



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –Tuesday, March 8, 2016

**HOLLEIGH BERNSON PARK CLOSED DUE TO ALISO CANYON GAS LEAK
HOLLEIGH BERNSON PARK CLOSED DUE TO OILY RESIDUE FOUND ON PLAYGROUND
EQUIPMENT AND THROUGHOUT THE PARK**

LOS ANGELES— Per the request of Councilmember Mitchell Englander, the Los Angeles County Health Department inspected the local parks in the area affected by the Aliso Canyon Gas Leak. On March, 6, Los Angeles County Health officials reported that “after a thorough examination of the playground facilities in Porter Ranch area parks, there was no evidence of any “oily residue” and no health concern for residents or visitors.”

Earlier today the City of Los Angeles sent staff to the same sites to follow up on the County Health report and found that in fact, an oily residue did appear to be present at Holleigh Bernson Park in Porter Ranch. No other parks in the Porter Ranch area showed evidence of the oily residue. The city will be sending out their own environmental experts to reexamine the other parks.

"While the county gave the all clear, I felt it was critical to have our own staff verify the area," said Councilmember Mitchell Englander. "No parent should ever have to question the safety of their local parks. While the gas leak itself may be sealed, the recovery efforts continue to plague this community."

Out of an abundance of caution, and pending further examination from LA City environmental experts, we have decided to temporarily close Holleigh Bernson Park until further notice. These specialists will be taking samples of the residue and submitting it for testing.

Southern California Gas, at the immediate request of Councilmember Mitchell Englander, will be doing a thorough cleaning of all the area parks as a precautionary measure. It should be noted that the cleanup of Holleigh Bernson Park will begin today.

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