**DATE:** September 10, 2018

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

**SUBJECT:** Comments on Proposed Consent Decree People v. SoCalGas Aug 8, 2018

Thank you for your time, effort and commitment to reaching a proposed settlement with SoCalGas. I know it took a tremendous amount of dedication and work on the part of all parties involved. Thank you for offering a comment period to the public on this very important proposed consent decree. We community members truly appreciate it.

Appendix D: Enhanced Air Monitoring and Environmental Reporting in Porter Ranch and Other Locations in Los Angeles County: $3 million

This is very important to Porter Ranch and surrounding communities. However, it needs some more specific language and more funding so it can meet its intended goal. Page 5, item (ii) reveals that these funds *“also shall be used to develop a real-time air monitoring network and a symptom and incident reporting system in one or more Environmental Justice Communities within the County.”*

When you break it down, the **$3 million is being asked to support** **4 systems: 1 air monitoring system + 1 symptom & incident reporting system in Porter Ranch/surrounding communities PLUS 1 air monitoring system + 1 symptom & incident reporting system in an Environmental Justice** (EJ) community. I have confirmed with LA County Department of Public Health and SCAQMD that a symptom incident reporting system and an air quality monitoring system would have to be two different systems. **The $3 million is simply not sufficient for 4 systems.** Please increase the amount of $3 million to a more reasonable $6 million, and specify that it be split with 50% going to Porter Ranch/surrounding communities and 50% going to an EJ community. That way, we can have robust systems in both Porter Ranch and an EJ community and no one gets shortchanged. I look forward to working in partnership with an EJ community to better both of our neighborhoods aided by these systems and equipment.

Appendix D, Item 3.2 (a)(i) “*Representatives from OEHHA, CARB, and/or SCAQMD, and/or one or more academics experienced in establishing community-based air monitoring programs, will consult with residents of Porter Ranch and neighboring communities to identify monitoring locations and …”*

I request that Diane Gonzales, PhD, [dgonzales98@gmail.com](mailto:dgonzales98@gmail.com), be a member of this “committee” that includes OEHHA, CARB, SCAQMD and I have confirmed with her that she is interested in doing so. Dr. Gonzales is experienced in establishing community based air monitoring, as she conducted such a study during the SS#25 well blow out, when she placed various Particulate Matter sensors in my back yard and several other locations over a period of time, analyzed the data, and published a scientific report based on her findings. She has both the expertise and the experience of already working with community members within our community.

I further request that a representative, perhaps a faculty member such as Loraine Lundquist, PhD, from California State University Northridge (CSUN) be included on this committee as well. CSUN has shown itself to be a leader in our community in clean energy with its 1 Megawatt Fuel Cell Power Plant on campus and their Net Zero Sustainability Center. I think including a representative from CSUN would lend a meaningful, experienced and creative voice to this committee.

Appendix A, page 3 , Section 1.b., “*Additional Mitigation Project Proposal” shall mean any proposal for an Additional Mitigation Project submitted by the Administrator or any proposal for an Additional Mitigation Project accepted through the public solicitation process set forth in Section 3b.”*

While I appreciate the magnitude of methane that can be captured from dairy cows, I respectfully request that some of that methane mitigation money fund methane mitigation projects in the Los Angeles Basin. Some suggestions are as gas-to- energy from landfill, solar farm, and solar panels on community structures. In addition, replacing gas water heaters with electric would reduce some of the demand for gas in residential homes. Please see the details of these suggestions below.

Gas-to-Energy

Please consider funding an increase to the capacity of Sunshine Canyon Landfill in Granada Hills for their gas-to-energy facilities and infrastructure. I understand that **with its current equipment & infrastructure**, Sunshine Canyon Landfill is at near 100% capacity for its gas-to-energy project. However, if money could be granted to Sunshine Canyon Landfill **for additional equipment & infrastructure** to **increase** their gas-to-energy project, that would benefit the LA Basin as a whole and be a significant methane mitigation project. The LA Basin will only grow in population and, thus, in generation of waste, and funding an increase to the gas-to-energy project will also benefit Granada Hills, which is a neighborhood that was also impacted by the Aliso Canyon Gas Storage Facility blowout, and currently suffers from the stench and pollution generated from the Sunshine Canyon Landfill.

Solar Farms & Solar Panels

Solar farms and solar panels will reduce the amount of gas that southern California utilities must rely upon for the generation of electricity.

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 a 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 homes in Porter Ranch plus homes in Pacoima, Chatsworth, Granada Hills and well beyond to other parts of the San Fernando Valley all covered by the LADWP electricity grid. **Even if only part** of the land is used for a solar farm, it would still generate significant kilowatts and decrease our dependence upon gas to generate electricity. Since the majority of the gas storage equipment/wells exists beneath the ground, that leaves the surface area free for solar panels.

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.”*

Solar Panels on Public Libraries

In addition, I recommend providing all public libraries in the Porter Ranch, Chatsworth and Granada Hills areas with solar panels to power their facilities. This would include Porter Ranch Branch Library 11371 Tampa Ave. Porter Ranch, Chatsworth Branch Library 21052 Devonshire St., Chatsworth, and Granada Hills Branch Library 10640 Petit Ave, Solar Granada Hills. These libraries serve the community not only for access to books, computers, research, and education but also provide much utilized multi-purpose rooms for anything from neighborhood council committee meetings, yoga classes, book clubs, charitable organization meetings and much more.

Electric Water Heaters for residential homes

I recommend the settlement provide funding /coordinating/negotiating a group discount for homeowners in Porter Ranch, Granada Hills and Chatsworth who would like to exchange their gas powered water heaters for electric water heaters. This would at least mitigate the methane used to power these gas water heaters. Alternatively, some sort of rebate program could be created so that part of the funding is born by this settlement and part by the home owner.

Appendix D: Page 15: Aliso Fund Committee

Item (h)(i) states, “*The Fund Administrator’s responsibilities, including receipt and disbursement of funds from the Aliso fund for SEP projects, will be overseen by a committee comprised of three members, one of which will be selected by each of (1) LACA (2) the County Counsel and (3) the Attorney General. “*

I am requesting that this committee be expanded to include two community members.

Again, thank you for your time and this opportunity to submit public comments to the Proposed Consent Decree for People v. SoCalGas August 8, 2018. Thank you for your transparency by posting everyone’s public comments as well.