

From the Office of Mayor Sofía Rubalcava

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July 20, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: NEED FOR STATE INTERVENTION FOR A PROPOSED SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY (SCG) COMPRESSOR SITE.

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the City of San Buenaventura, this letter is to urge you to take immediate steps to stop the modernization and expansion of Southern California Gas Company's (SCG) natural gas compressor site located within one of our sensitive residential neighborhoods.

On September 26, 2019, the Public Utilities Commission permitted the expansion of the 40+ year old high-pressure gas compression site. Specifically, the project will replace aging compressors with new compressor units that have a higher horsepower rating than the existing equipment to address changing gas usage in their system.

There are 442 residential units with approximately 1,105 residents within a quarter mile of the facility and another 2,121 residential units with approximately 5,302 residents within a half mile of the facility. There is heightened community concern about the operation of a polluting industrial use within the neighborhood. Further, over 384 children (90% of whom identify as Latinx) are enrolled in the school across the street from the facility who have concerns about the health effects of such a facility. In addition, there is one middle school and elementary school within a ½ mile radius of the site.

At our April 26, 2021, meeting, the City Council heard from concerned residents fearing about the environmental, human health and safety risks associated with SCG's modernization project. The City Council approved a resolution (attached) requesting further review by State agencies, including the Public Utilities Commission and the Department of Toxic Substances Control. Our most recent City Council meeting of July 20, 2021, the City Council learned that SCG occasionally has planned and unplanned releases of gas into the atmosphere. As explained by the SCG representatives, since March 1, 2017, the facility has experienced an "unplanned gas release" on ten different occasions which resulted in the discharge of nearly 500K cubic feet of gas into the neighborhood. We believe that this cannot possibly be good for the neighbors.

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We understand the need to modernize outdated facilities and believe this is an opportune time to relocate the facility away from neighborhoods and schools. We look forward to working with you and your staff on a solution to protect the residents of Ventura.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sofía Rubalcava". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Sofia Rubalcava

Attachment: City of San Buenaventura Resolution No. 2021-030

cc- Ventura County Supervisor Matt LaVere
Assemblymember Steve Bennett
Senator Monique Limon