



Signal Hill oil well blowout, 1920s.
Courtesy City of Signal Hill

Black Gold in Paradise

The Influence of
Oil and Energy
Extraction
on LA's Urban Form

LOS ANGELES REGION
PLANNING HISTORY GROUP
COLLOQUIUM XI

Supported by
The Huntington Library and the
University of Southern California

CHECK US OUT AT
[HTTP: WWW.LARPHG.ORG](http://www.larphg.org)

Saturday, April 11, 2015 ♦ Signal Hill Community Center 1780 E. Hill Street, Signal Hill
Continental Breakfast and Reception 9:30 ♦ Colloquium and Luncheon 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Black Gold in Paradise

The Influence of Oil and Energy Extraction on LA's Urban Form

By 1930, California produced one quarter of the world's oil. Black gold paid for paradise.

How did oil create, transform, and co-exist in Southern California?

With what benefits, and at what cost did that transformation occur?

Can Los Angeles become a petroleum powerhouse again? Should it?

There was Los Angeles before oil, and Los Angeles after oil. Some benefited, many did not.

Oil boomed in 1890s Los Angeles and by the 1920s, oil was shaping the region. By 1930, California produced one quarter of the world's oil – it was the Saudi Arabia of America. In many ways, Black Gold paid for Paradise.

Welcome at first, oil was soon seen as a neighborhood threat. Federal controls offered fewer restrictions than the ordinances adopted in several local cities. Signal Hill offers a fascinating case study of the influence of oil on a local community's identity, growth and development. Today, the city remains a working oil field coexisting within a residential community.

The political decisions of the past—local, state, and federal—offer examples of the decisions we will continue to face.

How have the region's communities been shaped by oil, and how have those places remade themselves as time has passed? How can planning lessons from the past be applied to current issues such as the potential impact of fracking on local communities?

Please Join the Los Angeles Region Planning History Group for an informative and lively discussion on the issues we faced then and now.

Speakers

Sarah S. Elkind, Professor of History, San Diego State University. Dr. Elkind focuses on environmental, California, and public history. She is the author of *How Local Politics Shape Federal Policy: Business, Power, and the Environment in Twentieth Century Los Angeles*, published in 2011.

Kenneth C. Farfsing, City Manager, City of Signal Hill. Mr. Farfsing has more than 30 years' experience in planning, redevelopment and city management in a host of Southern California communities. He is a member of the LARPHG Board.

Nancy Quam-Wickham, Professor of History, California State University, Long Beach. Dr. Quam-Wickham's research includes topics in environmental history and methods for teaching history. She is the author of "Cities Sacrificed on the Alter of Oil: Popular Opposition to Oil Development in 1920s Los Angeles" and "Another World: The Metropolis and Working Class Culture in Los Angeles Blue Collar Suburbs, 1920-1935."

To Register

Colloquium fee is \$50; students with valid student ID, \$35 (your fee includes both continental breakfast and lunch). Please confirm attendance with Alice Lepis, LARPHG Secretary at alepis@prodigy.net, or at 818.769.4179, on or before 5 pm Friday, April 3.

Pay by Pay Pal, accessible through our website at www.larphg.org; or by check payable to: "Los Angeles Region Planning History Group" with completed registration form sent to: LARPHG, c/o Alice Lepis, Secretary, 11227 Acama St., North Hollywood, CA 91602. Please include a copy of your student ID if you are registering as a student.

Black Gold in Paradise

Collquium XI ♦ Los Angeles Region Planning History Group ♦ Saturday, April 11, 2015

Signal Hill Community Center, Signal Hill

REGISTRATION FORM

RESERVATIONS

- Event is \$50; for students with valid student IDs, \$35
- Fee includes Continental Breakfast, Lunch
- Seating is limited to 80 attendees; registration opens May 21, 2013
- Please confirm your attendance to Alice Lepis, Secretary (alepis@prodigy.net) or at 818.769.4179 on or before APRIL 3, 2015

You may pay either of two ways:

1. *Pay Pal* which is accessible through the LARPHG website: larphg.org; (or)
2. *Check* payable to: "Los Angeles Region Planning History Group" with completed registration form sent to:

Los Angeles Region Planning History Group
C/o Alice Lepis, Secretary
11227 Acama Street
North Hollywood, CA 91602

Please include a copy of your student ID if you are registering as a student.

First Name	Last Name	Organization, if applicable	Mailing Address	Student? (Y/N)