parking lot there is full of parents and children of ACLS and Nea Charter Schools who park there and walk to their schools as their schools have no closer parking lots. Woodstock Co-op has a preschool on the 100 block of Pacific Avenue. The 100 block of streets such as Santa Clara Ave and Haight Ave have for decades housed families who stayed for decades. I have a 101 year old

neighbor who has lived in the home over 50 years. The homes whose owners passed in old age have been purchased by very accomplished higher income people who would never expect to live near this type of hazard after paying 1.2 million+ for a home built in the 30s or 40s.

Near the corner of Pacific and Central there are four houses in need of new owners—three for sale built in 1945 and one vacant from 1916—who is going to want to live near this hazard?
How will Alameda's residential charm continue to exist for the west end?

Why did Astra choose to be located here? When I toured I learned that it was because the jet engine testing buildings were a unique feature, expensive to replicate from scratch. I also believe that the executive is a serial tech entrepreneur with a life in San Francisco – where he can live his exclusive lifestyle while commuting conveniently to Alameda. The executives could have found a more remote location but then they would have had to move to a remote area and life would not be so trendy.

Re the employment opportunities that Alameda needs: Yes, but at what cost? We do need investment of some sort to create employment opportunities. But this is NOT light industry as was in the plan for the area. Moreover, unless this employer's needs match the skill set of the existing residents what is the benefit? The executives are high net worth individuals and do not live here. The hired machinists and such are likely new to our area and renters who may choose to live anywhere affordable. So what does this bring to Alameda? Tax revenue? How? Certainly the roadway maintenance will be substantial once those large trucks escalate the frequency to and from the rocket factory.

Thanks for your hard work serving the city of Alameda.

From: [Villa, Carolyn](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] concerns about Astra Rocket factory
Date: Tuesday, November 2, 2021 9:53:52 AM
Attachments: [We sent you safe versions of your files.msg](#)

Mimecast Attachment Protection was unable to create safe copies of your attachments.

To Whom it may Concern;

I live in a neighborhood close to the Astra Rocket factory & walk over there regularly with my husband & small dog. My husband & I are & very concerned about the hazardous & combustible materials that are located so near residential homes & areas where children play soccer. There seems to be very little concern with the neighborhood near the former base. Years ago our High School, Encinal, stored materials in a building over on base & we had to quickly move it one weekend when it was discovered to have held toxic materials.

I strongly urge that you reconsider selling property rights to Astra for the safety of our community.

Thank you,

A Concerned neighbor

Carolyn Villa

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From: [Nancy McPeak](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Cc: [Lisa Maxwell](#); [Nanette Mocanu](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Vote NO on Astra
Date: Tuesday, November 2, 2021 8:36:36 AM

Good Morning:

Please see the public comment below, I believe it is for the City Council Closed Session tonight.

Thanks, Nancy

From: Sean H. [mailto:sheylige@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, November 2, 2021 8:16 AM

To: Nancy McPeak <nmcpeak@alamedaca.gov>; Xiomara Cisneros <xcisneros@alamedaca.gov>; Teresa Ruiz <truiz@alamedaca.gov>; Alan Teague <ateague@alamedaca.gov>; Asheshh Saheba <asaheba@alamedaca.gov>; Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft <MEzzyAshcraft@alamedaca.gov>; CityCouncil-List <CITYCOUNCIL-List@alamedaca.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Vote NO on Astra

Please add the following comment to the record for this evening's planning board meeting.

Dear Alameda Planning Board,

As a resident on the West End of Alameda, I have serious concerns about the City of Alameda selling land to Astra Rocket Company and having a permanent rocket testing facility on the island. This facility is literally within a stone's throw of schools and athletic facilities used by Alameda's children daily.

A rocket testing facility and hazardous materials storage are incompatible with residential areas and pose a significant danger to ourselves and our children. I urge you to vote NO against selling Astra land at Alameda Point. Alameda has barely finished remediating an environmental disaster on the Point from the last century, please do not create another disaster that will continually burden the island with ongoing health and safety issues long into the future. This is a pivotal moment for Alameda and I encourage you to vote NO to Astra. Alameda can do better than this.

Sincerely,
Sean Heyliger

From: [Catherine Bui Powell](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public safety and the rocket manufacturing plant Alameda
Date: Monday, November 1, 2021 6:40:39 PM

To whom it may concern:

Would you be able to add this to the agenda for tomorrow's meeting? This is a very important situation for us and our community and I think it requires discussion.

There is a substantial public safety risk in a rocket manufacturing and testing company down the street from Encinal High School at Alameda Point.

The company is called Astra and just had an IPO this summer. They have been at the Point since about 2017 inhabiting part of the old naval base where the navy tested jet engines 30+ years ago. To my understanding, there is groundwater contamination at that particular site that is so toxic that housing will never be allowed there. The area is a liquefaction zone, so earthquakes would be a problem.

On October 11th, the Alameda Planning Board approved in a 5-0 vote that tens of thousands of gallons of kerosene, 100,000 cubic feet of pressurized helium and other combustibles be placed behind the Main Street Soccer Field. Please scroll to the bottom of the use permit attachment for a diagram.

It's interesting there was only one criticism at the meeting from the community and that was regarding noise and not safety. The concern here is public safety - fire, explosion, an earthquake.

It's not the noise, it's the risk that's the problem. It seems no one is really thinking of why a rocket factory may not belong in a residential neighborhood, no matter how great their PR is or how cool their factory tour.

