



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –Monday, February 8, 2016**

## **CITY OF LOS ANGELES AND SOCAL GAS REACH AGREEMENT ON EXTENDED RELOCATION TIMELINE**

LOS ANGELES— Today the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office and the Southern California Gas Company reached an agreement to lengthen the relocation timeframe for residents returning to their homes following the capping of the Aliso Canyon Gas Leak.

"The previous 48-hour timeframe proposed by SoCal Gas was unreasonable and inhumane," said Councilmember Mitchell Englander. "This is not just about returning home, it is about a safe return home. I am asking the Department of Oil Gas and Geothermal Resources to work with the Los Angeles County Department of Health to assure residents' safety. I want to thank City Attorney Mike Feuer and his staff for their tireless work to negotiate a more compassionate plan for the safe return of relocated residents once the well is capped and verified." **(See attached letter)**

"After finding their lives upended for months, Porter Ranch residents deserve a reasonable amount of time to move back into their homes--following independent assurance the leak truly has been stopped," said Feuer. "This agreement will help residents resume their daily routines on schedules that work best for them."

The new agreement is a multi-pronged approach, tailored to ease residents back into their homes:

- Once SoCalGas has sealed the leak, it will notify the State of California's Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR). With the assistance of independent experts, DOGGR will determine if the leak has, in fact, been plugged. Once DOGGR makes this determination, the agency will confirm in writing the well has been sealed and the leak stopped.
- Once DOGGR has issued written confirmation the leak has been stopped, residents of Porter Ranch who have relocated to hotels will have up to 8 days/7 nights (rather than the 48 hours previously provided) to move back to their homes. For those residents who have relocated to housing with leases, SoCalGas will pay the rent and associated costs (e.g. utilities, rental; furniture, gardening service) through the agreed term of each lease.
- For all residents relocated to apartments or single family homes, SoCalGas will reimburse moving expenses up to \$500.00.
- Relocated residents who have special circumstances, specifically disabilities or functional needs that may require additional arrangements, will be considered on a case-by-case basis. In addition, SoCalGas will meet and confer with the Los Angeles City Attorneys' Office regarding other similar extraordinary individual circumstances brought to its attention by the Los Angeles City Attorney's office on a case by case basis. Resolution of any special circumstances for residents that cannot be resolved by SoCalGas within 48 hours shall be referred to the JAMS mediation process already in place. The resident claiming special circumstances will be allowed to remain in the premises to which the

resident has been relocated at SoCalGas' expense until the mediation process is completed at JAMS.

- SoCalGas will reimburse reasonable mileage expenses through the rest of the school year for residents who reenrolled their children in schools outside the Porter Ranch area.

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February 8, 2016

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Dear Sir and Madame:


The SoCal Gas Company has stated publicly that they are ahead of schedule on their goal to cap the methane gas leak in Aliso Canyon by the end of this month. We have heard unofficially that they may announce as early as today that they have succeeded in their attempt to cap the well and that they are awaiting the sign off of DOGGR to verify their accomplishment.

As DOGGR's sign off is likely to trigger a re-entry period, where relocated area residents will be compelled to return to their homes, I am asking that DOGGR work with the County Department of Public Health to verify that it is indeed safe for them to do so.

I have been made aware that residual methane and mercaptan may linger and be problematic for sensitive residents even after the well is capped and I believe it is vital that your agencies work in concert to assure the safety of returning residents.

Thank you for your prompt and urgent attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

  
**MITCHELL ENGLANDER**  
Council President Pro-Tempore  
Councilmember, Twelfth District

cc: Mayor Eric Garcetti  
Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer