



May 7, 2017

Senator Henry Stern
State Capitol, Room 5108
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for SB 57 - Requiring Full Investigation of Porter Ranch Gas Leak before Re-Opening

Dear Senator Stern,

In solidarity with the San Fernando Valley residents still suffering in the aftermath of largest methane gas leak in United States history, we support your Senate Bill 57 to stop the Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) from reopening the Aliso Canyon Storage Facility before the Brown Administration completes its investigation of the "root cause" of the October, 2015 blowout. SB 57 demands that the root cause investigation required by SB 380 (Pavley), legislation passed last year, must be completed before the Aliso Canyon facility can be reopened.

The gas blowout at well SS25 at the Aliso Canyon facility displaced more than 25,000 residents from their homes who were suffering from symptoms such as rashes, nosebleeds, headaches, vomiting, nausea, skin irritations, blood pressure spikes, heart palpitations, and respiratory problems. Despite the capping of SS25, thousands of residents continue to suffer ongoing health issues.

It is imperative that the public understands what caused the blowout before allowing Aliso Canyon to reopen. We also ask you to expand SB 57 to include requiring the completion of feasibility study on whether the facility can be permanently closed before any decision on reopening (as did SB 380).

On January 24, 2017, SoCalGas withdrew gas from Aliso Canyon as an emergency measure. We believe that SoCalGas may have manufactured a shortage in order to justify reopening of Aliso Canyon in advance of regulatory hearings scheduled for Feb. 1 and 2. We are calling on California Attorney General Xavier Becerra and Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer to investigate.

Since these recent withdrawals, residents near the facility reported the strong odor of mercaptans and there was an uptick in symptoms in the community. Until the cause of these health symptoms is identified and resolved with a long-term health study, the reopening of Aliso Canyon is unacceptable.



We also insist that SB 57 must include the requirements of a long-term health study to be completed in addition to the completion of the feasibility study and the seismic study before any decision on reopening Aliso Canyon can be made.

Porter Ranch and the surrounding communities will not be satisfied until Aliso Canyon is shut for good. Residents deserve to live without the fear of toxic emissions from the Aliso Canyon gas storage facility.

We thank you for your effort to delay the decision on reopening Aliso Canyon Storage Facility until the root-cause analysis and further studies are completed.

Sincerely,

John Erickson
President
Hollywood NOW