

DOCKETED

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Comment Received From: Sarah Rascon

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CEC 2016 Integrated Energy Policy Report (IEPR) Joint Agency Workshop_comment_letter

September 9, 2016

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

Dear Energy Commission:

On behalf of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, I would like to submit the following comments per the joint Agency Workshop held by the California Energy Commission (CEC), California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), California Independent System Operator (California ISO), and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), regarding the Integrated Energy Policy Report for Local Energy Reliability for Winter of 2016/2017.

Natural gas is a core economic input for the Los Angeles economy- it is a commodity necessary to every-day operations- just like water and electricity. Many of our economy's core businesses and industries rely on gas to operate, often twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Some of these businesses that could face an impact this winter include hospitals, universities, refineries, manufacturers, transit operators, airports, hotels, theme parks and movie studios. Many of these facilities would be left without other options or the ability to switch to alternative sources.

Unlike electricity, many of these critical facilities cannot simply replace their natural gas use with another energy source. Nor can they quickly replace costly heating equipment critical to operations. In sum, we cannot afford to â€œcut it closeâ€ when it comes to such a critical commodity. The thin operating margins cited in the report exacerbate existing anxieties Los Angeles businesses already feel when it comes to existing energy supplies. Even a small disruption in service could have significant impacts on operations.

Although we are nearing the end of summer, natural gas will be critical to winter usage and reliability. Most recently, without Aliso Canyon open for operation in the middle of this past summer, we resorted to dirtier resources which we do not want to become the norm. While we have placed a greater emphasis on renewable energy, natural gas from Aliso Canyon is a major energy source.

The two messages I want to convey from the business community in addressing the need for energy reliability are safety and urgency. The agencies represented at the workshop, understand the need to work together to address our regional energy concerns. It is vital that we collaborate to safely expedite the restoration of all or parts of Aliso Canyon so that electrical and natural gas reliability is better protected.

The safe, continued operation of the Aliso Canyon facility is absolutely necessary to providing a reliable supply of energy for our region's economic prosperity. All who use gas operations- jobs and regional economic activity rely on Aliso Canyon, especially for winter reliability. We must all collectively pursue a path that is both safe and expeditious and work together to ensure winter energy reliability and avoid curtailments that will stall our economy and threaten our quality of life.

Sincerely,
Gary Toebben
President & CEO

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



LOS ANGELES AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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