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December 9, 2015

Steve Bohlen, Ph.D., Supervisor
Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources
801 K Street, MS 18-05
Sacramento, CA 95814-3530

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

RE: Investigation of the Aliso Canyon gas storage well leak

Gentlemen,

On October 23, a leak was discovered in a gas storage well at the Southern California Gas Company's Aliso Canyon facility. It is now over 6 weeks later and natural gas continues to leak from the well and into the environment and the surrounding community. The Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources has had staff out at the facility since the leak started and the California Public Utilities Commission has overall jurisdiction over the facility. On behalf of my constituents, thousands of whom are impacted by this leak, I would like to thank your and your organizations' staff for their efforts to ensure the safe plugging of the leaking well.

Both the Division and the Commission have made public commitments to investigate the cause of the leak. While I appreciate that the immediate concern is plugging the well, I expect that your organizations will complete a thorough, comprehensive and exhaustive investigation of the leak in a timely manner. The investigation should include all possible practices that may have contributed to the leak including physical and structural design, operating and maintenance practices.

In addition, the investigation should also include recommendations and specific actions to be taken by the Division and the Commission to help ensure an incident of this scope, magnitude and duration never happens again. There have been significant community concerns about delays in notification to the surrounding residents about the leak. The investigation should address the development of model notification protocols for the community as well as appropriate triggering events.

Finally, I request that upon completion of the investigations, the results be provided in their entirety to the public and the Legislature in order for appropriate action to be taken. The costs of the Commission's response, investigation and subsequent actions should be borne by the shareholders of the Southern California Gas Company.

Thank you again for your organizations' ongoing efforts to plug the well, stop the leak and prevent further damage to the community, public health and the environment.

Sincerely,

Fran Pavley

Fran Pavley
Senator, 27th District
Chair, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee

cc: Michael Florio, Commissioner, CPUC
Catherine Sandoval, Commissioner, CPUC
Carla Peterman, Commissioner, CPUC
Liane Randolph, Commissioner, CPUC
Timothy Sullivan, Executive Director, CPUC
Elizaveta Malashenko, Director, Safety and Enforcement Division, CPUC
Nick Zanjani, Director (interim), Office of Governmental Affairs, CPUC
Ben Turner, Department of Conservation
Keali'i Bright, Natural Resources Agency
Wade Crowfoot, Office of Governor Brown
Martha Guzman-Aceves, Office of Governor Brown
Cliff Rechtschaffen, Office of Governor Brown