# CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION Safety and Enforcement Division Gas Safety and Reliability Branch Gas Engineering and Compliance Section

# Incident Investigation Report

**Report Date:** 07/10/2024

Incident Number: G 20230714-3571

Utility: Southern California Gas SoCalGas

Date and Time of the Incident: 7/14/2023, 6:05:00 AM

Location of the Incident: N Lima St

Sierra Madre ,CA County: Los Angeles

#### Summary of Incident:

On July 14, 2023, at approximately 0626 hours, SoCalGas' crews responded to an under-pressure condition at N Lima Street, Sierra Madre, Pasadena, CA. SoCalGas identified a leaking 6-inch steel water main at the cross point of a 2-inch steel gas main that bored a hole and allowed water intrusion into the 2-inch steel gas main. SED's investigation found that the 6-inch steel water main was leaking (due to corrosion), pierced a hole into the 2-inch steel gas main, and resulted in water intrusion that affected 671 SoCalGas' customers. Therefore, SED did not find any General Order 112-F, Reference title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 192, violations by SoCalGas.

Casualties: Fatalities: 0 Injuries: 0

**Property Damage:** \$242,199.00

# **Utility Facilities involved:**

Pipe Material = Steel, Pipe Size = 2 (inches), MAOP = 50 (psi), Operating Pressure = 42 (psi)

#### Witnesses:



2nd Set of Data Request Responses of 01/11/2024

#### **Observations and Findings:**

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On July 14, 2023, at approximately 0626 hours, SoCalGas' crews responded to an under-pressure condition at I N Lima Street, Sierra Madre, Pasadena, CA. SoCalGas identified a leaking City of Sierra Madre's 6-inch steel water main at the cross point of a 2-inch steel gas main that bored a hole into the gas main and resulted in water intrusion 652 residential customers and 19 commercial entities. This incident was reported to both the CPUC and the DOT due to gas release and damages exceeding \$139,700.

On July 14, 2023, at approximately 1328 hours, SoCalGas' crew installed two 2inch Top Halves pressure control fittings to stop the flow of gas (Work order #520003435776).

On July 14, 2023, at approximately 2200 hours, the steel water main line was repaired. SoCalGas dispatched a small vacuum truck (2500-3250 gallons capacity) to remove the water in the 2-inch steel gas main. In addition, SoCalGas' crew cut out the damaged section, installed a new section, performed a leakage testing, and found zero gas indication.

On August 09, 2023, SoCalGas submitted the DOT form 7100 to both CPUC and DOT. SoCalGas indicated that the steel water main crossing over the SoCalGas gas main with 4 to 6 inches of separation, bored a hole into the gas main, caused the water intrusion into the 2-inch steel gas main, and resulted in service interruption to SoCalGas customers.

SoCalGas investigation revealed that a corroded fire hydrant' steel piping (150

psig) with 4 to 6 inches separation form SoCalGas 2-inch steel gas main (50 psig) pierced a hole into the 2-inch steel gas main and caused the water intrusion into the 2-inch steel gas main.

On July 18, 2023, September 13, 2023, January 2, 2024, and February 21, 2024, SED contacted **Content of September 13**, City of Sierra Madre's Deputy City Manager to response to SED data request but without any fruitful result.

On January 11, 2024, SoCalGas provided SED with the last leakage survey report dated July 12, 2023, indicating code 3 leak located in the general area where the water intrusion occurred. In addition, on January 19, 2024, SoCalGas confirmed the water intrusion and code 3 leak were not related.

SED's investigation found that the low-pressure condition was caused by water leak on Sierra Madre Water District's 6-inch steel water main bored a hole into SoCalGas's 2-inch steel gas main and resulted in water intrusion and service interruption to SoCalGas' customers.

Therefore, SED did not find any of General Order 112-F, Reference Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 192, violations by SoCalGas.

# Preliminary Statement of Pertinent General Order, Public Utilities Code

# **Requirements, and/or Federal Requirements:**

None

# **Conclusion:**

SED's investigation found that the low-pressure condition was caused by water leak on Sierra Madre Water District's 6-inch steel water main bored a hole into SoCalGas's 2-inch steel gas main and resulted in water intrusion and service interruption to SoCalGas' customers.

Therefore, SED did not find any of General Order 112-F, Reference Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 192, violations by SoCalGas.