

SIERRA CLUB- UCS DATA REQUEST
SIERRA CLUB-SCG-06
SOCALGAS 2019 GRC – A.17-10-008
SOCALGAS RESPONSE
DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 12, 2018
DATE RESPONDED: APRIL 26, 2018

1. In the attached letter to the California Energy Commission dated January 31, 2017, SoCalGas proposes an increase the budget of the CEC Natural Gas R&D Program from \$24 million to \$48 million by the 2021-2022 fiscal year.
 - a. Does SoCalGas propose the funding increase come from SoCalGas' requested R&D budget? If not, please explain how the proposed increase would be funded.

SoCalGas Response 1:

SoCalGas objects to this request under Rule 10.1 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure on the grounds that it lacks foundation. Subject to and without waiving the foregoing objections, SoCalGas responds as follows:

In the context of the California Energy Commission's (CEC) request for comments on its proposed budget increase, SoCalGas provided its support and views on the CEC proposed budget increase. The CEC's budget is not funded by the SoCalGas RD&D budget, but rather is funded by statewide ratepayer funds collected on behalf of the CEC.

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2. Exh. SCG-21 at p. LLA-B-8 describes an RD&D power-to-gas project that would “Develop electrochemical CO2 reduction technology to convert excess renewable power directly to methane.”
 - a. What does SoCalGas mean by “electrochemical CO2 reduction technology”?
 - b. What does SoCalGas mean by “excess renewable power”?
 - c. How will SoCalGas ensure only excess renewable power will be used to generate methane?

SoCalGas Response 2:

- a. Electrochemical CO2 Reduction is the conversion of carbon dioxide to more reduced chemical species using electrical energy.
- b. Excess Renewable Power is electricity produced by intermittent renewable resources, such as wind and solar, that exceed demand at the time of generation.
- c. SoCalGas objects to the request under Rule 10.1 of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure on the grounds that the request lacks foundation, assumes facts not in evidence, and seeks information that is outside the scope of the subject matter involved in the pending proceeding.

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3. Response to Q.16 of Data Request Sierra Club/UCS-SoCalGas-01 lists membership dues to several trade organizations that “SoCalGas pays as part of its RD&D program authorized budget.” Response to Q.13(b) of Data Request Sierra Club/UCS-SoCalGas-03 identifies the amounts contributed to third parties since January 1, 2017 from the R&D budget.
- a. The response to Q.16 identifies the annual dues for the Gas Technology Institute Sustaining Membership as \$100,000. The response to Q.13 identifies the contribution to the Gas Technology Institute as \$1,159,089.57. Aside from membership dues, what activities is the expenditure to the Gas Technology Institute identified in response to Q.13 intended to fund?
 - b. Please explain the same discrepancy with respect to Utilization Technology Development (\$350,000 annual dues/\$750,000 listed contribution in response to Q.13).
 - c. Please explain the same discrepancy with respect to Pipeline Research Council International (\$149,102 membership/\$639,349 contribution identified in response to Q.13).

SoCalGas Response 3:

- a. The response to DR-03, Q.13 reflects the total expenditure for the relevant third-party organizations responsive to the request. In addition to annual dues or annual subscription fees, SoCalGas may provide funding on RD&D projects with the subject organization.
- b. See response to Question 3a above.
- c. See response to Question 3a above.

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4. Exh. SCG-21 at p. LLA-15 identifies a \$2.2 million request for “biomass gasification.” Please provide all known additional detail about the project(s) this request would fund, including biomass source, conversion efficiency, project location, use of any generated biogas, and any potential criteria air pollutant and greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the biomass gasification process.

