

MOTION

The largest-known release of methane in U.S. history, which began on October 23, 2015, occurred at Southern California Gas Company's (SoCalGas) Aliso Canyon Underground Storage Facility. The blowout led to the temporary relocation of more than 8,000 families and resulted in several state and local investigations into the incident and the facility.

Following the blowout, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) launched an investigation into the blowout's root cause and a civil lawsuit was filed by local, regional, and state government entities, which included Los Angeles City. Several state investigations assessing the risks, safety and future of the facility were also initiated.

On February 25, 2019, The Consent Decree resulting from litigation brought by various government entities including Los Angeles City was settled. As part of the settlement agreement, SoCalGas was required to: reimburse local and state governments for costs incurred responding to the blowout; pay for a methane mitigation fund; continue paying for fence line monitoring; fund the hiring of independent Safety Ombudsman; and fund a long-term health study of the impacted communities.

On March 20, 2019, SoCalGas filed with the California Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) a report assessing the potential geologic, seismologic, and geomechanical hazards at the facility, including landslides, ground shaking, and fault displacement.

On May 17, 2019, a Root Cause Analysis report of the incident was released. According to the CPUC, the report concluded that the blowout resulted from a corroded pipe casing, a lack of failure investigations and inadequate regulations. Following the release of the report, the CPUC launched investigations into the blowout and whether their corporate culture and operations made safety a priority.

Given the impact of the blowout on City residents, it is important that City residents and the City Council receive a comprehensive report on the status of the facility, the settlement agreement, regulatory proceedings and reports, in order for the City of Los Angeles to determine what additional actions need to be taken, in conjunction with the future closure of Aliso Canyon, to protect residents from similar incidents in the future.

I THEREFORE MOVE, that the City's Petroleum and Natural Gas Safety Administrator work with all necessary departments and agencies to provide a detailed report back in 30 days on the status of the following items:

- DOGGR's Comprehensive Safety Review of Wells;
- Consent Decree Settlement Agreement – including methane mitigation fund, fence line monitoring, and long-term health study;
- DOGGR's Geologic, Seismologic, and Geomechanical Hazards Report;

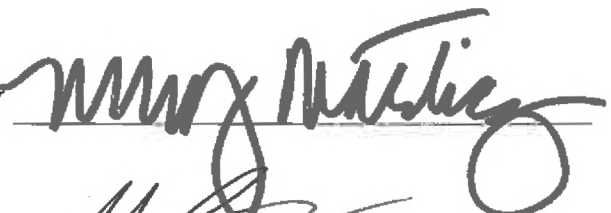



- CPUC's Investigation into the operations and practices with respect to Aliso Canyon and the blowout;
- CPUC's Investigation into the Feasibility of minimizing or eliminating Aliso Canyon from Southern California's energy portfolio;
- The Feasibility of conducting a City-funded, independent health study;
- CPUC's Aliso Canyon Current Withdrawal Protocol; and

I FURTHER MOVE, that the LAFD report back on the feasibility of conducting an annual briefing with SoCalGas on operations and safety at the Aliso Canyon Facility; and

I FURTHER MOVE, that the LAFD report back on the feasibility of working with SoCalGas on conducting joint annual fire drills and other safety trainings at the Aliso Canyon facility.

PRESENTED BY 
JOHN S. LEE
Councilmember, 12th District

SECONDED BY 


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