

Application of San Diego Gas & Electric Company (U902M) for Authority, Among Other Things, to Increase Rates and Charges for Electric and Gas Service Effective on January 1, 2012.

A.10-12-005
(Filed December 15, 2010)

Application of Southern California Gas Company (U904G) for authority to update its gas revenue requirement and base rates effective on January 1, 2012.

A.10-12-006
(Filed December 15, 2010)

Application 10-12-006
Exhibit No.: (SCG-01-R)

REVISED
PREPARED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF
ANNE SMITH
ON BEHALF OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

JULY 2011



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1 **REVISED PREPARED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF**
2 **ANNE SMITH**
3 **ON BEHALF OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY**
4 **(POLICY OVERVIEW)**

6 **I. INTRODUCTION**

7 This exhibit provides the overarching policy testimony for Southern California Gas
8 Company (“SCG”). It describes how the proposals in SCG’s 2012 General Rate Case (“GRC”) application support our vision of the future, and ways that SCG intends to meet our customers’
9 energy needs. SCG, like many other businesses in California and the nation, faces significant
10 operating challenges. Some of these challenges are a reflection of the current economic
11 conditions, while others reflect evolving public policy that is increasingly focused on
12 environmental sustainability, energy security and climate change. Our customers at the same
13 time are seeking more from the utility on ways to reduce their costs or use energy more wisely.
14 Overlaying this are the challenges of operating the nation’s largest natural gas utility which
15 serves communities of vast lifestyle, cultural and language diversity.

17 A significant portion of our anticipated cost increases result from mandated programs that
18 are beyond the direct control of the Company. In this GRC, SCG forecasts significantly
19 increased expenses associated with complying with federal, state, and local environmental
20 regulations related to air quality and greenhouse gas (“GHG”) monitoring and control, storm-
21 water runoff, fleet vehicle emissions, and the removal of PCBs from our system. SCG is also
22 facing significant cost increases related to Department of Transportation natural gas pipeline
23 safety inspection and repair regulations. Recent pension legislation, combined with the impact
24 of the economic downturn on market returns, is driving up the minimum pension funding
25 requirements (although SCG is proposing to reduce this increase for TY2012). And finally, SCG
26 faces ever-increasing reporting responsibilities which include the CPUC’s Affiliate Rules, FERC
27 Standards of Conduct, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (“OSHA”) requirements
28 and Sarbanes-Oxley requirements which also result in higher operating costs.

29 SCG has examined the changes we expect to occur over the term of this GRC and are
30 proposing investments for maintaining and enhancing system integrity, enhancing service to
31 customers, deploying new technology, and delivering clean and efficient energy to the region—

1 all the while being very mindful to be cost efficient with our customers' money. As we look to
2 the future, our customers will be expecting that SCG incorporate new technologies in the
3 business to automate business processes and, where possible, increase service options, while
4 maintaining reasonable and competitive rates. In this GRC, SCG is requesting a forecasted
5 revenue requirement that will accomplish the above. SCG has also developed a post-test year
6 ratemaking mechanism that responds to today's uncertain economic climate and maintains
7 incentives to pursue greater operational efficiencies.

8 SCG is requesting a TY2012 revenue requirement of \$ 2.107 billion. When the impact of
9 commodity costs and other ratemaking items such as regulatory account balances are included,
10 this increase results in a TY2012 system average rate revenue increase of \$237 million (5.5%) as
11 compared to currently effective 2011 rates. If approved by the CPUC, the effect of this proposed
12 increase, in 2012, on a residential customer's typical monthly bill¹ is an increase of \$2.58
13 (5.8%).²

14 As described later in my testimony, SCG is mindful of the difficult economic
15 circumstances facing many of our customers. Because of this, SCG has incorporated two
16 proposals into the GRC that lower the requested TY2012 revenue requirement in an effort to
17 help mitigate the rate pressures that customers would otherwise experience. SCG has also
18 incorporated in this GRC two proposals to help encourage productivity in the post-test years: an
19 earnings-sharing mechanism that will share any productivity gains beyond a set benchmark with
20 customers and an efficiency carry-over mechanism that will encourage SCG to undertake longer-
21 term productivity projects that may extend beyond one GRC cycle.

