

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	16-IEPR-02
Project Title:	Natural Gas
TN #:	211179
Document Title:	Natural Gas Reliability
Description:	The safe, continued operation of the Aliso Canyon facility is absolutely necessary to providing a reliable supply of energy for our homes and businesses and the city's continued economic prosperity. I urge all of you to understand that Aliso Canyon is vital to providing reliable, reasonably-priced natural gas service to Southern California to heat their homes, cook their food and power their businesses, 24/7 " and to do what you can to make sure the facility is returned to service as safely and expeditiously as possible.
Filer:	Theresa Harvey
Organization:	North Orange County Chamber of Commerce
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	4/22/2016 9:32:51 AM
Docketed Date:	4/22/2016

April 21, 2016

California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4
Re: Docket No. 16-IEPR-02
1516 Ninth Street Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

The North Orange County region, just south of Los Angeles, has experienced steady growth over the past few years and has significantly outpaced the nation in job growth. Manufacturing is on the increase and our economy is growing. As the region and population continue to grow, energy demand will also rise. This growth in demand is reflected in all of the long-range energy plans of the state and energy companies represented here today.

The North Orange County Chamber of Commerce together with the North Orange County Legislative, represent nearly 2,000 businesses and hundreds of thousands of employees in our region including the communities of Brea, Buena Park, Fullerton, La Habra, La Palma, Placentia, Stanton and Yorba Linda. We are the voice of business for our region. Reliable and affordable energy is a core economic input for Orange County businesses.

Today, natural gas accounts for more than half of all the energy used to power homes and businesses in Southern California. And, since the state put in place new requirements for renewable energy, natural gas has accounted for more than half of new power capacity. The increase in natural gas use has allowed us to expand the use of renewable energy sources, keep energy costs affordable for businesses and consumers, and has protected us against energy shortages like those seen during the electricity crisis in the early 2000s that cost the state's economy more than \$45-billion.

These factors combined with the fact that CA still imports as much as 90-to-95% of its natural gas via interstate pipelines make regional natural gas storage facilities like Aliso Canyon more important than ever. Underground facilities, like Aliso, allow SoCalGas to store critical reserves to make up for the mismatch between the supply and demand. More importantly, these facilities also allow SoCalGas large natural gas consumers to procure and store natural gas when it is most affordable and pass on those savings to us.

Our region is increasingly exploring new and innovative means to establish energy independence and efficiencies. As Southern California increases its use of renewable energy, the need for a reliable supply of natural gas and local storage will be more important than ever. When the wind doesn't blow, or the sun doesn't shine, natural gas from Aliso Canyon helps keep the lights on in Southern California by filling in the gaps.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee

Emily France, Chair
Southern California Gas Company

Marty Burbank, First Vice Chair
OC Elder Law

Tina Maraj, Second Vice Chair
RE/MAX North Orange County Real Estate

Michael Williams, Vice Chair, Finance
Williams Insurance Company

Christopher Reese, Past Chair
California State University, Fullerton

Board Members

Jeannette Bartus
Pacific Community Credit Union

Alex Burrola
FSB Core Strategies

Joyce Capelle
Crittenton Services for Children & Families

Sueling Chen
Arborland Montessori

DruAnn Copping
St. Jude Medical Center

Rosalina Davis
Tlaquepaque Restaurant

Christopher DeCaro
Kneadle

Alan Dolch
Trusted Benefits Advisors Association

Helen Eligio
Farmers and Merchants Bank

Jennifer Fraga
Banc of California

Audrey Gregory
Placentia-Linda Hospital

Stan Kwak
Voit Real Estate Services

Albert Napoli
Metropolitan Water District

Jim Pugliese
Chevron Corporation

Bert Reitz
Century 21 Discovery

Rhonda Shader
State Farm Insurance



NORTH
ORANGE COUNTY
CHAMBER

Businesses large and small rely on energy – and more specifically natural gas – to operate and to remain competitive. Companies such as Kimberly Clark, which makes toilet and facial tissue in Fullerton, to Alcoa Fastening Systems who manufactures aerospace components and fasteners, to Orco Block which produces structural concrete masonry material and more rely upon natural gas to produce their products. When these companies have to shut down because there is not enough natural gas to keep them running, it translates into millions if not billions of dollars in lost economic productivity.

Beyond large manufacturers, a disruption in service will create great hardship for small businesses and the entrepreneurs who operate restaurants, hotels as well as their employees.

In addition CSU Fullerton, the one of the state's largest universities, relies on natural gas to operate its tri-generation plant which has saved tax-payers significant sums of money and offers flexibility and reduces dependence on traditional energy providers.

While highlighting large commercial energy users, I don't want to minimize the impact service disruptions have on residential customers, but I just want to point out the significant consequences even one day of service disruptions can have on businesses and workers.

As demonstrated by the CEC's Action Plan, Aliso Canyon has a direct and important impact on electric grid reliability. Most of the electricity consumed by Southern Californians is still produced by power plants fueled by natural gas. Aliso Canyon is a direct source of supply for a number of those large, natural gas-fired power plants. The loss of natural gas to those stations could ultimately lead to supply shortages and possibly electricity blackouts.

Without these facilities, residential and commercial customers alike would be subjected to sudden spikes in heating and electricity costs. They could face shortages that could affect gas supplies during cold spells, electricity service during heat waves, and during other times when there is stress on energy systems.

Regulators and lawmakers were right to enact new rules to prevent a leak like this from happening again. However, it is important that we don't overact and put in place harsh regulatory barriers that unnecessarily jeopardize our energy systems and economy. As SoCalGas, DOGGR, and the PUC continue their work to investigate and address any issues so that the Aliso Canyon storage field can be safely operated, we need to ensure that regulatory decisions are based on facts and engineering and not emotions and politics.



NORTH
ORANGE COUNTY
CHAMBER

The safe, continued operation of the Aliso Canyon facility is absolutely necessary to providing a reliable supply of energy for our homes and businesses and the city's continued economic prosperity. I urge all of you to understand that Aliso Canyon is vital to providing reliable, reasonably-priced natural gas service to Southern Californian to heat their homes, cook their food and power their businesses, 24/7 – and to do what you can to make sure the facility is returned to service as safely and expeditiously as possible.

Sincerely,

Theresa Harvey
President & CEO
North Orange County Chamber