Attached is a photo of high school students freely walking around the factory on their lunch break last Monday. There is a preschool just down the street. No one really knows about this factory, yet everyone is at risk from it.

Finding a tenant for that site is an unenviable task -- it's clear a lot of thought and hard work is put into it by the city folks who are involved. **However, the forest is being missed for the trees here: there is a strong risk of what is termed a mass casualty incident.**

A rocket manufacturing and testing facility is incompatible with a

residential neighborhood. In California, it is easy to fall into the false comfort that "someone else will regulate that" or "that won't happen here" due to the patchwork of regulatory agencies. I stopped believing that in March of last year with the global pandemic.

The company's SEC disclosures clearly state : "***We routinely conduct hazardous operations in manufacturing, test, and launch of our vehicles and vehicle subsystems, which could result in damage to property or persons....***Our operations are subject to many hazards and operational risks inherent to our business, including general business risks, product liability and damage to third parties....fires, floods and other natural disasters, power losses, telecommunications failures, terrorist attacks, human errors and similar events. Additionally, our manufacturing operations are hazardous at times and may expose us to safety risks, including environmental risks and health and safety hazards to our employees or third parties." Of note, the disclosures read: "**the disaster recovery and business continuity plans we have in place currently are limited and are unlikely to prove adequate in the event of a serious disaster or similar event.**"

Worst-case scenarios must be anticipated and obviated. This is one of the essential roles of government.

In 1988, there was an explosion at the PEPCON factory in Henderson, Nevada. This explosion involved rocket propellant oxidizers. The Henderson Commission noted that: "hazardous businesses must never be located too close to residential areas," that "certain businesses pose more of an immediate danger to life and property than others," and that "businesses that store large quantities of hazardous materials pose the greatest threat to public safety."

I respectfully request that my anonymity be maintained in any discussions. I am an ordinary working parent of small children. This company is publicly traded and backed by billionaires.

Is there a time when we could have a brief conversation regarding this?

Thank you for your time and hard work,

Sent from my iPhone

To Whom It May Concern:

November 1, 2021

My name is Yaneris Leo and I am a resident of Alameda County. I am also a practicing emergency department registered nurse in the Bay Area. I am writing to you today to express my concern regarding the expansion of Astra Rocket Factory. I recently passed the current company's building site with plans for expansion. I noticed a daycare, soccer field, and high school located within one to two blocks of this location.

I am a healthcare professional, and a part of the team that responds to disasters. I am concerned about the prospect of a mass casualty incident occurring due to the hazardous and combustible materials that would be located in close proximity to where our children play and learn. Liquid oxygen and fuel pumps are highly combustible and pose a threat to the community if there were to be damage to these tanks. An accident, or even an earthquake, that disrupts these materials could cause a reaction that could be devastating to our neighbors and people of this community.

Please consider rejection of this proposal for selling the property rights to Astra. It is for the safety and future of our community.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Yaneris Leo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Yaneris Leo

From: [karman.chen](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda 11/2
Date: Monday, November 1, 2021 3:01:38 PM

Hi there,

I just recently heard that there is a rocket testing site in my neighbor. There are some concerns about this business. Could you help add this to the agenda to your 11/2 meeting?

What could be the health issue when it's operating in my neighbor?

Is there any safety plan for the company to protect our residents?

Best regards

Karman Chen
Pacific Ave resident

From: [Rebecca Miller](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fw: Fwd: Astra Rocket & Public Safety Concerns
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 5:56:58 PM

Hello, please see below.

Thank you,
Rebecca Miller

Begin forwarded message:

From: Rebecca Miller <rebecca_miller_dancer2006@yahoo.com>
Date: October 27, 2021 at 2:41:03 PM PDT
To: CITYCOUNCIL-List@alamedaca.gov
Subject: Astra Rocket & Public Safety Concerns

Hello City of Alameda,

What are the safety measures currently being taken in consideration of permitting the sale of land for rocket testing?

Are there combustible materials stored on site?

How can the public be made aware of any dangers affiliated with this type of business in residential areas?

Please add to the 11/2/2021 agenda a discussion on safety and public awareness of combustible materials use near residential homes and schools.

Thank you,
Rebecca Miller
Pacific Ave, Alameda (West End)

Sent from my iPhone

November 1, 2021

This is an open letter to the local community regarding the extremely concerning prospect of the expansion of the Astra rocket factory in Alameda. I am a resident of Alameda County. I am also an emergency and trauma nurse. I have serious safety concerns about allowing a rocket company to further expand in this beautiful city where we live, where our children go to school, and where we walk our dogs.

A good safety record does not ensure a future free from errors, accidents, and explosions. There will always be a risk, and I, for one, do not want to allow the safety of this community to be placed in jeopardy. Astra's goal is speed - they are racing to win defense contracts and market share, and this race is taking place right in our backyard. What safety measures will be sacrificed in order to win?

As residents of Alameda County it is our duty to do whatever we can to stop this expansion and prevent our community from becoming a disaster site. Mass casualty incidents are something I see too often at work. We can prepare, but we cannot ever be ready for something on the level of a rocket explosion. I do not want to have to field triage every friend, neighbor, and loved one in our beloved community. There is no good outcome in that situation. This type of tragedy is something we can prevent if we stand together and make ourselves heard.

Sincerely,

Concerned Citizen