22 Finally, while the shared management organizational structure that SCG and San Diego
23 Gas & Electric Company ("SDG&E") have operated under since 2002 has worked well, some
24 revisions to the model have become necessary to better address future challenges and allow for
25 more focused management attention to the unique issues facing each utility. For those reasons an
26 organizational realignment was undertaken in early 2010 to provide greater autonomy and
27 separate senior leadership for each company. This is further discussed in Section III of this
28 testimony.

29

¹ Based on annual average usage of 38 therms per month.

² The TY2012 revenue requirement and corresponding rates and bill impacts reflect the incorporation of identified errata in addition to the tax law change recently enacted as part of the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010, as described in other witness areas.

1 **II. OVERVIEW OF OPERATIONS**

2 SCG's service territory covers approximately 20,000 square miles and encompasses
3 about 500 different communities with a population of 20.5 million. We provide service to these
4 customers in southern California through 5.4 million meters, which is expected to grow to 5.6
5 million customers by 2012. SCG currently serves approximately 5.4 million residential
6 households and 200,000 commercial and industrial customers.

7 As shown in Figure AS-1, the geographic boundaries of the service territory encompass
8 San Bernardino, Riverside, Ventura, Orange, Tulare, Los Angeles, Kern, Kings, Imperial, Santa
9 Barbara, San Luis Obispo and parts of Fresno and San Diego counties. The SCG intrastate
10 transmission system is comprised of 3,989 miles of large- and high-pressure pipeline and 11
11 compressor stations. The transmission pipeline system is designed to receive natural gas from
12 out-of-state production via interstate pipelines, and from various California offshore and onshore
13 sources. The gas supply entering the system is measured, analyzed for quality, and then flows
14 into the Company's distribution system, storage fields, and ultimately to end-use customers.

15 SCG owns, operates, and maintains a gas distribution system that consists of a network of
16 approximately 97,400 miles of interconnected gas pipelines. The primary function of this
17 distribution pipeline network is to receive natural gas from SCG's transmission system and
18 redeliver the supplies at lower pressure to residential homes and businesses in southern
19 California.

20

1

Figure AS-1: SCG Gas Distribution Service Territory



2

3 The distribution system consists of not only the pipelines themselves, but a network of
 4 valves and regulator stations. Valves serve the purpose of being able to isolate the vast system
 5 into smaller operating areas for operational, maintenance, construction and emergency purposes.
 6 The regulator stations located throughout the system manage the operating pressure of the
 7 pipelines to ensure adequate delivery of gas supplies to meet customers' energy demand. The
 8 final step in the gas delivery process is done through the individual customer's gas service line
 9 which connects the pipelines in the street to the customer's meter.

10 SCG also operates four underground storage fields with a working capacity of
 11 approximately 134 Bcf. These fields are Aliso Canyon—86 Bcf, La Goleta—21.5 Bcf, Honor
 12 Rancho 24.1—Bcf, and Playa Del Rey—2.4 Bcf. These storage facilities are an integral part of
 13 the gas infrastructure required to provide southern California businesses and residents with safe,
 14 reliable, and cost-competitive gas services.

15

16

1 Beyond the safe and reliable delivery of natural gas, another SCG core function is to
2 provide outstanding services to our customers. Customer Services Field representatives provide
3 services at customers' homes and businesses to perform service turn-on, appliance adjustments,
4 safety checks, and meter change-outs. These services include the following activities:

- 5 • SCG personnel completed over 4.3 million customer service orders in 2009;
- 6 • SCG's Customer Contact Center is a call center operation that averages
7 approximately 8 million customer calls a year, which are handled by
8 approximately 600 customer service representatives at two locations;
- 9 • Each month meter readers complete approximately 5.6 million meter reads, or
10 67 million meter reads annually;
- 11 • In 2009, SCG rendered over 75 million paper and electronic customer bills,
12 notices and letters including nearly 3 million CARE documents, and processed
13 over 54 million manual and electronic payments, including over 7 million bill
14 payments at 47 different Branch Office locations and over 200 contracted
15 Authorized Payment Locations;
- 16 • The back-office functions play a key role in managing the cash flow of SCG
17 and ensuring customers receive timely and accurate bills. In 2009,
18 approximately 1.2 million billing exceptions were handled and 87,500 customer
19 authentications were completed. In addition, this group maintains the
20 measurement and reporting for the 1,400 large electronic gas meters.

