



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 11, 2016 – LOS ANGELES

**ALISO CANYON GAS LEAK – INCIDENT UPDATE – February 11, 2016**

**Los Angeles County Department of Public Health**

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) acknowledges the progress that SoCalGas has made to stop the leak at the Aliso Canyon storage facility. This is good news and an important step in the process to end the incident.

As progress is made to permanently stop the gas leak, Public Health expects to see a significant reduction in the amount of methane detected as part of the Expanded Air Monitoring Plan. Public Health is relying upon the California Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) to confirm when the leak is plugged. Once the leak has stopped, Public Health expects to see additional reductions in the emissions of methane and other chemicals from this incident.

Once the leaking well is confirmed as plugged, Public Health will continue to assess air sampling and health data for at least 30 days to ensure that there are no further emissions from the gas facility and no symptoms in residents. Public Health will take any action necessary to protect health.

Learn more about how the Aliso Canyon Gas Leak online at:

<http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/gasleak/>.

**Los Angeles County Fire Department**

LACoFD continues to meet the incident objectives which include providing for the safety and security of the public and those involved with the incident and limiting the effects of the natural gas leak to the community and the environment.

Here are some updates as of February 11, 2016:

- The Fire Department will continue in Unified Command with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, and the Southern California Gas Company.
- Fire's Health Hazardous Materials Division is continuing to provide oversight on sampling activities both on and off site and will continue to monitor for the safety of personnel and the community.
- Health Hazardous Materials Division personnel will continue to provide technical review of the Aliso Canyon Gas Leak Expanded Air Monitoring report.
- Health Hazardous Materials Division staff are exploring options with Public Health to address community concerns as repopulation occurs following confirmation by the Division of Oil, Gas, & Geothermal Resources (DOGGR).

## **Media Inquiries**

### *Contact*

Natalie Jimenez  
Director, Office of Communications & Public Affairs  
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health  
(213) 240-8144  
[media@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:media@ph.lacounty.gov)

Battalion Chief Mark Savage  
Information Officer  
Los Angeles County Fire Department  
(323) 881-2413  
[mark.savage@fire.lacounty.gov](mailto:mark.savage@fire.lacounty.gov)

## **About Los Angeles County Department of Public Health**

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health is committed to protecting and improving the health of the nearly 10 million residents of Los Angeles County. Through a variety of programs, community partnerships and services, Public Health oversees environmental health, disease control, and community and family health. Public Health comprises nearly 4,000 employees and has an annual budget exceeding \$900 million. To learn more about the LA County Department of Public Health and the work they do, visit [PublicHealth.LACounty.gov](http://PublicHealth.LACounty.gov), and follow Public Health on social media at [twitter.com/LAPublicHealth](https://twitter.com/LAPublicHealth), [facebook.com/LAPublicHealth](https://facebook.com/LAPublicHealth), and [youtube.com/LAPublicHealth](https://youtube.com/LAPublicHealth).

## **About The Los Angeles County Fire Department**

The Los Angeles County Fire Department is committed to protecting lives, the environment, and property by providing prompt, skillful, and cost-effective fire protection and life safety services. LACoFD's ability to develop new techniques and equipment to fight fires of all kinds has benefited not only the residents we serve, but the fire service in general, both nationally and internationally. LACoFD's Health Hazardous Materials Division protects the public health and the environment throughout Los Angeles County from accidental releases and improper handling, storage, transportation, and disposal of hazardous materials and wastes through coordinated efforts of inspections, emergency response, enforcement, and site mitigation oversight.



A  Sempra Energy utility

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **SoCalGas Temporarily Controls Flow of Gas at Leaking Aliso Canyon Well; Initiates Process of Permanently Stopping the Leak**

**LOS ANGELES, Feb. 11, 2016** – Southern California Gas Co. (SoCalGas) today announced that it temporarily has controlled the flow of natural gas at the leaking well at its Aliso Canyon storage facility outside Los Angeles. It will continue to work in coordination with the California Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) and other agencies during the process of permanently sealing the well.

On Dec. 4, 2015, SoCalGas commenced drilling a relief well to stop the natural gas leak by plugging the leaking well at its base. On Feb. 11, 2016, the relief well intercepted the base of the leaking well, and the company began pumping heavy fluids to temporarily control the flow of gas out of the leaking well. DOGGR officials and representatives from other state and local agencies were at the site to observe the operation. The leak and the flow of gas will be declared ended once DOGGR has confirmed that the well has been permanently sealed.

“We have temporarily controlled the natural gas flow from the leaking well and begun the process of sealing the well and permanently stopping the leak.” said Jimmie Cho, SoCalGas senior vice president of gas operations and system integrity, and SoCalGas incident commander.

While this is a positive development, cement will need to be injected from the relief well into the leaking well at its base in order to permanently seal it, which could occur over the next several days. The process by which DOGGR will confirm that the leaking well is permanently sealed could take several additional days after the cement is injected. The company also is continuing its preparations to drill a back-up relief well as a precautionary measure and will continue these efforts at least until the leak has been stopped permanently, the timing of which has not been determined yet.

