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Comment Received From: Hotel Association of Los Angeles
Submitted On: 9/9/2016
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Additional submitted attachment is included below.



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,

Travel and tourism is a growth industry in Southern California creating and employing tens of thousands of jobs earning good wages and benefits. The lodging sector plays an important role in providing these resources as it generates hundreds of millions in annual tax contributions to the local economies. I am writing to express my concerns about the very real risks we will face if the Aliso Canyon storage facility remains offline. Whether it's inadequate heating supply to operate our accommodations, restaurants and guests; or facing electrical interruptions at our region's hotels, motels and inns, it is imperative that Aliso Canyon be brought back online in a manner that is as safe as it is timely to ensure energy reliability in the region.

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. Our region's 11 million people and thousands of businesses also rely on Aliso Canyon for basic heating and cooling every day throughout the LA Basin. During the forthcoming peak in natural gas consumption during winter months, we could face increased risk of shortages.

Reliable, 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. Because Aliso Canyon stores 62% of all natural gas in the LA Basin, any natural gas shortages would place a disproportionate burden on many middle and lower income families who could face increased energy costs.

Rather than settling for a quick fix, or giving in to emotional pleas to shut Aliso Canyon down, now is the time to do the hard work required to get Aliso Canyon functioning. Please take this threat to our economy seriously and work to restore the Aliso Canyon natural gas storage facility as soon as possible.

Respectfully yours,

Bob Amano
Executive Director