

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.

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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 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 bill<sup>1</sup> is an increase of \$2.58  
13 (5.8%).<sup>2</sup>

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.

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<sup>1</sup> Based on annual average usage of 38 therms per month.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

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**Figure AS-1: SCG Gas Distribution Service Territory**



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

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

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 bill<sup>3</sup> 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.

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<sup>3</sup> 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

<b>Page</b>	<b>Line</b>	<b>Item</b>
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.