



Community Members:

As we kick off 2020, I want to thank the northwest San Fernando Valley community for its feedback and participation as we have worked to develop the foundation and support for implementing the Aliso Canyon Disaster Health Research Study to identify and assess the extent of health effects on the surrounding community after the Southern California Gas storage facility blowout.

As community members, especially the members of our Community Advisory Group (CAG), you have been invaluable throughout this process. Through our presentations and discussions at CAG meetings, local Neighborhood Councils, and community events, such as the Granada Hills Street Faire and our Orientation Sessions, we have received hundreds of comments, concerns and ideas. Input from the community and the CAG has directly shaped our path forward.

Examples of how feedback from both the CAG and community have influenced this process are the:

- Addition of independent experts (most of whom were nominated by the community/CAG), on the Scientific Oversight Committee (SOC), who make over 50 percent of the SOC's members;
- Modification of the criteria used to assess independent experts applying for SOC membership;
- Inclusion of some additional expertise identified as necessary by the community on the SOC;
- Move to include a CAG member on the Study Steering Committee to help plan the agendas for the CAG meetings;
- Support for maintaining channels of communications for community feedback; and
- Inclusion of other local and state agencies in relevant community meetings and events.

In addition, the community's research ideas previously collected will be provided to the SOC for use in its discussion and identification of the Study's goals and priorities. We expect this to happen in the next month, with research hopefully commencing later this year.

I want to acknowledge this has been an often frustrating and slow process. The length of time for reaching a settlement as a result of the blowout with the [Southern California Gas Company](#) and then the work and collaboration needed to develop and implement this health study to

understand and quantify the health effects of the blowout took much longer than we hoped and anticipated. With more than four years passed since the Blowout at the Gas Storage Facility and with many health effects still unknown or the extent of health effects unquantified, we are looking forward to seeing the results of rigorous, scientifically driven research related to the Blowout.

I look forward to updating you on our progress over the next year about these important milestones and this opportunity to try to answer questions about the health impacts of the blowout as many of you continue to recover from this disaster.

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