<Name> <date, 2019>

<address>

Xavier Becerra

California Attorney General

916-445-9555

xavier.becerra@doj.ca.gov

VIA Email

Attorney General Becerra,

As you know, on October 23, 2015, SoCal Gas was criminally responsible for the largest poly-toxin gas discharge in US history as a consequence of their failure to properly maintain the Aliso Canyon Storage Facility and its stored inventory of gases. The decrepit condition of the field and lies told to the public by SoCal Gas are clearly on the record, but this letter concerns the conduct of the Los Angeles District Attorney Jackie Lacey.

We were forced to choose between leaving our home vacant to escape the gas or to stay and continue to breath the contaminants in hopes that So Cal Gas could contain the blowout soon. We were damaged by the reckless disregard and crimes of SoCal Gas and its management. We are now being damaged by our own District Attorney.

Had we been told what SoCal Gas knew, or should have known, about the carcinogenic, toxic and otherwise harmful nature of constituents of the gas, the amount of gas, and the length of time if would continue, we would have moved out of our home on DAY 1 of that blowout, rather than take any chances on getting sick or contaminated by it. We did get sick as hell, for months, and it was avoidable had SoCal Gas reported the facts ON DAY ONE. Since they still haven’t disclosed the contents of the gas, they technical still have not reported it!!!

The LA County DA’s office filed criminal charges against SoCal Gas, and inexplicably allowed or authored a structured plea bargain, which allowed SoCal Gas to avoid any felony charges by pleading no contest to a misdemeanor for failure to timely notice. The DA dropped the other 3 charges. The DA’s office allowed SoCal Gas to bargain away the undisputed crime of the discharge of some 100,000 tons of a mix of harmful gases. SoCal Gas has no defense to this crime. The blowout did happen and it is in the public record. Putting aside the true contents and the heath threat of the gas, it appears that SoCal Gas’s attorneys knew that this plea would allow them to argue that the failure to notice was not related to the undisputed discharge and that the victims of this crime would not be afforded their constitutional rights to restitution.

You are an elected office and your office is to serve the residents of California and of Los Angeles County. The Los Angeles DA is protecting the criminal perpetrators at the expense of the victims in Los Angeles County.

I believe that you should intervene this outrageous situation. SoCal Gas management behavior exposed tens of thousands of your constituents to great harm and the LA DA let them off with a meaningless slap on the wrist. You should insist that the LA County DA require that SoCal Gas pay restitution to the victims of this crime. Your office entered into a significant settlement of $119,000,000 while the victims have been told by SoCal Gas (and allowed by DA Lacey) that they are not victims.

As you know, the attorneys for the victims have been pursuing the reversal of the decision to deny us our constitutional rights to restitution. While the LA DA’s office is inexplicitly allied with the criminals and argues that we should have no restitution remedy, you could intervene and demand that this injustice is corrected.

The recent appeal to this travesty at the Reagan Courthouse had many residents taking their precious time to drive downtown to see the LA DA arguing against the constitutional rights of my family and thousands of my fellow citizens. I still cannot believe the LA DA is allied with SoCal Gas and argued to deny its constituents of their constitutional rights. This injustice has given SoCal Gas the opportunity to continue to escape culpability for its crimes.

Why has this been permitted? I am asking that you to make this situation right and to protect your constituents.

This case has been sent back to the trial court. The victims should receive full restitution in this matter, and you could intervene on our behalf since your office oversees the DA’s office per the CA Constitution.

Your office should not allow these criminals to get away with this. This plea bargain should have required restitution for all victims as part of any plea.

LA County has failed us and aligned with the perpetrator that has caused great harm to us.

You have the chance to make this right. I am asking that you do so and intervene on behalf of the constitutional rights of the victims in Los Angeles County.

Sincerely,

<Name>