



## Community Advisory Group (CAG) Meeting 16

<b>Date</b>	March 22, 2021		
<b>Time</b>	4:00 - 6:00 PM		
<b>Location</b>	<b>Zoom Meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Members of the public are invited to participate in the public comment period using the “Raise Hand” function to speak or can use the chat function for questions and comments.</li></ul>		
<b>Meeting Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Health Study Goals &amp; Priorities Input</li><li>Health Study Project Update</li></ul>		
<b>HRS Project Team</b>	Muntu Davis Cristina Vega Kristina Vaculik Charlene Contreras Christine De Rosa	<b>K&amp;A Support Team</b>	Ann Newton Susan Harden Emma Head
<b>CAG Member Attendees</b>	Andrew Krowne Brian Allen Don Wiggins	Craig Galanti Lori Aivazian Mary Blair	Melissa Messer Mihran Kalaydjian Patricia Glueck



## Meeting Agenda

<b>4:00 – 4:10 pm</b>	<b>Welcome, Agenda, Meeting Format, and Attendance</b>	<b>Facilitator</b>
<b>4:10 – 4:30 pm</b>	<b>Health Study Timeline and Status Update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Project update and next steps</li></ul>	<b>Public Health</b>
<b>4:30 – 5:30 pm</b>	<b>Health Study Goals &amp; Priorities and Discussion</b>	<b>Facilitator &amp; Public Health</b>
<b>5:30 to 5:45 pm</b>	<b>Questions/Answers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Opportunity for CAG to pose questions to the Health Study Team.</li></ul> <i>*Please note that not all questions will be able to be answered during the meeting</i>	<b>Facilitator</b>
<b>5:45-6:00pm</b>	<b>Public Comment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Public comment will be received using the “Raise Hand” function or via comment box</li><li>● Each speaker will be limited to 90 seconds</li><li>● Meeting will end at scheduled time</li></ul>	<b>Facilitator</b>



## Welcome

Members joined the Zoom Meeting call at 4:00 PM. The meeting was opened by professional facilitator, Susan Harden. Ms. Harden went over the meeting objectives and detailed agenda items. Ms. Harden then asked Community Advisory Group (CAG) members to indicate their CAG meeting start time preference using the chat. She then introduced a new CAG member that will be replacing a representative from the Northridge East Neighborhood Council.

## Health Study Timeline and Status Update

Kristina Vaculik, Research Development Manager (RDM), went over the Health Study timeline, highlighting the main focus of each phase. The first phase was focused on community outreach and engagement and included the establishment of the CAG and the Scientific Oversight Committee (SOC). Establishment of the SOC was mandated by the consent decree. The SOC will oversee and guide the Health Study through each of its phases. The SOC is also responsible for deciding the goals of the Health Study and have developed a draft document that outlines the goals and priority areas of focus for the Health Study. The second and current phase of the Health Study is focused on soliciting research proposals and awarding a contract to independent, third-party researchers to implement the research. Research proposals will be solicited via a competitive Request For Proposals (RFP) process. Ms. Vaculik explained that the RFP is an open process that will allow for any researcher other than a SOC member to apply for funding to conduct the research, and will therefore be lengthier than a closed solicitation process. The SOC is heavily involved in the development of the RFP which will be released within the upcoming months. Once a contract is awarded, the third phase of the Health Study will begin. This third phase is focused on implementing the research. The fourth and final stage of the Health Study is the evaluation phase. The SOC is mandated by the consent decree to evaluate whether the Health Study is on track to meeting its goals after the completion of its third year and determine whether the research should continue beyond three years. Following the third year, this evaluation happens on an annual basis.

Additional Health Study updates provided by Ms. Vaculik:

- A brief overview on the background, purpose, and the CAG's involvement on the Community Opinion Survey was given. The Community Opinion Survey reports have been provided to CAG members involved in the process. Reports will be made publicly available on the Aliso Canyon Health Study website.
- Over the past few months, the SOC has been devoting time to developing key components of the RFP. They have identified critical elements for the scope of the Health Study. SOC meetings will continue throughout the next few months to finalize and provide their guidance throughout the RFP process.

## Health Study Goals & Priorities and Discussion



Ms. Vaculik explained where to locate the draft Health Study Goals and Priorities document on the website and the various options to submit comments. She then shared the document's purpose and explained how it was developed. Ms. Vaculik walked through the different sections of the document providing an overview on the background, Health Study goals, and the priority areas of focus. She also referred members to the different resources available on the website for additional information and emphasized the importance of the public comment period.

## Questions/Answers

CAG members shared their thoughts regarding the draft Health Study Goals and Priorities during a "round-robin" discussion that took place at the beginning of the questions and answers period. Several CAG members expressed their concerns and stated their reduced level of confidence in the Health Study path and draft Goals and Priorities document. In the meeting chat, CAG members requested a copy outlining the questions of the online form Public Health is using to gather public comment from community members. Public Health provided the copy outlining the questions of the online form, please refer to attachment A of this document.

