**Memo**

**DATE:** March 24, 2016

**FROM:** Susan Gorman-Chang, Porter Ranch resident since 1991

**SUBJECT:** Comments on “Aliso Canyon Methane Leak Climate Impacts Mitigation

 Program” Draft from Air Resources Board (ARB)

Thank you for offering a comment period to the public on this very important program. We residents truly appreciate it.

Page 10, V. Mitigation Projects, A. Areas of Concentration, Reducing Methane Emissions from the Agriculture and Waste Sectors

In order to reduce waste from landfills, I hope you include instituting a Zero Waste plan, built on the template San Francisco, CA has already instituted <http://sfenvironment.org/zero-waste> including consumer responsibility & education, rethinking disposable programs, promoting recycling, banning plastic bottles at city/county/public events and spaces1, recycling and composting, etc. Also, please consider promoting/recommending a city of Los Angeles law that requires grocery stores to donate unwanted fruits & vegetables to food banks, such as the law recently passed in France. See link at <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/may/22/france-to-force-big-supermarkets-to-give-away-unsold-food-to-charity>

Page 14, “provide funding to facilitate the production of methane biogas from methane emissions that could be captured at anaerobic digesters situated at dairies, landfills, and wastewater treatment facilities. SoCalGas’s contributions could involve, without limitation, subsidizing these digesters; sponsoring diversion projects that would channel organic waste away from landfills and toward existing digester capacity at…”

Please consider Sunshine Dump/Landfill in Granada Hills for such a “digester.” This is in the impacted area; the residents have suffered from venting methane fumes from this landfill for years.

Page 15, C. Program Concentration # 2: Sustainable Energy Infrastructure

Solar Farms

Per So Cal Gas’s own website, at <https://www.socalgas.com/stay-safe/pipeline-and-storage-safety/aliso-canyon-storage-facility-project> “The Aliso Canyon storage facility sits on approximately 3,600 acres of land.” I would like to see Aliso Canyon Gas Storage Facility turned into one giant solar farm. There is certainly enough acreage to do so, and provide solar power for a significant number of homes. In fact, the solar farm in Riverside County near Joshua Tree National Park is 4,000 acres, and creates enough energy to power 160,000 average size California homes. (See link to article <http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-solar-farm-20150209-story.html> ). So, **Aliso Canyon, at 3,600 acres** of land, **can easily** **provide solar power for** approximately **144,000 homes**, which would more than cover the 8,000 some homes in Porter Ranch plus 10,000 some homes in Pacoima, plus homes in Chatsworth, Granada Hills, and well beyond to other parts of the San Fernando Valley all covered by the LADWP electricity grid!

So Cal Gas’s parent, Sempra Energy, has much experience in solar power energy generation. According to their 2014 Annual Statement, *“Together with its affiliates and joint venture partners, the company owns and operates 2,500 megawatts of generating capacity fueled by the* ***sun,*** *the wind, and low-emission natural gas.”*

As a second choice, I would like you to consider community solar farms. I would like to see part of the mediation funds go to funding of community solar farms, since many Home Owner Associations (HOA) have common areas that can be used for such a purpose.

Solar Panels on residential homes

As a third option, perhaps there can be some funds put aside for funding/coordinating/negotiating a group discount for all the homeowners in Porter Ranch who would like to install solar panels, to wean us off of gas for electricity generation purposes at least. Multiple solar companies we have contacted for bids for solar panels for our house commented on how our neighborhood (The Highlands at Porter Ranch) is ideally situated for solar panels on home roofs.

New Technology Auditioning/Pilot Programs

The “auditioning of new technologies” is ideal for Porter Ranch, where neighborhoods are conveniently divided into Home Owner’s Associations (HOAs) so that data and results can be easily analyzed. For example, installing and utilizing battery storage technology (such as Elon Musk’s Power Wall at $3,000 per residential user) to allow consumers to store solar generated electricity for use at night or later, could be one such pilot program.

Page 16, D. Program Concentrations #3: Identifying and Addressing Additional Methane “Hot Spots”

The state of Colorado already has a well-functioning program for addressing/regulating the control and abatement of methane leaks and emissions, so perhaps we could pattern California’s after their program.

I would also like to see funding from So Cal Gas, to enable Argo Scientific, who currently has a laser based monitor in one back yard of a house in Porter Ranch, to continue and to greatly expand its online reporting system (<http://fenceline.org/porter/data.php>) so that there is a line of equipment that surrounds Aliso Canyon Gas Storage Facility, and anyone can get alerts on their cell phones when the methane, benzene, toluene, xylene levels go above safe levels. This would give residents and everyone peace of mind and detect any problem early on.

Page 19, Going Forward: Project Selection and Program Development

On page 19, this paper talks about auditing and oversight. This is an excellent idea, and should be overseen by a non-industry, independent board made up of engineers, environmental and sustainable energy professionals as well as a few residents of Porter Ranch where the project(s) have been implemented so they can have a voice at the table. Residents are in the best position to describe if/how programs are working and if/how they are functioning and being implemented as they were presented and as planned.