BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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OF THE

#### STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES JESSICA T. HECHT and MARCELO POIRIER, co-presiding

Order Instituting Investigation on ) EVIDENTIARY the Commission's Own Motion into the ) HEARING Operations and Practices of Southern ) California Gas Company with Respect ) to the Aliso Canyon storage facility and the release of natural gas, and Order to Show Cause Why Southern California Gas Company Should Not Be ) Sanctioned for Allowing the ) Investigation Uncontrolled Release of Natural Gas 19-06-016 ) from its Aliso Canyon Storage Facility. (U904G) )

> REPORTERS' TRANSCRIPT Virtual Proceeding May 10, 2021 Pages 2461 - 2617 Volume 18

Reported by: Andrea L. Ross, CSR No. 7896 Shannon Ross, CSR No. 8916

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VIRTUAL PROCEEDING 1 2 MAY 10, 2021 - 10:05 A.M. \* \* \* 3 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE HECHT: We']] 4 be on the record. This is -- I don't even 5 know any more what's the day -- I think 18 of 6 7 hearings the Aliso Canyon adjudicatory OII. The number is Investigation 19-06-016. 8 We 9 are resuming hearings today on Monday and we 10 are continuing the panel of witnesses that we 11 started last week, Witnesses Hower and 12 Stinson. 13 Before we begin with that, I will 14 remind witnesses Hower and Stinson that they 15 made attestations and things last week and 16 that those still apply. 17 I understand for everybody else that 18 we have some housekeeping issues that we 19 should discuss, one of which is schedule and 20 whether we think that this panel is going to 21 take all day for cross-examination and how 22 much of tomorrow for redirect or whether that 23 schedule might be shifting. I was going to wait until a little 2.4 25 later to do that, but Mr. Gruen suggests we 26 get an understanding of it now for the 27 purposes of knowing whether to serve 2.8 cross-examination exhibits, I believe.

> PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION, STATE OF CALIFORNIA SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

1	MR. GRUEN: Yes, your Honor.
2	ALJ HECHT: Mr. Gruen, what is your
3	concern?
4	MR. GRUEN: Just to know whether
5	Mr. Schwecke would if Messrs. Hower and
6	Stinson should run shorter than anticipated
7	by the schedule due to any of the parties
8	limiting their time, I think we're likely to
9	keep our cross-estimate ready for
10	Messrs. Hower and Stinson about where we are.
11	I believe SoCalGas may have
12	indicated off the record that they may not
13	use all of the redirect time that they had
14	reserved maybe. And if it turns out that we
15	finish up with Messrs. Hower and Stinson
16	before the earlier than the cross-estimate
17	contemplated, then the question becomes what
18	do we do with the remaining time tomorrow?
19	Should we use that time to cross-examine
20	Mr. Schwecke or not because, if we do, just
21	we're mindful of the need perhaps to serve
22	any exhibits we may have today in order for
23	us to be able to properly examine him
24	tomorrow.
25	With that, I might suggest it might
26	just be cleaner if we avoid cross-examining
27	Mr. Schwecke just to avoid any interruption
28	in the flow of the cross and, therefore, we

1	wait until after tomorrow to begin the
2	cross-examination of Mr. Schwecke.
3	ALJ HECHT: Thank you. I think that
4	that leaves me with a couple of questions,
5	the first of which is that the Public
6	Advocates Office estimated having minimal
7	cross, it looks like not more than about an
8	hour for this panel.
9	Do you think that is still accurate?
10	MS. BONE: Yes, your Honor that is
11	accurate. We are also willing to waive cross
12	if SoCalGas is willing to allow us to
13	stipulate to entry of our exhibits into the
14	record. Those are Exhibits 408 and 410,
15	CalPA Exhibits 408 and 410. So if SoCalGas
16	will stipulate to entry, we do not have to do
17	cross of Mr. Hower and Mr. Stinson.
18	ALJ HECHT: All right. I appreciate
19	that. I don't want to discuss the exhibits
20	now because I think it depends on how things
21	go today but it is good to know that and it's
22	something we can all be thinking about and
23	check out.
24	It looks to me, then, like we have
25	most of the day of cross from SED for this
26	panel and then however much redirect we
27	expect to get from SoCalGas after that,
28	which, of course, again, depends on how

1	things go today.
2	I would say that if we finish with
3	this panel after noon tomorrow, I definitely
4	would not want to start with Mr. Schwecke. I
5	don't feel that that would be the best use of
6	time, but if we finish tomorrow at some point
7	before lunch, I think it's kind of an open
8	question.
9	So now I will ask SoCalGas if they
10	have any preferences and then go back to the
11	other parties.
12	MR. STODDARD: Thank you, your Honor.
13	Having heard the exchange and given that
14	there may be you know, sounds like SED is
15	planning to go the entire day today and, in
16	light of that, I think it probably just take
17	it as we go. If we were to have a few hours
18	of redirect tomorrow morning because SED uses
19	today, it sounds like your Honors' preference
20	would be to keep the schedule as is, which
21	probably makes sense given the break. And so
22	we can just see how the day progresses and
23	maybe revisit in the afternoon if that is
24	okay with your Honors.
25	ALJ HECHT: I think that's fair enough.
26	Do we have any concerns or
27	objections from Public Advocates or SED?
28	MR. GRUEN: Only the matter of timely

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1	service of exhibits, your Honor. If we don't
2	know today and we decide we need to serve
3	exhibits today if we don't know if we're
4	cross-examining Mr. Schwecke tomorrow, then
5	we won't know whether it's timely to serve
6	them today.
7	ALJ HECHT: Certainly. And in light of
8	that, I think that I probably would not hold
9	me to a 1 o'clock deadline today to serve
10	them since we're going to see what happens,
11	so let's just see what happens.
12	MR. GRUEN: Okay.
13	ALJ HECHT: All right.
14	With that, are there any other
15	housekeeping issues that anybody wants to
16	address before we go back into
17	cross-examination?
18	(No response.)
19	ALJ HECHT: I am not seeing any. That
20	being the case, I'm going to say, Mr. Gruen,
21	you may resume cross-examination.
22	I do want to thank witnesses Hower
23	and Stinson for coming back this morning. I
24	know having a break over a weekend and still
25	coming back is not the best thing, but I
26	appreciate that you have made this time and
27	that we can hear from you.
28	Mr. Gruen.

Evidentiary Hearing Vol 18 - May 10, 2021 2468 Thank you, your Honor. 1 MR. GRUEN: CHARLIE STINSON and TIM HOWER, 2 resumed the stand and testified further as 3 follows: 4 CROSS-EXAMINATION RESUMED 5 6 BY MR. GRUEN: 7 Ο Good morning, Mr. Hower, and good morning, Mr. Stinson. 8 9 WITNESS HOWER: Good morning. 10 WITNESS STINSON: Good morning. 11 0 Just to refresh our memory coming 12 back from the weekend, I wonder if we might be able to just unpack or define a couple of 13 14 terms that were used on Friday and just move forward with that. I think we used the term 15 16 "failure analysis" several times on Friday. 17 Do you recall the use of that term? 18 WITNESS HOWER: Yes, I do. 19 So with regards to the term Ο 20 "failure analysis," is that a term that 21 metallurgists use strictly to discuss metal failure? 22 23 Α No, I don't think so. 24 Ο Okay. How about the term 25 "workover." The term "workover" is a term used, generally speaking, to refer to the 26 27 killing of a well. 2.8 Would you agree with that?

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1	A No, not necessarily. I think the
2	term "workover" is a broader term that really
3	can apply to any time you need to do work on
4	a well, and that might not always entail
5	having to kill the well.
6	Q Okay. But it's limited to work
7	that's done on the well that includes killing
8	the well; is that accurate?
9	A That's correct.
10	Q Okay. And so during the workovers,
11	if there was a workover related to a leak on
12	a well, then SoCalGas used the workover to
13	examine the location or maybe more
14	precisely put the depth of the leak in the
15	well; is that correct?
16	A I didn't follow the question. Are
17	you asking me if location and depth are
18	equal?
19	Q No. Workovers when a workover
20	is done
21	A Yeah.
22	Q on a leak in a well for
23	SoCalGas, is SoCalGas examining the location
24	and depth of the leak as part of the
25	workover?
26	A Yes.
27	Q Okay. But when doing a workover,
28	one does not look at the outside condition of

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1	the casing in a well; is that correct?
2	A That is correct.
3	Q In doing these workovers, did
4	SoCalGas investigate how or why the casing
5	failures were caused?
6	A Yes.
7	Q Okay. Let me just clarify that
8	explanation. Did the workovers as part of
9	the causes, did the workovers in particular
10	consider water that was on the outside of the
11	casing that was related to the cause of the
12	leak if it was?
13	A Yes.
14	Q Did it consider external corrosion?
15	A Yes.
16	Q Did the workovers consider
17	deteriorated cement?
18	A Yes.
19	Q Did the workovers consider missing
20	drill mud?
21	A That I don't know.
22	Q Did the workovers consider what was
23	causing how or why the corrosion what was
24	the cause of the corrosion?
25	A Yes.
26	Q Did the workovers consider other
27	environmental factors that could cause the
28	leak?

