

DOCKETED

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April 8, 2016

The Honorable Robert B. Weisenmiller
California Department of Energy
Dockets Office, MS-4
Re: Docket No. 16-IEPR-02
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

RE: ALISO CANYON ACTION PLAN FOR LOCAL ENERGY RELIABILITY-SUMMER 2016

Dear Chair Weisenmiller,

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Joint Agency Aliso Canyon Action Plan for Local Energy Reliability. I want to thank the respective agencies for their contribution to drafting the plan.

As the Councilmember for the affected communities of Porter Ranch, Granada Hills, Chatsworth and Northridge, I feel compelled to convey the serious and ongoing impacts that the Aliso Canyon Gas Leak has had on the residents and businesses of this community. To date, this ongoing tragedy has caused the relocations of many thousands of families, the closure of two schools and devastating consequences for many local businesses.

SoCal Gas' negligence in maintaining their critical infrastructure has left everyone with two unacceptable options: Either they inject gas into their facility that has not yet been independently inspected or declared safe, posing an immediate risk to thousands of local residents, or we endure scheduled rolling blackouts in a region known for its extreme temperatures during the summer months potentially risking the lives of our most vulnerable. Perversely, this announcement comes on the heels of SoCal Gas' parent company, Sempra Energy, paying out millions in bonuses to their top executives - this is appalling.

Shockingly, it appears that SoCal Gas is no closer to completing the mandatory inspections of the other 114 wells than they were when this crisis started. This is particularly unnerving as we face the information set forth in this report.

As the only large gas storage facility inside the L.A. Basin, the Aliso Canyon facility serves 11 million citizens directly and profoundly affects the energy reliability of another 11 million Southern Californians. Per this Reliability Report and conversations with our own LA Department of Water and Power, the implications of this reliability crisis are far reaching.

The imminent risks to our region are planned and unplanned outages throughout the gas and energy delivery system and depletion of the remaining 15 BCF of gas left in reserve in the Aliso Field. In basic

terms, we are looking at least 14 summer days requiring electric service interruption, potentially to millions of customers.

And given the fact that the LADWP is one of the eight balancing authorities in California, with the CA ISO being the largest, we have an interdependence that is undeniable. If this causes curtailment in the Los Angeles region or something unexpected happens with the other entities within the network, it could have unimaginable implications for all of us.

I call upon all of you to:

- Hold SoCal Gas accountable for the prudent use of their remaining gas in their field
- Efficiently and quickly complete the inspections at Aliso Canyon
- Crystallize communication between all the involved entities for the maximum amount of predictability and reliability
- Collectively develop an outreach and communications plan to inform customers and agencies alike of strategies for reducing energy usage over the peak summer months and into the winter
- Expand energy efficiency programs and incentives for all customers – prioritizing the largest reductions in addition to the greatest need

Lastly, I feel compelled to point out that the communities in proximity to the Aliso Canyon Gas Leak have suffered enough at the negligent hands of this utility. I urge your steadfast commitment to the inspection and safety of all remaining gas wells. It would be a gross miscarriage of justice to authorize the unsafe use of the Aliso Canyon field simply because we are not as a region sufficiently weaned of our dependence on natural gas. Your report is nothing if not a cautionary tale of the consequences of this dependence.

Again, I'd like to thank the involved agencies and your staff for the opportunity to comment. If it would be helpful to further discuss anything in this letter, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



MITCHELL ENGLANDER
Council President Pro-Tempore
Councilmember, Twelfth District