BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS, AND GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES

Public Hearing in the Matter of:
GAS STORAGE FACILITY
WELL SAFETY REVIEW

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
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INDEX
PUBLIC SPEAKERS:

Jennifer Milbauer 51
Bertha Limestone 52
Ben Casemore 53
Cheri Derohanian 55
Stuart Waldman 62

1 (Pages 1 to 4)
MR. MCGEE: Good evening, everyone. Shall we start our meeting? Good evening. Thank you very much for coming. Thank you. First thing's first. I'm going to start with some safety and logistics announcements and then we'll get right to the meeting. All of the doors of this room -- I'll wait just a moment. All of the doors in this room can be used as an exit and there will be either green or red exit signs that point you to the outside.

That's a good way to go. If anything should happen -- we do not expect it, we do not want it to happen -- any of these exit doors outside of the building must well away from building. Restrooms are right outside to the left, my left over here. For parking this evening, the hotel -- if you tell them that you were at this event will charge $10 not 19. All you have to do is tell them. You don't need a stamp or anything like that.

We are close to capacity in the room. It looks pretty good right now. Law enforcement officials as well as the hotel policy wants to make sure that we're clean-keeping access ways clear so to the extent possible if we can move into the room we can even try to find a couple spots for more chairs as long as we're not blocking egress, but we are getting close to capacity and we will have -- if we bump up against that we'll have to figure out what to do. We can't go over fire code. We do have another meeting tomorrow night, but I'd have to ask you to come back right here.

Last thing for this before I actually start talking about the meeting, there is a policy -- a hotel policy of no signs. I see that you do have some signs here. They're small and so what I would ask you to do is keep them close, be mindful of your neighbors and their line of sight and what they need, so these are good places to hold your sign. So I would like to leave at that, if that's possible, if we could do that. I don't want to go up against that, that rule. I want to respect their desire to be here, if that's okay. About this meeting, my name is Caelan McGee. I am a facilitator. I work for a group called the Center for Collaborative Policy, which is the independent center of Sacramento State University and has been for 25 years.

Our mission is to support collaborative strategies to improve policy decisions. I have a team of facilitators here today with my team; mine is raising their hand at the moment. There are six of us here tonight. We have a couple in the back of the room. You'll see us as we go. We, that team I just mentioned, are committed to genuine discussions and useful meanings, and I don't ask you to trust me on this. You can watch us and just see how we do, and of course make up your own mind. The purpose of this meeting tonight is to collect comment on the safety review process for Aliso Canyon Natural Gas Storage Facility, as called for under Senate Bill 380. I can tell by the turnout, by the press, by the emotion of the communications, in advance of this meeting how important this is to you. These are your homes and your health and a lot is at stake and thank you for coming to express this tonight.

PUBLIC: [APPLAUSE]

MR. MCGEE: The focus of this meeting, as I mentioned, is to collect comment on the safety review process and also we understand that you have concerns about this facility that go well beyond the safety review process, and therefore, the California Public Utilities Commission will also be presenting tonight on a forthcoming proceeding that will ask larger questions about this facility and energy infrastructure in Southern California. So you're going to hear about that tonight, meaning this is not the last discussion. This one is thought focused on the safety review.

Some of you might have learned in the last number of days when we published the first agenda for this meeting that we were going to try small breakout groups and discussions. That meeting design was my idea. I actually talked these agencies into that idea because that is an effective way that we've had some conversations on complex topics with this many people in a room. However, we heard loud and clear that that felt like an attempt to silence you or to divide and conquer you or -- anyway, we heard very specific feedback that said that's not the type of meeting that you want on this topic at this time. Therefore, we changed the agenda and here it goes -- you got this on your chairs.

We're going to start with some opening comments, me obviously, and then we're going to hear from the agencies. Then we will go to two presentations that are brief, somewhat technical. These are also available online. The DOGGR presentation has been pre-recorded and is available online before and after the meeting. After the presentation for the Division and from CQC regarding their proceeding, we will have a section for elected officials first and then community representatives to speak. Then we're going to turn to public comment and I'm going to make a promise to you that as many people want to speak tonight will get a chance to.

Obviously, we have to apportion or limit time
in some way to cycle through the so many limited people here -- excuse me, the -- so many people that are here today and so I have instructions for that later on how we're going to cue up and how we're going to pass the mic. We're not going to make you stand in a line for two hours waiting to take your comment. We are going to find a way to get the comments around the room, so I'll be back with more instructions on that piece.

Just a couple more things and we're going to get started. Like I said, elected officials -- after all they are elected officials -- to speak and represent and listen to you; and also we invited some community and other interest representatives to speak in advance in public comment. We wanted some different voices, some different perspectives, and here's the trick for tonight: I want to give them adequate time say what they need and I think I want that -- I think specially you want to get to public comment as soon as possible, so I'm going to be asking everybody tonight to say what they need and be as brief as possible so we can hear as much as we can. During the public comment, I've already mentioned that, didn't want to make you stand in lines. We'll provide instructions on how we're going to do that, but again, I promise you we will say: A. We have tomorrow night if you want, if the timing doesn't work out for tonight. B. We will -- we will take comments as many comments as there are. Everybody who wants to speak will. At 9:00 o'clock, because we said we would end at 9:00, I'm going to do a check just before 9:00 o'clock and see if there are closing comments or see if there are observations that agencies want to make and then at that point, if you -- if there are some other comments that you want to be made or you want to stay and listen to those public comments, great, we will stay.