Residents in Porter Ranch who temporarily relocated because of the odor from the gas leak have been notified today of this development, as have the majority of other residents of Porter Ranch. Once DOGGR confirms that the well has been permanently sealed, the company will start winding down its temporary relocation program. Subject to certain exceptions, residents who have temporarily relocated to short term housing, such as hotels, will have up to eight days/seven nights to transition back home, and residents who have been placed in rental housing will have through the agreed term of their leases to return home. Specific information on return home process can be found here: <https://www.alisoupdates.com/acu-return-home-faq>

###

**Media Inquiries:** SoCalGas 24-Hour Media Hotline - 877-643-2331

**About Southern California Gas Co:** [Southern California Gas Co.](#) (SoCalGas) has been delivering clean, safe and reliable natural gas to its customers for more than 145 years. It is the nation’s largest natural gas distribution utility, providing service to 21.6 million consumers connected through 5.9 million meters in more than 500 communities. The company’s service territory encompasses approximately 20,000 square miles throughout central and Southern California, from Visalia to the Mexican border. SoCalGas is a regulated subsidiary of [Sempra Energy](#) (NYSE: SRE), a Fortune 500 energy services holding company based in San Diego.



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **ALISO CANYON GAS LEAK – INCIDENT UPDATE – FEBRUARY 10, 2016**

**LOS ANGELES, Feb. 10, 2016**

**SoCalGas Operations Update** — SoCalGas continues to make progress on relief well number one, reaching a measured depth of 8,615 feet. As we move forward, there are three major milestones – the “three C’s” – to stopping the leak:

- **Controlling the natural gas that is leaking:**
  - This step consists of approaching the target well along the most precise path possible so the drill bit is in the best position to drill through it, and then pumping heavy fluids into the target well to stop the flow of gas.
  - We expect this step to begin within the next several days.
- **Cementing and stabilizing the target well so that it is permanently sealed:**
  - When the flow of gas has been stopped, SoCalGas will pump enough cement to displace the fluids and mud and leave a cement seal that will cut off the target well from the reservoir, permanently stopping the leak at its source.
  - This step will take multiple days after controlling the flow of gas.
- **Confirmation from DOGGR that the target well is permanently sealed:**
  - SoCalGas will work with the regulating agency, the Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources to confirm that the well leak is permanently stopped.
  - At that point, it is anticipated that no more gas will leak from the well and any remaining odors associated with the leak are expected to quickly dissipate
  - This step will take multiple days after cementing the well.

We remain on schedule with relief well number one to stop the leak by late February or sooner. Crews continue to set up rig equipment on relief well number two.

### **SoCalGas Notification to Residents**

SoCalGas will make at least two notifications to residents. The first will be when the leak has been controlled. The second will be when SoCalGas receives confirmation from DOGGR. SoCalGas will attempt to call or email all residents who requested relocation assistance from SoCalGas as well as issue a press release, post information on the [AlisoUpdates.com](http://AlisoUpdates.com) and provide updates through social media. To ensure you receive the latest updates regarding Aliso Canyon, please fill out our [Aliso Canyon Updates form](#). Get more information here: <https://www.alisoupdates.com/acu-return-home-faq>.

### **South Coast Air Quality Management District Findings on Benzene Concentration in Porter Ranch**

Recently the SCAQMD published findings that show that average benzene concentrations and the range of 12-hour and 24-hour benzene concentrations (average, minimum and maximum) in the Porter Ranch area *are lower than those in surrounding communities*. A graphical representation of these findings is available at: [http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/compliance/aliso-cyn/graphics\\_020116.pdf?sfvrsn=12](http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/compliance/aliso-cyn/graphics_020116.pdf?sfvrsn=12)

-more-

### **SoCalGas Recognizes the Impact on the Community**

SoCalGas is working every day to address concerns of members of the community, whether they've chosen to take advantage of temporary housing accommodations or have remained in Porter Ranch. SoCalGas has established multiple ways to support residents during this unfortunate situation. We have set up a dedicated website, a Community Resource Center, and dedicated phone lines for claims or temporary relocation assistance.

### **Relocation Updates**

As of Feb. 10, 2016, 1,726 (more than a third) of the residents who chose to relocate have checked out of their temporary accommodations.

- Households placed: 4,645
- Households in progress: 861
- Households checked out: 1,726
- Air scrubbers installed in homes: 5,467
- Weatherization of homes: 5,410
- Plug-in air filters delivered to homes: 3,231

**###**

**Media Inquiries:** SoCalGas 24-Hour Media Hotline - 877-643-2331

**About Southern California Gas Co:** [Southern California Gas Co.](#) (SoCalGas) has been delivering clean, safe and reliable natural gas to its customers for more than 145 years. It is the nation's largest natural gas distribution utility, providing service to 21.6 million consumers connected through 5.9 million meters in more than 500 communities. The company's service territory encompasses approximately 20,000 square miles throughout central and Southern California, from Visalia to the Mexican border. SoCalGas is a regulated subsidiary of [Sempra Energy](#) (NYSE: SRE), a Fortune 500 energy services holding company based in San Diego.