21 SCG's customer base encompasses a wide range of market segments with varying levels
22 of sophistication, service and communications needs. Advancements in information technology
23 have led to changing customer expectations that information be immediately available. While
24 some customers prefer direct mail as their primary source of communication, others request that
25 information be more readily available and seek more electronic self-service options. Thus, to
26 effectively reach customers with important service and program information, we must build new,
27 and significantly enhance existing, non-traditional communication channels such as web
28 seminars, social media, personal communication devices, and the SCG website.

29 SCG is proud of the recognition we have received for superior performance. We have
30 received recent awards in the areas of customer services, supplier diversity and sustainability.

31

1 Some of these awards include:

- 2 • #1 in JD Power & Associates ranking of customer satisfaction among U.S.
3 natural gas utilities;
- 4 • #1 in 2009 and 2010 American Customer Satisfaction Index Survey ranking of
5 customer satisfaction among largest U.S. investor-owned utilities;
- 6 • Identified as a “model utility” in Greenlining’s 2010 supplier diversity report
7 card;
- 8 • United States Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) 2008 Energy Star
9 Leadership in Housing Award.

10 **III. 2010 REORGANIZATION**

11 We have recently undertaken a reorganization that will enable SCG senior management
12 to better focus on the challenges facing our business. Since 2002, we have had a joint
13 management structure that placed both SCG and SDG&E under a single team of officers. We
14 have learned and benefitted from this integrated management, and we continue to take advantage
15 of the current efficiencies by retaining a number of shared services. In addition, the operation of
16 the gas system and the customer service field operations at the two utilities remain integrated to
17 maximize efficiencies and the deployment of best practices.

18 However, today and going forward the issues facing the natural gas business are
19 increasingly different from those facing the electricity industry, and we believe each company
20 deserves greater management focus to meet its unique challenges. For example, as Mike Niggli
21 cites in his testimony, electric utilities must meet the existing 20% Renewables Portfolio
22 Standard (“RPS”), and SDG&E is working hard to meet its voluntary commitment to a 33%
23 RPS. Natural gas utilities are facing California Assembly Bill 32 obligations that are
24 significantly different from those facing electric utilities, including the possibility that, under
25 certain regulatory proposals, SCG will be responsible for the emissions of its customers in
26 addition to the potential regulation of fugitive pipeline emissions. Continuing pressures at the
27 regional level to achieve federal clean air act attainment will increasingly pose tough and costly
28 mandates on SCG and all of its customers. On the supply side, SCG is intently focused on
29 ensuring our customers have access to competitively priced natural gas to meet their energy
30 needs. We are closely monitoring the prospect of increased shale production as well as other

1 supply sources, including imported liquefied natural gas (“LNG”) and the very promising new
2 biogas resources. As the challenges and opportunities facing the natural gas and electricity
3 industries diverge, the ways in which SCG and SDG&E manage their business must also change.

4 Accordingly, in April of 2010, Sempra Energy announced a corporate reorganization that
5 returned certain functions and accountability to the various Sempra Energy business units. As
6 described by Mr. Folkmann (Exhibit SCG-17), corporate center functions primarily serving SCG
7 and SDG&E were transferred to those utilities. In addition to changes at the corporate center
8 level, SCG and SDG&E also effected changes that established a separate senior management
9 team at each utility. SCG believes that the divergent issues facing each utility warrant such a
10 focus. In total, SCG, SDG&E and corporate center were able to complete this reorganization
11 with a net decrease in costs.

12 **IV. OPERATIONAL FOCUS**

13 SCG’s business priorities over the GRC term include:

- 14 • Managing the daily operations of the nation’s largest natural gas utility safely,
15 reliably, efficiently, and in compliance with all regulations and laws;
- 16 • Meeting the needs of over 20 million southern Californians who are
17 increasingly more diverse in their service demands and expectations;
- 18 • Acquiring reliable and low-cost gas supplies on behalf of our residential and
19 small business customers;
- 20 • Delivering the clean natural gas that fuels much of the State’s electric
21 generation and industrial processes, and providing these customers with access
22 to competitive sources of natural gas supply;
- 23 • Investing in training and development of our most valuable asset – our
24 employees - so they can remain equipped to provide outstanding service to
25 customers; and
- 26 • Investing in technologies that improve operating efficiencies, advance clean
27 energy applications, and empower customers with information and tools to
28 better manage their natural gas usage.

