

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY (SOCALGAS)
SMALL BUSINESS UTILITY ADVOCATES-SCG-02
WOODY BIOMASS PILOT PROJECT APPLICATION (A.25-10-008)
DATE REQUESTED: February 13, 2026
RESPONSE DUE: February 27, 2026**

QUESTION 2-1:

Please provide a comparison of the overall costs of natural gas versus the costs of woody Biomass expected with this pilot (e.g. \$/MMBTU).

RESPONSE 2-1 (WBF):

According to the EIA¹, in 2025, California retail natural gas prices were approximately \$12/MMBtu for industrial customers and approximately \$22/MMBtu for residential customers. Woody biomass for this project can vary from \$0/MMBtu for almond sticks available at CCAGA (no cost) to \$2.0/MMBtu for orchard pruning and removals that need to be chipped and hauled up to 50 miles to the facility.

¹ [California Natural Gas Prices](#)

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QUESTION 2-2:

How will SCG be calculating the cost effectiveness of the pilot?

RESPONSE 2-2 (SCG):

Under Decision 22-02-025, a cost-effectiveness calculation is not required for the pilot project, and therefore SoCalGas has not made that calculation. Under D.24-01-060, SoCalGas is also not required to procure from the pilot project.

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QUESTION 2-3:

Woody Biomass generally has a lower energy density than natural gas, and consequently requires more raw material and infrastructure to generate equivalent energy. How has WBF quantified this?

RESPONSE 2-3 (WBF):

SoCalGas and WBF are unclear about the intent of this question because it appears to request a density comparison between a solid material (woody biomass) and natural gas, which are not directly comparable. Nonetheless, WBF has determined that it is cost effective to use woody biomass to produce Bio-SNG with waste biomass from the almond industry. This material is being continuously generated by the almond industry and is a sustainable resource to use for this purpose.

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QUESTION 2-4:

How will WBF minimize potential Methane leakage during production and transport?

RESPONSE 2-4 (WBF):

WBF plans to utilize the following for methane leak detection and remediation for Bio-SNG production.

- **Methane Leak Detection:** WBF employs regular scheduled inspections using advanced methane detection technologies, such as handheld detectors, optical gas imaging cameras, and continuous monitoring systems within confined areas and buildings. Inspections are conducted at key points, including production equipment, pipeline connections, and transfer points.
- **Immediate Remediation Procedure:** Upon detection of a methane leak, field personnel are required to assess the severity and, where safe and practical, initiate immediate repairs to stop the leak. If immediate remediation is not possible due to operational or safety constraints, the incident is escalated for urgent scheduling of repairs.
- **Timelines and Escalation:** For leaks that cannot be immediately repaired, WBF will follow a defined escalation protocol. This includes documenting the leak, notifying responsible parties, and setting a timeline for repair based on the leak's size and potential impact. All leaks are tracked until resolution.
- **Verification and Reporting:** All leak detection and remediation activities are documented and reported as required by regulatory authorities. Verification of repair completion is performed before resuming normal operations at the affected site.

Additionally, WBF plans to use trucks that will undergo routine inspections to ensure tank integrity and detect any leakage, in accordance with transportation safety guidelines.

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QUESTION 2-5:

Is SCG or WBF able to measure the emission of other pollutants from the pilot, such as Carbon Monoxide, Carbon Dioxide, and Nitrogen Oxide?

RESPONSE 2-5:

WBF will be able to measure other emissions from their production facility, including CO, CO2 and NOX.