

## DOCKETED

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*Comment Received From: Elena Semper*

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## **Natural Gas 16-IEPR-02 (It's only natural when kept in the ground)**

Dear Chairman Weisenmiller and Joint Energy Workshop Members,

Thank you for allowing public comments to be included within your August 26, 2016 Joint Agency Workshop on Aliso Canyon Action Plan for Local Energy Reliability in Winter 2016/17. I'm especially grateful for those directly affected to have conveyed pertinent information, as well as credible sources regarding effects on humans, animals, the environment and climate change.

While listening to significant matters of concern during the Workshop, they became necessary to address within my statement. Due to time running short after public comments from The Chamber of Commerce, etc., my speaking time was reduced, creating inability to properly convey what I intended. The impromptu revisions were insufficient, so thank you for allowing me to complete my submission.

I'm a longtime valley resident, about a dozen miles from Porter Ranch as the crow flies, and I was affected by the gas blowout and subsequently thereafter, such as shopping in Porter Ranch. I addressed the South Coast Air Quality Management District Board at their Northridge hearing on August 6, 2016, e.g., you can't go to any type of business, social activities at parks, etc., near SoCal Gas in Porter Ranch, during elevated methane releases without chancing becoming affected. SoCal Gas said under oath at that hearing, on average their facility leaks twice a day.

Earlier in the year, the Environmental Protection Agency reported that an overwhelming amount of gas and oil fugitive releases have gone unreported for decades. With methane being the main component of gas, and approximately 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide over a period of 20 years because of its heat trapping ability, this further exacerbates categorical harm.

Since our nation's largest methane release disaster here in the valley, South Coast Air Quality Management District announced through an article on their social media page, that childhood mental illness is linked to pollution. Carbon dioxide is pollution. I hope everyone is aware of that, but I had doubts after attending your Workshop listening to words appearing to favor profit over well-being.

Regarding comments relating to our energy needs, I heard luck or good luck attributed to avoiding blackouts, about a half dozen times. But what I wasn't hearing, and I should have, is reliability efforts wouldn't be necessary if lessons mentioned in 2011 were actually acted upon, to avoid this from happening again by working to take dirty energy subsidies -- and reallocate to clean, safe, renewable energy.

I heard the credit of avoiding blackouts is due to good planning, and I heard threats, such as residents' financial energy burdens. And knowing how extremely flammable methane is, I also heard about fires. I watched two fire trucks drive by in Porter Ranch on their way to SoCal Gas on June 9, 2016. There were two fires, within the same week. Since the last Joint Energy Workshop, we also watched Little Tujunga Canyon burn and take out transmission lines, and a DWP truck hit a SoCal Gas line in Woodland Hills, igniting another fire.

Regarding how businesses would be affected, if audience members whose statements alluded to prolonging dirty unsafe energy, don't understand that their advocacy compounds harming people, perhaps means to enlighten to make them understand is the saying, "try holding your breath while you count your money". The solar industry

is now creating more jobs than coal. And children's little lungs are priority, not personal monetary gain.

I heard that we can't go wrong with ingenuity and the good will of Californians " and we're spending money on marketing so the private sector can ensure energy reliability. If an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, that money should be going towards solutions, such as amplifying progress by replacing unsafe energy with clean, safe, renewable, sustainable energy, as well as research and development, and production of American made solar and wind facilities, to create better jobs, and get off the grid.

I engaged with hundreds of energy experts who convened during public events at last December's United Nations 21st Conference of the Parties in Paris, where I was fortunate to learn firsthand how 100% clean, safe, renewable, sustainable energy is achievable. To best comprehend and act on climate change and global warming, I also trained with The Climate Reality Project. And I watched the Ted presentation of a boy who at the age of 14 created energy for his family's home from household items that include his bicycle tire. He went on to power his community " and this was years ago. California is making great strides as a climate leader, but we can do better through our political will. Thank you for helping make that happen.

Sincerely,

Elena Semper