



March 10, 2022

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Senator Henry Stern  
1021 O Street, Suite 7710  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Support for SB1486 - Clean Energy Jobs, Coordination, and Community Safety Through Aliso Canyon Closure Act of 2022**

Dear Senator Stern,

In solidarity with the Los Angeles residents still suffering in the aftermath of largest methane gas blowout in United States history, we support your Senate Bill 1486 to shut down the Aliso Canyon Storage Facility by 2027 and to reinstate the moratorium on the field's use as an asset of last resort, to be used only in case of an emergency. This legislation will protect our climate and nearby communities in the short term, while developing a plan for closure that maintains energy and electric reliability in the greater Los Angeles region that retains, protects or equitably transitions jobs and economic activity.

This legislation comes at an important moment to hold the California Public Utilities Commission accountable in implementing the facility's closure. In 2017, Governor Brown directed the California Energy Commission to plan for Aliso Canyon's closure within ten years. The governor then signed Senator Pavely's SB 380, tasking the CPUC with determining the feasibility of minimizing or closing Aliso Canyon. The CPUC leaned heavily into examining the facility's minimization and undercut studying the closure of Aliso Canyon by awarding the study's modeling contracts to SoCalGas. This delayed meaningful examination into closure despite Gov. Brown's proposed timeline for closure in 2027.

When Governor Newsom took office, he vowed to hasten the closure of Aliso Canyon faster than Brown's proposed ten years. Gov. Newsom clarified to the CPUC that the state's policy was to close Aliso Canyon and he provided additional funding to do an independent study for closure pathways. Meanwhile, the CPUC instead voted to increase the gas storage limits at the field and weakened regulations, allowing SoCalGas to ramp up gas withdrawals. More troubling, the CPUC is now pursuing a shutdown timeline of 2035, eight years after Brown's proposed timeline and a far cry from the expedited closure desired by Gov. Newsom.

Residents near the facility report strong odors and an uptick in symptoms in the community during ramped up withdrawals and activities at Aliso Canyon. The facility leaks up to three times daily according to SoCalGas testimony posing a threat

to our climate while continually threatening the health and safety of Los Angeles residents. Since SoCalGas resumed operations at the field after the gas blowout, numerous leaks and violations have occurred. Fires have swept through the field threatening nearby property and communities with hazardous explosions. Finally, the seismic risk study was completed and found that the worst case scenario of an earthquake at Aliso Canyon would cause a blowout eight times worse than the 2015-2016 event. Before leaving SoCalGas, the former Storage Engineering Manager warned company executives that an earthquake at this field would cause "catastrophic loss of life." Due to the major risks posed by the location of this facility to geologic hazards and nearby populations, Aliso Canyon needs to be fully decommissioned, not transitioned to a storage facility for biofuels or hydrogen.

State agencies have coordinated successfully in the past to operate with Aliso Canyon as an asset of last resort and can return to these protocols and expand them immediately to safeguard against extreme weather events. Furthermore, with planned investments in clean energy, energy efficiency, building electrification, weatherization and future efforts to end California's dependence on natural gas, we can easily close Aliso Canyon by 2027 if not sooner.

We thank you for your ongoing work to advocate for the closure of the Aliso Canyon gas storage facility and look forward to the day Los Angeles is safer because this facility is closed down.



Respectfully Yours,  
Gabriel Khanlian  
President  
Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council

CC: Mayor Eric Garcetti  
200 N. Spring Street, 13th Floor.  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

CC: Councilmember John Lee  
9207 Oakdale Ave,  
Chatsworth, CA 91311

CC: Supervisor Shiela Keuhl  
500 W. Temple St. #821.  
Los Angeles, CA 90012