

16-2-1 Barry Wallerstein



# South Coast Air Quality Management District

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January 21, 2016

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

Re: Governor's Executive Order of January 6, 2016, directing the Air Resources Board to Develop a Program to Mitigate the Greenhouse Gas Effects of the Southern California Gas Methane Leak Affecting the Porter Ranch Community

Dear Chair Nichols:

The Governing Board of the South Coast Air Quality Management District is very concerned about the impacts of the Aliso Canyon Southern California Gas Company methane leak on the residents of Porter Ranch. The District has been working closely with the state agencies that are helping to address this problem. We appreciate that the Governor has declared a State of Emergency regarding this situation and has directed the Air Resources Board to develop a program, funded by Southern California Gas Company, to fully mitigate the greenhouse gas effects of the methane leak by March 31, 2016.

At our January 8 Governing Board meeting, Board Member Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich introduced a motion to adopt the enclosed resolution, which was approved by all board members present. As stated in the Resolution, the Governing Board of the South Coast Air Quality Management District hereby requests that funds for the greenhouse-gas mitigation program be dedicated, to the maximum extent feasible, to mitigation projects for the benefit of Porter Ranch, which is the Southern California community directly impacted by the air emissions due to the gas leak, and if projects are not feasible in Porter Ranch, to be dedicated to projects in Southern California.

Thank you for your attention to this Resolution, which is also being transmitted to Governor Brown.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W A Burke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "W" and "A".

Dr. William A. Burke, Ed.D.  
Chairman, SCAQMD Governing Board

Enc: Resolution #16-1

cc: The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr., Governor

RESOLUTION NO. 16-1

A resolution of the Governing Board of the South Coast Air Quality Management District to urge that Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. request that funds obtained from the Southern California Gas Company for a greenhouse-gas program to mitigate methane emissions be spent on measures to benefit the Porter Ranch community adversely impacted by those emissions, and the Southern California region to the extent that it is infeasible to conduct projects in Porter Ranch.

WHEREAS on October 23, 2015, a natural gas leak was discovered at a well within the Aliso Canyon Natural Gas Storage Facility in Los Angeles County near Porter Ranch, and Southern California Gas Company's attempts to stop the leak have failed; and

WHEREAS major amounts of methane, a powerful greenhouse gas, have been emitted into the atmosphere; and

WHEREAS on January 6, 2016, Governor Brown issued a proclamation that declared the situation an emergency and directed various State agencies to take further action to protect public health and safety, ensure accountability and strengthen oversight of gas storage facilities; and

WHEREAS, the South Coast Air Quality Management District has been working closely with the agencies identified in the Governor's proclamation to ensure a consistent approach to protecting public health and safety and the environment; and

WHEREAS, the South Coast Air Quality Management District is seeking an Order for Abatement from its Hearing Board to, among other things, impose enhanced monitoring requirements on the Southern California Gas Company at the Aliso Canyon Natural Gas Storage Facility, require that the Southern California Gas Company fund a health study to determine the long term health effects, if any, imposed on the Porter Ranch community due to the exposure to methane and other air emissions; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's proclamation directs the California Air Resources Board, in consultation with other state agencies, to develop a program to fully mitigate the greenhouse-gas effects of the leak's emissions of methane by March 31, 2016, and provides that the mitigation program be funded by the Southern California Gas Company and be limited to projects in California;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Governing Board of the South Coast Air Quality Management District does hereby approve this resolution, which is to be submitted to Governor Brown, requesting that funds obtained from the Southern California Gas Company for the greenhouse-gas mitigation program be dedicated, to the maximum extent feasible, to mitigation projects for the benefit of Porter Ranch, the Southern California community directly impacted by the air emissions due to the gas leak, and if projects are not feasible in Porter Ranch, to be dedicated to projects in Southern California.

AYES: Antonovich, B. Benoit, J. Benoit, Burke, Cacciotti, Lyou, Mitchell, Nelson, Parker, Pulido, and Yates.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Buscaino.

DATE: 1-8-2016

  
Sandra McDaniel, Clerk of the Board

