PUBLIC PARTICIPATION HEARING

Southern California Gas Company – Hydrogen Blending Pilot at UC Irvine
(A.22-09-006)

# What is a Public Participation Hearing?

The purpose of the Public Participation Hearing (PPH) is to provide an opportunity to communicate directly with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) regarding the pending Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) application to pilot blending hydrogen into the natural gas supplied to the University of California, Irvine (UC Irvine) Anteater Recreation Center, learn how this application could impact you, and share any concerns you may have about the proposed pilot project with the CPUC.

# What is this Pilot Project About?

This pilot project is part of a broader, statewide effort led by California’s major gas utilities to explore the safe and effective blending of clean renewable hydrogen into the natural gas system. The use of clean renewable hydrogen generated using renewable energy is seen as a potential way to help reduce the carbon intensity of the gas supply and move California closer toward its goal of 100 percent carbon-free energy by 2045.

SoCalGas asked the CPUC for permission to conduct a closed system pilot at UC Irvine to test hydrogen blending within an isolated portion of its gas distribution network. The pilot will evaluate the impacts of blending up to 20 percent clean renewable hydrogen by volume into the natural gas supply serving UC Irvine’s Anteater Recreation Center. Testing will begin at five percent hydrogen and increase up to 20 percent based on the results of safety evaluations and will be used to fuel commercial equipment including boilers and pool heaters.

# Background

As California pursues ambitious carbon reduction targets, including carbon neutrality by 2045, clean renewable hydrogen has emerged as a fuel that could potentially help decarbonize hard-to-electrify commercial and industrial customer operations. Blending clean renewable hydrogen into the existing natural gas infrastructure may offer a near-term strategy to lower greenhouse gas emissions while utilizing current pipeline systems.

In response to CPUC Decision 22-12-057, SoCalGas and other utilities were directed to develop pilot projects testing hydrogen blends above 0.1 percent concentration (the currently permissible amount of hydrogen content allowed in natural gas). If approved, these pilot projects will inform the development of a safe, statewide clean renewable hydrogen injection standard by evaluating real-world safety, operational, and environmental impacts of blending such hydrogen in greater amounts.

# Key Project Details

* **Location:** The pilot project will test hydrogen blends up to 20 percent in an isolated portion of SoCalGas’s medium-pressure steel and plastic distribution system serving the Anteater Recreation Center on the UC Irvine campus.
* **Duration:** The pilot project will consist of approximately three years of active testing, followed by decommissioning and results analysis.
* **Cost:** Project costs are estimated at $24.4 million.
* **Rate Impact:** SoCalGas has not formally requested that any of the cost of the pilot project be incorporated into its rate structure. However, it has the right to do so. If SoCalGas makes such a request, the Commission will determine whether the request is just and reasonable.

# Public Participation Hearings

PPHs will be held on Tuesday, July 1, 2025, at 2:00 PM and at 6:00 PM at:

**University High School**

**Multipurpose Room**

**4771 Campus Drive**

**Irvine, CA 92612**

For the most up to date information on the PPHs, visit [cpuc.ca.gov/pph](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/pph).

# How Your Voice Can Be Heard/Find More Information

This project is part of Application (A.) 22-09-006. You can find more information or submit comments related to this application and project via the methods outlined for CPUC proceedings, such as:

* Speak at an upcoming PPH in your community.
* Submit comments electronically to the CPUC using the “Add Public Comment” button on the Docket Card for A.22-09-006 at: [apps.cpuc.ca.gov/c/A2209006](https://apps.cpuc.ca.gov/apex/f?p=401:65:0::NO:RP,57,RIR:P5_PROCEEDING_SELECT:A2209006).
* Subscribe to receive documents regarding A.22-09-006 at: [subscribecpuc.cpuc.ca.gov](http://subscribecpuc.cpuc.ca.gov/fpss/Default.aspx).
* You can review all formal filings on the Docket Card for A.22-09-006 at: [apps.cpuc.ca.gov/p/A2209006](https://apps.cpuc.ca.gov/apex/f?p=401:56:0::NO:RP,57,RIR:P5_PROCEEDING_SELECT:A2209006).
* Contact SoCalGas with questions about their project at: projectinfo@socalgas.com.
* Contact the CPUC’s Public Advisor’s Office for questions on CPUC processes or assistance participating in this proceeding:
	+ Visit their webpage: [www.cpuc.ca.gov/PAO/](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CCP5%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CWEIL0F8A%5Cwww.cpuc.ca.gov%5CPAO%5C).
	+ E-mail: public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov.
	+ Phone: 1-866-849-8390 or 1-415-703-2074.
	+ Mail: CPUC Public Advisor’s Office, 505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102.
	+ Please reference “Hydrogen Blending- SCG-A.22-09-006” in any communications you have with the CPUC regarding this matter.