

DOCKETED

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Comment Received From: Veronica Padilla

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Restoring Operations at Aliso Canyon

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



August 24, 2016

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

Dear Commissioners,

Our organization, Pacoima Beautiful an environmental justice 501c3 in the City of Los Angeles has been working to address a number of negative cumulative impacts in the Northeast San Fernando Valley since 1996. Pacoima and its neighboring community of Sun Valley are in the top 10 percent of environmentally disadvantaged communities in the State¹.

For this reason we ask that you consider the immediate impacts that the continued closure of Aliso Canyon will have on our highly impacted community. According to the South Coast Air Quality Management District "The South Coast Air Quality Management District's independent Hearing Board has granted the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power a temporary, limited exemption from air pollution regulations this summer allowing the utility to burn diesel fuel in three of its four power plants to avoid rolling blackouts."² One of these power plants is the LADWP Valley Generating Station located in Sun Valley which is located adjacent to residences, medical centers, schools and workplaces. This area is also designated as a Green Zone under the recently adopted Clean Up Green Up ordinance in the City of Los Angeles.

We find this action on behalf of the South Coast Air Quality Management District to be in complete disregard of the health of our community members that have long suffered from negative health outcomes related to poor air quality and negative land use. Low-income communities of color have long carried the burden of being surrounded by heavy industry, power plants, landfills and freeways and now once more we will have to carry the burden for others to benefit. When will our communities begin to reap the benefits that environmental regulation should bring?

¹ <http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/ejac/calenviroscreen-2013.pdf>

² <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/library/public-information/2016-news-archives/ladwp-variance>



We believe that our utilities should all be working towards advancing the cleanest forms of energy achievable; however there is urgency to take action on this now, in order to ensure that the lives of our affected community members are not additionally impacted. Lung damage from inhaling diesel fumes is irreversible.³ As air quality in the Los Angeles region worsens⁴, supplying our communities with resources from Aliso Canyon as opposed to burning dirtier forms of fossil fuels will ensure that the most adversely impacted communities do not continue to accumulate impacts and health risks associated with unnecessary compromises, made on behalf of public agencies.

We strongly urge that the CEC prevent the burning of diesel for energy generating purposes. We trust that DOGGR has done their due diligence to properly inspect and permit that gas will only flow through the inner tubing of the wells when operations at Aliso Canyon resume. This added tubing is thus creating an additional protection. We have full confidence in the ability of So Cal Gas to deliver resources in a safe, reliable and non-hazardous manner moving forward.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should there be any questions.

Thank you for your time,

Veronica Padilla
Executive Director

³ <http://articles.latimes.com/1999/may/30/news/mn-42608>

⁴ <http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-summer-smog-20160805-snap-story.html>