Two more things and I'm done. First of all, regarding comments and how to make comments tonight. We do have a stenographer over here, so there's going to be a full transcript from everything that is said tonight and that will be on that record. Second, we are going to produce a mean summary from this meeting that will summarize general and key themes from this meeting and that will be posted. I highly encourage anybody that has specific responses or specific information to submit a written comment through the Conservation website because those will be collected and processed according to their safety review process, knowing that you get to make up your own mind and you get to speak for yourselves.

With that, I would like to introduce three concepts for all of our discussions tonight: I have them as ground rules in a couple places. They're very simple. The first is be concise. We've already mentioned the goal tonight is to help pull off a good meeting. That's my mission is to help agencies talk to each other and help agencies talk to their publics. I believe these agencies are here to listen to you. Likewise, you're going to hear from them that they are very confident in their safety review process and measures and so one of our goals tonight, I think, is to be open mind. I'm pretty sure that you want to make sure that these agencies are actually listening to you and considering your comments before they make their decisions; right? You want them to have an open mind. Likewise, I'm going to ask you now to listen closely and keep an open mind that what they have to say about their safety review process, knowing that you get to make up your own mind and you get to speak for yourselves.
Please speak for yourself. Let us know what you want, what you're most worried about, what your questions are, okay? And finally, one speaker at a time just so that there's no interruption and we respect everybody that's speaking. I might have to stop and -- and help us do that, but I hope not. Here we go. This is a very important topic. Thank you very much for coming. And I'm going to turn to Ken Harris from the Division of Oil, Gas, Geothermal to start.

MR. HARRIS: Good evening, everyone. Thank you for coming. We appreciate your attendance. This meeting represents a milestone in our effort to make certain determinations about the future of Aliso Canyon. We are interested in hearing what you have to say. We've been working very hard with a team of engineers to implement what we believe is one of the strictest and most comprehensive set of testing regimes applied to any gas field in the United States.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good evening, everybody. Porter Ranch residents, please stand up in front in solidarity for Porter Ranch. Please stand in solidarity for Porter Ranch.

PUBLIC: [INAUDIBLE].


UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Unless you want this. You just stopped the proceedings.

MR. MCGEE: You have just stopped the proceedings.

PUBLIC: [PUBLIC CHEERING]

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: [UNINTELLIGIBLE] I want to welcome our elected officials. Please note that we definitely want to hear from you as planned and we respect your time and that has not changed. We are not here to stop any proceedings. We want to hear from you. We insist our regulators hear from you no matter what and make your comments on the record. We are here -- we are here to give more time to the public to speak, more for you to be heard or who wants more people to be heard?

PUBLIC: [PUBLIC CHEERING]

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: [UNINTELLIGIBLE] We are still concerned that this hearing format is the same for format that we have heard over and over again for 15 months.

PUBLIC: [PUBLIC CHANTING]

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: [UNINTELLIGIBLE] the city people and all you people have come all this way to make sure that you hear us.

PUBLIC: [CHEERING]

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: [UNINTELLIGIBLE] all this information is available online. Many people have read it. We've seen the videos. It's all available all the time right now. What is not available [UNINTELLIGIBLE].

PUBLIC: [UNINTELLIGIBLE]

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: [UNINTELLIGIBLE] and we are regularly sick and experiencing symptoms of exposure. [UNINTELLIGIBLE] have the headaches, nose bleeds, nausea, dizziness, rashes, respiratory complications and many other health problems; we will hear that about tonight. People are reporting cancers and leukemia and other horrible health issues. They are [UNINTELLIGIBLE] the Aliso Canyon.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Shut it down. Shut it all down.

PUBLIC: [CHEERING]

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: When they used Aliso Canyon for the first time in a year last week, dozens of residents called the health department reporting illnesses [UNINTELLIGIBLE].

PUBLIC: [UNINTELLIGIBLE].

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: [UNINTELLIGIBLE] your mission statement says, and I quote, "Preventative damage to life, health, property and natural resources." End quote. [UNINTELLIGIBLE] we made clear that if the operation of this facility results in our illness, then this facility is not safe.

PUBLIC: [CHANTING]

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: If cannot absolutely state the [UNINTELLIGIBLE] root case analysis completed, what caused the blowout, then you cannot say that this facility is safe.

PUBLIC: [CHEERING]

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: [UNINTELLIGIBLE] then to review is Governor Jerry Brown is to shut it all down.

PUBLIC: [CHANTING] Shut it all down. Shut it all down.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: [UNINTELLIGIBLE] we will hear from some of our children.

PUBLIC: [CHEERING]

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Unless you want this.
MR. STERN: I know what you're going through. I, I just got into office. My name is Henry Stern and I'm your State Senator.

MR. STERN: It's not about me. It's about you. It's about you. So --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Where were you all this time?

MR. STERN: Oh, I, I wasn't [UNINTELLIGIBLE] until just now so I'm, I'm trying to work as hard as I can for you. I, I just got into office. My name is Henry Stern and I'm your State Senator.

PUBLIC: [APPLAUSE]

MR. STERN: I know what you're going through. I, I was in Porter Ranch the day we discovered the blowout. I was at Shepherd of the Hills when hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of you showed up. I've seen -- you texted me your photos. I've seen the nose bleeds and the nausea.

I've seen the pets you've lost and the family members that
have been injured. I know that this is taking courage to come out here tonight and to share your stories and I want to thank everybody here. I don't care what organization you're in. I don't care who you're affiliated with but I want to take thank you for exercising your Democratic right to be heard by showing --

PUBLIC: [APPLAUSE]

MR. STERN: I also want to thank the agencies for showing up tonight to hear you.

