

DOCKETED

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Additional submitted attachment is included below.



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August 23, 2016

Dr. Robert Weisenmiller
Chair, California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, MS-33
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Comments on Docket Number 16-IEPR-02 - Natural Gas

Dear Chair Weisenmiller,

I am writing to express my concern about the implications to our economy if Aliso Canyon gas wells remain offline, resulting in electricity interruptions.

Natural gas has become a vital part of California's electricity infrastructure. California has implemented stricter air quality rules, eliminating the burning of alternative fuels as an option for customers and thereby increasing the reliance on natural gas and renewables for electric generation. This trend has spread across the United States, as other states are also implementing stricter rules on air emissions, thereby increasing the demand for natural gas.

Southern California Gas Company has a long history of working with the electric utilities and grid operators to manage the interdependency between natural gas and electric generation. However, that important relationship depends on a constant and reliable supply of natural gas to fuel electric generation.

Once deemed safe, Aliso Canyon gas wells must be allowed to go back online to ensure electricity generators have the fuel they need to prevent brownouts and to ensure a constant supply of reliable electricity. Affordable energy and a thriving economy are the best means to support middle class job creation. California's economic competitiveness declines as our energy, transportation, and fuel costs rise relative to our competitors.

Aliso Canyon must be brought back on line because it stores roughly 62% of all natural gas in the LA Basin, and any natural gas shortages would place a disproportionate burden on many middle and lower income families who could face increased energy costs. Many of these families represent underserved Latino, Asian Pacific American and African American communities of color and limited or non-English speaking residents, who could ill afford the potential increased energy costs resulting from natural gas shortages.

The potential for a severe economic impact to our community is real; therefore we must work to restore safely the Aliso Canyon natural gas storage facility as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Ronald W. Wong
President & CEO

