

DOCKETED

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Support for expeditious reopening of Aliso Canyon

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



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economic vitality of the San Gabriel Valley

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April 22, 2015

Robert B. Weisenmiller
Chair, California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Comments on Aliso Canyon, Docket # 16-IEPR-02, Project Title: Natural Gas

Dear Dr. Weisenmiller and members of the Commission,

On behalf of the San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership, I wish to submit comments in support of re-opening Aliso Canyon in a safe and expeditious manner. The Partnership is a regional business organization in eastern Los Angeles County dedicated to expanding the economy and improving the quality of life of the San Gabriel Valley.

Natural gas is the backbone of electricity generation for southern California, home to 27 million people. At the heart of that natural gas system is the Aliso Canyon storage facility which is essential to storing gas for use throughout the region. While we perfectly understand the necessity and wisdom of inspecting the injection wells and other key infrastructure at Aliso Canyon, keeping the facility closed may pose grave consequences for ordinary citizens, government agencies and major businesses.

California regulatory agencies such as the Independent System Operator have already sounded warnings that if no gas can be withdrawn or stored at Aliso Canyon this summer, that may lead to two weeks of black outs. Not only would this pose a threat to homebound residents who rely on their air conditioning to keep them cool over the summer, but an electricity outage would jeopardize the production schedules for hundreds of thousands of businesses throughout southern California. Without power, assembly lines shut down, computer data can be lost, businesses must close and thousands of employees can be furloughed.

Although we fully support the ongoing safety efforts at Aliso Canyon to insure that another leak does not occur, we believe that the facility has a longstanding record of reliability and that an expeditious return to its full operating capacity should be a top priority for California regulatory agencies to avoid the dire consequences of summer blackouts.

Sincerely,

Brad Jensen, Director of Public Policy