PUBLIC: [APPLAUSE]

MR. STERN: I want to thank them for sitting here listening. I really do appreciate that the PUC and DOGGR and these agencies are willing to sit on this stage and feel the outrage in this community because you can get bogged down in PowerPoints and presentations and procedure. It's any easy thing to do, but I know this is much more human, that this is visceral, that this is your family, this is your kids. So I want you to know that and that as your public servant here and your other representatives, your city council, and your supervisor here, we come from all different political stripes. This is not about politics tonight. This is about protecting the community of Porter Ranch in the North Valley. This is about righting wrongs, and this is about getting your life back on track.

PUBLIC: [APPLAUSE]

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: [UNINTELLIGIBLE]

MR. STERN: So what I do hope is with all this pressure that we feel in this room -- all this energy -- that we can channel this, we can channel this outrage into somewhere constructive and so we're working right now with the administration to try to get some resolution here. My simple comment tonight to you all was going to be let's take a pause here, and let's -- let's wait until we -- we move into discussing what to do with that gas fuel until we get to the bottom of what happened there back in October.

PUBLIC: [APPLAUSE]

MR. STERN: We don't know yet. We don't know yet. We know -- we do know that the staff of DOGGR and the PUC have been working very diligently over the last 15 months to check on the safety of a number of of the other wells and that's what they're going to talk to you tonight. The central tension is that we still don't have answers about SS25 and in that process, in my humble opinion, has taken too long, but with your energy tonight we can shake that loose and we can start moving this thing forward. So they have not made up their minds yet, and I think if they can hear you and hear each and everyone of you as your facilitator mentioned, as Caelan mentioned, if we can structure the rest of this meeting so that getting into details of what's happened to each of you, that will [UNINTELLIGIBLE] impact on these agencies, okay. So know that you do have recourse through the legislature and that we have -- we have legislation that is going to be heard next week to -- to keep that facility shut down.

PUBLIC: [APPLAUSE]

MR. STERN: But we don't have to go that route if we find some other resolution here tonight, so I will just submit to you all that your goal should be to find the quickest possible resolution of this to keep that facility shut down, to make sure that all the costs and all the health impacts that you have been in grief with are rectified, that you don't pay a single cent to the Gas Company to -- to make them whole because you guys are the ones who need to be made whole. You all want [UNINTELLIGIBLE].

PUBLIC: [APPLAUSE]

MR. STERN: So I promise you -- I promise you again that regardless of political stripe, we are going to be working hand in hand with the city council, and the Board of Supervisors, and the State Legislature to make sure that your voices are heard, but I do -- I want you to give them a chance and I want you to listen to them. I -- I -- I appreciate -- we are in an era that exceeds any process, right? And this outrage does trump any agenda, so I -- I -- I -- get that. So thank you for expressing yourselves with the kind of fervor, but let's get focused now. Let's do our homework now and let's get down to details, okay? So I want to pass the mic over, if appropriate to the councilman here -- your Councilman, Mitch Englander as soon as I call this man on the phone, and said, "We need your help. This is an emergency, and we need to get this bill moving in case things don't go right." He stepped up. You should know that about Mitch.

PUBLIC: [APPLAUSE]

MR. STERN: And you should know that about [UNINTELLIGIBLE] as well, your supervisor. No hesitation. Didn't even call the Gas Company first to check if this was okay. We don't need their permission to go forward.

We have your permission.

PUBLIC: [APPLAUSE]

MR. STERN: So your Councilman is here tonight. I'll let him announce his progress and all the hard work he's been doing, but listen, I want to thank you, and I want -- again, let's focus here. Let's dig in the details here and let's -- let's listen to what these folks have to say and if you don't like what they have to say in the end, you can walk out of here and you can go to battle; but if you find what they say compelling then maybe we find our solution, but what I'm waiting for and my bottom line is -- --
you. So that's what's going to guide us going forward.

That's the only thing that gives us strength; your vote,
and your faith in our system so thank you for coming out tonight. We got your back. We got your back.

PUBLIC: [APPLAUSE]

MR. ENGLANDER: I'm Council member Mitchell Englander for those of you that don't know me. Thank you. Thank you for -- first of all, our State Senator, let's give it up.

PUBLIC: [APPLAUSE]

MR. ENGLANDER: I -- I got to tell you, just -- just listening to everything he just said, I got to tell you, this is a guy who not only ran and won for the right reasons that when he says he's got our back in the State Capital -- and not a lot of people do up there -- quite frankly in Sacramento, he means it. He walks the walk, he talks the talk. I really appreciate it. He's a good friend of this community and we're grateful to have you, so thank you very much.

PUBLIC: [APPLAUSE]

MR. ENGLANDER: So this community -- first, I want to address what happened here earlier, and I want to thank you for coming out and hosting this meeting here in the community. I'm sorry there wasn't free parking, but So Cal Gas should pay for the parking.

PUBLIC: [APPLAUSE]

MR. ENGLANDER: I want to thank you guys for -- for coming out, and in fact it was interesting because I was thinking about what's going to happen? Are they going to shut it down, like, the meeting? Or are they going to listen a little bit to the passion and the emotion of this community? And that's what we just saw. This demonstration -- because I've never witnessed that and I sit through legislative hearings every day and I've been at many Town Hall with many of you, I've led them. I participated and I've been an audience member through that, all right. That, that must be So Cal Gas. All right.