1 **A. Safety and Reliability**

2 Operating our system with the safety of our employees, customers and
3 communities in mind is our primary operational focus. There is also continued
4 expectation of high reliability of gas service. Reliable natural gas service is critical for
5 electric generation facilities that are needed to maintain electric grid reliability, for
6 industrial customers who cannot use alternate fuels or require natural gas in their
7 production processes, and all other customers who rely on natural gas for comfort and
8 business operations.

9 To provide the level of safety and reliability that our customers expect, we need
10 investment and access to capital for the maintenance, operations, and replacement of
11 aging and/or deteriorating infrastructure. As described in the testimony of Mr. Stanford
12 (Exhibit SCG-05) and Ms. Orozco-Mejia (Exhibit SCG-02), two significant drivers of the
13 increase sought in the 2012 GRC are the Department of Transportation mandated
14 Transmission Integrity Management Program and Distribution Integrity Management
15 Program. Operating in southern California as the largest natural gas distribution
16 company in North America, we face far more complex technical and operational issues
17 than most pipeline operators do. Work required to maintain the integrity of the physical
18 system increases as the system expands; cost involved in keeping an aging system
19 running continue to escalate, particularly in light of the stringent regulatory requirements
20 and restrictions that are being imposed; and all the employees must be highly trained and
21 equipped to work proficiently.

22 **B. Customers**

23 SCG will continue to enhance the delivery of value-added services to customers.
24 SCG strives to provide the information customers require to make wise decisions
25 regarding energy use, and also seeks to provide our customers with tools to help
26 effectuate those decisions. We will proactively indentify their service needs and engage
27 them in developing solutions. We will use advanced technology to communicate and
28 interface with our customers and gain a better understanding of their expectations. SCG
29 understands that some of our customers have special needs and will continually shape
30 programs targeted to these customer segments. We also will continually build positive
31 relationships with our broad-based external stakeholders to reflect their views in

1 designing our programs and services and to benefit from their input in our decision
2 making.

3 As described by Ms. Wright (Exhibit SCG-09), SCG must meet increasing
4 customer expectations for communication and e-services while also supporting ambitious
5 goals for low income customer assistance, improved local air quality, reduced GHG
6 emissions and greater use of renewable energy sources. In addition, we plan to add
7 resources to implement Commission-approved expansion of capacity and pipeline
8 services to maximize the flexibility and value of SCG's transportation and storage
9 infrastructure to customers.

10 SCG has made significant progress in enabling website-based services over the
11 past five years, and will continue to do so in this GRC cycle. We expect the pace of
12 technology adoption will accelerate among all of our customers. By making investments
13 in developing and enhancing these on-line services, SCG will be able to deliver services
14 through channels of customer choice that are convenient, time-saving and
15 environmentally friendly. Examples of the increased use of electronic media include:

- 16 • In a five-year period, total visits to SCG websites have increased
17 from under 6 million in 2005 to over 23 million in 2009;
- 18 • Since 2005, the number of customers registered for SCG secured
19 online personal account management service, "My Account," has
20 increased from under 6% to over 22%. Currently there are over 1.3
21 million customers registered, with an average of over 15,000 new
22 users added each month;
- 23 • Over 1 million customers are registered to receive SCG's
24 informational e-mails and newsletters, up from just 8,500 customers
25 in 2005.

26 An important segment of SCG's customer base is the Special Needs customers
27 who benefit from assistance beyond the basic services. Special Needs customers are
28 those residential customers who have financial difficulty in paying their utility bills,
29 persons with medical conditions that require the use of natural gas equipment in their
30 homes, and households with limited English language proficiency. This GRC includes

1 funding request for additional outreach and support as part of SCG's continued
2 commitment to serving Special Needs customers.

3 **C. Employees**

4 **1. Workforce**

5 SCG's workforce needs to have the skills and tools necessary to provide
6 safe, reliable, efficient, and quality gas service. The OpEx 20/20 program and the
7 upcoming Smart Meter program have introduced, and will continue to introduce,
8 rapid technological changes in our business processes. This requires significant
9 retraining of our existing employees in order for them to remain proficient in the
10 work that needs to be performed. Two key initiatives that will be
11 transformational to our employees are described below:

- 12 • The Supervisor Enablement project was undertaken to enable the
13 field supervisors to focus on employee safety, quality and
14 productivity. The project will reduce their administrative burden and
15 increase the time available to support employees in the field. New
16 tools are in place to reduce, automate, or eliminate unnecessary
17 administrative tasks and provide easy access to relevant information
18 that helps to increase their supervisory effectiveness.
- 19 • The Single View of the Customer project is designed to enable a
20 consolidated view of a customer by capturing and integrating
21 customer information currently residing in various information
22 sources across the company. Such information may include: history
23 of service transactions, participation in special programs such as
24 energy efficiency rebates or low income assistance, key household
25 demographic attributes such as primary language spoken, and special
26 service preferences such as the use of electronic communication
27 channels or on-line payment options. This tool will enable our
28 service representatives to anticipate and better respond to our
29 customers' needs.