Dr. Muntu Davis, the Los Angeles County Health Officer and Health Study Executive Lead on the Aliso Canyon Disaster Health Research Study (ACDHRS) explained that the idea is to have the draft Goals and Priorities document broad enough so that when the goals and priorities are finalized and incorporated into the RFP, a range of research methods and study types can be proposed by independent third party researchers. There is still more work to be done and Dr. Davis clarified that the draft Goals and Priorities document does not discuss scoring of proposals in terms of Health Study priorities. An update will be provided to the community once the draft Goals and Priorities document is finalized. Several CAG members shared their thoughts regarding the need to have a patient centric long-term Health Study. A CAG member mentioned the draft Goals and Priorities document looks good and hopes the Health Study will have public participation. Another CAG echoed this comment and added that they look forward to the Health Study.

## Public Comment

A member of the public expressed concern regarding the time that has passed since the Aliso Canyon blowout and asked about the purpose of the Health Study. Several community members noted their lack of confidence in the Health Study path and draft Goals and Priorities document. Community members expressed other concerns including their loved one's health; changes in Public Health staff involved in the Health Study; and potential exposure to radiation and other chemicals. Comments on the goals and priorities were recorded and will be shared with the Scientific Oversight Committee.



# Attachment A

# Health Study Goals & Priorities Feedback

Public Health has actively sought feedback from residents who experienced the impacts of the Aliso Canyon disaster to assist with the identification of priorities for the Aliso Canyon Disaster Health Research Study (Study). Feedback from community members has been provided at open houses, town halls, and meetings with the Community Advisory Group (CAG) to help shape the draft Study Goals and Priorities developed by the Scientific Oversight Committee (SOC).

The SOC is a panel of national and subject matter experts in various fields (including epidemiology, disaster behavioral health, toxicology, community-based research, exposure assessment, environmental science, air monitoring, and air modeling) and is overseeing the Study as we seek to understand its health impacts.

Your participation in this survey is critically important and will help inform the SOC on the issues and insights that are most important to you.

Approximate survey length: 15 minutes

Submission deadline: April 16, 2021, 5:00 PM PST

\* Required

1. Email \*

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2. Name \*

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### 3. Neighborhood of residence

*Mark only one oval.*

- Canoga Park
- Chatsworth
- Granada Hills
- Mission Hills
- North Hills
- Northridge
- Porter Ranch
- Reseda
- San Fernando
- Santa Clarita
- Stevenson Ranch
- Sylmar
- West Hills
- Winnetka
- Woodland Hills
- Other

#### Study Goals

The Scientific Oversight Committee drafted the following Study goals:

Overarching goal:

Contribute to the understanding of the potential short and long-term physical, mental, community, and social health impacts of exposure to the Aliso Canyon disaster.

Specific goals:

- Identify air pollutants, chemicals, and other potential pollutants at elevated levels during and/or following the disaster and evaluate the relationship between these exposures and adverse health impacts of priority to the community.
- Investigate the impact of stressors related to the Aliso Canyon disaster on the quality of life and functioning of residents in the impacted communities during and following the disaster
- include susceptible populations such as children and older adults in the impacted communities

Health Study Goals and Priorities:

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/docs/healthresearch/goal-priorities-draft-public-review.pdf>

4. Do you have any reactions or thoughts that you would like to share with the Scientific Oversight Committee about the draft Study goals?

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## Study Outcomes

### Health Impacts

Health impacts may differ based on the length of time that has passed since exposure. Community members and the SOC have identified three different time frames to study:

- Near-term: physical symptoms include such as irritations of the eyes/nose/throat, nausea, abdominal discomfort, headaches/migraines, dizziness/light-headedness, nose bleeds, shortness of breath, skin rashes/irritations, and other mucous membrane irritations; and emotional or mental health impacts such as stress and possible psychological trauma.
- Intermediate-term: birth outcomes such as pre-term births or low birth weight, and possible harms to the health of pregnant women and developing infants.
- Long-term: lung disease, psychological or mental health conditions, harm to immune system function, nervous system disorders, cardiovascular disease, cancers, and worsening pre-existing conditions.

Health Study Goals and Priorities: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/docs/healthresearch/goal-priorities-draft-public-review.pdf>

5. Although all three time frames are important, please identify the one that is of greatest concern or interest to you. \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- Short-term
- Intermediate-term
- Long-term
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_



6. Please identify your level of concern and/or interest in the following short term health impacts. \*

*Check all that apply.*

	Most concerned/interested	Less concerned/interested	Least concerned/interested
Physical symptoms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mental and emotional symptoms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. Please identify your level of concern and/or interest in the following intermediate health impacts. \*

*Check all that apply.*

	Most concerned/interested	Less concerned/interested	Least concerned/interested
Birth outcomes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maternal health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

8. Please identify your level of concern and/or interest in the following long term health impacts. \*

*Check all that apply.*

	Most concerned/interested	Less concerned/interested	Least concerned/interested
Cancers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Respiratory (lung) health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mental & emotional health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Immune system health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Neurological (nerves, brain) health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cardiovascular (heart, blood vessels) health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worsening pre-existing conditions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Quality of Life Impacts

Some aspects of overall quality of life can affect physical and/or mental health. Changes in quality of life can be short or long-term, or in between. Below are some quality of life areas that may be affected in a disaster.

