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**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**



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February 22, 2017

**VIA U.S. MAIL**

Liza Tucker, Consumer Watchdog  
Adam Scow, Food & Water Watch  
Alexandra Nagy, Food & Water Watch  
Bill Powers, Powers Engineering  
Consumer Watchdog  
2710 Ocean Park Blvd., Suite 112  
Santa Monica, CA 90405

**RE: Your letter of January 24, 2017 regarding the Southern California Gas Co. and the Aliso Canyon storage facility**

Dear Ms. Tucker, Mr. Scow, Ms. Nagy and Mr. Powers:

We received your letter to Attorney General Becerra requesting that we investigate whether the Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) has been misrepresenting the state of the natural gas pipeline supply in the Los Angeles area to justify reopening the Aliso Canyon natural gas storage facility.

Your letter raises two broad issues. The first is whether the Aliso Canyon Facility should be reopened, specifically, whether SoCalGas should be authorized to resume natural-gas injection and storage at the facility. (As we understand, withdrawals were never prohibited.) The second issue you raise is whether SoCalGas is misrepresenting the state of the Los Angeles area's natural gas supply.

As you know, we have filed an enforcement action against SoCalGas in connection with the natural gas leak from the facility that began in October 2015. Our investigation into and litigation of that matter is ongoing.

Meanwhile, as you also know, the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) has commenced proceedings as required by SB 380 (Pub. Util. Code § 714(a)) to determine the feasibility of minimizing or eliminating the use of the Aliso Canyon Facility while still maintaining energy and electric reliability for the Los Angeles region and just and reasonable rates, a proceeding which necessarily implicates the issues raised in your letter.

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We have forwarded a copy of your letter to the PUC for its consideration. It appears that the issues raised in your letter – including the basis for the recent withdrawals – will be addressed in the course of their administrative proceeding and that there will be several opportunities for you and other stakeholders and interested members of the public to participate in that proceeding.

Thank you for your correspondence. We appreciate your bringing this matter to our attention.

Sincerely,



LIZ RUMSEY  
Deputy Attorney General

For XAVIER BECERRA  
Attorney General