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1	A Such as? What kind of
2	environmental factors are you talking about?
3	Could you be more specific.
4	Q Let's say the whether the a
5	fault line, for example, twisted metal
6	twisted the metal of the wells and,
7	therefore, was had something to do as a
8	factor in the cause of the leak?
9	A I'm aware of a few specific cases
10	where those types of effects were considered,
11	yes.
12	Q Okay. Which cases?
13	A Well, the Northridge earthquake,
14	for one, had an impact on a well, so that was
15	an obvious case. I believe we Mr. Neville
16	spoke last week about the study that looked
17	at potential for landslide impact on wells
18	and work that was done on those wells because
19	of their location relative to that study.
20	Q Okay. Let's go to page
21	Exhibit 4-R, SoCalGas-04-R, page 25, if we
22	can, please. We'll go to line 17.
23	And I'll wait, Mr. Zarchy, if you
24	could pull that up.
25	Again, just for the record, this is
26	Prepared Reply Testimony, Exhibit
27	SoCalGas-04-R. I believe this is the
28	Corrected Version of the Prepared Reply

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	VOI 10 - May 10, 2021 2472
1	Testimony of Messrs. Hower and Stinson of MHA
2	Petroleum Consultants, March 20, 2020. This
3	is the original service date of the original
4	testimony. Let's go to page 25. If we could
5	scroll down. There's page 25. If we could
6	go to line 17.
7	Here you see subheading f. You
8	talk about cathodic protection is not the
9	industry standard and was not necessary for
10	SS-25.
11	Do you see where I'm looking?
12	A Yes, I do.
13	Q If we could pull up the next
14	exhibit, which is Exhibit SED-303.
15	Your Honor, we tried, but we
16	weren't able to place a cover page on this
17	document. I suspect it may have been for
18	proprietary reasons that the document
19	actually prevented us from adding or
20	manipulating it in any way, but I did want to
21	clarify that.
22	But for the record, if I could read
23	this, this is Exhibit SED-303. The top of it
24	is entitled NACE International, Standard
25	Practice Application of Cathodic Protection
26	for External Surfaces Of Steel Well Casings.
27	Let me just ask you with this.
28	Mr. Hower and Mr. Stinson, are you familiar

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1	with the information on this document?
2	A Yes.
3	Q And here we see the date of this
4	standard is 2007 in the upper right corner;
5	correct?
6	A Correct.
7	Q Of course, just to clarify for the
8	record, it's before you wrote your testimony;
9	right?
10	A Yes.
11	Q Okay. Let's go to Exhibit SED-304.
12	This is Interoffice Correspondence FF-34A,
13	Casing Corrosion, Aliso Canyon. If we go to
14	the first page of this document I'm sorry,
15	that's on the title page. On the first page
16	of this document, if we can go to the Bates
17	number here. The Bates number is
18	AC_CPUC_0021865.
19	If we scroll back up, do you
20	recognize this as part of SoCalGas' Data
21	Response to SED Data Request-12?
22	A I recognize the document. I'll
23	take your word that it was part of the
24	response to Data Request-12. I don't see
25	that stated anywhere.
26	Q Fair enough. So let's just talk
27	about this. The subject of this is FF-34A,
28	Casing Corrosion, Aliso Canyon.

Evidentiary Hearing 2474 Vol 18 - May 10, 2021 So do you see where I'm looking 1 2 there? 3 Α Yes. And you see this is Interoffice 4 0 5 Correspondence of SoCalGas Company; right? 6 Α Correct. 7 Ο And FF-34A is the well at Aliso Canyon; is that right? 8 9 Α Also correct, yes. 10 If you had a chance to review this, Ο 11 does the subject of this memo in the body of it include discussion of cathodic protection? 12 Yes, it does. 13 Α 14 Okay. If we scroll down to the 0 15 third paragraph, there, if you want to have a 16 look at it, we're talking about metal loss of 17 Well SS -- excuse me, FF, Fernando fee --18 FF-34A is stated as severe and shallow there; 19 isn't that correct? 1 It's stated there, yes. 20 Α That's 21 correct. 22 The first sentence of this memo Ο 23 shows -- recommends cathodic protection on Well FF-34A; right? 24 25 It states that this well Α 26 demonstrates a need for cathodic protection. 27 Doesn't it say in the first 0 2.8 sentence:

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1	It is recommended that FF-34A be
2	equipped with cathodic protection?
3	A I thought you had me in the third
4	paragraph.
5	Q Excuse me. If I did, then let's go
6	to the first paragraph, quoting from the
7	first sentence of it:
8	Does it recommend equipping Well
9	FF-34A with cathodic protection?
10	A Yes, it does.
11	Q If we turn back to Exhibit
12	SoCalGas-04-R on page 32, line 20, and we're
13	going to continue on to line 21. So starting
14	at line 20, it says:
15	Running a casing inspection log in
16	a well, such as the SS-25 well in
17	Aliso Canyon necessarily requires
18	conducting a workover on the well.
19	A workover entails killing the gas
20	production from the well by
21	filling the wellbore with fluid
22	and then pulling all of the tubing
23	out of the wellbore.
24	Did I read that correctly?
25	A Yes.
26	Q What technology would normally be
27	used to run a casing inspection log?
28	A At what point in time?

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1	Q Well, let's start at I'm going to
2	ask it generally, so before the incident.
3	A Well, are you asking me about
4	well, let me just answer the question. If I
5	don't get it right, I'm sure you'll tell me.
6	So as we heard testimony from Mr. Neville
7	last week, in the late '80s, 1990 time frame,
8	Vertilogs were the technology that was used
9	to run casing inspection logs.
10	As we moved into 2000 and towards
11	2010, ultrasonic inspection tools also were
12	being used, and there's been improvements. I
13	think, as we've discussed in these hearings,
14	there's been improvements to these tools
15	through the years.
16	Q Okay. Let's focus on the
17	ultrasonic inspection technology or you
18	understand that acronym to be USIT?
19	A Yes.
20	Q Okay. So is the with regards to
21	casing inspection logs, when those began to
22	be used and the technology came into place,
23	as you just described, it is your position
24	that killing wells for I'm sorry yeah.
25	Is it your position that killing wells for
26	inspections to use that technology is not a
27	routine practice?
28	A Would you repeat the question,

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1	please. I'm sorry. I didn't get it.
2	Q Yeah. Is it your position that
3	killing wells for inspections is not a
4	routine practice?
5	A No. Killing wells to run casing
6	inspection logs is what has to be done.
7	What's not routine necessarily is doing
8	workovers themselves.
9	Q Okay. Aren't wells commonly killed
10	for maintenance purposes?
11	A From time to time.
12	Q Okay. Are there safety standard
13	safety practices that are implemented to make
14	killing a well as safe as possible?
15	A Yes.
16	Q Do you know if SoCalGas had such a
17	safety procedure in place for killing a well?
18	A I believe the standards that they
19	had did, yes.
20	Q Okay. Is pulling tubing out of a
21	well required to inspect a well using USIT?
22	A Using the USIT tools that were
23	available prior to the incident, yes.
24	Q Okay. And dating back as far as
25	the technology, the USIT technology, was in
26	place?
27	A Yes. It's only been really
28	well, in the gas storage industry, the type

	VOI 18 - May 10, 2021 2470
1	of casing inspection logs that can look
2	through multiple strings of tubing are not
3	used. They've been developed very recently.
4	They're starting to see use, but in the gas
5	storage industry before the incident,
6	after the incident the logs that are being
7	used, you have to pull the tubing to inspect
8	the casing.
9	Q Why is that?
10	A Because they can only evaluate one
11	string.
12	Q And when you say "pull the tubing
13	out to inspect the casing," you're talking
14	about doing so using the use of technology;
15	is that right?
16	A Or Vertilog.
17	Q Okay. Or Vertilog. Okay.
18	A Or multi-flex tool or USIT.
19	Q Okay. Those different
20	technologies. Okay.
21	And do you have to kill a well to
22	pull the tubing?
23	A Yes.
24	Q Okay. Based on your review on
25	average, how frequently does SoCalGas kill
26	Aliso Canyon gas wells?
27	A I don't know the answer to that.
28	Q Do you know if SoCalGas has had any

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1	casualties during its workovers?
2	A I do not.
3	Q Do you know if SoCalGas has had any
4	injuries that it had during its workovers?
5	A I do not.
6	Q Okay. Before October of 2015, if
7	SoCalGas had decided to run a USIT log of
8	SS-25, do you believe SoCalGas could have
9	successfully killed Well SS-25?
10	A Yes.
11	Q Okay. So if as you say, SoCalGas
12	could have successfully killed Well SS-25 by
13	running USIT prior to October 2015, why do
14	you think SoCalGas could not kill SS-25 after
15	it failed in October 2015?
16	MR. LOTTERMAN: Objection, your Honor.
17	I believe this exceeds the scope of either
18	Mr. Hower or Mr. Stinson's testimony. They
19	have not opined in anyway what happens at
20	that site or at that well when the leak began
21	October 23, 2015.
22	ALJ HECHT: Thank you.
23	Mr. Gruen can you cite some of their
24	testimony to which you would tie this
25	question.
26	MR. GRUEN: Your Honor, I think it goes
27	directly to their familiarity with the well
28	files. They've testified that they have

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	VOI 18 - May 10, 2021 2480
1	extensive knowledge of the well files, and
2	they testified today that they have
3	familiarity with USIT and various
4	technologies that are used to inspect wells;
5	therefore, they should be able to, given
6	their testimony as to the ability to use the
7	technology and kill the well, their opinion
8	that the well could have been killed prior,
9	they should have an opinion. It should be
10	able to flow. They should be able to opine
11	as to whether it was killed why it wasn't
12	killed successfully during the incident.
13	MR. LOTTERMAN: May I respond, your
14	Honor, briefly?
15	ALJ HECHT: Yes, please.
16	MR. LOTTERMAN: As of October 23, 2015,
17	the condition of that well changed
18	dramatically to the extent that only Blade
19	was able to determine what its condition was
20	after a two-and-a-half-year cause analysis.
21	Mr. Hower or Mr. Stinson have not
22	reviewed those conditions or that
23	infrastructure or whatever; so Mr. Gruen can
24	ask them. I think the answer is "I don't
25	know," but it is well outside their
26	testimony.
27	MR. GRUEN: Well, your Honor, may I
28	briefly respond?

