

Oppose Increase In Natural Gas Storage At The Aliso Canyon Facility

The Aliso Canyon Blowout in 2015 was the largest natural gas release in American history. The blowout resulted in 97,000 metric tons of methane and 7,300 metric tons of ethane to be released into the atmosphere. The gas released carried with it an unknown amount of crude oil that was released in the community and the blowout and disaster are feared to have had significant and unknown health impacts on the surrounding community.

Los Angeles County has been at the forefront of holding Southern California Gas Company responsible for the impacts of this facility on the community. We have fought for enhanced safety regulations and oversight at all of their natural gas storage facilities. We successfully partnered with the California Attorney General and the Los Angeles City Attorney on a \$119 million settlement that includes funding to the Department of Public Health to study the health effects of the gas blowout in the North San Fernando Valley. We have preserved open space adjacent to the facility to help prevent further encroachment. We pushed for the comprehensive root cause analysis which found major faults with the Southern California Gas Company and the regulators who oversee the facility.

In 2017, former Governor Brown issued an order of his administration through the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and the California Energy Commission (CEC) to undertake a study to close the Aliso Canyon Facility within 10 years. On November 18, 2019, Governor Newsom sent a letter to the CPUC expressing concern that the work towards closure of the facility is not going as fast as it should and asked that it be expedited.

In January 2020, this Board passed a motion calling for the State to accelerate the permanent closure plan of the Aliso Canyon field. In that same motion, the Board expressed opposition to any proposals to increase storage capacity at Playa Del Rey Natural Gas Storage Facility and requested Governor Newsom to commission a study to look at the feasibility of closing that facility.

On May 26, 2021, a group of oil companies appealed to the CPUC to modify its earlier decision and raise the allowable gas inventory in Aliso Canyon from its current value.

MOTION

MITCHELL _____

KUEHL _____

HAHN _____

BARGER _____

SOLIS _____

This Board opposes any increase in natural gas storage at the Aliso Canyon facility. The health and environmental impacts from the 2015 blowout are still not fully understood. Additionally, the findings of the root cause analysis cast doubt on the site operator's ability to operate the facility safely. Finally, despite numerous reports and statements that the loss of Aliso Canyon as a natural gas storage facility would impact supplies to the region, no natural gas shortage has materialized, even during colder seasons.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS send a 5-signature letter to the members of the CPUC opposing any increase in natural gas storage at the Aliso Canyon facility.

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KB: jmb