



March 24, 2016

The Honorable Mary D. Nichols, Chair
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, California 95812

RE: Comments on the CARB Aliso Canyon Climate Impacts Mitigation Program

Dear Chair Nichols,

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Air Resources Board's (ARB) draft Aliso Canyon Climate Impacts Mitigation Program (the Program). As the Councilmember for the affected communities of Porter Ranch, Granada Hills, Chatsworth and Northridge, I feel compelled to convey the serious and ongoing impacts that the Aliso Canyon Gas Leak has had on the residents and businesses of this community – causing the relocations of many thousands of families, the closure of two schools and devastating consequences for many local businesses.

I want to commend the ARB staff for their considerable and thoughtful work and for the expedience with which they have acted to compile this proposal. I would be remiss, however, if I did not express my disappointment in the lack of commitment to projects in the affected, local communities. While there is a clear need and a compelling scientific argument to be made for building dairy digester infrastructure in the Central Valley, I am asking for consideration of an approach that balances these factors with a stronger emphasis on the social and restorative justice impacts of the affected communities.

Remediation for the methane impacts needs to start locally, in the affected communities – starting with the homes and businesses in the five-mile relocation radius. I am familiar with Mayor Garcetti's proposal for a Net Zero Energy Neighborhood in Porter Ranch and the surrounding, affected communities and I believe that this would be a positive start to the Program. In addition to providing benefit to the most affected communities, there is an additional benefit of reducing the natural gas dependency of the City of Los Angeles.

The plan's call for solar panels, solar water heaters, EV chargers and energy efficiency upgrades serves the methane reduction goal of the Program while making up to the affected communities some of what was lost from this catastrophe – including the reduced value of their homes.

I am encouraged by the acknowledgment of the greenhouse gas emissions from landfilling in California. As co-author of the City of LA's RENEW LA Plan, to reduce landfill dependence by reduction, diversion and waste conversion that would reduce fossil fuel dependence, I believe that we now have a unique opportunity to utilize this mitigation to build upon the City's existing digester capacity.

Specifically, the Granada Hills community was not only greatly affected by the Gas Leak, they also have the dubious distinction of being the host community to the City's only landfill. This community is already a victim to the ongoing odor problem related to the landfill. Since the City's residential waste is dumped at Sunshine Canyon, after (mostly) being transferred from the Central Los Angeles Transfer Station (CLARTS), it would be value added to site an anaerobic digester at this facility to extract the energy value of the organic waste prior to landfilling. I can't think of anything that might reduce the odor problem more – than removing the organic, putrescible material.

Additionally, the City's Bureau of Sanitation has already conducted an RFP and selected a winning bid for a 300-ton-per-day (TPD) digester, for this purpose. The combined scientific and social benefit of this project has yet another positive aspect. Since the Bureau utilizes LNG vehicles and hopes to upgrade to 100% CNG, this could be a closed-loop system that provides additional mobile source emission reductions, as well as reductions in NOx and PM.

Again, I'd like to thank the ARB and your staff for the opportunity to comment on the Program. If it would be helpful to further discuss anything in this letter, please don't hesitate to contact me. I look forward to working closely with you to fully mitigate the methane impacts of the Aliso Canyon Gas Leak while providing value to the State – starting in the local, affected communities.

Sincerely,



MITCHELL ENGLANDER
Council President Pro-Tempore
Councilmember, Twelfth District

Cc: Mayor Eric Garcetti
Paula Cracium, President, Porter Ranch Community Advisory Committee
Enrique Zaldavar, Director, Bureau of Sanitation