SoCalGas Response 4:

SoCalGas objects to the request under Rule 10.1 of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure on the grounds that the information sought by this request (“all known additional detail) is not relevant to the scope of the subject matter involved in the pending proceeding and the burden, expense and intrusiveness of this request outweighs the likelihood that the information sought will lead to the discovery of relevant and admissible evidence within the scope of the pending proceeding. Subject to and without waiving the foregoing objection, SoCalGas responds as follows:

The goal for these funds is to leverage funding from the CEC, SCAQMD, DOE or other co-funding sources for one or more biomass gasification project demonstrations. Details such as biomass source, conversion efficiency, project location, use of any generated biogas, and any potential criteria air pollutant and greenhouse gas emission reductions are provided by the project applicants and would be considered by SoCalGas and the other co-funding resources at the time the project is considered for selection.

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5. Please explain the difference between the non-shared policy and legislative activities of the Policy and Environmental Services Group (Exh. SCG-21, p. LLA-21) and the shared activities. (For example, are non-shared P&ES services focused on activities before local and regional governments (LLA-21:6-7) and shared services focused on activities before state agencies and the legislature (LLA-25:14-25)?)

SoCalGas Response 5:

SoCalGas objects to the request under Rule 10.1 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure on the grounds that the request is vague and ambiguous and misstates the testimony. Subject to and without waiving the foregoing objection, SoCalGas responds as follows:

LLA-SCG-21 at pages 21 and 24-35 provide a description of the non-shared services of the Policy & Environmental Solutions (P&ES) group and a description of the shared services of the P&ES group, respectively. More generally, shared services are for the benefit of both SoCalGas and SDG&E customers and ratepayers, while non-shared services support SoCalGas customers and ratepayers only.

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6. Page 139-40 of the April 4, 2018 Proposed Decision Addressing Energy Efficiency Business Plans in A.17-01-013 (available at <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Efile/G000/M212/K763/212763072.PDF>) states that “SoCalGas shall have no role in statewide codes and standards advocacy other than to transfer funds to the statewide codes and standards lead for program implementation.”
- a. Please identify the section of SoCalGas Application identifying FTEs currently responsible for statewide codes and standards advocacy.
 - b. For each FTE, please state the percent of time spent of statewide codes and standards advocacy.

SoCalGas Response 6:

- a. SoCalGas objects to this request pursuant to Rule 10.1 of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure to the extent it seeks information that is neither relevant to the subject matter involved in this proceeding nor is reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence within the scope of this proceeding. SoCalGas further objects to this question on the grounds that it calls for speculation regarding a proposed Commission decision in a separate and unrelated proceeding. Funding for SoCalGas’ Energy Efficiency programs, including the Statewide Codes and Standards Advocacy Programs, are authorized through a separate Commission proceeding and are outside the scope of this GRC.
- b. Please see response to Question 6a above.

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7. In response to Q.4(c) of Data Request Sierra Club/UCS-SoCalGas-02, SoCalGas states it “shares the facts about vehicle fleet procurement as we know them and educates these entities (who are SoCalGas customers) about potential customer and operational impacts.”
- a. Please describe the extent to which SoCalGas educates itself on electric vehicle fleet options.
 - b. Please describe the extent to which SoCalGas educates transit agencies and local governments on electric vehicle fleet options.
 - c. Please provide any written materials that SoCalGas has provided to transit agencies or local governments regarding electric vehicle fleet options since January 1, 2017.

SoCalGas Response 7:

- a. SoCalGas’ P&ES employees monitor proceedings and developments at air districts, the CEC and the California Air Resources Board, related to transportation, to keep abreast of technological advances for fleet vehicles.
- b. As stated in response to response Sierra Club/UCS-SoCalGas-02, Question 4.c.: Consistent with serving our customers, SoCalGas shares the facts about vehicle fleet procurement as we know them and educate these entities (who are SoCalGas customers) about potential customer and operational impacts, which includes natural gas vehicle fleet options as well as electric vehicle fleet options.
- c. Attached are the materials that P&ES has provided to transit agencies or local governments regarding electric fleet vehicles, since January 1, 2017.
 - i. Bus Tech Comparison Fact Sheet Final May 2017
 - ii. LA Metro Fact Sheet – Final Mar 2017
 - iii. LA Metro Myth v Fact Final Mar 2017