30 These initiatives are described in greater detail in Mr. Phillips' testimony
31 (Exhibit SCG-13).

1 Our company has discovered that a thoughtful strategy is needed to build a
2 workforce of the future. With the pace of technological changes and a maturing
3 workforce, we not only must plan for the level of the workforce, but also need to
4 define and acquire the requisite composite of skills. Many workers and
5 supervisors need to be retrained; new skills must be hired; and leadership styles
6 and work culture must be changed to manage the next generation of employees.
7 In short, we need a flexible workforce that can be retrained as jobs are
8 transformed. At the same time, we must continue to develop the leadership skills
9 necessary for continued successful operations.

10 **2. Compensation and Benefits**

11 The ability to attract, motivate and retain a dynamic workforce is critical
12 to SCG being able to maintain its operational and service excellence. We
13 continually monitor our compensation and benefits programs so we can be
14 competitive in the job market. As described by Ms. Robinson (Exhibit SCG-19),
15 the Company's 2010 Total Compensation Study conducted by Towers—Watson
16 found SCG total compensation levels to be within the Commission's historical
17 guidelines for reasonableness in this area.

18 Providing competitive benefits to our employees allows us to attract and
19 retain valuable employees. SCG offers its employees a portfolio of benefits in
20 areas including health, welfare (e.g., life insurance), retirement, education
21 assistance and emergency day care. Cost increases are projected in each of these
22 areas. The health and retirement programs, which are highly valued by our
23 employees and represent over 90 percent of SCG benefit expense, will experience
24 significant hikes due to market conditions and anticipated regulatory changes.
25

1 **D. Technology**

2 Use of information technologies continue to expand at a rapid pace. As examples,
3 SCG and SDG&E together managed approximately 50,000 Internet protocol (“IP”)-
4 addressable devices in 2009. By 2015, we will operate and manage millions of IP-
5 addressable devices. In 2010, SCG and SDG&E together managed enterprise storage of
6 680 terabytes (“TB”). By 2015, the two utilities expect to manage more than 7000 TB.
7 By contrast, in 2005 most Fortune 500 companies managed less than 10 TB.

8 SCG plans to leverage advances in information, communications, and energy
9 technology, to move our business forward. We believe the effective deployment of
10 technology will help to cost-effectively meet our customers’ needs by enhancing the
11 services and information available to them. We also believe that advanced technology
12 will improve the cost efficiency of operating our delivery system and maintaining the
13 integrity of our infrastructure. Finally, we believe the wise investment in promising
14 energy technologies can help us achieve greater environmental sustainability. Some
15 examples of how SCG is leveraging advanced technology to achieve our objectives
16 include:

- 17 • **Advanced Monitoring Technology for Gas Storage Fields:** These
18 systems automatically monitor pressures, temperatures, vibrations, tank
19 levels, and other variables at the compressors, dehydration plants, tank
20 farms and wells. This technology enables the operating personnel to
21 perform other important tasks rather than spend time to take manual
22 readings.
- 23 • **RD&D:** SCG has a vigorous and successful RD&D program that is
24 primarily focused on clean energy technologies, especially solutions to a
25 carbon-constrained world.
- 26 • **OpEx 20/20:** As described by Mr. Phillips (Exhibit SCG-13), OpEx
27 20/20 (“OpEx”) is a program initiated by SCG and SDG&E to develop a
28 roadmap for the deployment of technology to be used to improve
29 operations, increase efficiency, enhance the customer experience and
30 provide better tools and information for supervisors and front-line
31 employees. This programmatic, enterprise approach to take advantage

1 of advanced technology—including information and communications
2 technology—is a significant undertaking, but one in which both SCG
3 and SDG&E invested time and talent to pursue because of the significant
4 benefits that could be reaped for our customers. While the program is
5 not expected to produce overall net benefits until 2016, OpEx has
6 produced O&M and capital benefits in TY2012 and those benefits have
7 been included in SCG’s TY2012 request.

