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March 24, 2016

Mary Nichols, Chair
California Air Resource Board (CARB)
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: DRAFT ALISO CANYON METHANE LEAK CLIMATE IMPACTS MITIGATION PROGRAM
COMMENTS**

Dear Chair Nicols:

As you know, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) has been responding to the Aliso Canyon Gas Leak since it was first reported to us in late October of 2016. Since that time, DPH has received hundreds of resident health complaints, including more than 300 since the leaking well was confirmed sealed last month. DPH staff have performed numerous indoor and outdoor tests, and recently completed a community assessment to determine the health status and needs of the affected community. In addition, this week we will be commencing an indoor environmental study of homes in the Porter Ranch community to assess the presence of chemicals associated with the natural gas leak with the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health, and in consultation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Include the local community and agencies in the selection of mitigation projects.

DPH appreciates the Governor's charge to CARB to develop a program to fully mitigate the leak's emissions of methane, to require the mitigation program to be funded by Southern California Gas Company, to limit projects to California, and to prioritize projects that reduce short-lived climate pollutants. We support what is contained in the draft proposal for mitigation, but recommend that they are more inclusive in its development. DPH requests that CARB recruit additional local advisory members for selection of mitigation projects, including DPH, UCLA, US EPA, SCAQMD, and representatives of the affected community, and seek an extension to provide the time needed for a quality outcome.

History shows that civilizations advance with technology.

DPH recommends that CARB describe how the program will encourage, search, and utilize new technology to reach our goals of cleaner living and sustainable renewable clean energy. The program can host an annual climate change technology exposition with keynote speakers on projects and proposals for fast-tracking achievements in climate change response objectives.

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To maximize our chances of success, establish a network of climate change mitigation and resiliency organizations and academia to develop, test, evaluate, and implement new technologies and methods to drastically reduce methane emissions and short-lived climate pollutants (e.g., ozone), particularly in strongly affected and vulnerable communities.

We are slightly concerned that the focus of the portfolio of projects might hinder the selection of a highly effective and promising individual project. Please provide language to describe how the program will include new innovative projects to update its portfolio for improved rates of success.

Lastly, the most affected communities, not just Porter Ranch but all of Los Angeles County and nearby Southern and Central California counties, should partake in the selection, implementation, and the evaluation of projects. DPH recommends CARB describe how the program will ensure this.

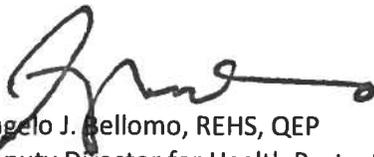
Focus mitigation projects on the affected community.

As commented by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) at the January 8, 2016 Governing Board, Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich introduced a motion (unanimously passed) to adopt a resolution requesting that the mitigation program be dedicated "to the maximum extent feasible, to mitigation projects for the benefit of Porter Ranch... and if projects are not feasible in Porter Ranch, to be dedicated to projects in Southern California." DPH agrees with this recommendation and suggests the following specific actions for CARB's consideration under *Promoting Sustainable Energy Infrastructure*:

- Development and implementation of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure to support active transportation, including planning, designing and build-out of bike lanes, cross walks, pedestrian medians, bulb-outs and other bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure;
- Outreach and educational programming that supports bicycle and pedestrian use by community members, including Safe Routes to Schools initiatives that provide education and encouragement activities for children and families;
- Planting and maintenance of trees to create more bicycle and pedestrian friendly environments, reduce the heat island effect, and lower energy costs; and
- Outreach and educational programming to encourage planting and caring for trees and to provide youth mentoring and job opportunities.

Thank you for your leadership in protecting the public's health. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Angelo J. Bellomo, REHS, QEP
Deputy Director for Health Protection

AJB:reg:dab

cc: Cynthia A. Harding, MPH
Jeffrey D. Gunzenhauser, MD, MPH