



# South Coast Air Quality Management District

21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4178  
(909) 396-2000 • [www.aqmd.gov](http://www.aqmd.gov)

---

## NEWS

**For Immediate Release**  
**Aug. 9, 2018**

### **SCAQMD Statement in Support of \$119.5 Million SoCalGas Settlement**

South Coast Air Quality Management District officials commended a \$119.5 million settlement with SoCalGas by the city and county of Los Angeles and the state of California resulting from the 2015 massive gas leak at SoCalGas' Aliso Canyon storage facility.

"SCAQMD is pleased to be called upon in the settlement to retrofit classrooms with air filters, help establish an air monitoring system in Porter Ranch, and assist in developing a long-term health study," said Wayne Natri, SCAQMD's executive officer. "We will use our world-class expertise in these areas to deliver maximum air quality benefits to the communities."

Under terms of the settlement announced yesterday, SoCalGas will pay \$7.1 million to be used by SCAQMD to install classroom air filters in public schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District, and/or other public schools in environmental justice areas in the city and county of Los Angeles.

SCAQMD first conducted a pilot study of classroom air filters in 2008 showing them to be highly effective in removing particulate air pollution, also known as PM2.5, from indoor air at schools. Since then, SCAQMD has overseen the installation of filters in more than 70 schools and related facilities in environmental justice areas near major sources of air pollution such as freeways and the ports.

Yesterday's settlement also set aside \$3 million for enhanced air monitoring and environmental reporting in Porter Ranch and one or more environmental justice communities in Los Angeles County, and called upon SCAQMD, the California Air Resources Board and the California Office of Health Hazard Assessment to consult with residents to design real-time air monitoring networks with results reported to a publicly accessible website.

"Within days of the start of the 2015 gas leak, SCAQMD started monitoring for methane and other air pollutants," Natri said. "We then developed with CARB a robust air monitoring network throughout Porter Ranch that provided residents with near-real-time results on our website.

"Starting this fall we will be developing and implementing local air monitoring for selected environmental justice communities under AB 617," he said. "We welcome the

additional resources and synergy this settlement brings to our overall effort to better characterize air pollution in our most impacted communities.”

The settlement designated \$25 million for a study of the long-term health effects of exposure to natural gas and its constituents, to be overseen by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. SCAQMD, along with other environmental agencies, will serve on an advisory panel to assist in the study’s implementation.

Finally, the settlement allocates \$3 million to purchase electric school buses for LAUSD and calls on SCAQMD and CARB to identify additional school districts in Los Angeles County if LAUSD does not use all of the funds.

SCAQMD’s Clean Fuels Fund has supported the development of clean technologies needed to commercialize electric school buses, and last year SCAQMD’s Board approved \$8.8 million to purchase 33 battery-electric, zero-emission school buses and charging infrastructure for 16 school districts and two charter schools.

The SCAQMD is the air pollution control agency for Orange County and major portions of Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside counties.