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1	ALJ HECHT: Yes.
2	MR. GRUEN: Given the I think the
3	concern is yeah, let me go through this.
4	The concern is that that response was,
5	essentially, coaching the witness and telling
6	them what their answers are going to be. I'd
7	like to have an opportunity to cross-examine
8	them given their familiarity with the Blade
9	report. I believe the testimony is that
10	they've read it.
11	And so to the extent that they have,
12	there was a robust cross-examination of
13	Mr. Neville or robust redirect of
14	Mr. Neville regarding his familiarity with
15	the Blade report. We should have the same
16	ability to cross-examine Mr. Hower and
17	Mr. Stinson about their familiarity with it
18	and how it applies to the incident.
19	ALJ HECHT: Can you point me,
20	Mr. Gruen, to a citation in their testimony
21	that discusses this issue with reference to
22	the Blade report?
23	MR. GRUEN: Your Honor, I can endeavor
24	to do that a bit later. I can't do it at
25	this exact time. Actually, I probably could
26	come to think of it. The Blade report
27	they've offered a critique of the Blade
28	report on it's the area of their testimony

	VOI 18 - May 10, 2021 2402
1	that cites to the it has the bullet points
2	on it. And they've opined that Blade
3	they're directly responding to the Blade
4	report and the leaks on it. I think it's
5	starting at page 13. If we can go there on
6	the screen share.
7	ALJ HECHT: We'll be off the record.
8	(Off the record.)
9	ALJ HECHT: We'll be back on the
10	record.
11	(Off the record.
12	ALJ HECHT: While we were off the
13	record, we discussed whether this is relevant
14	to the testimony of Witnesses Hower and
15	Stinson. The relevance is not at this point
16	clear, but I'm going to allow a little bit of
17	latitude to ask the question and have the
18	witnesses answer to the best of their
19	ability. ]
20	MR. GRUEN: Thank you, your Honor.
21	Q Mr. Hower and Mr. Stinson, did you
22	review the Blade report?
23	WITNESS STINSON: Yes.
24	WITNESS HOWER: Yes.
25	Q As you say before, given your
26	review of the Blade report, if SoCalGas could
27	have successfully killed Well SS-25 to run a
28	USIT log prior to October 2015, why do you

	VOI 10 May 10, 2021 2405
1	think SoCalGas could not kill SS-25 after it
2	failed in October 2015?
3	A I don't know the details.
4	Obviously there was an incident that occurred
5	so it would have had something to do with
6	that, but as far as the specific details of
7	the incident and why that made it difficult
8	to kill the well, I don't know.
9	Q Okay.
10	Mr. Stinson, same answer?
11	WITNESS STINSON: Yes.
12	Q Gentlemen, is it your understanding
13	that the failure of the SS-25 well casing
14	let me restate. Is it your understanding
15	that the failure of the SS-25 well casing has
16	been linked to external corrosion of the
17	casing?
18	WITNESS HOWER: Yes.
19	WITNESS STINSON: Yes, I agree.
20	Q Okay. And maybe this will help
21	clear up the prior line. If we go to your
22	reply testimony here, page 15, and if we go
23	to line 18, the bullet there, it says there:
24	With regard to the four parted
25	casings alleged by SED
26	And it has four parted casings in
27	parentheses there.
28	the circumstances of each of

	VOI 10 May 10, 2021 2101
1	these events, which do not involve
2	corrosion and did not occur in the
3	course of normal operations, are
4	entirely distinct from what
5	occurred at SS-25. As such, they
6	did not warrant further
7	investigation.
8	Doesn't that suggest, that line,
9	that you have a certain level of
10	understanding of what did occur at Well SS-25
11	during the incident?
12	WITNESS HOWER: No. What we meant by
13	that discussion by specifically mentioning
14	corrosion is that we were looking at Blade's
15	list of what they termed to be relevant
16	casing failures the key word being
17	relevant relevant to casing damage, casing
18	leaks caused by corrosion on the casing.
19	Therefore, the parted casings, for
20	example, the SS-4-0 well, which is listed in
21	the line we're looking at, that was impacted
22	by the Northridge earthquake. How does that
23	have anything to do with the SS-25?
24	Q It's your testimony so I'll defer
25	to you. Let me try and simplify it with a
26	question then. I believe implicit in that
27	contention and correct me if I'm wrong
28	is that SS-25 is distinct, then, from these

other four parted casings because it 1 2 experienced corrosion; is that correct? Well, I don't think that is 3 Α correct. I'm not -- I quess what I'm saying 4 is that I would look at it differently. 5 The four parted casings that Blade mentioned, 6 7 while they did occur, they're independent events that really bear no -- they have 8 9 nothing to do with what ultimately happened 10 at SS-25, which is absolutely --11 Q Are ---- the point of why we're all here. 12 Α Mr. Hower, do you know if SS-25 13 Ο 14 experienced corrosion? 15 Ά I believe I answered that. Yes. 16 I just want to be sure from the Ο 17 answer to that question. Your answer is yes; 18 is that right? 19 According to what I read in the Α 20 Blade report, the SS-25 experienced corrosion. 21 22 Okay. And that corrosion existed Ο 23 on Well SS-25 before October 23, 2015. 24 Is that your understanding? 25 Α Yes. 26 Okay. And assuming killing 0 27 Well SS-25 was, in fact, possible, if SoCalGas had run a casing inspection log of 2.8

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	-
1	SS-25 casing before October 23, 2015, would
2	you expect the inspection to have shown wall
3	loss?
4	A I don't think we can say for
5	certain that that would be the case. It
6	probably would have, but I think it's worth
7	noting that these casing inspection logging
8	tools are not magic, meaning they require
9	interpretation. It's not something you put
10	in the well and you get a blinking light that
11	says "corrosion, corrosion" or "wall loss."
12	It's a lot of squiggly lines. It's
13	it's it's a difficult technol it's a
14	complex technology, and the interpretation of
15	casing inspection logs is a bit of an art and
16	it is an interpretation, so I'm not dodging
17	your question.
18	It's likely or possible that a
19	casing inspection log run before October 23,
20	2015, would have shown wall thickness loss,
21	but we can't say for certain. That is why we
22	don't use any of the casing inspection tools
23	or the casing integrity tools. That's the
24	better way to put it.
25	Temperature logs, noise logs,
26	radioactive tracers, casing inspection logs,
27	we don't use any of them in a vacuum.
28	They're all used together. The total

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1	interpretation is how we wind up with our
2	answer on the condition that the well is in.
3	Q Okay. Mr. Hower, I appreciate the
4	explanation. I'd remind you that you're
5	going to have extensive opportunity to give
6	explanations through redirect. That question
7	was intended as a yes-or-no answer. I
8	appreciate that there's an opportunity to
9	explain, but we do want to have an
10	opportunity to get through all of our
11	cross-examination questions as well.
12	So if you'd indulge us, where there
13	are yes-or-no questions, we're really looking
14	specifically for a yes-or-no answer. We'll
15	defer to your counsel to give you an
16	opportunity to explain on redirect; okay?
17	If we could turn to SED
18	Exhibit 305. This is the January 21, 2016,
19	Multi-Finger Imaging Caliper Log. If we
20	scroll to the bottom of this document, we see
21	the Bates Number is
22	I1906016_SCG_SED_DR_67_0000004.
23	Do you recognize this document,
24	Mr. Hower?
25	A Only after receiving it last week.
26	That was the first I've ever seen it.
27	Q Okay. So you're not familiar with
28	the information on this document then?

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Well, I looked at it when we 1 Α received it, but that's -- it's a lot of 2 information. It's a detailed well loss. 3 But, yes, I've looked at it. 4 MR. GRUEN: Your Honor, can we go off 5 6 the record momentarily? ALJ HECHT: We'll be off the record. 7 (Off the record.) 8 ALJ HECHT: Back on the record. 9 While we were off the record, we had 10 a discussion about the relevance of this 11 document and the date of the document. 12 Т think at this time we're going to move on. 13 14 Mr. Gruen. 15 MR. GRUEN: Thank you, your Honor. 16 Okay. If we could introduce 0 Exhibit SED-302. 17 18 Mr. Hower, are you familiar with 19 Camco subsurface safety valves? 20 Α Not in any detail, no. 21 0 To the extent that you're familiar with them at a higher level, would you agree 22 that SED-302 -- and if you want to have a 23 24 look at it -- that it generally represents 25 basic information about a Camco subsurface safety valve? 26 27 I would agree with that, yes. Α 2.8 Q Okay. And so to the extent you're

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1	familiar I believe this document is
2	current. But do you know if subsurface
3	safety valves were installed in Well SS-25
4	before 1980?
5	A I believe they were, yes.
6	Q Would it make more sense then to
7	look at documents for those earlier versions
8	of the Camco subsurface safety valves?
9	A I'll leave that up to you. I'm
10	depending on what you want to ask me
11	Q Let's see if
12	(Crosstalk.)
13	BY MR. GRUEN:
14	Q Go ahead. I'm sorry to interrupt.
15	A I don't know where you're going, so
16	I can't really tell you if it makes more
17	sense or not.
18	Q Why don't we try it at a high level
19	and see if this is good enough. If we need
20	to, we'll pull up the other ones.
21	Do you understand how a subsurface
22	safety valve is installed into gas well
23	tubing?
24	A Generally, yes.
25	Q And at a general level, that's
26	probably good enough for our purposes. At a
27	general level, could you explain how that
28	installation is done.

1	A Yeah. They can subsurface
2	safety valves can either be tubing-conveyed
3	or wireline-conveyed. If they're
4	tubing-conveyed, they're attached on the end
5	of the tubing, screwed onto the end of the
6	tubing, as was the case in the SS-25. If
7	they're wirelined-conveyed, they're more
8	internal and inside the tubing.
9	Q Okay. Thank you. And what is your
10	understanding of the function of a subsurface
11	safety valve like the one that was installed
12	in Well SS-25?
13	A Well, they're set up to essentially
14	be a fail-safe if the pressure if there's
15	an indication through pressure that there's
16	been a, for example, a problem with the
17	wellhead, the safety is going to be
18	compromised. There's a ball valve or a flap
19	that shuts and stops flow.
20	Q Okay. So to stop flow in the
21	tubing then? Is that, at a high level, an
22	accurate description of the function of a
23	subsurface safety valve?
24	A Correct.
25	Q And is the subsurface safety valve
26	typically used to control the flow of gas in
27	the tubing in the course of nonemergency
28	operation?

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1	A It controls the flow to the extent
2	that it's a restriction in the tubing, but if
3	it's in its open mode, then it doesn't
4	it's not necessarily controlling the flow.
5	It's generally an on-off switch.
6	Q Does it stay in open mode during
7	nonemergency operation?
8	A Well, in theory, but that was the
9	problem, and that is the problem with
10	deep-set subsurface safety valves. The
11	extreme flow conditions this I'm not
12	just talking about Aliso Canyon. This is
13	true in many places where they're applied.
14	The flow conditions can be extreme in the
15	deep well, and the operation of the safety
16	valves can be somewhat unreliable and they
17	shut when you don't want them to shut.
18	Q Okay. Are you aware that the last
19	well kill for Well SS-25 was in 1979?
20	A Yes.
21	Q Okay. In the course of reviewing
22	SoCalGas' SS-25 well files, did you come
23	across any documents that explained why the
24	subsurface safety valve installed in 1979 was
25	removed?
26	A I don't recall any documents that
27	specifically talked about why it was removed.
28	The well work that was done to remove it was

