



April 12, 2016

Honorable Kevin de Leon
Senate President Pro Tempore
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Anthony Rendon
Assembly Speaker
State Capitol, Room 219
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Ben Hueso
Chair – Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee
State Capitol, Room 4035
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Mike Gatto
Chair – Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee
State Capitol, Room 5136
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senators de Leno and Hueso and Assembly Members Rendon and Gatto,

California Public Utilities Commission President Michael Picker, energy agencies in the state and LA Department of Water and Power have misled you and the people of California about the need for Aliso Canyon's natural gas reserve.

New information, uncovered by engineer Bill Powers for Food & Water Watch and the Los Angeles Times, shows two recent reports by the CPUC, DWP, Southern California Gas and state energy regulators claiming blackouts will ensue if Aliso is curtailed are based on false information and key omissions.

The reports, for example, fail to acknowledge a huge DWP natural gas reserve in Wyoming controlled by DWP. They also make inaccurate statements about the ability of the Honor Rancho storage field, 10 miles from Aliso Canyon and located on the same Los Angeles pipeline loop, to serve as an effective substitute for Aliso Canyon for reliability purposes.

The reports mischaracterize the capacity and nature of other reserves and power plants as wells. They also use inflated estimates of electric natural gas generation demand and make unsupported statements about pipeline capacity.

Read the LA Times story here: <http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-gas-field-20160412-story.html>

Read the report here:

http://www.consumerwatchdog.org/resources/powersegr_assessment_reliability_aliso_canyon_w_ebfinal160411.pdf

We urge you to immediately call CPUC President Michael Picker and other energy regulators to appear under oath and explain these reports' misrepresentations and omissions, as well as to what degree Southern California Gas authored the report meant to justify its continued use of the facilities. In a recent state senate oversight hearing, Picker repeated some of the very same misrepresentations.

No individual authors are listed on the reports, but Southern California Gas, the owner of Aliso's reserves, is listed as a co-author. The public deserves to know who really wrote these reports. It appears that Southern California Gas, and its parent company Sempra, concocted these misrepresentations to preserve its investment in Aliso Canyon and that the PUC and energy regulators allowed the false statements to be published without scrutiny under the state seal.

Those of us who were active in public life in Southern California at the turn of this century remember the blackout blackmail perpetrated by the energy pirates and the utilities, including SEMPRRA, Southern California Gas's parent company, against ratepayers and taxpayers. The public deserves answers and we call upon you to use your subpoena power to demand them from Southern California Gas, Mr. Picker and the relevant state agencies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Court". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jamie Court