Contentious politics in liquefied natural gas facility siting in California

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Motivating Problem

- LNG recently attractive investment in U.S.
- Proposals facing community opposition
- 8 proposals in California (2 withdrawn; 2 denied approvals)
- Demand likely supports 1-2 projects
Research Questions

What factors and processes shape variation in community mobilization around proposals for LNG offload terminals in California?

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Points of Departure

- Comparative case approach
  - More generalizable results than single case
  - In-depth understanding of context and process of every case

- Moves beyond understanding attitudes to behavior

- Incorporates supporters’ and companies’ perspectives
Research Approach and Method

- Comparative case study
- In-depth interviews
- Observation
- Content analysis
- Secondary analysis
Status and Findings to Date

- Vallejo case complete
  - Importance of internet
  - Trust, secrecy, credibility
  - Tension between rationality and emotion

- Expected completion June 2009

Breakdown of opponents’ comments about potential risks in letters-to-the-editor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Period 1</th>
<th>Period 2</th>
<th>Period 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Safety concerns</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terrorist target</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aesthetics and property values</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Impacts</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Impacts</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood quality</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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