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1	documented, but the discussion of why the
2	subsurface safety valves were removed, I
3	don't remember seeing that or not. It might
4	have been there. I just don't recall.
5	Q Okay. Let's say that the
6	subsurface safety valve has to be removed
7	from the tubing. What's the normal procedure
8	for doing that?
9	A You have two choices. One is to do
10	what was done on SS-25, which is to remove
11	the main part of the subsurface safety valve,
12	the components, via wireline and leaving
13	housing. The other alternative is to pull
14	the tubing and remove the entire subsurface
15	safety valve, including the housing.
16	Q So either pull it with the
17	housing and leave the housing there or
18	pull both the valve and the housing; is that
19	right?
20	A No, not exactly. The primary
21	difference is one requires a workover; one
22	does not. If you just want to pull the
23	components out and leave the housing, you
24	don't have to kill the well, you don't have
25	to do a workover. If you want to pull the
26	housing out, you have to do a workover and
27	kill the well.
28	Q Okay. Did you see the documents

that said or showed that the housing was left 1 in Well SS-25? 2 Well, I saw the documents that --3 Α if my memory is correct, I saw the documents 4 that indicated the components of the 5 subsurface safety valve were removed via 6 7 wireline. That means the housing is still there. 8 9 Ο I just want to be sure I'm tracking that. You're making a distinction between 10 11 components of the subsurface safety valve and 12 the housing; is that right? 13 Α Yes, related to the type of well 14 work one needs to do to remove the equipment. 15 So in your experience when housing 0 16 is left there, there's not necessarily a 17 document that says that it's been left? 18 Am I tracking you right? 19 Well, there'd be a wellbore diagram Α 20 which would show it. 21 0 Have you seen such a diagram in the case of Well SS-25? 22 23 I don't remember specifically. Α 2.4 It's been a while since I looked at the well 25 files. 26 0 Okay. Do you know what the -- bear 27 with me a second. Okay. Let's say that you had a well that had an obstruction in the 2.8

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1	tubing, would you continue operating that
2	well with the obstruction?
3	A You'd have to be more specific.
4	Q A housing, for example, in tubing.
5	Let's say that the housing was left in
6	tubing. Would you continue operating the
7	well with the housing left inside the tubing?
8	A Yes. I don't view that example as
9	an obstruction.
10	Q Okay. Are you familiar with the
11	term "fishing" as it applies to well
12	construction and maintenance?
13	A Yes.
14	Q What does that term mean?
15	A Well, a fish means something that's
16	been left behind in the hole, in the
17	wellbore, that you'd like to remove. That's
18	a fish. So fishing is the process of trying
19	to retrieve it.
20	Q And so fishing didn't allow the
21	retrieval of the casing in this case;
22	correct?
23	A When are you talking about
24	specifically?
25	Q Well SS-25 with regards to the
26	removal of the subsurface safety valve
27	components.
28	A Okay. But you mentioned casing.

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1	Q Pardon me. I apologize. Thank you
2	for the correction. So if you're talking
3	about fishing, the fishing didn't allow the
4	removal of the SS-25 the fishing didn't
5	allow the removal of the SS-25 housing from
6	the SS-25 tubing when the subsurface safety
7	valve was removed; is that correct?
8	A No. I mean I don't think it's
9	appropriate to even use the term "fishing."
10	Fishing is done when you've left something in
11	the hole that you wanted to remove. The
12	housing was left in the SS-25 well on
13	purpose. If SoCalGas had wanted to remove
14	the housing, they could have done a workover
15	and removed the tubing. You don't have to
16	fish for it. It's connected to your tubing.
17	It's not missing. You know right where it is
18	and you know exactly how to get it out of the
19	hole if you want to.
20	Q Let me ask you, is it normal to
21	have holes in tubing that communicate with
22	casing in a well?
23	A Absolutely.
24	Q Is it normal in underground storage
25	wells to have holes in well tubing that
26	cannot be closed?
27	A I would say it's common. It's hard
28	to say what's normal because it you can

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1	configure your well either way. You can
2	configure your well with holes that cannot be
3	closed or you can configure them with a
4	sliding sleeve device that allows you to
5	close them. Both situations are routinely
6	used and normally used.
7	Q All right. Would holes in the
8	tubing that could not be closed change the
9	way the well would normally be operated on
10	injection?
11	A I don't understand. Change it from
12	how?
13	Q Do you have an idea of operation,
14	the way a well typically operates when gas is
15	being injected through it?
16	A Yes, of course.
17	Q Based on your understanding, would
18	holes in the tubing that could not be
19	closed let me ask this: Where you have
20	holes let's compare the two holes that
21	can't in a piece of tubing in a well that
22	can be closed versus holes in a piece of
23	tubing in a well where the holes cannot be
24	closed.
25	Do you understand what I'm asking
26	there, the different configurations?
27	A Yes.
28	Q So is there a different way of

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operating the two configurations?	
A Yes.	
Q Okay. And is there a diff	erent way
of operating the two configurations	for
withdrawal as well?	
A Yes, I'm the reason I'm	I'm
struggling with your question, I this	nk,
because there's even if you just	take one
of those cases we were talking ab	out two
cases one case where there's hole	s that
cannot be closed, that well by itsel	f can be
operated in different ways. You can	inject
just through the tubing, you can inj	ect just
through the annulus, or you can inje	ct
chrough both. The same situation app	plies
with the other well with the sliding	sleeve
device, so that's where my confusion	is.
I	
Q Okay. I appreciate that.	Let me
just ask you. If you have configura	tion with
wells that are always with holes	that are
always open in the tubing, would tha	t cause a
constant reservoir pressure to be ex	erted on
the well casing in that instance?	

Well, it would have pressure on the Α casing, yes. So whether it's equal to reservoir pressure is what I was thinking about because if you're injecting -- your 

pressure down the casing is -- is -- or 1 2 producing -- your pressure down the casing is going to be variable. 3 But I think, yes, for the most 4 5 part, you would have pressure exerted on the 6 casinq. 7 Okay. Let's turn to another line 0 here. 8 9 ALJ HECHT: Mr. Gruen, if you are 10 turning to another line, I think this might 11 be a good time to take our morning break. 12 Absolutely, your Honor. MR. GRUEN: All right. Then I think we 13 ALJ HECHT: 14 are going to take a break until 11:15, which is about 12 minutes, so I will see everybody 15 16 at 11:15. Thank you very much. We'll be off the record. 17 18 (Recess taken.) 1 19 ALJ HECHT: We'll be back on the 20 record, and we're going to continue with cross-examination. 21 22 Mr. Gruen. 23 Thank you, your Honor. MR. GRUEN: 24 I might note, the cadence of this 25 cross has been a little bit different than we 26 anticipated, and with that, just as a 27 courtesy, flagging for parties, at this point 2.8 we think the cross is going to be a bit

shorter for Mr. Hower and Mr. Stinson than we
thought. So much so, it's possible we'll
finish up by about lunch. Perhaps we'll go a
bit over, but we're flagging that for
everyone.
ALJ HECHT: Thank you. That's helpful
to know.
MS. BONE: Yes, your Honor. Traci Bone
for Cal Advocates. With that in mind, we
need to hear back sooner rather than later
from SoCalGas regarding whether they're going
to agree to our request for stipulation or
not.
ALJ HECHT: Since we are in the midst
of the hearing this morning, I would
recommend that you check with them again at
lunch when there is some time to think that
over. Does Mr. Stoddard have a response?
MR. STODDARD: Yes, your Honor. Thank
you. We weren't anticipating, based on our
conversation this morning, that the MHA
witnesses would go this short. So we haven't
reached a determination on Ms. Bone's
request; however, she has identified the
documents, and so we will look at it and
respond over lunch.
MS. BONE: One more thing to add,
Mr. Stoddard, it has come to my attention

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1	that there were some supplemental responses
2	to Exhibit 408, and so if you would want to
3	stipulate to the last version going in with
4	the supplemental responses, that's up to you.
5	We're willing to do it either way.
6	MR. STODDARD: Okay.
7	MS. BONE: And to the extent there were
8	documents attached, we need to attach those
9	documents.
10	ALJ HECHT: I am going to ask that you
11	address this during lunch. If nobody minds,
12	I would prefer to get back to the
13	cross-examination. Sorry to cut you off.
14	MS. BONE: That's fine, your Honor.
15	ALJ HECHT: We'll continue with
16	Mr. Gruen.
17	MR. GRUEN: Thank you, your Honor.
18	Q Mr. Hower, and Mr. Stinson, I want
19	to ask you a little bit about the history of
20	the SS-25 well file a little bit. So when
21	you reviewed the SS-25 well file to look at
22	the historic documents in there, did you
23	learn anything about Well SS-25 that would
24	give you concern that it might be difficult
25	to kill Well SS-25 specifically for
26	maintenance purposes?
27	WITNESS STINSON: No.
28	Q Okay. Did you discuss the SS-25

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1	records with anyone at SoCalGas?
2	WITNESS HOWER: Yes. Extensively with
3	Mr. Dan Neville, and from time to time there
4	were others in the meetings, but primarily
5	with Mr. Neville.
6	Q Okay. And did Mr. Neville or the
7	others in the meetings provide additional
8	verbal information about SS-25 that was not
9	in the well file?
10	A Not that I can recall. Most of the
11	additional information had to do with general
12	topics that we covered in the field rather
13	than a specific well.
14	Q Okay. Let me just ask you a bit
15	more generally about the well files. It
16	might be a good segue. When you reviewed all
17	the hard copy well files, were they kept in
18	file cabinets in an Aliso Canyon office?
19	A The ones we reviewed, yes.
20	Q Okay. And were those well files
21	that you reviewed in I think you mentioned
22	in 2018 was when you did it. Did I track
23	that right from Friday?
24	A Yes. That's correct. And by the
25	way I confirmed that and the answer I gave
26	you was correct. It was June 2018.
27	Q Okay. And were those well files
28	from June of 2018 that you reviewed orderly?

