



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Wednesday, February 8, 2017

ENGLANDER DEMANDS ACCELERATED PATHWAY TO ELIMINATE NATURAL GAS DEPENDENCY

LOS ANGELES –Los Angeles City Councilmember Mitchell Englander will submit a motion requesting that the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) report to the City Council in 30 days on options to reduce the City’s reliance on natural gas use and storage near local communities, including the Aliso Canyon Gas Storage Facility.

“For those who have lived through the largest gas leak in U.S. history, removed from their homes for months, sickened with nausea, nosebleeds, headaches or worse and for those whose children were forced to attend alternative schools or whose businesses failed – there is no acceptable option but a permanent closure of this facility,” said Councilmember Mitchell Englander. **“We must immediately and aggressively pursue action to reduce and eliminate the need for all such facilities in communities by ending our dependence on natural gas.”**

The Department of Conservation’s Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) recently conducted public meetings in Woodland Hills regarding the Aliso Canyon Storage Facility. In the upcoming weeks, DOGGR and the CPUC are slated to review safety studies and public comments to determine if the Aliso Canyon Storage Facility should be allowed to operate. The Southern California Gas Company, which owns the Facility, is claiming the Facility is safe to operate. Local residents have expressed strong concerns about resuming Facility operations and the impact on their health and welfare.

Simultaneously, the Los Angeles Times reported that California is experiencing a glut of excess power which state residents are paying for. According to the article, during the last decade the CPUC approved the construction of numerous power plants throughout the state despite declining energy demand.

The Department of Water and Power (DWP) and local utilities rely, in part, on natural gas supplied by the Southern California Gas Company to run their power systems. Given health and safety concerns regarding the operation of the Aliso Canyon Storage Facility, the City must look at ways to reduce its reliance on natural gas; and eliminate its use and storage near communities.

To achieve this objective, Englander's motion requests DWP report back on options including:

- the purchase of excess power from other areas of the state
- storage options including batteries for excess power from renewable sources; acceleration of renewable energy source reliance in an effort to achieve 100% RPS
- and the formulation of an aggressive natural gas reduction/elimination plan for the City and region developed in conjunction with local utilities and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and the Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR).

Additionally, the motion asks that the City and DWP communicate to the CPUC and DOGGR, in their review of the Aliso Canyon Storage Facility matter, that their decision consider the state's established policy to maximize de-carbonization of energy sources in order to preserve the health and welfare of state residents and the environment.

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MOTION

The Department of Conservation's Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) recently conducted public meetings in Woodland Hills regarding the Aliso Canyon Storage Facility and the natural gas leak which occurred in 2015. The purpose of these meetings was to obtain public comments regarding the safety of the Storage Facility, its operations and potential impacts on local communities.

For those who have lived through the largest gas leak in U.S. history, were removed from their homes for months, sickened with nausea, nosebleeds, headaches or worse and for those whose children were forced to attend alternative schools or whose businesses failed – there is no acceptable option but a permanent closure of this facility. Beyond that, the responsible path forward would be to reduce and eliminate the need for all such facilities in communities by ending our dependence on natural gas.

DOGGR and the CPUC are slated to review safety studies and public comments to determine if the Aliso Canyon Storage Facility should be allowed to operate. The Southern California Gas Company, which owns the Facility, is claiming the Facility is safe to operate. During these meetings, local residents expressed strong concerns about resuming Facility operations and the impact on their health and welfare.

Simultaneously, the Los Angeles Times reported that California is experiencing a glut of excess power which state residents are paying for. According to the article, during the last decade the CPUC approved the construction of numerous power plants throughout the state despite declining energy demand.

The Department of Water and Power (DWP) and local utilities rely, in part, on natural gas supplied by the Southern California Gas Company to run their power systems. Given health and safety concerns regarding the operation of the Aliso Canyon Storage Facility, the City should look at ways to reduce its reliance on natural gas; and eliminate its use and storage near communities.

To achieve this objective, the City should look at a variety of options such as obtaining excess power from other areas of the state and storage options for excess power from renewables. In addition, the City should accelerate implementation of and reliance on renewable energy sources; and seek to achieve a 100% Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) in the near term.

These approaches, and others, can be critical to reducing and eliminating the City's reliance on natural gas and storage near communities. This way, the health and welfare of local communities and the environment can be preserved.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of Water and Power (DWP) report to the City Council in 30 days on options to reduce the City's reliance on natural gas use and storage near local communities; reviewed options should include the following:

- The purchase of excess power from other areas of the state;
- Storage options including batteries for excess power from renewable sources;
- The acceleration of renewable energy source reliance in an effort to achieve 100% RPS;
- The formulation of an aggressive natural gas reduction/elimination plan for the City and region developed in conjunction with local utilities and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and the Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR).

I FURTHER MOVE that the City and DWP communicate to the CPUC and DOGGR, their review of the Aliso Canyon Storage Facility matter, and that the City's report consider the state's established policy to maximize de-carbonization of energy sources in order to preserve the health and welfare of state residents and the environment.

PRESENTED BY: _____

MITCHELL ENGLANDER

Councilmember, 12th District

SECONDED BY: _____

FEB 08 2017