



**MEDIA RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Tuesday, February 14, 2017**

**ENGLANDER DEMANDS SCAQMD UTILIZE FUNDS FROM SOCAL GAS SETTLEMENT IN AFFECTED COMMUNITIES**

LOS ANGELES— Today Councilmember Mitchell Englander will submit a resolution to the Los Angeles City Council asking that the City of Los Angeles support any administrative action by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) to utilize proceeds from the \$8.5 million settlement agreement with the Southern California Gas Company (SoCal Gas) for the Aliso Canyon Gas Leak to benefit the communities most affected by this calamity. This includes the \$5.65 million revenues in emission fees related to the leak.

**“This settlement agreement completely ignores the needs of the communities directly affected by this disaster,” said Councilmember Mitchell Englander. “It is imperative that the proceeds of this settlement benefit those most affected by the Aliso Canyon Gas Leak - those whose lives were upended by relocation, illness, school closures and business hardship.”**

The SCAQMD announced last week that it has reached a settlement agreement with SoCal Gas for \$8.5 million for the Aliso Canyon Gas Leak. The agreement settles a lawsuit filed by SCAQMD against SoCal Gas in Los Angeles Superior Court on January 26, 2016.

Under terms of the settlement agreement, signed on February 8, 2017, SoCal Gas will pay a total of \$8.5 million to SCAQMD, of which \$1 million will be designated for a SCAQMD-sponsored health study; \$5.65 million will pay for emission fees related to the leak of which \$1 million will help fund a renewable natural gas production project demonstrating the commercial and technical viability of renewable natural gas; \$1.6 million will reimburse SCAQMD for air monitoring costs and \$250,000 for its legal fees.

**SEE ATTACHED MOTION**

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

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# RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) has just announced that it has reached a settlement agreement with Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) for \$8.5 Million for the Aliso Canyon Gas Leak; and

WHEREAS, the agreement settles a lawsuit filed by SCAQMD against SoCalGas in Los Angeles Superior Court on January 26, 2016.

WHEREAS, this calamitous gas leak was discovered on October 23, 2015 in the Aliso Canyon underground natural gas storage facility near Porter Ranch but the well was not sealed until February 18, 2016; and

WHEREAS, this gas leak caused a major public nuisance to residents from foul odors and forced the temporary evacuation of hundreds if not thousands of residences in the Porter Ranch area; and

WHEREAS, under terms of the settlement agreement, signed on February 8, 2017, SoCalGas will pay a total of \$8.5 million to SCAQMD, of which \$1 million will be designated for a SCAQMD-sponsored health study; \$5.65 million will pay for emission fees related to the leak of which \$1 million will help fund a renewable natural gas production project demonstrating the commercial and technical viability of renewable natural gas; \$1.6 million will reimburse SCAQMD for air monitoring costs and \$250,000 for its legal fees; and

WHEREAS, this settlement agreement appears to completely ignore the needs of the residents and neighborhoods directly and indirectly affected by this disaster; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate, if not imperative, that the proceeds of this settlement agreement be utilized / set-aside for community amelioration benefits for the residents of the Aliso Canyon disaster; and

WHEREAS, the SCAQMD should therefore utilize a large portion if not all of the \$5.65 million revenues in emission fees related to the gas leak for community benefits for the neighborhoods which suffered from this calamity;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2017-2018 State Legislative Program sponsorship and support of any administrative action by the South Coast Air Quality Management District to utilize to the greatest extent possible the proceeds of a settlement agreement with the Southern California Gas Company, arising out of the Aliso Canyon Gas Leak, for community amelioration benefits for the residents and neighborhoods which suffered from this calamity.

PRESENTED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

MITCHELL ENGLANDER  
Councilman, 12<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY: \_\_\_\_\_