2502

1	A Yes. Very much so.
2	Q Did SoCalGas provide additional
3	well records from any other location for you
4	to review?
5	A You need to clarify your question.
6	When you say, "other location," do you mean
7	other wells or records of the SS-25 from
8	somewhere that wasn't in the file cabinet?
9	Q The latter. Records from some
10	other location than the file cabinet.
11	A Not hard copy, no. I mean we
12	had both Mr. Stinson and I had access to
13	digital documents, but in terms of the hard
14	copy, we were always in the same office with
15	the same file cabinet.
16	Q Okay. In the course of your review
17	of well files, did you read interoffice
18	correspondence or memos in those well files
19	to understand what issues were of concern to
20	SoCalGas?
21	A Yes.
22	Q Was it common to find that sort of
23	correspondence in the well files?
24	A Yes.
25	Q And when you reviewed the hard-copy
26	SS-25 well file, did you see any interoffice
27	correspondence that explained what happened
28	to the subsurface safety valves from 1980

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1	that we were discussing before?
2	A When you say "what happened to
3	them," do you mean can you be more
4	specific? What do you mean by "what
5	happened?"
6	Q Sure. The explanation, for
7	example, of the pulling of the subsurface
8	safety valve, if you'll indulge the term, did
9	you see any interoffice correspondence, for
10	example, that explained why the subsurface
11	safety valve was pulled or needed to be
12	pulled?
13	A Not that I recall.
14	Q And is that true to be more
15	specific about time, that's true both during
16	1980 and after, you didn't see any such
17	interoffice memos during that time period;
18	correct?
19	A I honestly don't recall, Mr. Gruen.
20	I remember we discussed the reason why the
21	SSSV program was stopped and why they were
22	removed. It was more of a field-wide
23	discussion rather than an individual well,
24	and I just don't remember where I would
25	have we looked at a lot of well files, had
26	a lot of conversations. I just don't
27	remember exactly where that was documented.
28	Q Okay. What about the staying on

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1	the topic of interoffice correspondence for a
2	moment in the SS-25 well file, did you see
3	any such interoffice correspondence that
4	explained that the housing remained after the
5	subsurface safety valve was removed?
6	A Well, again, I believed that I'm
7	fairly certain we saw wellbore diagrams
8	showing the housing in the well files.
9	Now, whether those were attached to
10	a specific memo or correspondence, I don't
11	recall.
12	Perhaps, Mr. Stinson, do you have
13	any recollection that is different from mine,
14	you could help Mr. Gruen with that question?
15	WITNESS STINSON: No. I don't recall
16	either. I remember seeing a wellbore
17	diagram, but that's that's
18	Q What about other residual Camco
19	parts, other than the housing? Any
20	interoffice correspondence in the SS-25 well
21	file that you observed that spoke to any
22	other residual Camco parts?
23	WITNESS HOWER: Not that I recall.
24	Q The diagram that we just mentioned
25	with regards to the housing, what date was on
26	that diagram; do you recall?
27	A No, I don't. I don't recall the
28	exact date.

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1	Q Okay. Did you see any interoffice
2	correspondence in the SS-25 well file that
3	discussed potential issues with killing the
4	well?
5	A Not that I recall.
6	Q Okay. Let's turn to another line
7	here if we can. When reviewing SoCalGas
8	ALJ HECHT: This is Judge Hecht. I
9	lost the video for Mr. Gruen briefly. It
10	appears that has been resolved, but I'm going
11	to watch it. I'm sorry to interrupt.
12	Please, go ahead.
13	MR. GRUEN: Not at all, your Honor. I
14	appreciate knowing. I know I've had
15	technical issues before and will certainly do
16	my best to keep the video on as I can or
17	resolve it, if for any reason my video stops
18	working.
19	Q Okay. Turning to another line,
20	when reviewing SoCalGas's records, did you
21	see any leaks that released gas to
22	surrounding soils, specifically with regards
23	to Wells FF or Fernando Fee 34A or Well
24	Frew 3?
25	A Yes.
26	Q Okay. Let's go to your reply
27	testimony if we can, and if we go to page 11
28	in particular, lines 1 through 7, and,

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gentlemen, if you will let me know wh	en
you're there.	
WITNESS STINSON: I'm there.	
WITNESS HOWER: So am I.	
Q So lines 1 through 7 says:	
Where circumstance warran	ted,
SoCalGas performed more es	xtensive
investigations. Examples	of this
include work done to addr	ess leaks
at Wells FF-34A and Frew	3 where
SoCalGas observed migration	on of gas
in the subsurface away fr	om
wellbores.	
SoCalGas investigat	ions
included gas sampling to	confirm
the source of the leaking	gas and
analysis of offset wells	to
determine the extent of g	as
migration away from the w	ell with
the casing leak, as well	as
construction of numerical	
simulation models to deter	rmine the
volume and the area exten	t of the
leaked gas.	
Do you see that?	

26 WITNESS HOWER: Yes, I do.
27 Q Let's turn to Exhibit 306 if we
28 can, and this is entitled: "SoCalGas

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1	Response to SED Data Request 65, Question 1."
2	And if we scroll down to the next page, and
3	I'll read the Bates number and ask the
4	question. So this is Bates No. SED-306.001,
5	and I'll just leave it there for a moment
6	because this question where we are on screen
7	share and at the bottom of this data request
8	quotes the piece of testimony from the piece
9	of testimony that we were just reading.
10	So I'll just refer to that, ask you
11	if I've stated that correctly, and then ask
12	you if you recognize this data request with
13	that in mind.
14	WITNESS HOWER: Okay.
15	Q If we go to the top of this
16	document, Mr. Zarchy, if you would.
17	Do you recognize this as SoCalGas
18	Response to SED Data Request 65?
19	WITNESS HOWER: Yes.
20	Q Let me just ask you, when was the
21	first time you saw this data response
22	approximately?
23	WITNESS HOWER: I don't recall the
24	exact time, but I was involved with this
25	discussion and this data response; so it
26	would have been when it was submitted I
27	believe.
28	Q Okay. So where you talk in this

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1	passage, and let's go to the bottom of this
2	page again if we could. The bottom of this
3	page where you say in the testimony:
4	Examples of this I think
5	we are on the second page of data response,
6	and we're also referring to lines 1 through 7
7	of the testimony we just read, where you say
8	there:
9	Examples of this include work done
10	to address leaks at Wells FF-34A
11	and Frew 3 where SoCalGas observed
12	migration of gas in the subsurface
13	away from the wellbores.
14	So since you talk about Well Frew 3
15	in this passage, let me ask specifically
16	about that. How many leaks were you talking
17	about in Well Frew 3 in this passage.
18	A Just the one that resulted in the
19	underground flow of gas away from the
20	wellbore.
21	Q Do you know how many leaks existed
22	on Well Frew 3 in its history?
23	A As I sit here, no. I can find that
24	information out with my references, but I
25	don't have it off the top of my head.
26	Q Understood. Nor would I expect you
27	to. Let me just say, if we could go to back
28	to the testimony, just so we can track our

1 trail here. 2 So where you say, SoCalGas 3 investigators -- excuse me: SoCalGas investigations included 4 gas sampling to confirm the source 5 of leaking gas and analysis of 6 offset wells to determine the 7 extent of migration away from the 8 9 well with the casing leak. 10 And you see there, you refer to 11 Footnote 41; correct? 12 Α Correct. So let's follow that. If we go to 13 0 14 the bottom of the page, Footnote 41 15 references Exhibit I-14, as you see there, 16 and does that look right to you as well? 17 Α Yes, it does. 18 Okay. And if we to go Exhibit I-14 0 19 from your supporting exhibits. 20 And, Mr. Zarchy, if you could show the exhibit title page as well, if you could 21 22 scroll to that page. 23 And, gentlemen, if you'd let me 24 know when you're there as well? 25 WITNESS HOWER: I qot it. Yes, I'm there. 26 WITNESS STINSON: And the Bates number for the title 27 Ο page, I believe, is SoCalGas 5.0725, and if 2.8

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1	we go to the Bates the page with Bates No.
2	AC_CPUC_0022968, if we could scroll down just
3	to show that page number, and if we scroll
4	back up on that same page, the first
5	paragraph about halfway down where it starts,
6	"A 3." So I'm going to read there. It's
7	about halfway down the paragraph right at the
8	beginning of the line. It says:
9	A 3 cooling anomaly was noted at
10	1160 feet and a smaller anomaly
11	noted at 1,100 feet.
12	I'm going to assume that the No. 3
13	was probably a typo there. Does that look
14	right to you?
15	WITNESS HOWER: I don't know. Yeah, I
16	don't know whether it's a typo or not or an
17	omission of something
18	(Crosstalk.)
19	BY MR. GRUEN:
20	Q Sorry for interrupting. Go ahead.
21	A No. That's okay. Sorry,
22	Mr. Gruen. Yeah, I don't know whether its's
23	a typo or an omission. I don't know what the
24	"3" means.
25	Q Okay. Understood.
26	Going to the next paragraph where
27	it shows the beginning as "note." It says in
28	that paragraph at the beginning:

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1	The only hypothesis on the
2	condition of the well would be the
3	casing, as a hole, split or is
4	ported around 1,100 feet.
5	Do you see that?
6	A Yes, I do.
7	Q And if we look if we could scroll
8	out slightly, Mr. Zarchy.
9	And does Exhibit I-14 continue past
.0	1984 from your review on it?
.1	If we could scroll up and down on
.2	there, we see the note " $6/14/84$ " and it looks
.3	as if the pages below it show earlier dates;
.4	would you agree?
.5	A Yes.
.6	Q Okay. So the data request asks
.7	about this part of your testimony and leaks
.8	from if we go back to that data request,
.9	let's go back to Data Request 61, if we
0	could, Exhibit 306. No, the data request.
21	There you go. Yeah, thank you.
2	So this one I believe talks about
3	the can we scroll to the next page,
4	Mr. Zarchy. That's fine.
5	And you see Question A asks about
6	Exhibit I-14 and that it notes Question A
7	notes there that Exhibit I-14 provides
8	evidence with casing holes identified in the

2	5	1	2

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1	well file at 1,000 and 1,060 feet in the
2	Frew 3 casing were confirmed and repaired.
3	So you see that we were asking
4	about the 1,000 and 1,060 feet depth of holes
5	in the Frew 3 casing there; that is right?
6	Do you see where I'm looking,
7	Mr. Hower?
8	A I see where you're looking, yes.
9	Q Okay. I'm just trying to get at
10	so the answer to Question 3A, after the
11	objection on the third page, says:
12	SoCalGas I'm sorry.
13	Subject to and without waiving the
14	foregoing objection, SoCalGas
15	responds as follows: The casing
16	hole was ultimately identified at
17	3,240 feet. The leak at 3,240
18	feet was repaired by squeezing
19	cement and installing an inner
20	string.
21	Do you see that?
22	A I do see that, yes.
23	Q Okay. So I think the first thing I
24	just want to clarify about this is, was the
25	leak at 3,240 feet that's identified on Well
26	Frew 3 in this data response also shown on
27	Exhibit I-14?
28	If you want to take a look at that

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1	we can wait till you get a chance to answer
2	that question.
3	ALJ HECHT: We'll be off the record for
4	a minute. We'll go back whenever the witness
5	is ready.
6	(Off the record.)
7	ALJ HECHT: We'll be back on the
8	record. Please, continue.
9	WITNESS HOWER: To answer the question,
10	I don't see any reference to the leak at
11	3,240. Let me check with my colleague,
12	Mr. Stinson.
13	Am I missing something? Do you see
14	it.
15	WITNESS STINSON: Not on this document,
16	no.
17	BY MR. GRUEN:
18	Q Okay. Thank you.
19	When you do an investigation, do
20	gas sampling to confirm the source of leaking
21	gas, isn't it necessary to have the
22	supporting documentation to show the depths
23	of all the sources of that leaking gas?
24	WITNESS HOWER: Yes. I would agree
25	with that.
26	Q Okay. And you also testified that
27	you looked at the well, the Frew 3 well file;
28	correct?

