



BRAD SHERMAN
UNITED STATES CONGRESS

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November 3, 2021

Marybel Batjer, President
Martha Guzman Aceves, Commissioner
Clifford Rechtschaffen, Commissioner
Genevieve Shiroma, Commissioner
Darcie L. Houck, Commissioner

California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Regarding: Closure of the Aliso Canyon Natural Gas Storage Facility

Dear Commissioners,

I'm writing today to urge you to reject the proposals currently before the Commission that would increase the storage capacity limits at the Aliso Canyon Natural Gas Storage Facility in the San Fernando Valley.

Rather than increase pressure within the same facility that six years ago became the site of the nation's largest methane blowout, I again urge you to act swiftly and to take additional measures to permanently close Aliso Canyon.

As you are aware, for four months beginning in late 2015, thousands of tons of methane and a mixture of chemicals poured uncontrollably from Aliso Canyon and into San Fernando Valley neighborhoods, forcing the displacement of more than 8,000 families; the closure of two local schools for the duration of the school year; and causing countless residents continued health effects more than six years later.

Following the blow-out, former Governor Brown, with the support of the California Energy Commission (CEC), directed the development of a plan to permanently close Aliso Canyon by 2027. In 2019, citing community safety concerns, Governor Newsom reiterated this direction, asking that the CPUC take additional actions to produce the fastest path for closing the facility.

It seems a poor indication of the progress towards the closure of Aliso Canyon, that the Commission is this week entertaining proposals for expanding its use.

As a resident of Porter Ranch, who lives as close as anyone to the site of the blowout, I urge you to reject these proposals and to work swiftly to permanently close the Aliso Canyon natural gas storage facility.

You should deny the application to increase pressure and storage at the Aliso Canyon facility. Instead, you should order Southern California Gas to submit expeditiously a plan to shut-down the facility while maintaining reliable service to consumers and businesses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Brad Sherman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brad" and last name "Sherman" clearly distinguishable.

BRAD SHERMAN
Member of Congress