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Comment Received From: Heather Stratman

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ACC-OC Letter of Support for the Reopening of Aliso Canyon

September 8, 2016

California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, MS-29
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Dear Commissioners,

The Association of California Cities' Orange County (ACC-OC) represents the cities of Orange County, the County of Orange, a multitude of local government special districts, and many affiliate members from the technology, business, and non-profit sectors. Collectively, our members provide services to nearly 3.2 million Orange County residents. On behalf of The Association of California Cities' Orange County, I would like to express our support of SoCal Gas's efforts to provide energy reliability in the region by reopening the Aliso Canyon storage facility as soon as possible.

The necessity of Aliso Canyon returning to operational status promptly was made clear by the Aliso Canyon Gas and Electric Reliability Winter Technical Assessment report. In this report it was determined that Aliso Canyon was an essential part of meeting the energy needs of the Los Angeles and Orange County region. Additional independent reports, like the one from Los Alamos National Lab, reached similar conclusions. The ability of our thirty-four cities to provide services to their communities is entirely dependent on their access and use of dependable energy resources. It is what keeps our cities' schools open, their hospitals operating, and their businesses and homes running. Additionally, energy reliability is a critical cornerstone to even the most basic of municipal operations. Services like public safety, transportation, and water delivery require a certain degree of energy reliability and certainty. Independent authorities, and the Commission's own experts, recognize that the only way to maintain an appropriate level of energy reliability in the region is to ensure that the Aliso Canyon facility is operating before the winter months begin.

In addition to energy reliability, The ACC-OC is committed to ensuring that these resources are used with the highest degree of safety in mind. The ACC-OC strongly believes that SoCal Gas has taken the necessary measures to make Aliso Canyon more safe and dependable. Not only have 100% of the Aliso Canyon wells concluded their first phase of safety testing, but SoCal Gas has also undertaken many voluntary safety measures including: daily infrared video scanning, daily and weekly safety and equipment checks, and continuous pressure monitoring. The ACC-OC is confident in the work that SoCal Gas has done and believes strongly that public safety will remain their top priority as they bring the facility back online.

For this and the reasons listed above, The Association of California Cities' Orange County is proud to support SoCal Gas in its efforts to provide safe and reliable energy to the region, by reopening the Aliso Canyon facility

Please contact Kelsey Brewer from our office should you have any questions regarding our position or about ACC-OC. She can be reached at kbrewer@accoc.org

Sincerely,

Heather Stratman

Chief Executive Officer
Association of California Cities – Orange County