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Motion for Board Consideration

PRNC Board Meeting

April 11, 2018

Motion: Motion to approve the submittal of a Self Nomination to CARB for Porter Ranch to attain a permanent, independent fenceline air-monitoring system under AB617.

Proposed by: Susan Gorman-Chang

Description: AB617 is a law that provides for prioritization of communities with the highest exposure burden of air pollutants and, for such communities, to fund and deploy air monitoring programs and community emissions reduction programs. In addition to SCAQMD making recommendations for communities to CARB under AB617, communities are allowed to make Community Self-Recommendations. The attached is the self nomination form limited to one (1) page per the procedure laid out in Process and Criteria for 2018 Community Selections.

Benefits to PR: Currently, there is one temporary methane monitor in the back yard of a residence in Porter Ranch. SoCalGas's methane monitors are only mandated for two more years under the settlement of the lawsuit between SoCalGas and the County of Los Angeles District Attorney. Thus, our community needs to work together to find funding for a permanent fenceline system. The Ad Hoc Committee: Aliso Canyon Gas Storage Facility recommends we engage in this effort to allow us the best opportunity to be one of the communities to selected under AB-617.

Is this a Time-Sensitive Motion (Yes/No)? Yes

If the answer is "Yes", please explain: *Per the Process and Criteria for 2018 Community Selections document, the AQMD will develop an initial list of candidate communities by April 30, 2018.*



Community Self-Nomination for a Permanent Air Monitoring System Under AB-617
Porter Ranch, County of Los Angeles
April 11, 2018

Community Nomination: Deployment of an Air Monitoring Campaign

Description of Community: Porter Ranch is a residential community in the northwest part of the San Fernando Valley in the city of Los Angeles. Porter Ranch borders the Aliso Canyon Gas Storage Facility (Aliso), which is a depleted oil well field converted to store methane gas in the 1970s, and owned and operated by SoCalGas. Aliso was the site of the largest methane blow out in USA history, spewing 100,000 tons of methane and other chemicals from a ruptured gas well for a period of four months from October 23, 2015 through February 11, 2016. More than 8,000 residents, within a 5 mile radius of the facility, were relocated during this period, espoused by an edict of the LA County Dept. of Public Health (hereafter referred to DPH). Both elementary schools in Porter Ranch were closed and all students were relocated during this blow out crisis. While the ruptured well was capped on 2/11/16 and the facility was allowed to resume limited gas injections, it continues to release a significant amount of criteria pollutants and priority pollutants into the community.

Sensitive receptors in Porter Ranch include Porter Ranch Community School (K-8), Castlebay Lane Elementary School (K-5), Starter Set Preschool, Kindercare Preschool, North Valley YMCA, Ventana Senior Apartments, and three medical clinics operated by UCLA, Facey, and Kaiser (under construction). All sensitive receptor locations are 1-5 miles downwind from the Aliso Canyon Gas Storage Facility. A new shopping center called The Vineyard is under construction and expected to bring hundreds of people into the area to work, shop, and patronize the restaurants, theaters, and a community center. Per UCLA, the Porter Ranch 91326 zip code has a 15.8% asthma rate, higher than all surrounding zip codes and higher than LA County 13.1% and CA State 14.6% (www.askchisne.ucla.edu).

Description of pollution concern: Though the well blowout was capped, methane continues to leak from Aliso as evidenced by one temporary methane detector in the backyard of one Porter Ranch residence, approximately 1 mile from Aliso, which is reported at <http://fenceline.org/porter/data.php> in real time. SCAQMD has calibrated two other types of methane sensors in field tests in this same backyard, demonstrating remarkable readiness to implement a full scale air monitoring campaign.

During the 16-week period from October 28, 2015 to February 18, 2016, DPH received approximately 700 complaints of symptoms associated with odors from the gas leak. Health and odor complaints have continued after the 2/11/16 well seal, and also occurred before 10/23/15. Before the blow out, residents were unaware of how to register odor and health complaints with the SCAQMD and DPH. Between 2/11/16 and November 13, 2018, there have been 722 complaints to SCAQMD alleging SoCalGas (or Sempra) as the source, an unknown source that the Inspector identified as SoCalGas, or an unknown source with description of "gas", "methane", or "Aliso". On 12/22/17, SCAQMD issued a Notice of Violation to SoCalGas for leak that occurred on 12/1/17. Per DPH, methane spikes measured by the temporary methane detector correspond with health complaints reported.

As of December 31, 2017, DPH has logged 2,000 reports of symptoms from around 1,200 households. Findings from the CASPER survey revealed that during the month *after* the gas leak was sealed, 63% of sampled households reported health symptoms believed to be related to the leak. These findings indicate only a moderate reduction from the level of 81% of sampled households reporting any symptoms during the gas leak from October 23, 2015 – February 11, 2016. Households commonly reported alleviation of their symptoms upon leaving their homes, both before and after the leak was sealed. Prevalence of symptoms in surveyed households in month after #SS-25 was sealed include Eye, nose, & throat irritation (59%); Headache/migraine (52%); Respiratory symptoms (51%); Stress (43%); Nausea/Vomiting (41%); Dizziness/Lightheaded (40%); Skin irritation/rash (37%); & Nosebleeds (31%).

In conclusion, due to past and present exposure of residents to gas and chemicals, and because a starting point of relevant monitoring data exists from the temporary monitor in cooperation with SCAQMD, we urge CARB and SCAQMD to include Porter Ranch in the year one for community air monitoring campaign under AB-617.