

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

FOR OUR PLAYA DEL REY NEIGHBORS



A WORD FROM JULIO ROBLES

Playa del Rey Storage Facility Manager

Dear Playa del Rey neighbors,

I'd like to introduce myself, my name is Julio Robles and I'm the new manager at the SoCalGas® Playa del Rey storage facility. Before assuming this new role, I was the plant engineer, so I understand the critical role this facility plays in maintaining the reliability of Southern California's natural gas and electricity systems.

My goals for the Playa del Rey storage facility are to continue with the safety enhancements that make SoCalGas storage fields the safest in the nation, provide reliable service, and continue to be a good neighbor to the Playa del Rey community.

As some of you have seen, there's a lot of activity at the facility. We have resumed performing well regulatory inspections. Our planned activities for this year include upgrading our electrical infrastructure to improve resiliency, as well as cleaning and inspecting tanks. We expect the tank cleaning to take several months. We are taking steps to minimize any odor; however, it is possible residents in the area will smell a natural gas odor during this process.

On behalf of everyone at the Playa del Rey storage facility, I'm looking forward to continuing our proud, long-standing relationship with our neighbors in this community.

You can read more about the Playa del Rey storage facility at socalgas.com/playadelrey.

– Julio Robles,
Playa del Rey Storage Facility Manager



BALLONA WETLANDS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR): THE FACTS

Setting the record straight...

We have been getting a lot of questions about the Playa del Rey storage facility and the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Many of these questions are based on misconceptions and incorrect information.

Some believe that SoCalGas is expanding our footprint and infrastructure in the reserve, however, this is not the case. We are actually decreasing our footprint within the reserve.

SoCalGas' environmental stewardship goals fully support the Ballona Wetlands and we stand by the restoration method of the wetlands according to the experts in the field.

The final EIR for the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project, which includes SoCalGas' well abandonment and relocation plan, was released in December 2019. You can find the EIR at wildlife.ca.gov. More information about the restoration project is available at ballonarestoration.org.

For the last few years, several state and regional agencies have worked with the public on a plan for the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. SoCalGas supports this work and the Ballona Wetlands Restoration Project.

As part of the restoration, SoCalGas plans to permanently abandon 16 wells from within the boundaries of the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve. Removing these 16 wells from the reserve, and one additional well, which is located just outside of the boundaries of the reserve, will create an opportunity for a larger restoration footprint for the Ballona Wetlands. These 17 wells are located outside the boundaries of the Playa del Rey storage facility.

Several steps will need to be taken in order to abandon these wells from the reserve, including making required, temporary improvements to the well pads to support the equipment necessary for well removal and the upgrading of some access roads. The removal work will be done in a way that minimizes environmental impacts. We will work with state agencies to comply with relevant regulations, request guidance and obtain any permits that may be required for work to be conducted at these sites.



THE PLAYA DEL REY STORAGE FACILITY PROVIDES THE REGION WITH AFFORDABLE AND RELIABLE ENERGY

With its central location in the heart of the metropolitan service area, the Playa del Rey storage facility is an important local source of energy that helps meet our customers' demand for natural gas. In the South Bay, specifically, the Playa del Rey storage facility helps to power the local electricity-generating plants, acting as a vital link in producing electrical power that keeps the lights on for everyone. Storage fields also allow SoCalGas to purchase natural gas when prices are low, for use at a later time when demand is high, and then passes this savings on to our customers. We do not make money off the sale of natural gas. The majority of homes in Southern California, about 90 percent, use natural gas for hot water and heating.* Storing natural gas locally helps protect customers from energy shortages and sudden spikes in the price of natural gas and allows us to provide Southern Californian families and businesses with safe and reliable natural gas.

Safety at the Playa del Rey storage facility

We operate the Playa del Rey natural gas storage field with the safety of our neighbors as our top priority. The Playa del Rey storage facility is at the forefront of safety controls and procedures, employing the latest technologies to monitor and operate the storage facility. All storage wells at the Playa del Rey storage facility have undergone a battery of tests that state energy experts have called the most comprehensive in the country. In addition, we regularly perform leak surveys of wells and pipelines with an instrument capable of detecting natural gas at concentrations of one part per million.

