

California State Senate

SENATOR
HENRY STERN

TWENTY-SEVENTH SENATE DISTRICT



March 1, 2017

Mr. Edward Camarena, Chairman
South Coast Air Quality Management District Hearing Board
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

RE: Termination of Order of Abatement Regarding the Aliso Canyon Health Study Settlement

Dear Mr. Camarena and Hearing Board Members,

I respectfully ask that you support the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health's request to not terminate the Order of Abatement which directed the Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) to conduct a health study in connection with the natural gas disaster at Aliso Canyon. As you are aware, the Aliso Canyon blowout, which occurred in October of 2015, is wholly encompassed within my senate district.

The original panel of health experts convened by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) included top health experts from the public sector, including academic researchers and health experts from the county and the state. This panel recommended that the study examine health outcomes associated with toxic releases from the facility and monitor the health and well-being of exposed members of the population over several years. The study was also to include an evaluation of broader impacts of the gas leak on the quality of life in the surrounding communities, as well as a robust community engagement component throughout the health study process. The expert panel agreed that this type of in-depth study would cost between \$35 and \$40 million dollars over several years.

Subsequently, the SCAQMD settled its lawsuit with SoCalGas and included only \$1 million for a health study. Clearly, this amount will not effectively address the agreed upon components of a comprehensive, successful health study as outlined by the health panel, including SCAQMD. It is imperative that we support a health study that is appropriate to the scale and significance of

this event. Moreover, the settlement indicates that SoCalGas is absolved from any further responsibility to fund a health study, ensuring that a comprehensive study is not completed.

I therefore request that the Board vote against terminating the Order of Abatement and leave the Order open until sufficient funding is provided by SoCalGas for the comprehensive health study that was outlined by the panel of health experts.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Henry Stern". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Henry" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Stern".

Henry Stern
State Senator, 27th District