PUBLIC: [APPLAUSE]

MR. ENGLANDER: They -- they don't like it very much. So through all of that emotion and in coming out here and what you saw and what I was able to think about before I came up here on stage what that this community has been emotionally damaged. They've been psychologically damaged. They've been physically damaged, financially damaged, and medically damaged. That's what this is about.

PUBLIC: [APPLAUSE]

MR. ENGLANDER: And living in fear and living in the shadow of a facility that should not be co-located with Los Angeles do not want this facility open and we want to know what happened. That's what that says, so now we've got support from the Federal Government. We got support from the State Government. We got support from the County -- by the way our new supervisor who I think we already introduced in a moment and we've got the support from the city but most importantly, we have the support from the community.

PUBLIC: [APPLAUSE]

MR. ENGLANDER: So -- so we don't care about the science and the technology hired by the Gas Company tells us at this point, we want to know what really happened, what caused it. So it's not that complicated; so that's where we're at today. Now I really thought about writing a strong letter that I was going to read into the record and -- and I didn't do that. I didn't write a letter to read into the record and I didn't do so because I read one that I knew I couldn't write better. I was blown away when I read -- we shouldn't use blown away. We shouldn't use that. When I read the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council letter that was submitted today, that was submitted as part of the record, I will tell you word-for-word if -- and I can ask all of you, please, if you read anything that they -- any of them submit, put that on top and read it. I support it. I would have been happy to
MR. ENGLANDER: And to me, and I think Henry said it yesterday to oppose the new [UNINTELLIGIBLE] for EPA.
PUBLIC: [APPLAUSE]
MR. ENGLANDER: And to me, and I think Henry said it yesterday to oppose the new [UNINTELLIGIBLE] for EPA.
PUBLIC: [APPLAUSE]
MS. MARGO: I'm going to yield my time because as much as you know, a political person I can tell you what my opinion is. I got County help here who wants to address seismic concerns, as well -- again, I'm sorry. County Fire here is going to address seismic concerns and I've got County up here who's going to discuss health concerns, but I would really urge you all I plea with you this is not a political -- this is a bipartisan. This is a passion. The people in this audience who I've known for over a year who are frustrated, fed up, and don't feel like they're being heard, and it is our jobs as electeds your job as our representatives as well because, in fact, you are an extension to all of us for you to understand that in our office over the last two weeks, we've been called twice by the Gas Company and told that there's going to be brown outs, possible black outs, and that was rescinded, and you know, credibility is important. Credibility is important not only in politics but also as it relates to what's going on with the Gas Company and the credibility for a lot of people in this room, and again, we dealt with the relocation, the fact that there were many that didn't get [UNINTELLIGIBLE] in timely fashion, so we understand the frustration you guys have. So with that, I would like to yield the remainder of my time to County Fire and the County Health to tell you from their standpoint because -- again, and I'm talking about the fact that we have a united front both County and City...
pleading with you, asking you not to move forward with this. Listen to the Senator. We support the Senator.

The need to ensure that we have answers for the community should be first and foremost but if you don’t believe us, listen to the experts who are going to deal any of this catastrophe that takes place who have dealt with it from County Fire, to the health department and then with that during public comment that [UNINTELLIGIBLE] leads to a [UNINTELLIGIBLE]. Right now our attorneys will address issues such as seep water. There is a question in terms of legality who are moving forward if given permission immediately. So with that, I’m going to yield to County fireman.

PUBLIC: [APPLAUSE].

MR. UFOFF: Thank you supervisor. My name is Walter Uoff. I’m an Assistant Chief with the L.A. County Fire Department, the Health Hazards Materials Division. It was my staff that reviewed the Southern California Gas Risk Management Plan that was submitted and we made comments on that to the DOGGR. It was my supervisor who runs the CalARP program which is the California Accidental Release -- Air Release Prevention Program was the one who reviewed the document. Her job, day-to-day job is to review RMP reports for approximately 300 facilities or counties, so she has some experience in this -- in this process. After we reviewed the report, we found that the report fell short of our expectations. We found that it was a general plan to address all four of their facilities, including the Montebello that closed down and that it was insufficient in detail. What we would like to see is -- is we have provided written comments explaining in detail what we would like to see of this plan, but we would like to see that plan become a functional plan by adding the detail that we requested and to customize the plan for the Aliso Canyon storage facility, and we’d like to see that before they start injecting gas.

PUBLIC: [APPLAUSE].

MR. UFOFF: I read the report submitted by the third party consultants [UNINTELLIGIBLE] and Berkeley and they agreed that a seismic study needs to be done, needs to be done out there in the -- at the facility.

PUBLIC: [APPLAUSE]

MR. UFOFF: But what they did say in the report was that it didn’t need to be done immediately. Despite of our [UNINTELLIGIBLE] and they give reasons for it, but as the fire department and because of our past seismic condition out there, we would like to see this report. We would like to see this study done prior to injecting gas.

PUBLIC: [APPLAUSE]

MR. UFOFF: And lastly, the root cause analysis which really understand the role of the Division as an overseeing oil and gas production within the state, but because of the fields close proximity to people, we have to think of this one a little bit differently than we would a typical oil and gas production facility.

PUBLIC: [APPLAUSE].

MR. BELLEMO: [UNINTELLIGIBLE] a lot of the expertise that the the division has in regulating oil and gas facilities is focused on well integrity, but when you have people located in such close proximity to this activity that is a threshold. It is not where we stop, it’s really where we begin.