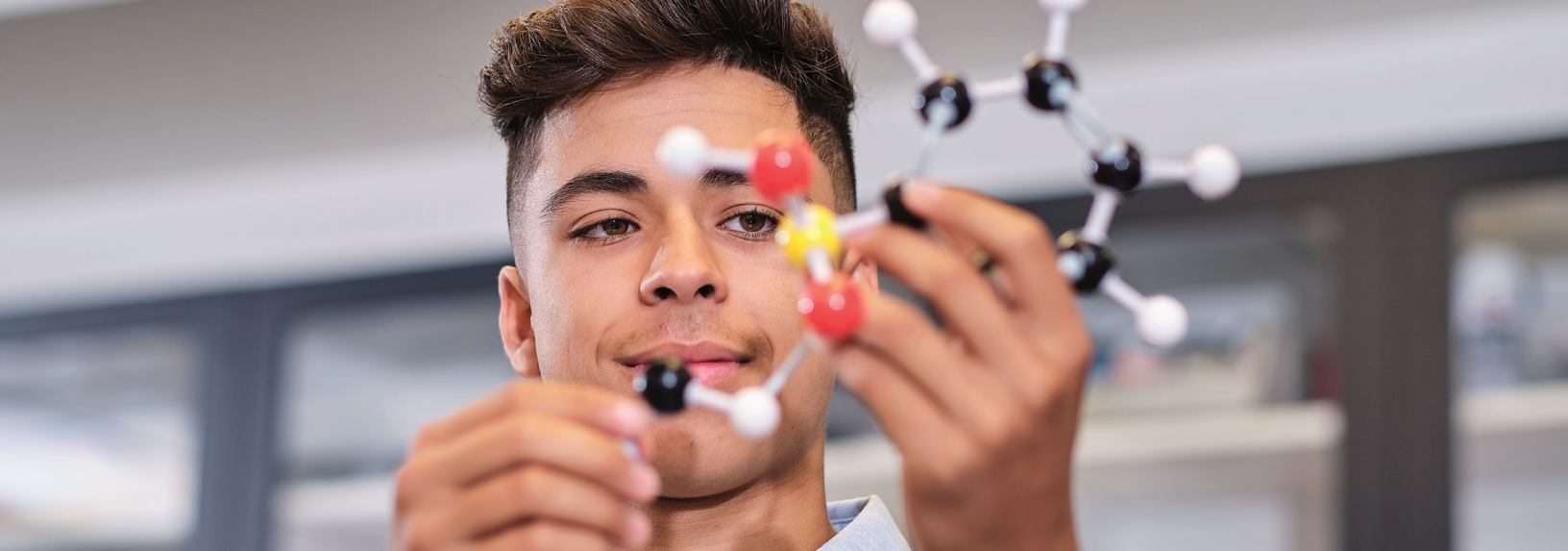
We have been working hand-in-hand with the communities around Playa del Rey for years. In fact, the Playa del Rey storage facility was the first storage facility to have a dedicated Community Advisory Committee (CAC), a group of local residents and community leaders, that helps inform policy decisions and helps keep the local community up to date on activities at the field. Now, as a result of positive feedback and engagement from neighbors like you, this two-way communication model is standard practice across our service territory.

SoCalGas has also implemented a Natural Gas Storage Facility Community Notification system for members of the community to sign up to receive notifications via phone call, text message and/or email, in the event of a release of natural gas at any SoCalGas natural gas storage facilities. To sign up to receive community notifications visit socalgas.com/CommunityNotifications or call 1-800-427-2200.

As a reminder, if you suspect a natural gas leak, we encourage you to safely evacuate the area before calling SoCalGas at 1-800-427-2200. Our customer service representatives are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

For more information about the operation of our the Playa del Rey storage facility, visit socalgas.com/PlayaDelRey.





SOCALGAS SUPPORTS WESTCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL IN ANNUAL DECATHLON

SoCalGas provided a grant to Westchester Enriched Sciences Magnets' Academic Decathlon team for the purchase of calculators for the students who could not otherwise afford them. The team used the graphing calculators in the math portion of the Los Angeles Unified School District's (LAUSD) annual academic decathlon in February.

"Our team is truly thankful for the generous donation from SoCalGas, said Patricia Prokopidis, Academic Decathlon coach and history teacher at Westchester Enriched Sciences Magnets. "We truly appreciate the support and we're super excited to use these new tools to further our success!"

The Westchester Enriched Sciences Magnets preliminary team was comprised of 12 high school students who met every day at 7 a.m. for practice as well as after school and on Saturday for special workshops. The team was led by Patricia Prokopidis.

The Academic Decathlon is an educational competition designed for high school students from all academic achievement levels. Teams are comprised of nine students, or decathletes, who compete in 10 areas and an academic relay to demonstrate their knowledge and proficiency of a specific theme.