- Social health is the ability to interact and form meaningful relationships and support networks with others. Relationships that are nurturing and supportive are especially important when faced with stressful or traumatic situations such as environmental disasters.
- Behavioral health is the connection between behaviors and health/well-being. Behaviors like eating habits, substance use or exercising can affect physical or mental health.
- Community health is the overall health status and functioning of a community and includes conditions and activities that promote, protect, and preserve health. Community resilience is the sustained ability of communities to withstand, adapt to, and recover from adversity.

Health Study Goals and Priorities: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/docs/healthresearch/goal-priorities-draft-public-review.pdf>

9. Considering how the quality of life areas as described above can be affected by a disaster, are any of these areas of particular concern or interest to you? If so, please explain.

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10. Do you have any other reactions or thoughts that you would like to share about the draft health or quality of life outcomes?

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Study  
Populations

Environmental disasters like the Aliso Canyon blowout can have a greater negative impact on more susceptible groups of people. Therefore, the Study will include susceptible groups, as well as the general population, and individuals who have moved away following the Aliso Canyon blowout where feasible.

Health Study Goals and Priorities:

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/docs/healthresearch/goal-priorities-draft-public-review.pdf>

11. Please indicate your level of concern for the following susceptible populations. \*

*Check all that apply.*

	Most concerned	Less concerned	Least concerned
Children/infants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Older adults (ages 65+)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnant women	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pets/animals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Homeless and/or low-income	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Workers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
People with pre-existing conditions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Minority groups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12. Do you have any other reactions or thoughts that you would like to share about susceptible population groups?

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Study  
Exposures

The Study will look at a broad range of exposures. "Exposures " are things people come into contact with that may have a harmful effect on health. Exposures can be chemical (such as natural gas constituents) or non-chemical (such as housing relocations and changes in physical activity level).

For the purpose of the Study, exposures will be broadly defined as:

- exposures to chemicals released during the Aliso Canyon blowout and well-control attempts;
- potential exposures to chemicals released during ongoing and current operations at the Aliso Canyon gas storage facility;
- exposure to social and other stressors arising from an environmental disaster and recovery efforts.

Health Study Goals and Priorities:

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/docs/healthresearch/goal-priorities-draft-public-review.pdf>

13. Considering the broad definition of exposures provided above, are there certain exposures that are of particular concern or interest to you? If so, please explain.

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14. Do you have any other reactions or thoughts that you would like to share with the Scientific Oversight Committee about the exposures defined above and outlined in the draft Goals and Priorities document?

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**Data Sources and Collection**

Researchers can use data (information) from a variety of sources. They may gather their own data ("primary data"), use existing data that was collected for other purposes ("secondary data"), and/or use proxy measures to make estimates. The researchers will determine what data sources will best support the research.

– Primary data refers to data gathered by the researchers specifically for the project. Data can be collected via surveys, observations, experiments, questionnaires, personal interviews, etc.

– Secondary data refers to existing data (e.g., administrative, clinical etc.) that was collected by government institutions, healthcare facilities, nonprofits, religious groups, recreational, social, and cultural organizations etc., as part of their record-keeping that may or may not be specific to the researcher's need. Examples include but are not limited to electronic health records, hospital discharge data, surveillance and monitoring data, birth and death records, cancer registries, veterinarian clinic records, etc.

-- Proxy measures are used when exposures or outcomes may not be directly measurable. For example, researchers often measure socioeconomic status using proxy measures such as occupation, income, education and place of residence.

Health Study Goals and Priorities:

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/docs/healthresearch/goal-priorities-draft-public-review.pdf>

15. Do you have any reactions or thoughts that you would like to share about the various data sources and data collection as described above and in the draft Goals and Priorities?

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**Study Types**

The ACDHRS may consist of various types of research studies including but not limited to population-based studies, clinical studies, records-based epidemiological studies, toxicology studies, community-based participatory research projects, and risk assessments. Study types and research methods will be proposed by independent third-party researchers recruited through a competitive bid process following the release of a Request for Proposals (RFP) later this year.

Health Study Goals and Priorities:

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/docs/healthresearch/goal-priorities-draft-public-review.pdf>

16. Do you have any reactions or thoughts you would like to share about the research proposal process as described above?

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General  
Feedback

Health Study Goals and Priorities:  
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/docs/healthresearch/goal-priorities-draft-public-review.pdf>

17. Does the Aliso Canyon Disaster Health Research Study draft Goals and Priorities document largely represent what you hope the Study will focus on and prioritize? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes, mostly
- Yes, somewhat
- Neutral
- No, not really
- No, not at all

18. If you answered 'No' to the question above, please describe what you hope the Study will focus on and/or prioritize.

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19. Please provide any further feedback below.

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General  
Feedback

Thank you for your feedback!

Health Study Goals and Priorities:

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/docs/healthresearch/goal-priorities-draft-public-review.pdf>

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