

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 20, 2016

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 31, 2016

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 4, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1903

Introduced by Assembly Member Wilk

February 11, 2016

An act to add and repeal Section 911.3 of the Public Utilities Code, relating to natural gas.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1903, as amended, Wilk. Aliso Canyon gas leak: health impact study.

Under existing law, the Public Utilities Commission has regulatory authority over public utilities, including gas corporations. The Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 2011, within the Public Utilities Act, designates the commission as the state authority responsible for regulating and enforcing federal law with respect to intrastate gas pipeline transportation and pipeline facilities. Existing law requires the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment to evaluate the environmental and health risks posed by various substances.

This bill, if sufficient moneys are recovered by the commission and appropriated for the purpose of these provisions, would require the commission to authorize a study by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment of the long-term health impacts of the significant natural gas leak from the Aliso Canyon natural gas storage facility located in the County of Los Angeles that started approximately October 23, 2015, as specified. The bill would require the commission to publish

and transmit the report by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment and its ongoing findings to the appropriate policy committees of the Legislature on a biennial basis, on or before January 1 of every even-numbered year, from 2018 until 2028. The bill would require the commission, consistent with its authority to bring enforcement actions, to order Southern California Gas Company to pay for the study. ~~The bill would require the commission to prohibit Southern California Gas Company from recovering any of those costs in any rate approved by the commission.~~ The bill would repeal these provisions on January 1, 2029.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
 State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 911.3 is added to the Public Utilities
 2 Code, to read:
 3 911.3. (a) If moneys are appropriated as specified in
 4 subdivision (d), the commission shall authorize a study by the
 5 Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment of the
 6 long-term health impacts of the significant natural gas leak from
 7 the Aliso Canyon natural gas storage facility located in the County
 8 of Los Angeles that started approximately October 23, 2015. The
 9 study shall include, but is not limited to, both of the following:
 10 (1) An investigation of the impact of the natural gas leak on the
 11 health of persons who resided within a 12-mile radius of the Aliso
 12 Canyon natural gas storage facility in the County of Los Angeles
 13 between October 23, 2015, and the date when the State Oil and
 14 Gas Supervisor has determined that the gas well safety review
 15 conducted pursuant to Order 1109, issued by the State Oil and Gas
 16 Supervisor on March 4, 2016, is complete.
 17 (2) An evaluation of the impact on residents due to exposure to
 18 chemicals, including, but not limited to, methane, benzene, and
 19 mercaptan.
 20 (b) The commission shall publish and transmit the report by the
 21 Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment and its ongoing
 22 findings to the appropriate policy committees of the Legislature
 23 on a biennial basis, on or before January 1 of every even-numbered
 24 year, from 2018 until 2028.

1 (c) (1) Consistent with its authority to bring enforcement actions
2 under this part, the commission shall order Southern California
3 Gas Company to pay for the study described in subdivision (a).

4 ~~(2) The commission shall prohibit Southern California Gas~~
5 ~~Company from recovering any of the costs ordered to be paid~~
6 ~~pursuant to paragraph (1) in any rate approved by the commission.~~

7 ~~(3)~~

8 (2) If the commission penalizes Southern California Gas
9 Company for its responsibilities related to the natural gas leak at
10 the Aliso Canyon natural gas storage facility, the commission may
11 include the costs of the study described in subdivision (a) in any
12 penalty assessment.

13 (d) The commission shall authorize and the Office of
14 Environmental Health Hazard Assessment shall undertake the
15 study described in subdivision (a) only if the commission has
16 recovered sufficient moneys to pay the costs of the entire study
17 pursuant to subdivision (c) and the Legislature has appropriated
18 those moneys for the purpose of this section.

19 (e) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2029,
20 and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that
21 is enacted before January 1, 2029, deletes or extends that date.