PUBLIC: [APPLAUSE]

MR. BELLEMO: So for the Division of Oil and Gas, I think the key point here is that this is a facility where public health is primary. It’s the key priority for all of us and that as a result, our County Fire Department, the Air Quality Management District, and the County Public Health Department have been listening to everyone here who has experienced the symptoms and we have been trying to supplement the work that the state regulators are doing.

I wish we in California we had a state regulatory agency for these types of facilities that was really health oriented.

PUBLIC: [APPLAUSE]
MR. GROSSMAN: I understand the history here because I've been doing this type of work for 45 years and the Division of Oil and Gas was focused on regulating the industry before they understood the full implications of these types of industry whether located in proximity to people. I want to just move on and summarize what the three things are that we're asking for and I won't repeat anything other than one critical one that the supervisor and my colleague, Walter, just referenced. As the -- as the Division of Oil and Gas considers the decision they've done [UNINTELLIGIBLE] we want them to consider three key requirements. We ask for your understanding, your support, and your commitment to these three requirements, and we'll be providing this to you in and require it along in writing along with the other requirements. First, as the supervisor has said and the fire department the root cause analysis must be completed before the field resumes operation, if it resumes operation, and we just have to understand we can never prevent a recurrence of a disaster without full knowledge of what caused it.

PUBLIC: [APPLAUSE]

MR. BELLEMO: Secondly, irrespective of whether Aliso resumes operations, we need a continuous monitoring system to ensure that we can detect and mitigate releases from that field, that means whether it is operating or whether it never operates, there's an infrastructure there that will have to continue to be monitored sometime in the future. And third, and again, this is -- I'm only going to mention one more thing because I'm not going to repeat what other colleagues have said or others will say, but the need for a comprehensive health study is necessary because, we have to determine whether and how the recurrent and persistent symptoms correlate with emissions from the field and that's before, during, and after the incident, and because we're going to continue to see symptoms appearing.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's still leaking.

MR. BELLEMO: Right. And without this information we really can't address the health concerns and needs of the affected residents and they will unable to achieve as has been said previously, the necessary closure to move on with their lives. That's basically it. Thank you very much. I look forward to [INAUDIBLE].

PUBLIC: [APPLAUSE]

MR. GROSSMAN: So thank you Mr. Harris and Mr. Sullivan for listening. I appreciate it very much. I'm Scotch Grossman [phonetic] the board member for the Porter Ranch area and all of District 3.

PUBLIC: [APPLAUSE]

MR. GROSSMAN: Who I represent, I think, are the most important people and that's the kids.

PUBLIC: [APPLAUSE]

MR. GROSSMAN: You know, when we had the gas leak and we moved our students, it was a tremendous job. We had to move two schools to two different locations in three weeks, and we were able to do that and what a lot of people don't know it wasn't just moving the kids, we were going to scatter them from the Valley in different places where we had space but the parents said no. We want our kids to stay together and we did do that. We did do that. Porter Ranch kids stay together and the board went ahead with the L.A. Unified School District is willing to partner the businesses, engineers, scientists, and other government agencies to train and educate our students immediately in clean, safe, and sustainable energy [INAUDIBLE] storage.

PUBLIC: [APPLAUSE]
MR. MCGEE: The representative is here from Congressman Sherman's office or from Senator Einstein's office.

UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: [UNINTELLIGIBLE]

MR. MCGEE: Please.

MR. CONIUM: Good evening. My name is Cameron Annum. I'm a life-long resident of the San Fernando Valley and [UNINTELLIGIBLE] our United States' Senator Dianne Einstein.

PUBLIC: [APPLAUSE].

MR. CONIUM: Senator Einstein, this issue really speaks to her. She wanted to be here today but as you could imagine, Washington DC has her busy, but this afternoon her and I spoke and she asked me to share these words with you, if that's okay. She said that, "I have deep concerns about Aliso Canyon. The massive, natural gas storage facility hosts 114 wells, some 9,000 feet deep, and up to 77 years old, all in an earthquake-prone area. The failure of just one of these wells took nearly four months to repair, [UNINTELLIGIBLE] an astonishing 109,000 metric tons of methane. As our Councilman referenced, now that the housing development for nearly 30,000 people has grown up around the facility, our first responsibility must be the safety of the residents."

PUBLIC: [APPLAUSE].

MR. CONIUM: "And it is in my view that the most responsible action will be to permanently shut down the site."

PUBLIC: [APPLAUSE]

MR. CONIUM: "It is time for Southern California to stop relying on massive, individual facility that are prone to failure like Aliso Canyon. We need to redesign our energy systems to increase flexible, safe, renewable alternatives [UNINTELLIGIBLE]. Thank you.

PUBLIC: [APPLAUSE]

UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: Very brief from Mr. Sherman. He lives in Porter Ranch with his family, his three young daughters, his house is about as close as any [UNINTELLIGIBLE] 25. He asked that I deliver this statement on his behalf; his words. "Scalars is responsible for the largest methane leak in U.S. history and now they want to resume injections into the storage facility before the investigation into the leak, into the cause of the leak is complete. This confirms my concern that the too-big-to-fail, too-big-to-exist issue at Aliso Canyon remains unresolved. No one natural gas storage facility should be so large that its closure can adversely affect the statewide economy or cause a significant portion of the state to be without heating, cooking or electricity, and yet the residents of Porter Ranch, many of who remain engaged in a legal battle with Scalars over injuries suffered during last year's blowout are now being told that injections must resume Aliso Canyon or else run the risk of blackouts throughout the Los Angeles region?"

