



Aliso Canyon Disaster Health Research Study

Key Roles & Responsibilities

Following the 2015-16 Aliso Canyon gas blowout disaster, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) advocated for a health study to be completed and funded using money from the settlement with the Southern California Gas Company. As a result, \$25 million was dedicated to a Health Study in early 2019. The settlement outlined certain guidelines for the Study, including key roles and responsibilities.



HEALTH RESEARCH

Researchers

Submitting Research Proposals and Plans, Conducting the Health Study research

Key Roles:

- ✓ Submitting research proposals
- ✓ Developing health research plans
- ✓ Conducting health studies

The Health Study will be conducted by third-party, independent researchers. Through the Request for Proposals process, researchers will submit their ideas and proposed plans for the Health Study. Once selected, the researchers will finalize research plans in consultation with the SOC and will begin their research. There may be multiple researchers; each conducting studies on different topics/issues identified in the Health Study Goals and Priorities document.



OVERSIGHT

Scientific Oversight Committee

Deciding Health Study Goals, Advising on Research Plans, Evaluating Progress

Key Roles:

- ✓ Deciding the Study's focus and priorities
- ✓ Reviewing and evaluating progress on the research
- ✓ Providing scientific advice to Public Health and researchers

A Scientific Oversight Committee – the SOC – was mandated as part of the settlement agreement and plays a critical role in the development and advancement of the Health Study. Comprised of independent experts and public agency representatives, the SOC lends expertise in the following areas: Epidemiology, Disaster Behavioral Health, Toxicology, Community-Based Research, Exposure Assessment, Environmental Science, Air Monitoring, and Air Modeling. At the end of the Health Study's third year, the Scientific Oversight Committee will independently analyze and determine if the Health Study should continue. Afterwards, the SOC will evaluate the Health Study's progress on an annual basis.



FEEDBACK

Community

Providing Input, Informing Study Goals & Priorities

Key Roles:

- ✓ Identifying the questions, issues, and concerns to be studied that are most important to the community
- ✓ Informing scope of the study

The communities impacted by the disaster are at the heart of the Health Study. There are many important questions to answer about how the blowout may have affected the physical and emotional health of those near Aliso Canyon. The Community Advisory Group and other feedback from community stakeholders supported the identification of research questions, goals and priorities. Community engagement will take various forms throughout the planning and implementation of the Health Study including, providing feedback on Health Study progress, and participating in various public events and opportunities.



ADMINISTRATION

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

Coordinating a Competitive Process to Recruit Researchers, Facilitating Community Outreach & Input

Key Roles:

- ✓ Establishing and facilitating a Scientific Oversight Committee and Community Advisory Group
- ✓ Providing administrative support for the process to develop and implement the Health Study by independent researchers
- ✓ Coordinating an open and competitive process to solicit researchers to conduct the Health Study

Through the settlement with SoCal Gas, LA County Department of Public Health is tasked with administering the funds dedicated to the Aliso Canyon Disaster Health Study. In this role, Public Health coordinates the allocation of funds for independent third-party researchers chosen by an open and competitive solicitation process. Public Health conducted extensive community outreach to solicit community feedback related to the disaster and the forthcoming Health Study.