

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



October 19, 2017

Issam Najm, PH.D., P.E.
President, Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council
P.O. Box 7337
Porter Ranch, California 91327

Dear Dr. Najm:

In your letter to me of September 13, 2017, on behalf of the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council, you express concerns regarding the resumption of operations at the Aliso Canyon gas storage facility (Aliso) and the ability of Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) to operate Aliso safely. You ask for a quick decision from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to phase out use of Aliso.

As you are aware, the CPUC initiated Investigation (I.)17-02-002 as required by Senate Bill 380 to examine the feasibility of minimizing or eliminating use of the Aliso facility while still maintaining energy and electric reliability for the region. The CPUC is currently working to obtain contractors to conduct the economic and technical assessments required by Senate Bill 380.

Your letter also expresses concern over the upcoming October 31, 2017, expiration date for the Aliso withdrawal protocols. The CPUC has recently revised and replaced those protocols. The new draft protocol is now posted on the CPUC website at the following link: [Aliso Canyon Well Failure](#). This new draft protocol is planned to take effect on November 1, 2017, and the CPUC expects these updated protocols remain in effect until the end of I. 17-02-002 or until further Commission action.

Finally, your letter raises concerns over California Air Resources Board reports on methane emissions, and the 13 wells that were authorized for injection at Aliso but were reported by SoCal Gas to experience gradual pressure build up within the casing. We are coordinating with our partners at the Air Resources Board and the Department of Conservation and will continue to keep you updated as we obtain more information about the issues you raise.

I hope this information is helpful to you and the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Timothy J. Sullivan".

Timothy J. Sullivan
Executive Director
California Public Utilities Commission