PUBLIC: [BOOING]

UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: "[UNINTELLIGIBLE] like Los Angeles is too reliant on one facility for all of its power and alternatives should be developed. I'm encouraged by the State's efforts to build a more diversified grid and maximize the use battery technology in order alleviate or [UNINTELLIGIBLE]."

PUBLIC: [APPLAUSE]

UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: "We must proceed with extreme caution until the strongest possible safety measures are in place and the cause of last year's leak is fully understood. The Aliso Canyon facility should hold the minimum usage necessary in order to ensure reliability. You should not even consider [UNINTELLIGIBLE] Scalars what they want now unless you act simultaneously to inquire the expeditious limitation [UNINTELLIGIBLE] safety standard, including [UNINTELLIGIBLE] safety valves. Additionally, each well should have appropriate live gauges and monitors that report the finding of electronically for utilities, state officials, and the public online. I look forward to working together so this disaster never happens again in the San Fernando Valley again." Thank you.

PUBLIC: [APPLAUSE]

MR. MCGEE: Do we have a board member from the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council here that would like to speak at this moment? [UNINTELLIGIBLE]

PUBLIC: [APPLAUSE]

MS. GORMAN-CHANG: Okay. So I'm going to read from our president's speech. So I like to adjust a little bit. Obviously my name is not Assam. My name is Susan Gorman-Chang. I'm the Vice President for Neighborhood Council representing more than 30,000 residents of the City of Los Angeles. I'm here speaking on behalf of the Neighborhood Council not the City of Los Angeles. As everyone knows, the part of our city council is taking a clear position on this matter. We believe that this facility is incompatible with its fervid environment.
because it represents a clear danger to public health as demonstrated by the four-month disaster, caused by the catastrophic failure of one of its of a 115 wells. Yesterday, we, the Porter Ranch Neighborhood City Council, submitted extensive comments of the findings of the Department of Conservation regarding the well safety review and on those of the Public Utilities Commission regarding the storage volume needs. I will now take this public testimony time to repeat those comments, but I do want to articulate our general perspective, and our over-arching position. We are dismayed that in all the calculations you made by all the engineers and experts, no one has bothered to factor in the risk to public health.

PUBLIC: [APPLAUSE]

MS. GORMAN-CHANG: When it comes down to cost versus public health, there should be no argument. In the 21st century California, we should not be compromising public health because we don't know what to do with an archaic energy [UNINTELLIGIBLE].

However, the fact that the gas delivery system currently depends on Aliso Canyon in a high demand emergency is not lost with us. To be clear, we are referring to a real emergency, not a fabricated one.

PUBLIC: [APPLAUSE]

MS. GORMAN-CHANG: We understand that the PUC and Gas

Company customers are concerned about the tons of shortages and high demand days. To that end, we are proposing a very straightforward solution that should be accepted by everyone. Maintaining Aliso Canyon in it’s current status, which is closed, which is an emergency supply facility only and not an operating facility, not an operating facility, okay. [UNINTELLIGIBLE] There needs to be a clear delineation of what constitutes an emergency gas leak, not a fabricated one. For example, all supply lines must be a hundred percent before an emergency withdrawal takes place. Recognize that the facility is a clear threat to public health that needs to be retired.

We need that facility decommissioned, right?

[UNINTELLIGIBLE] this facility should be decommissioned. Identify a clever, expedited schedule for the [UNINTELLIGIBLE] decommission of this facility and implement the necessary changes of the gas delivery system to eliminate the need for Aliso Canyon. We have plenty of pipes and pipe lines that can get -- get that gas to us without Aliso Canyon. Yeah. It's been proven. This approach satisfies any concerns about gas shortages real or imaginary, while achieving the community’s goal of ending its nightmare. This solution is feasible. It only needs the state to believe in it and want to implement it. Our people deserve to have their basic human right to live in a safe and healthy environment. God knows that we have -- God knows we have earned that right after living through four months of hell and the hell continues and for anyone to have the audacity to ask us to give more of our lives and our health in this matter is simply outrageous.

PUBLIC: [APPLAUSE]

MR. MCGEE: May I please ask to see Councilman Edger Alive [phonetic] to the microphone, please.

MR. ALIVE: Good evening. My name is Edger Alive, Council member from the city of Mayweed located in Southeast Los Angeles County. I'm here to speak about the situation. Natural gas, I believe, is an essential and much needed resource to fuel Southern California. Purchasing a lower cost and being able to store it makes it -- this resource much more affordable for all of us, in particular to residents in my community with a power level as close as 30 percent, and that is why this topic is important to me.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Fight for solar.

MR. ALIVE: As the leader and model for clean energy, no another state tops California; however, our current infrastructure still relies on 60 percent of our electricity to be generated by natural gas. I come from a city that has been heavily polluted for decades with heavy cancer-causing toxins like arsenic and lead, and

unfortunately, those are what's responsible -- for those -- for poisoning our communities have -- have not been nowhere near as responsive in my opinion are the Gas Company, and so if Southern California Gas has complied with all the regulations and technology upgrades, I humbly ask that [INAUDIBLE].

PUBLIC: [BOOING]

MS. FERNANDEZ: Hello. I'm . I am the founding CEO of Biffed, an L.A. County business foundation. We have 325,000 companies employing 3,000,000 people in the 88 cities in Los Angeles County. I'm also the former publisher of the Los Angeles Daily News, and I totally appreciate free speech and support your act of being here communicating with our regulators. I want to direct my remarks to our agency professionals and experts. Thank you for holding this forum and coming down to listen. On behalf of our 3,000,000 families that live here in the basin and rely on all sorts of energy and desire the cleanest energy possible so that we can meet our climate change goals, I ask that you support the safe reopening of Aliso Canyon.