8 **E. Sustainability**

9 SCG is actively engaged in bringing advanced energy technology to market that
10 captures “raw” biogas and, through the use of a conditioning process, converts it to
11 pipeline-quality biogas (biomethane). This biogas will be injected into our system for
12 delivery to meet a significant portion of our company and fleet uses. Use of this
13 renewable biogas will result in a reduction in SCG’s “carbon footprint” because we will
14 be able to replace the use of natural gas with biomethane. This will help SCG avoid the
15 need for GHG emission allowances annually. Further, local air quality will be improved
16 as the raw biogas will no longer be flared or lost into the atmosphere, but rather will be
17 put to productive use. This project is described in greater detail in the testimony of Ms.
18 Wright (Exhibit SCG-09) and the testimony of Mr. Stanford (Exhibit SCG-05).

19 Another high priority in our operations is ensuring compliance with all
20 environmental laws and regulations. Environmental compliance continues to become
21 more complex and challenging for the natural gas industry. As described in the
22 testimony of Ms. Haines (Exhibit SCG-15) these regulations have a significant impact on
23 SCG’s TY2012 request. SCG must remain in compliance with over 400 federal, state,
24 regional and local environmental statutes, rules and regulations, including laws protecting
25 air quality, water quality, hazardous materials, waste, cultural resources, land planning
26 and natural resources. We expect to see increased costs associated with new program
27 development, employee training, monitoring and record keeping, and audits.

28 Federal, state and local legislative and regulatory bodies have recently adopted
29 and proposed to adopt several new GHG programs that will impact SCG. The most
30 significant of these regulations requires SCG to annually report fugitive, vented and flare
31 combustion carbon dioxide and methane emissions from selected equipment. The

1 California Air Resources Board is also scheduled to implement other GHG emissions
2 caps and regulations designed to achieve California’s GHG emissions reductions goals.
3 Other environmental regulations that are forecast to impact SCG’s costs include the
4 Construction Storm Water General Permit that regulates storm water discharges from
5 construction activities and pending EPA regulation of liquid polychlorinated biphenyls
6 (“PCBs”) in natural gas pipeline systems. Since some of the new environmental
7 regulations are pending, their exact costs remain uncertain. Because of this uncertainty
8 SCG is proposing a New Environment Regulation Balancing Account (“NERBA”) for
9 expenses related to pending environmental regulations. The proposed accounting
10 treatment for these NERBA costs is discussed in the testimony of Mr. Shimansky
11 (Exhibit SCG-34).

12 **F. Diversity Business Enterprises**

13 SCG is proud of our achievement in the area of supplier diversity and has excelled
14 in efforts to utilize women-, minority-, and disabled veteran-owned businesses. As
15 discussed by Ms. Sedgwick (Exhibit SCG-10), the Diverse Business Enterprise (“DBE”)
16 organization ensures compliance with the General Order 156 target of 21.5% Women,
17 Minority, Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (“WMDVBE”) spending. SCG has
18 surpassed the CPUC goal for several years now and has achieved over 30% WMDVBE
19 spending for two consecutive years (2008 and 2009).

20 The DBE organization has invested additional resources to expand outreach
21 efforts in underutilized areas (Standard Industrial Classification [“SIC”] specific). With
22 CPUC-heightened focus in these areas, DBE has increased small business forums (co-
23 hosted by the CPUC) and technical assistance programs, resulting in increases in
24 mentoring and capacity building initiatives. In addition to these new initiatives, the
25 Company is expecting to significantly increase its major capital expenditures, presenting
26 considerable opportunities and challenges in maintaining our DBE results. Some of these
27 new projects will include green procurement initiatives and, with that, the development of
28 green DBE suppliers. The efforts to achieve WMDVBE spending in new capital projects
29 will require not only more aggressive outreach and development work, but also increased
30 reporting, tracking, and monitoring requirements.
31

1 **V. TY2012 GRC REQUEST AND POST-TEST YEAR RATEMAKING**

2 **A. TY2012 Revenue Requirement**

3 SCG is requesting a TY2012 revenue requirement of \$2.107 billion. When the
4 impact of commodity costs and other ratemaking items such as regulatory account
5 balances are included, this increase results in a TY2012 system average rate revenue
6 increase of \$237 million (5.5%) as compared to currently effective 2011 rates. If
7 approved by the CPUC, the effect of this proposed increase, in 2012, on a residential
8 customer's typical monthly bill³ is an increase of \$2.58 (5.8%).

