



VCEDA Position Paper on Liquefied Natural Gas

As California and Ventura County continues adapting to new or alternative sources of energy, the following is reality in California:

1. The energy crisis and rolling blackouts suffered by Californians in the past were due to a lack of supply and competition in the natural gas industry. We are at the end, not the beginning of the gas pipelines that power our electrical generators, businesses and homes.

2. Californians need plentiful and available supplies of natural gas because it is used to heat and cool our homes, schools and hospitals, create electrical energy to light our way, cook and refrigerate our food, and power vital medical equipment.

3. The California Energy Commission (CEC) estimates that demand for all uses of natural gas will grow by approximately one percent annually over the next ten years, even taking into account increased conservation and the use of renewable energy.

4. Natural gas is clean burning, compared to other petroleum based products, such as oil, coal and gasoline, and therefore provides significant air quality benefits.

5. Because of suppliers who care and regulators who demand it, the use of natural gas is safe and used in most homes and businesses throughout California.

6. The current sources of natural gas are dwindling and some future sources, such as constructing long pipelines from and through the Rocky Mountains or from Alaska, involve greater environmental impacts and less sensitive methods of transportation.

7. Natural gas in a liquid form, as a method of transportation, has been proven to be a safe, viable and economic means of delivering natural gas to retailers.

8. Natural gas in a liquid form delivered and regasified off the coast of California would result in an environmentally sound and more economic means of providing a stable, cost effective supply of natural gas to Californians.

Therefore, the Ventura County Economic Development Association has commissioned a subcommittee of its Environmental and Economic Policy Leadership Committee to explore the natural gas projects proposed for the Ventura County region, to review the Draft EIR/EISs and make recommendations to its Board of Directors. The first Draft EIR/EIS available is for the Cabrillo Port project. The subcommittee will also review the Draft EIR/EIS for the Clearwater Port project when it is available.

It is hereby determined by the Board of Directors of VCEDA that:

- A. VCEDA generally supports the use of liquefied natural gas for the reasons stated above and projects that are deemed to be safe and environmentally sound;
- B. The Draft EIR/EIS for Cabrillo Port appears to provide decision makers with accurate and complete analyses of the environmental impacts associated with delivering to California by transporting Liquefied Natural Gas to offshore facilities, if the mitigations proposed are in place;
- C. VCEDA expects, and its support is premised upon the assumption that, the project owners will fully implement the mitigation measures and comply with all required safety and environmental safeguards included in the Draft EIR/EIS; and
- D. The supply of natural gas by the means proposed in the Draft EIR/EIS will provide the State of California with a safe, steady and economic supply of natural gas through competitive markets for the foreseeable future.