

June 11, 2020

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Supervisor Kathryn Barger
Chair, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple St., Ste. 383
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Assistance with Obtaining the List of Chemicals Release from the Aliso Canyon Gas Storage Facility¹

Dear Supervisor Barger:

The blowout of Well SS-25 at the Aliso Canyon Gas facility owned and operated by the Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) may seem to be distant memory, but it remains of paramount concern for the communities in the North San Fernando Valley, especially Porter Ranch. Yet, to date, tens of thousands of families do not know what their children were exposed to during the blowout and the countless leaks and releases of gas-borne chemicals from the facility since then. Evidence of these chemicals was deposited as droplets on playground equipment in our parks and our backyards. Yet, SoCalGas continues to hide behind its legal maneuvers and claims of proprietorship to deny our residents their basic right to know what toxic chemicals they were unknowingly exposed to while they went about their daily lives in our own community.

As you know, the settlement between the State/County/City and SoCalGas funded a \$25M health study aimed at examining the lasting effects of the blowout on the health of our families. This effect is simply due to the chemical exposure during and after the blowout. However, the study is severely stunted, if not made completely irrelevant, in the absence a clear understanding of the specific names and levels of the chemicals to which we have been exposed.

It is unfortunate that the settlement agreement did not include a requirement to disclose the list of all chemicals to the benefit of the people. However, it is not too late. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors has the authority to grant the Department of Public Health subpoena power to force the disclosure of the list of chemicals. This is no different that the action taken by the Supervisors on January 21, 2020 to grant the same subpoena

¹ The opinions expressed in this letter are those of the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council, and not necessarily those of the City of Los Angeles.

power to the Civilian Oversight Commission to obtain internal records from the LA County Sheriff Department. The public health implications of exposure to these chemicals certainly elevates this matter to a public health emergency requiring the Supervisors' actions. Just because there are no bodies on the streets, does not mean people are not dying from the effects of this facility.

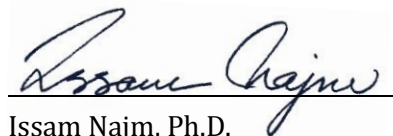
If the material released from the facility during and after the blowout is of no public health concern, then SoCalGas should have no problem disclosing the list. The mere fact that SoCalGas is doing everything it can to prevent the disclosure of this information should be sufficient cause for you to suspect that this list does indeed include chemicals that are harmful to the health and wellbeing of tens of thousands of county residents, and will be critical to the conduct of the health study.

This stalling tactic by SoCalGas cannot stand. It is a simple vote of the Supervisors to provide the Department of Public Health with the power to obtain the chemical list and ensure that the \$25M health study that you fought for so hard is of any real value.

The PRNC urges you to do everything in your power to force the full disclosure of the list of chemicals and ensure that it is made public to all community members.

Respectfully Yours,

Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council



Issam Najm, Ph.D.
President

cc: Los Angeles City Attorney, Mike Feuer
State Senator Henry Stern, 27th District
Assemblymember Christy Smith, 38th District