9 Due to the moderate climate in southern California, natural gas consumption is
10 relatively low on a per-customer basis. Therefore, residential customer bills will remain
11 low compared to other utilities in the nation. The projected rate increase and residential
12 bill impact requested in this proceeding are discussed in more detail in the testimony of
13 Mr. Lenart (Exhibit SCG-40).

14 **B. TY2012 Rate Reduction Proposals**

15 SCG is mindful of the difficult economic circumstances facing many of our
16 customers. Because of this, SCG has incorporated two proposals into the GRC that lower
17 the requested TY2012 revenue requirement in an effort to help mitigate the rate pressures
18 that customers would otherwise experience.

19 First, Mr. Lewis (Exhibit SCG-29) provides testimony that calculates a SCG
20 working cash requirement of \$42 million to compensate utility investors for providing
21 operating capital to fund daily operating needs. Although this is the amount that SCG
22 would normally include in its TY2012 GRC request (to be included in the rate base on
23 which SCG is entitled to earn a return), SCG has elected to request a zero (\$0) funding
24 level for SCG's 2012 GRC working cash requirement. This one-time, non-precedential
25 policy decision was made in recognition of the continuing economic downturn and its
26 impact on our customers. Should economic conditions improve, SCG reserves the right
27 to petition the Commission at that time (which could be prior to SCG's next GRC) to
28 return to normal treatment of working cash requirements—i.e., to include this amount in
29 rates going forward.

³ Based on annual average usage of 38 therms per month.

1 Second, as discussed in the testimony of Mr. Sarkaria (Exhibit SCG-20), SCG
2 expects to face significant increases in pension funding requirements and post-retirement
3 benefits other than pensions (“PBOP”) funding needs in TY2012 and for the post-test
4 year period (2013-2015). Much of the requirement for this funding is driven by poor
5 market returns resulting from the economic downturn. Should economic circumstances
6 improve, and market returns rise back to historical levels, it is possible that the need for
7 pension funding will be reduced in the future. Because of this, and because SCG
8 proposes to continue two-way balancing of pensions and PBOP expenses, SCG proposes
9 to hold pension and PBOP funding at the 2009 recorded levels for TY2012. Annual
10 actual pension funding will continue as required by law and annual actual PBOP funding
11 will continue as required by prescribed actuarial calculations. Any shortfall (or surplus)
12 from the 2009 recorded level of expense will be recorded in the pension and/or PBOP
13 balancing accounts for recovery in the subsequent year. As with the working cash
14 proposal, this one-time, non-precedential policy decision was made in recognition of the
15 continuing economic downturn and its impact on our customers. This proposal benefits
16 customers by delaying for at least one year to 2013 the projected \$35 million pension
17 funding increase and \$16 million PBOP funding need that Mr. Sarkaria projects over
18 2009 recorded levels. The proposal may continue to benefit customers for future years
19 should funding requirements diminish. It is important to note that the proposal to hold
20 pension and PBOP expense at 2009 recorded levels for ratemaking purposes is contingent
21 upon the Commission also authorizing continued two-way balancing account treatment
22 for pension and PBOP expenses. Should this not be adopted, SCG would instead propose
23 that the Commission adopt the level of TY2012 pension and PBOP funding described in
24 the testimony of Mr. Sarkaria.

25 **C. Post-Test Year Ratemaking**

26 As discussed in the testimony of Mr. Emmrich (Exhibit SCG-39), SCG proposes a
27 Post-Test Year ratemaking mechanism to adjust its gas authorized revenue requirements
28 in the post test years by applying separate formulas to the medical, operating and
29 maintenance (“O&M”)-related and capital-related revenues. SCG proposes to absorb the
30 costs associated with customer growth as a productivity factor.

1 SCG proposes a four-year term for this GRC: TY2012 and Attrition Years 2013,
2 2014 and 2015. SCG believes that a four-year GRC term provides greater incentives to
3 the utility to make productivity-enhancing investments and allows SCG to operate the
4 business more efficiently than would a shorter term.