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A Yes.
Q Do you recall the identification
holes at 1,000 and 1,060 foot depths based on
temperature and noise surveys for Well
Frew 3?
A No. They were at 1,100 and 1,160
feet.
Q I appreciate the correction.
A And they the depths that were
specified in the SED data request are
incorrect relative to Exhibit I-14, and as a
response to that data request suggests, there
were no leaks there.
Q Okay. So let's reask the question
with 1,100 and 1,160 feet in mind then. I
appreciate the clarification. So do you
recall temperature surveys and noise logs
identifying the holes at 1,100 and 1,160 feet
in Frew 3?
A I don't remember if I if I
looked at the temperature and noise logs that
were referred to in this document. It's
possible it's being referred to in response,
part B, where the Bates is referenced. I
don't know what that is, but it's possible
that information is provided there, but as I
sit here, I just don't remember if I looked
at the noise and temp logs that, apparently,

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1	at the time showed some anomaly, but,
2	ultimately, proved to be not leaks.
3	Q Okay. So I think just for
4	clarification the depths are shown in Exhibit
5	I-14 of the leaks that we've talked about at
6	1,100 for 1,160 feet; is that right?
7	A The depths that are talked about in
8	I-14 that are associated with yeah,
9	temperature and noise anomalies are, yes,
10	1,100 and 1,160 feet.
11	MR. GRUEN: Okay. Okay.
12	Your Honor.
13	ALJ HECHT: Yes Mr. Gruen.
14	MR. GRUEN: I was wondering if we
15	could bear with me a second. Okay. I'm
16	ready. Pardon me for the delay.
17	Q Mr. Hower, just with regards to the
18	hole or the leak identified, ultimately, at
19	3,240 feet in depth on Frew 3, as shown in
20	this data response, why do you think that two
21	anomalies were identified as you've
22	explained, but upon inspection, there was
23	another leak that was found approximately
24	2,000 feet deeper than the anomalies that
25	were identified that you mentioned in Exhibit
26	I-14? ]
27	A Don't repeat all of that, but what
28	was your specific question?

	VOI 16 - May 10, 2021 2516
1	Q Why were the anomalies that were
2	identified at 1,100 and 1,160 feet on Exhibit
3	I-14 compared why wasn't there an
4	identification in Exhibit I-14 or in the
5	noise or temp surveys of this casing hole
6	that was ultimately identified at 3,240 feet
7	on Well Frew 3?
8	A Let me take a shot. If I don't get
9	this answer right, you can ask me again. I
10	think I'm responsive here, but I believe what
11	happened was at 1,100 feet and 1,160 feet,
12	there were anomalies observed on the two
13	surveys, temperature and noise.
14	There was obviously a leak in the
15	well because that's why this work was being
16	done, to identify where that leak was. Why
17	the anomaly showed up at 1,100 and 1,160 feet
18	and were not leaks, I don't know the answer
19	to that. I know that was the outcome, but I
20	don't know why I don't know what caused
21	the anomalies at that depth.
22	That depth might have been close to
23	a surface casing shoe. It might have been
24	close to I remember Dr. Krishnamurthy
25	testified about a permeable water zone at
26	around a thousand feet. It could have been
27	associated with that. I don't know.
28	The information as we testified to

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in I-14 doesn't provide any further details
on the leak at 3,240 feet so I can't answer
that. It might be what's referenced in that
Response 1b Bates stamp, but I don't know.
Q Okay. I think I didn't ask the
question very artfully. I'll try one more
time. I appreciate you attempting to answer
despite that, but I'll do my best to restate
because it wasn't a very well worded
question. So the two anomalies at 1,100 and
1,160 feet, we've got that on Frew 3, and
then we've got a 2,000-foot hole that's
deeper.
Why do you think the anomalies and
the temperature and noise surveys didn't
catch that casing hole ultimately identified
at 3,240 feet?
A I don't think we know that's the
case. We see a positive indication that
there were anomalies at 1,100 and 1,160, but
we don't have any mention of whether there's
an absence of anomaly or another existing
anomaly at 3,340 feet. Something ultimately
clued SoCalGas into the fact that there was a
leak at 3,240. It's just not documented in
this particular text.
Q Wouldn't you expect it to be?
A Well the Question 1a is specific

1	to again, the depths are wrong but
2	Question 1a is specifically asking about
3	1,000 feet and 1,060 feet. And we've agreed
4	that that means 1,100 feet and 1,160 feet.
5	So I'm as you know, I'm not a lawyer, but
6	to me this seems to be responsive. It's
7	talking about those specific leaks or
8	sorry not leaks, my mistake those
9	specific anomalies that at the time were
10	hypothesized to be leaks.
11	Q Let's say for the sake of
12	discussion that Exhibit I-14 did not and
13	the temperature surveys and noise logs that
14	went with Exhibit I-14 did not pick up a
15	casing hole that was ultimately identified at
16	3,240 feet. Do you understand that
17	hypothetical?
18	A Yes.
19	Q Okay. Let me back up. Was there
20	an error in those surveys, the noise and temp
21	surveys, such that they didn't properly
22	identify the casing hole at 3,240 feet in
23	Well Frew 3?
24	A I don't know.
25	Q Let's say that there was for the
26	sake of discussion. If there was that kind
27	of error, is that kind of error normal?
28	A So just to clarify, you're asking

|--|

1	me is it normal to have a false negative on a
2	temperature and noise log and miss a leak?
3	Q I'll try and restate it
4	differently. Yes. Let's just go with that.
5	Yes.
6	A Well, it's a hypothetical question
7	so my hypothetical answer would be it's not
8	normal. The temperature and noise logs are
9	usually pretty reliable at identifying gas
10	leaks. That's why the technology is used.
11	So I don't think it's fair to characterize it
12	as normal under the hypothetical situation
13	you have drawn.
14	Q Understood. Let's move on to a
15	brief line.
16	I know we're getting close to the
17	lunch hour and I'm mindful of that, your
18	Honor, to finish up with that in mind.
19	Are you familiar with what a relief
20	well is?
21	A Yes.
22	Q Did you read about killing SS-25 in
23	2016 using a relief well?
24	A I guess I read what was documented
25	in the Blade report.
26	Q Okay. Approximately how many well
27	kills related to well leaks have you observed
28	or overseen?

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1	A Observed or overseen? I don't
2	believe any.
3	Q Let me just ask you from your
4	understanding and general experience. Is it
5	normal practice to begin planning a relief
6	well immediately after the first failed
7	attempt to top-kill a well?
8	A That's not anything I testified on
9	or not in my area of expertise.
10	Q Okay. Good enough. Bear with me a
11	second.
12	Your Honor, I'm just scanning my
13	notes briefly, but I think we may be close
14	here.
15	ALJ HECHT: We'll be off the record for
16	a minute.
17	(Off the record.)
18	ALJ HECHT: We'll be back on the
19	record.
20	While we were off the record,
21	Mr. Gruen indicated that SED does not have
22	further questions for this panel at this
23	time. That means we will be moving on to
24	either the Public Advocates Office
25	cross-examination or not, depending on what
26	determination those parties have come to
27	about possibly stipulating to entry of
28	exhibits.

1	Is that something we can answer now
2	or is it better to take that up after lunch?
3	MR. STODDARD: Yes, your Honor. I
4	think we can address that issue now. In
5	light of the importance, in our view, of just
6	making sure we have the ability to conduct
7	redirect, we're not going to be stipulating
8	to entry of those exhibits, and CalPA can
9	offer them during cross-examination.
10	ALJ HECHT: All right.
11	Ms. Bone, I think that that answers
12	your question. I am going to assume that you
13	have enough cross that it does not make sense
14	to start that now and go for 5 to 10 minutes
15	and then take our lunch break; is that
16	correct?
17	MS. BONE: That is correct, your Honor.
18	But I do believe that we'll stay within the
19	one-hour estimate.
20	ALJ HECHT: Great. Thank you.
21	I will also note then that after
22	lunch or before the end of the day we'll have
23	a couple of other housekeeping issues
24	including, I hope, an update on the
25	Boots & Coots witnesses and anything else
26	that you all raise to address. Are there any
0.7	
27	housekeeping items now before we break?
28	housekeeping items now before we break? Yes, Mr. Stoddard.

1	MR. STODDARD: Yes, your Honor.
2	Partially I think it's important to raise
3	this prior to lunch just because I expect
4	that your Honors will want time to confer on
5	this item. But at this time SoCalGas would
6	like to make an oral motion to reopen the
7	testimony of Cal Advocates' witnesses
8	Holzschuh and Taul. And if I may do so at
9	this time, I would seek we can do so or if
10	you'd prefer, we can raise it after lunch.
11	ALJ HECHT: I think you can state it
12	very briefly now and we can hear very briefly
13	from Ms. Bone if she is prepared to respond.
14	I think we will have to have a more full
15	discussion after lunch, but I want an
16	indication of what we're dealing with.
17	MR. STODDARD: Yes, your Honor. So as
18	discussed prior to what I'll refer to as the
19	hiatus between the initial weeks of hearings
20	and the current weeks of hearings, SoCalGas
21	was conducting discovery related to testimony
22	of Mr. Holzschuh on March 26, 2021, in which
23	he testified as to two one-hour phone
24	conversations with Blade that had not
25	previously been disclosed to the other
26	parties.
27	Prior to the break, your Honors
28	permitted SoCalGas to conduct further

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1	discovery on this issue and SoCalGas noted at
2	the time that, depending upon what was
3	discovered, SoCalGas might request to call
4	back Cal Advocates witnesses for further
5	examination regarding these meetings.
6	Based on discovery to date, it
7	appears to SoCalGas that CalPA intended or,
8	in effect, circumvented the discovery
9	procedures established in the scoping ruling
10	and that these meetings enabled them to
11	preview potential discovery questions to
12	Blade before CalPA asked them writing.
13	Again, in SoCalGas' view this
14	contravenes the assigned Commissioner's
15	September 26, 2019, scoping ruling. The
16	scoping ruling required that all discovery
17	requests be served simultaneously on all
18	parties. In addition, it specifically
19	required that Blade conduct a public webinar
20	in November to field the sorts of questions
21	regarding Blade's investigation and its
22	report, which we understand from our
23	discovery that CalPA discussed with Blade
24	during these two one-hour phone
25	conversations.
26	As we heard from Mr. Holzschuh
27	during his testimony at hearings, the purpose
28	of the calls and this is a quote:

