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California State Senate

SENATOR
BEN ALLEN

TWENTY-SIXTH SENATE DISTRICT



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JEWISH CAUCUS, CHAIR
ENVIRONMENTAL CAUCUS, CO-CHAIR

July 23, 2019

Mr. David Bunn
Director, California Department of Conservation
801 K Street, MS 24-01
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Bunn,

I recently submitted the attached letter to Kenneth Harris, former State Oil and Gas Supervisor for the California Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR). Due to the recent dismissal of Mr. Harris from his post, I am forwarding a copy of my letter to you as well. The Playa del Rey gas storage site is located under a populous area of my district and the residents there are very concerned about its implications for public health, especially in light of the disastrous leak at Aliso Canyon. I hope you will seriously consider my request that DOGGR conduct a study on the long-term viability of the storage site as well as a potential path towards decommissioning the site.

I appreciate your attention to this important issue. Please feel free to call me directly if you would like to discuss this further. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Allen".

BEN ALLEN
Senator, 26th District

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July 23, 2019

Mr. David Bunn
Director of Conservation
California Department of Conservation
801 K Street, MS 24-01
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Bunn:

I write today to request a feasibility study of the long-term viability of the Playa del Rey gas storage site in Los Angeles and a potential path towards decommissioning. I write this letter in response to a recent study by the California Council on Science and Technology (CCST) which indicates that the Playa del Rey gas storage site poses one of the greatest safety risks of all gas storage sites across the State.

The report, titled "The Long-Term Viability of Underground Gas Storage in California," indicates that "the Playa del Rey facility apparently does not store or withdraw a large amount of gas, providing only about 1% of total natural gas storage across California. However, Playa del Rey is close to a densely populated area, and the risk of loss-of-containment at Playa del Rey is higher than most other natural gas storage facilities." The report then outlines a number of factors that undermine the safety of the Playa del Rey site, including the facility's vulnerability to sea-level rise and seismic activity. Additionally, as you may be aware, my constituents in the surrounding areas have been reporting and complaining about evidence of gas release from the storage site for a number of years now.

For the aforementioned reasons, and given all of the challenges that we have seen in Aliso Canyon, I respectfully ask that you conduct a feasibility study of the site and report the results to my office. I care about our region's energy system and energy reliability. But given the findings of the CCST report, it seems prudent for us to look further into whether a reasonable cost-benefit balance has been struck given the relatively low amount of gas storage in play and the risks

David Bunn
July 23, 2019
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associated with the facility. I appreciate your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at my district office at (310) 318-6993.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Allen". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

BEN ALLEN
Senator, 26th District