The Westchester Enriched Sciences Magnets team competed in the Academic Decathlon on February 1, 2020, at the Edward R. Roybal Learning Center in Los Angeles. The team qualified for the state decathlon competition in Sacramento in March and finished in fourth place, a big improvement from a ninth place finish the previous two years.

SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY

SoCalGas has always been a proud supporter of the communities where we work and live, and the Playa del Rey area is no exception.

Investing in Education

SoCalGas maintains a commitment to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education. In 2019, we contributed nearly \$70,000 to STEM programs at local organizations. We work closely with the LAX Coastal Education Foundation, a non-profit organization that helps us administer the funds, and engage with local schools to arrange mentoring and STEM education.

We have provided STEM funding for these local organizations:

- Braddock Drive Elementary School
- Children at Vista Del Mar
- Green Dot Animo Westside Charter Middle School
- Katherine Johnson STEM Academy
- Kentwood Elementary School
- Paseo del Rey Natural Science Magnet
- Playa del Rey Elementary School
- Playa Vista Elementary School
- St. Anastasia Catholic School
- St. Bernard High School
- St. Jerome School
- Sunrise Rotary Club
- Venice High School STEM Magnet
- Visitation Catholic School
- Westchester Lutheran School
- Westchester/Playa Neighborhood Council Education Committee
- Westchester YMCA
- WISH Academy High School
- WISH Charter Elementary School
- WISH Middle School

Timely Support During the Pandemic

Through the COVID-19 outbreak, SoCalGas has supported local non-profit programs that provide essential services. We made a contribution to each of these organizations:

- Westchester YMCA
- Airport Marina Counseling Services
- Badge of Heart
- Westchester/Playa Teachers to Support Distance Learning
- Westside Pacific Villages - Senior Support Coalition



SPOTLIGHT ON... HYDROGEN

SoCalGas has been working hard to advance clean hydrogen as an energy source. Hydrogen has significant environmental and health benefits - it reduces CO₂, tailpipe particulates, and NO_x emissions - as the potential fuel of the future that will help California achieve its climate goals faster, cleaner and more cost effectively.

Hydrogen is a clean fuel that can power fuel-cell electric cars and trucks. It is also a clean energy source that can be blended directly into the gas pipelines to heat and power homes and buildings.

Hydrogen can be produced in multiple ways, one of which is a process often referred to as power-to-gas technology. It converts excess renewable electricity to hydrogen gas. Hydrogen provides a significant source of flexibility for intermittent renewables, providing long duration storage solutions that are complementary to short-duration battery solutions.

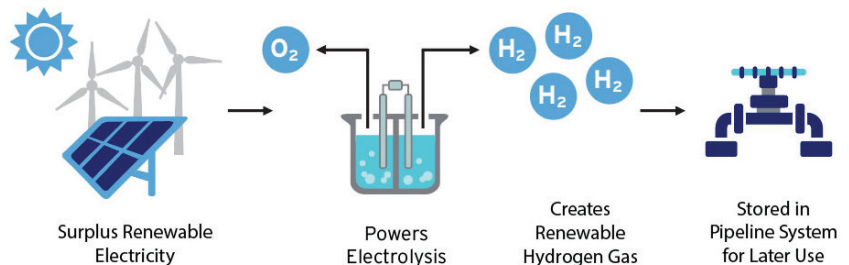
Scaling up hydrogen isn't something far off in the future - there are hydrogen projects underway right now. We are also exploring emerging technologies that capture carbon and use it productively in everyday products like plastic or building materials. California has a great opportunity to continue to be a leader in supporting hydrogen as a clean energy and fuel source.

How does it work?

Renewable Hydrogen

Renewable electricity is used to convert water into renewable hydrogen by employing the process of electrolysis. Electrolysis splits water (H₂O) into hydrogen gas (H₂) and oxygen gas (O₂) in a piece of equipment called an electrolyzer that contains an "anode" and a "cathode" separated by an electrolyte or membrane.

As electricity flows through the electrolyzer the water releases oxygen and hydrogen. The oxygen is usually released into the atmosphere, but the hydrogen is captured and can be blended with natural gas and stored in the pipeline system.



QUESTIONS?

We have suspended tours of the Playa del Rey storage facility and have also suspended making it available for community meetings at this time for safety reasons. We will resume offering tours once it's safe to do so. If you have any comments or questions, please write or call:

Mike Harriel

SoCalGas Public Affairs Manager
8141 Gulana Ave.
Playa del Rey, CA 90293
(213) 244-4633
MHarriel@socalgas.com



For more information about the Playa del Rey storage facility, visit socalgas.com/PlayaDelRey.