1	Was to get back and well, I
2	won't say back-and-forth
3	information because they
4	already they had already
5	finished their report by then, so
6	their need for information
7	He's referring to Blade here.
8	was pretty limited. But if
9	they said anything that we wanted
10	to get more information about,
11	rather than do a formal data
12	request where we'd have to wait
13	for clarification possibly a long
14	time, then it could go instantly
15	ask the follow-up questions.
16	So, again, the idea here was CalPA
17	didn't want to go through the discovery
18	process. They wanted to have a phone call
19	with Blade. And this was not a phone call
20	that had previously been disclosed to
21	SoCalGas or other parties to SoCalGas'
22	knowledge.
23	Although SoCalGas communicated with
24	Blade itself, as necessary to support Blade's
25	investigation during the RCA, as was directed
26	by the Commission, SoCalGas did not have any
27	substantive communications regarding
28	discovery, testimony, or the Blade report

1	during the pendency of this proceeding. And
2	specifically by Blade here, I'm talking about
3	Mr. Krishnamurthy, Blade's witness, and their
4	other subject matter experts who authored the
5	report.
6	But SoCalGas did ask questions of
7	Blade during the November 2019 webinar that I
8	referenced earlier, which was shortly after
9	CalPA's discussions with Blade and where
10	Blade was made available to answer questions
11	about their work. Notably during the public
12	webinar in November 2019, CalPA chose to ask
13	their questions in secret rather than during
14	the public webinar. They did it during these
15	phone conversations with Blade.
16	The purpose of the first meeting,
17	based on our discovery during hiatus, we
18	received communications from Cal Advocates
19	with Blade setting up the calls. The purpose
20	of the first meeting was described by CalPA
21	in an e-mail to Blade as CalPA wanted to ask
22	Mr. Krishnamurthy generally about what a good
23	gas well operation looks like.
24	It was very broad in its scope.
25	They covered topics Mr. Holzschuh
26	explained the testimony, that they talked
27	about P.T., and pressure testing was his
28	recollection, the scope of it was actually

1	far broader. And they talked kind of
2	generally about everything that we believe
3	was in their view related to potential
4	violations that they or SED may be alleging.
5	In addition, during the break from
6	hearings, SoCalGas pursued discovery related
7	to their notes and communications related to
8	these meetings. As you'll recall, initially
9	CalPA had responded that there were no notes
10	and the notes had either been thrown out or
11	were at the CalPA offices back at the
12	Commission.
13	As directed by your Honors, CalPA
14	went back to the Commission to retrieve their
15	notes and produce notes by witnesses Bach,
16	Holzschuh, Taul, and Lee. With additional
17	prompting by SoCalGas' data requests, there
18	was further discovery during the hiatus.
19	CalPA produced additional excerpts of notes
20	taken by its witnesses related to its phone
21	calls with Blade Energy Partners.
22	Although CalPA has supplemented its
23	production several times, SoCalGas knows that
24	CalPA has not produced all notes related to
25	its witnesses' meetings with Blade.
26	That being said, based on the
27	information SoCalGas gleaned from the notes
28	that CalPA has produced, because you can see

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1	the writing through the other side, SoCalGas
2	believes there's good cause to bring back
3	Mr. Taul and Mr. Holzschuh for a limited
4	for limited additional cross-examination in
5	this proceeding.
6	And, your Honor, I don't expect
7	this would actually take more than probably
8	an hour if the witnesses are being
9	cooperative and responsive with the
10	questioning. Again, these notes suggest to
11	SoCalGas that the witnesses may have been
12	verbally previewing potential discovery
13	questions to Blade prior to putting them in
14	writing.
15	SoCalGas can see from the reverse
16	sides of the pages of these notes that they
17	relate to the same meetings. SoCalGas sought
18	a meet and confer with CalPA about this to
19	bring it to their attention and to ask that
20	the additional notes be produced.
21	SoCalGas was told in a data
22	response that the notes were not responsive
23	to the request for notes related to meetings
24	with Blade and had nothing to do with this
25	proceeding. SoCalGas can clearly see through
26	the other side of the page references to
27	Blade and references to SED, and it's very
28	clear that it relates to this proceeding.

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1	Following a meet and confer between the
2	parties, SoCalGas CalPA again responded
3	that the additional notes were not
4	responsive.
5	Counsel to CalPA has represented
6	that the discussion with Blade is irrelevant
7	because it didn't inform CalPA's testimony,
8	but that's contradicted by Mr. Holzschuh's
9	own testimony at hearings. When
10	Mr. Lotterman asked him whether the
11	information that he had received from Blade
12	during those conversations informed his
13	testimony, Mr. Holzschuh answered simply
14	"yes."
15	We would expect that the other
16	subject matters that were discussed with
17	Blade also likely informed CalPA's testimony,
18	and SoCalGas again would request both the
19	limited ability to finish questioning on this
20	issue based on the information discovered, as
21	well as production of the remainder of the
22	notes that are responsive to SoCalGas'
23	discovery requests for notes related to the
24	Blade meeting.
25	ALJ HECHT: All right. So to be clear,
26	it sounds like you are asking for the
27	remainder of whatever notes were taken in
28	these meetings and to recall witnesses Taul

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1	and Holzschuh for something like an hour of
2	cross-examination.
3	Is that sort of the bottom line?
4	MR. STODDARD: Yes, your Honor. Again,
5	we anticipate it should be able to get done
6	in an hour with the caveat that it depends on
7	the pace of the questioning and answering.
8	ALJ HECHT: All right. Yes.
9	I see Mr. Gruen and I also will be
10	calling on Ms. Bone. We're not going to
11	discuss in incredibly great detail now
12	largely because I want to give everybody an
13	opportunity to think over lunch about what is
14	being requested here.
15	Just a couple more clarifying
16	questions for Mr. Stoddard. One is are you
17	anticipating these two witnesses would come
18	back as a panel?
19	MR. STODDARD: No, your Honor. We were
20	anticipating they would be offered in the
21	same manner in which they were the first
22	time.
23	ALJ HECHT: Okay. Thank you. That's
24	helpful.
25	I'm looking at the scoping memo.
26	The scoping memo says:
27	Discovery may be conducted by the
28	parties consistent with Article 10

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1	of the Commission's Rules. Any
2	party issuing or responding to a
3	discovery request shall provide by
4	e-mail the request or response
5	simultaneously to all parties.
6	I think there's some ambiguity
7	there, so I'm not prepared to actually
8	interpret that at this moment.
9	With this basic understanding of
10	the situation, do either Mr. Gruen or
11	Ms. Bone want to respond briefly before
12	lunch? I'm seeing a nod and a raised hand
13	and I will start with Ms. Bone.
14	MS. BONE: Thank you, your Honor, a
15	couple of observations. The motion that
16	SoCalGas is making is very extensive and
17	contains a huge number of allegations, many
18	of which are mischaracterizations of things.
19	And honestly, I don't feel like I'm in a
20	position to respond to these claims without
21	seeing the transcript.
22	And certainly I was planning on
23	preparing my finishing my
24	cross-examination questions during lunch, and
25	I would prefer not to have to focus on this
26	issue. I don't think that there's anything
27	time sensitive about this because, in fact,
28	you're not going to be able to if you do

1	decide to call back our witnesses, it's going
2	to be several days before that happens. So,
3	you know, that's the first thought.
4	As your Honor just read the rules
5	regarding discovery, I don't see anything in
6	there that requires us to for Cal
7	Advocates to invite everybody to meetings
8	that were clarification meetings with Blade,
9	and SoCalGas has been provided all of the
10	documents related to those discussions with
11	Blade.
12	They insist that the back side of
13	Mr. Holzschuh and Mr. Taul's notes contain
14	additional discussions. They don't. They
15	reference the word "Blade," but they do not
16	refer to those discussions with Blade.
17	They're separate issues. If you want to do
18	an in-camera review of those notes, you are
19	welcome to them, but we saw no reason to
20	produce them given that they were
21	nonresponsive.
22	The other thing I will mention is
23	that we did do a discovery request on Blade
24	to find out how many meetings they had had
25	with SoCalGas during this proceeding, and
26	Blade essentially responded that they had had
27	so many meetings with SoCalGas that they
28	could not begin to even list all of them. It

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1	would be too much of a hardship. I would be
2	happy to also provide that data response to
3	you.
4	Our feeling is that, you know,
5	SoCalGas clearly had extensive access to
6	Blade for many, many months. We did not. To
7	the extent that Cal Advocates had questions
8	and clarifications, they asked them, they
9	were put into data requests that were served
10	on all of the parties, and all of the parties
11	received Blade's data responses.
12	As I've said previously, there is no
13	there there. This is not a big deal. Both
14	Mr. Taul and, I believe, Mr. Holzschuh also
15	testified on the stand that these responses
16	from Blade or the meetings with Blade had no
17	impact on their testimony, and I provided
18	citations to that the last time these issues
19	were brought up when your Honors ordered that
20	we continue to search for documents related
21	to these meetings.
22	So, you know, we feel like this has
23	all been addressed, and, frankly, that if
24	SoCalGas is going to proceed in this manner,
25	that we should have the ability to do
26	discovery on SoCalGas regarding all of their
27	communications with Blade that we have not
28	been privy to up until now.

1	ALJ HECHT: Thank you, Ms. Bone. I
2	would observe that, in fact, Blade was doing
3	the root cause analysis of SoCalGas and it
4	would not surprise me if they had countless
5	meetings with SoCalGas. In fact, it would
6	surprise me if that were not the case. I'm
7	not sure how relevant they are. For the rest
8	of what you've said, I will be taking it
9	under advisement. I will go back briefly to
10	Mr. Stoddard, then Mr. Gruen.
11	Yes, Mr. Stoddard.
12	MR. STODDARD: Thank you, your Honor.
13	Again, that's correct. SoCalGas did have
14	regular contacts with Blade generally during
15	the preparation of the RCA report as directed
16	by the Commission to support their
17	investigation. A lot of this is
18	administrative logistical related to payment
19	of invoices, making sure that they have the
20	information they need, et cetera.
21	As I stated before, this is
22	different. This is a communication between
23	CalPA witnesses, including CalPA's counsel,
24	at least in one of the meetings without
25	counsel of Blade present, related to the
26	substantive issues at issue in this
27	proceeding ahead of a public webinar that was
28	awarded by the Commission for the purpose of

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1	making Blade available to answer exactly
2	these sorts of questions.
3	SoCalGas did not have these sorts of
4	meetings during the pendency of this
5	proceeding after the OII was initiated. And
6	again, although, you know, your Honor noted
7	what the scoping ruling says as to discovery,
8	and I would just encourage consideration of
9	that language in combination with the
10	directive that there be a webinar, a public
11	webinar held by Blade, as well as the fact
12	that Blade is noted to be an independent
13	witness in this case and they're not an
14	expert working at the direction of working
15	for SED in the context of the OII proceeding,
16	nor are they a witness for CalPA in the
17	context of the OII proceeding.
18	It's also incorrect what Ms. Bone
19	said about the witnesses about the
20	witnesses not relying on the information
21	in this in these conversations. The
22	transcript from that I referenced earlier
23	specifically showed that Mr. Holzschuh
24	testified that he did, in fact that those
25	conversations did, in fact, inform his
26	testimony, we'd like to ask similar questions
27	of Mr. Taul as well about whether and to what
28	degree it informed his testimony.

