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Aliso Canyon Gas Storage Fields Must Close

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I am personally too ill, and must take my pets, and drive to a location where I am not violently nauseous from gas leaking above in Aliso Canyon, to write today at my home, about seven miles below the gas fields. This facility is a repurposed oil field, not lined, cannot be lined, composed of massive connected open caverns in fractured sandstone and shale mountains, subject to frequent earthquakes, very poorly maintained, subject to fires, and is surrounded by millions of nearby residents adjacent and below affected by the injected gas leaking constantly. It must be closed. I am sending the following that I wrote in February 2017.

February 2017

Aliso Canyon Gas Field leaks have affected the health of the entire West Valley, most of which is at a sharp drop of over 200 feet, below the 3000-foot-high mountains, as well as areas to the East, not just Porter Ranch. The "natural gas" is a mixed fluid mined from underground, purchased when available and cheap, piped in for profit, heavier than air because of chemicals naturally occurring, as well as added, to the underground methane, which differs from the lighter methane produced by cows, and decay, but impossible to contain in a small area, like Porter Ranch. That is why it has affected the health of people living in the direction the wind generally blows to the East, and areas to the South, below the mountains, where it pools up, displacing oxygenated air, as far as 6-10 miles away.

The more toxic and cancer causing compounds contained in the natural gas fuel are heavier than air, like toluene, benzene, mercaptan, chlorofluorocarbons, radioactive compounds like uranium, thorium, radon and radium, just to mention a few. Those heavier compounds, even methane, that are not airborne, and blown away, even when winds are blowing them directly into the communities East of Porter Ranch, like Mission Hills, and Sylmar, natural gas and its naturally occurring heavy toxic compounds just slide on down the hills, the path of least resistance, above ground, but mostly in the many natural waterways coming off the mountains housing the gas storage wells, like Brown's Canyon Wash, starting on the mountain housing leaking well ss-25, and Aliso Creek, on the East side of the leaking wells, both of which terminate at the Los Angeles River. Numerous other above, and underground man-made waterways that originate on the hills where the gas reservoirs exist, fill the air below when stopped by a rise in elevation on the South side of the San Fernando Valley, or block created by the cemented walls of the river culvert, lowest point below the mountains where the Aliso Storage field resides, displacing oxygen in the lowest nearby spots like Winnetka, Reseda, Canoga Park, Warner Center, and the lower areas of Woodland Hills, Chatsworth, and West Hills, until it continues slowly to the East, generally in the direction that the Los Angeles River flows, to the East, to the flood control basin by Balboa Lake, through Tarzana, Encino, Sherman Oaks, Van Nuys, North Hollywood, then again South, past Burbank into Los Angeles. When Winds are blowing, much of the leaking gas compounds are more dissipated at higher elevations, but many areas are wind-sheltered near the river below the gas storage fields, seldom receiving any breezes to break-up the toxic compounds. This area houses millions of people. Many people (all living things) living below the leaking wells, six miles like myself, and more, just beyond the area where SCG was forced to pay for relocation costs, are at over a 2000 foot drop in elevation from ss-25, directly below at the lowest point by the river, like myself, and have endured over a year of eye infections and ulcers, bleeding noses with nasal ulcerations forming, skin infections, respiratory difficulties, asthma, bronchitis, severe

headaches, nausea frequently with vomiting, stressed immune systems placing a burden on health of our livers, hearts, lungs, and kidneys.

This has worsened considerably pre-existing health conditions that many people have, often masking the effect that breathing reduced oxygen, poisoned air has on them. The death of many cancer patients has been hastened, particularly lung cancer patients, notably the matriarch of a local family, suing at her request when she could not breathe before her death, and the fragility of those with any cancer, as well as other illnesses, has increased, with their diseases worsening.

Many of us at these low elevations closest to the leaking gas ss-25 and others, were forced to evacuate, at great personal cost, before the well was finally sealed, after repeated emergency room visits, when unable to breathe, and since for hours at a time when many new leaks have occurred. Breathing reduced oxygen poisoned air for lengthy periods of time also affects balance, judgment, and energy. Many people were unaware that they were being affected by the gas leak, if they lived at any distance from the leak, due to a lack of knowledge regarding leaking chemical compounds, not a part of most people's education, even if they are high school or university graduates. One compound always present in natural gas, benzene, is considered unsafe for human health at any level.

Risking millions of Los Angeles citizen's health, plus the overall atmospheric pollution of the world with this greedy, inefficient enterprise is irresponsible. Sempra Energy and Southern California Gas are among the world's most profitable enterprises. They can afford to build safer, state-of-the-art storage facilities, out in low-lying, remote, unpopulated areas, that will have a far less likelihood of leaking this poison into communities that are so heavily populated. Ultimately this will probably benefit their business. Strong governmental regulations need to be enacted, policed, and enforced with enormous penalties, sufficient to ensure that lax future operations like that in Sempra Energy/Southern California Gas - Aliso Canyon's Gas Storage Fields, will not recur.

Many of us are now health sensitized, easily affected, forced to educate ourselves on this unknown danger in our backyards, and are now acutely aware of the negative health symptoms of natural gas poisoning. We have been adversely affected by continuing smaller leaks that have been ongoing for most of the year since, monitored daily by all of us, and we live in fear of these leaks likely recurring, even with this gas field closed and sealed, well into the future. There is no question that this gas field cannot be safely operated, cannot be operated safely with new gas injections, and may not even be safe once abandoned and sealed. The loss of home values seems minor in comparison to the loss of health, but it, and the ongoing disruption of our lives, continues to drive an ever-greater population of Angelinos to demand an end to profit from storage of volatile gas, injected at pressure into unlined abandoned oil wells in earthquake-ridden rock hills, that are easily cracked, and ruptured, allowing more poisons to leak, or blast under pressure, as they were during the disaster, into our air.