5 SCG also proposes two mechanisms to allow the sharing of operational
6 efficiencies with customers. The first is very similar to earnings-sharing mechanisms the
7 Commission has adopted for SCG in past rate case cycles. The purpose of this
8 mechanism is to encourage SCG to continue to invest in productivity enhancement
9 projects and initiatives. The second mechanism would allow the sharing of efficiencies
10 achieved from productivity investments across rate case cycles. This mechanism incents
11 SCG management to look for longer-term productivity programs (such as OpEx) that
12 may not achieve full payback in one GRC term.

13 SCG has been operating under essentially the same non-tariffed products and
14 services (“NTP&S”) mechanism since its implementation in 1997 as part of D.97-12-088
15 and D.98-08-035. As described in the testimony of Mr. Lane (Exhibit SCG-33), SCG
16 proposes modifications to the existing NTP&S rules to reflect the challenges facing a
17 modern utility. SCG believes that these modifications would encourage the development
18 of new products and services that would benefit customers without exposing them to any
19 financial risk.

20 **VI. CONCLUSION**

21 SCG intends to maintain outstanding operational excellence in fulfilling our
22 responsibility and commitment to provide energy service to our customers and the communities
23 we serve. We must have the resources necessary to carry out this task and ensure that our
24 customers get the greatest value for their money. We will continue to take steps to improve our
25 customer service and maintain our high level of reliability. We will continue to take affirmative
26 steps to ensure that our workforce and suppliers reflect the diverse face of California. Finally,
27 we will continue to use technology to bring greater choice and empowerment to our customers
28 and greater operational efficiency to our business.

29 This concludes my prepared direct testimony.
30

1 **VII. WITNESS QUALIFICATIONS**

2 Anne Shen Smith is Chief Operating Officer for Southern California Gas Company
3 (“SoCalGas”).

4 Previously, Ms. Smith served as the Senior Vice President of Customer Services and
5 Vice President of Environment and Safety for SoCalGas. Ms. Smith started her career with
6 SoCalGas in 1977 and held management positions in public affairs, strategic planning, demand
7 forecasting and market research.

8 Ms. Smith has served on numerous advisory boards, committees and commissions,
9 including the Public Advisory Committee of the Grand Canyon Visibility Transport Commission
10 and as the Vice President of the Los Angeles City Environmental Affairs Commission.

11 Currently, Ms. Smith serves on the board of directors for the California League of
12 Conservation Voters Education Fund, and as an executive advisory board member of the Asian
13 Pacific American Legal Center.

14 Ms. Smith is a native of Taiwan and immigrated to the United States in 1964. She
15 received her bachelor's degree in industrial engineering from the University of Michigan and has
16 a master's degree in industrial engineering and operations research from the University of
17 California at Berkeley.

18 Ms. Smith has previously testified before the California Public Utilities Commission.

CHANGE LOG

Page	Line	Item
AS-2	8	\$2.124 billion changed to \$2.107 billion.
AS-2	10	\$308 million changed to \$237 million.
AS-2	10	7.4% changed to 5.5%.
AS-2	11	2010 changed to 2011.
AS-2	12	\$3.35 changed to \$2.58.
AS-2	13	7.7% changed to 5.8%.
AS-2	13	Deleted text: “over two years, or an annual average increase of 3.8%.”
AS-2	Fn.2	Inserted new footnote: The TY2012 revenue requirement and corresponding rates and bill impacts reflect the incorporation of identified errata in addition to the tax law change recently enacted as part of the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010, as described in other witness areas.
AS-5	9	Added “million” after 5.6.
AS-13	22	Replaced witness Ms. Gomez with Ms. Haines.
AS-15	3	\$2.124 billion changed to \$2.107 billion.
AS-15	6	\$308 million changed to \$237 million.
AS-15	6	7.4% changed to 5.5%.
AS-15	6	2010 changed to 2011.
AS-15	8	\$3.35 changed to \$2.58.
AS-15	8	7.7% changed to 5.8%.
AS-15	8	Deleted text: “over two years, or an annual average increase of 3.8%.”
AS-15	20	\$34 million changed to \$42 million.
AS-15	Fn.3	Renumbering of existing footnote, from 2 to 3.
AS-16	17	\$18 million changed to \$16 million.
AS-17	14-15	Added “D.97-12-088 and” to complete the proper citation.
var	var	Miscellaneous minor corrections to spelling, hyphenations and abbreviations.