

SIERRA CLUB- UCS DATA REQUEST
SIERRA CLUB-SCG-07
SOCALGAS 2019 GRC – A.17-10-008
SOCALGAS RESPONSE
DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 20, 2018
DATE RESPONDED: MAY 7, 2018

1. In its amended response to Question 5(b) of DR Sierra Club/UCS-SCG-04, SoCal Gas submitted an attachment estimating biomethane potential in its service territory. SoCalGas based its estimate of biomethane potential from food and green waste on the “Assumed tons of MSW generated before diversion/recycling.”

a. Please explain why SoCalGas calculated biomethane potential from MSW before diversion and recycling and not by tons of MSW actually landfilled (as stated in Line No. 1).

b. Please explain how the assumption that waste is not diverted is consistent with the goal of Senate Bill 1383, section 39730.6(2), to reduce the landfill disposal of organic waste by 75 percent under 2014 levels by 2025.

c. Is it SoCalGas’ position that organic waste should not be diverted away from landfills in order to generate biomethane?

d. If no, what would the estimated biomethane potential be excluding the percentage of waste that is currently diverted or recycled?

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SoCalGas Response 1:

1(a) – The “FoodGreen Waste” sheet is estimating the biomethane potential from food and green waste **before diversion and recycling** based on publicly available data. The data source identified with the double asterisk (<https://archive.epa.gov/epawaste/nonhaz/municipal/web/html/>) provides a breakdown of the MSW **before recycling**. Figure 4 from the weblink shows the breakdown of MSW before recycling consists of 14.6% food scraps and 13.5% yard trimmings.

To calculate the estimated amount of food and green waste being landfilled, the 22,351,336 tons of MSW landfilled (Line No 1) needs to be converted to a tonnage of MSW **before recycling** since the food scraps and yard trimmings percentages are **before recycling**. The calculation used to determine the estimated tons of MSW **before recycling** is shown on Line No 3 (36,050,542 tons). This figure is then multiplied by the food and green waste percentages (Lines 4 and 5) to estimate the total tons of food scraps and yard trimmings landfilled per year (Line No 8).

Also, the Assumptions column for Line No. 3 contains an error. “2010” should be replaced with “2016”.

| Line No. | Assumptions | Value | Formula |
|----------|---|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Tons of MSW landfilled in 2016 (per table above) = | 22,351,336 tons | |
| 2 | California diversion/recycling rate in 2010* = | 62% | |
| 3 | Assumed tons of MSW generated before diversion/recycling = | 36,050,542 tons | line 1 / line 2 |
| | Breakdown of MSW (based on national data)** | | |
| 4 | - Food Scraps | 14.6% | |
| 5 | - Yard Trimmings | 13.5% | |
| 6 | Assumed number of tons per day (50/50 food to yard waste ratio) for biogas upgrading project to be economical = | 500 tons/day | |
| 7 | Estimated amount of biogas generated per landfill diversion project = | 1,500,000 scfd | |
| | * http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/lcentral/goalmeasure/DisposalRate/MostRecent/default.htm | | |
| | ** https://archive.epa.gov/epawaste/nonhaz/municipal/web/html/ | | |
| | Calculations | | |
| 8 | Total tons of Food Scraps and Yard Trimmings per Year = | 10,130,202 tons/year | line 3 x (line 4 + line 5) |
| 9 | Estimated total number of potential landfill diversion projects = | 56 | line 8 / (line 6 x 365) |
| | Total Biogas Production Potential = | 83 MMscfd | (line 7 x line 9) / 1,000,000 |

1(b) – SoCalGas objects to this request under Rule 10.1 of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure on the grounds that it is vague and ambiguous and lacks foundation. Subject to and without waiving the foregoing objections, SoCalGas responds as follows:

The response to Question 5(b) of DR Sierra Club/UCS-SCG-04 and the additional detail provided in 1(a) above provides an estimate of the amount of food and green waste that can be diverted from landfills using a set of assumptions and source data provided in the “FoodGreen Waste” sheet.

1(c) – SoCalGas supports the organic waste diversion goals set forth in SB 1383.

1(d) – Not applicable.