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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

November 18, 2019

Marybel Batjer
President
California Public Utilities Commission
300 Capitol Mall
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear President Batjer,

I am writing to request additional action by the California Public Utilities Commission to expedite planning for the permanent closure of the Aliso Canyon natural gas storage facility.

I appreciate the Commission's work underway to pave the way to minimize or eliminate the use of the Aliso Canyon facility, while still maintaining affordable and reliable energy services for the Los Angeles region. However, I am concerned that the Commission's current proceeding will not yield the fastest and most workable path toward closure of the facility. Further, it may be insufficient to shorten the ten-year timeline for closure outlined in 2017.

Additional actions are necessary to increase public health and safety protections and to combat climate change while maintaining affordable and reliable energy services for the Los Angeles region. To that end, I request that the Commission immediately engage an independent third-party expert to identify viable alternatives to the facility and scenarios that can inform a shorter path to closure. The expert evaluation should examine specific resources to replace demand for the facility. Like the Commission's current work, the evaluation should incorporate assumptions about declining natural gas demand pursuant to state climate change targets. It should also consider efforts to reduce the use of natural gas in homes, businesses and power plants.

I look forward to the results of the Commission's work on this matter and appreciate your contributions to our shared goals of reducing reliance on fossil fuels, maintaining safe, reliable affordable energy, and protecting public health and safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gavin Newsom", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gavin Newsom
Governor of California