PUBLIC: [BOOING] [UNINTELLIGIBLE] Shut it all down. Shut it all down.

MS. FERNANDEZ: Shut it all down. Shut it all down.

MR. ALIVE: So like you're expressing your opinions. I'm expressing --
MR. MCGEE: Check, check. All right. First, we're
going to start at this line and we're going to alternate.
Please introduce yourselves when you come to the mic. We
have a timer that we are going to show and that is
strictly to try to move through these people. I wish I
could give you all the time that you wanted. We're going
to give you two minutes and move through the speakers, and
you will listen to as many people that want to make a
comment. Please start here.
MS. WILBUR: My name is Jennifer Wilbur. I'm a
resident of Crashworthy and a board member of the Porter
Ranch Neighborhood Council. My family and I have been
severely impacted by the negligence of the Southern
California Gas Company and their failure to operate the
facility which does -- which does not harm the community
to is located next to. For 112 days, my community was
poisoned with over 94,000 metric tons of methane gas,
[UNINTELLIGIBLE], benzene, xyylene, toluene, and a variety
of other toxic chemical which to this this day have never
been made known to us because SoCalGas claims it is
proprietary information. I strongly believe that this
facility has at least prior to the blowout of October
2015, but we were never made aware of these releases. It
also been documented that since the [UNINTELLIGIBLE] at
Aliso Canyon that there have been numerous other releases,
spills, fires, and leaks. It is not unreasonable to ask
for that facility to remain closed until the cost of the
blowout has been determined. It is not unreasonable to
demand that no release of methane and toxins is acceptable
from Aliso Canyon.
MS. MILBAUER: And it is not unreasonable to ask that
facility to remain shut down until a comprehensive health
study has been done. The reports of cancer in our
community have risen drastically, and I am personally
filled with anxiety about what the long-term health
effects are of being poisoned by SoCalGas, and I know
from the experience that I have what the short-term health
effects are. There are headaches, dizziness, burning
eyes, blurry vision, nausea, bloody noses, plugged ears,
sinus inflammation -- just to name a few, and if you allow
them to reopen this facility, I feel that my family and
many others will be leaving in droves and will forever
change the dynamic of a once peaceful community. We never
knew that the second largest methane gas storage facility
was in our backyard and it was never too close to us but
it doesn't matter now, a very dangerous neighborhood with
reckless disregard for humanity. Thank you. Thank you.
MR. MCGEE: We're going to cut to this side next.

MR. MCGEE: So thank you. Remember how upset you got
when you felt like I wasn't giving you a chance to speak,
do you remember that?
UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: Don't talk down to us.
MR. MCGEE: I'm suggesting that you follow the same
rules that you ask for. I'm suggesting that you follow
the same rules that you ask for. Would you like to
continue Ms. Fernandez?
MS. FERNANDEZ: Yes. So I'm here representing 5,000
employers and 3,000,000 families [UNINTELLIGIBLE].
MR. MCGEE: The presentation that DOGGR -- the
presentation that DOGGR previously planned on presenting
tonight is recorded and is presented online. I'm sure
that there are some people who are here interested in
seeing it, but we're going to move right now to public
comments.
MR. MCGEE: And you demonstrated, you demonstrated
what is necessary in order to have this public meeting.
We're going to have [UNINTELLIGIBLE].
PUBLIC: [APPLAUSE]
MR. CASEMORE: Ben Casemore. We are one of the first families to move up to Northridge Country Village when it was a North Country Village in South Porter Ranch. It was in 1985 that fourth residents moved in. It was just dirt up there. There's thousands and thousands of homes up there at the moment. Our lives were completely changed in last October 2015 blowout of Aliso Canyon. My family immediately felt the effects of the massive methane an blowout; the largest in U.S. history, which was approximately one-quarter to one half a mile away from our home. The bloody noses, severe headaches, rashes, coughing, fatigue, sore throats, dizzy spells, sleepless nights -- just to name a few. I'm sure everyone of us live up at the territory know exactly where I'm coming from. I have gone to various doctors. Internists, ENT's, with my bloody noses, cardiologists and as of yesterday was advised by my nephrologist -- did an ultrasound of my kidneys and bladder. These various symptoms were caused by not only the methane gas, the other contributing factors of the oil that had erupted and spewed all over my beautiful home, inside and outside. The inspector that was sent out by the David Morris company found oil stains all over my house, all over my three cars. As of today, they're still trying to find out what are the types of chemicals that are in that well. We still don't know. I needed -- I need to protect my family and we relocated seven months. We were out of our house in seven different locations. Most of you also relate to that as well. We have -- we have symptoms when we came back on weekends. For one hour in the house to water the plants and would take out the trash or get our mail, we were sickened by coming into the house for one hour. Our symptoms just continued. They're still continuing right now. My children have moved out of our house and are very concerned about our long-term health as everyone else has.

Shut it down.

PUBLIC: [APPLAUSE]

MR. MCGEE: We -- that's one, two, three -- this is the fourth, then we're going to go to those who are not able to stand in line. Obviously, we're going well above the two minutes. That only matters for those of you behind the line. Obviously, I can't stop you, so please right here.

