

February 6, 2023

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## **Request for Action Letter**

Office of Councilmember John S. Lee  
9207 Oakdale Ave.  
Chatsworth, CA 91311

### **Action request to submit testimony to CPUC re Aliso Canyon Closure**

Dear Councilmember Lee,

In 2015, the world watched in horror as the Aliso Canyon Gas Storage Facility blowout spread around 100,000 metric tons of methane into the Porter Ranch community over four months in what is still considered the largest natural gas leak in U.S. history. Methane has more than 80 times the warming power of carbon dioxide over the first 20 years after it reaches the atmosphere, so we can only imagine how significantly this leak may have contributed to climate change and hastened the looming climate crisis.

In the aftermath of the blowout, thousands of families were driven from their homes and forced to relocate. Thousands of people from across our community have reported potentially related health problems ranging from mild nosebleeds to cancer. This comports with various studies related to the health risks of natural gas usage, including a recent study showing children living in a household with gas stoves have a significantly increased likelihood of suffering from asthma.

In 2016, the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education unanimously approved a motion to decommission the Aliso Canyon Storage Facility.

In 2020, the LA County Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a resolution to permanently close the Aliso Canyon Gas Storage Facility.

In 2021, the LA City Council took the sensible action of unanimously voting in favor of a resolution calling for the permanent closure of the Aliso Canyon Gas Storage Facility.

Now, in 2023, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is gathering testimony on a proposed roadmap to permanently close the Aliso Canyon Gas Storage Facility.

The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council would like to see our officials stand by their resolutions by submitting testimony to the CPUC in support of the proposed roadmap to close the gas storage facility. For that reason, the PRNC implores the LA City Council to direct the LA City Attorney's Office to immediately submit testimony to the CPUC before the opportunity closes.

We at the PRNC believe the gas storage facility needs to be permanently and immediately shut down. We view the facility as a continued health and safety risk for our community. Aliso Canyon is an aged and outdated facility with documented ongoing fugitive emissions from its operations. This, combined with the likelihood of fires, earthquakes, and other such natural and manmade disasters, puts our community at great risk to suffer another dangerous and potentially life-threatening blowout in the future. That is not a risk we are willing to continue to live with.

Respectfully Yours,

Gabriel Khanlian, PRNC President

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Cc: Mayor Karen Bass, Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, Assemblywoman Pilar Schiavo, Senator Henry Stern, LAUSD Scott Schmerelson, Congressman Mike Garcia