MS. DEROHANIAN: Hello. My name is Cheri Derohanian. I'm on the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council; however, I come to you today as a mother of twin 14 year-old girls and they -- I'll start. Okay. So our life has not been the same since October 23rd, 2015. My girls are 8th graders at Porter Ranch Community School. They were in 7th grade at the time, and that was interesting because on 10-23, it happened on a Friday and Monday through Friday...
help those of us who weren't being helped. Lastly, and this is very important, I think. The Gas Company tells us that their last narrative is a scare tactic. They frightened the news media into saying, "Oh, my goodness. There won't be energy available in the winter months," even though -- even though, Edison has said they have more than enough to share with us and in fact in yesterday's newspaper, in yesterday's Los Angeles Times, there was a story about Edison building a huge battery plant and in no time at all can supply a lot of energy all over the place, an excess amount of energy. There is the headline, right there. Yes. Edison -- Edison can take over. We will not be without energy. We will not be cold in the winter because we don't need SoCalGas.

PUBLIC: [APPLAUSE]

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The wells as much as 80 years old, have deteriorated, are rusting, and every few days, we get notifications from the Gas Company on the Internet saying, "Whoops, we got another spill. Oh, well. Oh, well." It's time that it shut down. Thank you.

PUBLIC: [APPLAUSE]

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: [UNINTELLIGIBLE] in the 80 years that they want from standard oil and it's time to go. Everything has a life time and they've lived their life time. Thank you so much.

PUBLIC: [APPLAUSE]

MR. SYKES: [UNINTELLIGIBLE] Sykes [phonetic] [UNINTELLIGIBLE] Redondo Beach, we've had a lot of people stand up yelling about shut the well down. How many people can stand up and say they knew this storage facility was in existence two years ago? Why is that? Why is this facility in the west coast, west of Mississippi, three miles wide, 90 million -- 90 billion cubic feet of gas and nobody in this room knew about it. I bet the elected officials knew about it. They planned [UNINTELLIGIBLE] around it. Who would do that? Who cares? So you take an elected official for results. Many people say the Gas Company lied to everybody. Maybe if you put elected officials in charge of the utilities, you have no liars. I don't think so. So there's a few things here that I wrote down. In that report that you read, there was [UNINTELLIGIBLE] that said something about a well file. Now I've heard of a round file. What is a round file? The wells people said they're 80 years old, they're 50 years old, they're 60 years old. This is a comprehensive safety review. Just a safety review would have shown maybe what needed to be fixed. Does anybody remember seeing Nemo? [UNINTELLIGIBLE] was it a gas leak? Pipes broke? Big fire. [UNINTELLIGIBLE] that's how your elected officials, the people they appoint to these
MR. WALDMAN: In a Democracy, we let people speak.
You are being disrespectful. No one shouted you down.
From a business and air quality perspective, keep
[UNIDENTIFIABLE].
PUBLIC: [BOOING] [UNIDENTIFIABLE] shame on you.
Shame on you. Shut it down. Shut it down. Shut it down.
MR. MCGEE: So, so we actually have a safety issue
now. This is, this is actually a safety issue now. Hold
on a second. Hold on a second. So -- so the desire to
shut down this facility is quite clear. We hear it. It
is loud. It will remain loud. No confusion, okay? If
that is the only voice that gets to be heard tonight then
there is no reason to continue this meeting, and I'm going
to stop this meeting. If -- if you are willing to keep your
fellow citizens an opportunity to speak, we will continue.
Otherwise, there's no reason -- this is not helping nobody.
They're not learning anything and they're not taking any
comments. [UNIDENTIFIABLE] and actually it's a safety
issue here. [UNIDENTIFIABLE] No. No. You tell me right
now. Are you willing -- sure. You all [UNIDENTIFIABLE]
the safety issue is that with 300 people in the room, if
it loses control, things happen; right? Right?
PUBLIC: [BOOING]
MR. MCGEE: Are you willing to let other people
[UNIDENTIFIABLE] are you willing to let other people

know. Why didn't you know? Because you weren't involved.
You need to get involved. [UNIDENTIFIABLE] I'm down in the
county every God damn week to listen to them lie and tell
us the tales that they do. It's not fair. There's 10
million people who live in this county. They have a voice
[UNIDENTIFIABLE] I'm sorry this leak happened, but it was,
when [UNIDENTIFIABLE] because it shows me how corrupt
the government is in the County and the State of
California.
PUBLIC: [APPLAUSE]
MR. MCGEE: We're going to this side next. Please
note the number of people in line as you consider the
length of your comments. Please go right ahead.
MR. WALDMAN: Sure. Good evening. I'm Stuart
Waldman. I'm President of the Valley Industry and
Commerce Association, VICA. I respect everyone of you and
believe that every person here should have the right to
speak, no matter which side of the opinion you are on and
now it's my turn.
UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Where do you live?
MR. WALDMAN: I live in the San Fernando Valley. I
represent a hundred thousand businesses in the San
Fernando Valley. Thank you for being respectful. VICA
supports the --
PUBLIC: [BOOING] [UNIDENTIFIABLE]
| 60:1 | 60:2 | 60:3 | 60:4 | 60:5 | 60:6 | 60:7 | 60:8 | 60:9 | 60:10 | 60:11 | 60:12 | 60:13 | 60:14 | 60:15 | 60:16 | 60:17 | 60:18 | 60:19 | 60:20 |
| 64:1 | 64:2 | 64:3 | 64:4 | 64:5 | 64:6 | 64:7 | 64:8 | 64:9 | 64:10 | 64:11 | 64:12 | 64:13 | 64:14 | 64:15 | 64:16 | 64:17 | 64:18 | 64:19 | 64:20 |