1	We also think it's possible that,
2	you know, to the degree they didn't address
3	issues in their testimony, it's because of
4	things that they heard from Blade about how
5	issues that they were looking at were not
6	areas of concern, so this is something else
7	that we would like to pursue questioning on.
8	It's very different, again, from the sorts of
9	administrative discussions that SoCalGas was
10	having with Blade during the pendency of the
11	RCA investigation.
12	In terms of the in-camera review
13	that Ms. Bone offered, SoCalGas would be okay
14	with that. We do believe that if you were to
15	look at the pdfs on the screen of these
16	notes, you would also come to the conclusion
17	that these notes are directly responsive to
18	our request for notes related to the meeting
19	with Blade.
20	ALJ HECHT: All right. I said that I
21	would be going next to Mr. Gruen, but I will
22	go to Ms. Bone first to respond briefly and
23	then Mr. Gruen, and then we actually are
24	going to have lunch.
25	Ms. Bone.
26	MS. BONE: Your Honor, I guess I'm
27	struggling with the idea that SoCalGas can
28	have, you know, innumerable meetings and

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1	conversations with Blade that we were not
2	invited to, nor was SED invited to, and now
3	we have two one-hour clarification
4	conversations which are followed up with data
5	requests, they've got all of our witnesses
6	notes on this. What more is there?
7	I guess I'm really struggling to
8	understand what the there there is. I feel
9	like there is just something really eluding
10	me, you know. I don't get it. And it seems
11	to me that the massive number of meetings
12	with Blade that SoCalGas had are far more
13	concerning and that we're supposed to take
14	SoCalGas' claims that there was nothing
15	substantive discussed? That's really not
16	credible. ]
17	ALJ HECHT: One moment. I do not know
18	the number or timing of any of these issues;
19	so I cannot speak to that at this point. I
20	suspect we'll need more information. I am
21	going to go to Mr. Gruen and then back to
22	Mr. Stoddard, and then we're going to have
23	lunch.
24	Mr. Gruen, you are on mute.
25	MR. GRUEN: Pardon me, your Honor. Can
26	I be heard?
27	ALJ HECHT: (Nods head.)
28	MR. GRUEN: A couple of notes: One is

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1	SED supports Cal Advocates. We have concerns
2	about calling back witnesses at this time.
3	I would note, I appreciate your
4	Honor's careful noting of the scoping memo
5	and the ambiguity that your Honor had read in
6	the wording, in particular that parties
7	should serve data requests on other parties
8	and include them, and, of course, Blade is
9	not a party to this proceeding.
10	So to this end that SoCalGas is
11	suggesting or in any way arguing that Cal
12	Advocates has gone afoul of the language of
13	the scoping memo, we would argue that that's
14	misplaced.
15	And the other point I would make is
16	that, your Honor, I believe the argument
17	and this is a clarification for SoCalGas
18	is that their argument rests on the
19	suggestion that these notes are somehow
20	related directly to the testimony of Cal
21	Advocates' witnesses, and I believe that's
22	the case, but I want to seek clarification
23	for the record.
24	ALJ HECHT: Well, fortunately, we are
25	about to turn to Mr. Stoddard so he can
26	address that along with whatever else. Go
27	ahead.
28	MR. STODDARD: Thank you, your Honor.

1	I'm not sure I fully understand the question.
2	Would Mr. Gruen be able to restate the
3	question.
4	MR. GRUEN: I'd be happy to, your
5	Honor, if that's okay.
6	ALJ HECHT: Yes.
7	MR. GRUEN: I believe SoCalGas's
8	argument is that to the extent it needs to
9	call back Cal Advocates witnesses, that it's
10	arguing that it needs to do so, it's doing so
11	on the grounds that it is claiming that the
12	notes it's discovering, the discovery it's
13	doing is directly related to the testimony of
14	Cal Advocates' witnesses. I wanted to ask
15	that clarification.
16	ALJ HECHT: Mr. Stoddard.
17	MR. STODDARD: Yes, your Honor.
18	The notes that we have seen include
19	notes that are directly related to Cal
20	Advocates, yes. They are also, otherwise,
21	relevant to issues within the scope of this
22	proceeding, including issues that Cal
23	Advocates for some reason, not clear why,
24	specifically didn't address in their
25	testimony.
26	So it's two different ways in which
27	the notes are related to this proceeding,
28	but, yes, they are related to Cal Advocates'

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1	testimony in this proceeding, specifically
2	including both the prepared testimony and the
3	testimony offered at hearing.
4	And, again, what we have is the
5	on-the-stand testimony of Mr. Holzschuh
6	stating that the conversations with Blade
7	informed his testimony as well.
8	And so that's the other you know,
9	we can provide it. Over the break I can get
10	you the exact citation to that I don't
11	have it handy right now from the March
12	hearing date, but he did testify to that.
13	Separately, in terms of Ms. Bone's
14	general question of what the there there is,
15	again, the concern here is that there was a
16	discovery procedure that was set out in the
17	scoping ruling, and, again, if you combine
18	that requirement in the scoping ruling with
19	the fact that Blade was supposed to be an
20	independent witness, and there was a specific
21	public webinar where parties were offered an
22	opportunity to ask exactly the source of
23	clarifying questions that Ms. Bone said that
24	CalPA did in their secret conversations with
25	Blade, that's the basis for our concern; that
26	there was an established procedure here that
27	was circumvented deliberately for the purpose
28	of avoiding the discovery procedures, and we

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1	would like unlimited opportunity to be able
2	to ask questions about those conversations
3	including what Blade said during those
4	conversations.
5	Also, in terms of Ms. Bone's
6	concerns about SoCalGas's communications with
7	Blade, I would refer you back to the
8	testimony of Mr. Krishnamurthy, who testified
9	also that during the hearing he testified
10	at hearing that SoCalGas never asked Blade
11	what their conclusions are, where they were
12	headed. Never once did they ask Blade about
13	that, and never once, until we released the
14	final report and when we released the
15	final May report, after that, there were no
16	conversations between SoCalGas and Blade on
17	any substantive issue.
18	And, certainly, no conversations
19	between SoCalGas and Blade shopping potential
20	discovery questions, before they were asked,
21	so that SoCalGas could avoid soliciting an
22	answer on the record that would be unhelpful
23	to their case.
24	SoCalGas participated in the
25	webinar, and we asked public written
26	discovery of Blade. That was the only way in
27	which we communicated with Blade related to
28	testimony and the issues within the scope of

1	this proceeding.
2	And Blade's data response that
3	Ms. Bone has referenced that Cal Advocates
4	recently asked of Blade, where Blade accounts
5	for communications with SoCalGas. SoCalGas
6	would be happy with that data response going
7	into the record here as well.
8	We think it supports our case, which
9	is that we had communications with Blade, but
10	they were related to administrative matters,
11	as well as other matters to support Blade's
12	investigation, and we would be happy with
13	that going into the record.
14	ALJ HECHT: All right. I see Ms. Bone.
15	MS. BONE: Your Honor?
16	ALJ HECHT: Before I call on Ms. Bone,
17	I will ask I would like the references in
18	the transcript to the statement you refer to
19	by Mr. Taul and the statements by Witness
20	Krishnamurthy; so if you could get those at
21	some point today, that would be terrific.
22	This is not going to be resolved today.
23	I am going to hear quickly from
24	Ms. Bone. Please remember that nobody needs
25	to have the final word now. Nothing is the
26	final word now. This will be considered and
27	discussed again.
28	And I'm also going to observe that I

1	think a lot of the concerns here go back to
2	the underlying lack of trust among the
3	parties, which I understand, but we're hoping
4	wouldn't play out in quite this way.
5	Ms. Bone.
6	MS. BONE: Your Honor, I take this that
7	the questions regarding references to the
8	transcript should be provided by SoCalGas?
9	ALJ HECHT: Yes. They raised it. They
10	can provide it.
11	MS. BONE: Okay. And just my last
12	observation is that it's just ironic that
13	SoCalGas is now seeking to ask our witnesses
14	questions about things not in their
15	testimony, when SoCalGas has routinely
16	objected to questions not related to
17	testimony.
18	Cal Advocates' testimony is
19	extremely limited as I'm sure you're aware.
20	So, you know, the world of what they didn't
21	testify to us is quite large. So, again, I
22	don't really see the purpose of this.
23	ALJ HECHT: I understand the points
24	that you've made. I am not going to call on
25	Mr. Stoddard now. I think that we will pick
26	this up after lunch.
27	I don't think that there's a real
28	purpose served by continuing now and going

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1	into a low-blood-sugar situation. The same
2	goes for whatever Ms. Bone was about to ask.
3	Is there any other housekeeping
4	issue that we need to know before we take a
5	lunch break?
6	MS. BONE: Yes, your Honor. Because
7	we're taking a lunch break, I plan on
8	focusing on my cross-examination and not
9	taking time for this; so I'm hopeful that we
10	cannot address this this afternoon because I
11	will not be prepared, but that we deal with
12	it tomorrow.
13	ALJ HECHT: I understand.
14	MS. BONE: Or when we can have a
15	transcript of these proceedings.
16	ALJ HECHT: I understand the points
17	that have been made. We are going to take
18	our lunch break. We will be back at 1:45; so
19	that's a long lunch break, about an hour and
20	20 minutes, and with that we'll be oh,
21	great.
22	Mr. Stoddard, yes.
23	MR. STODDARD: Your Honor, I have no
24	further argument. Just in the interest of
25	time, I can give you the page reference right
26	now: March 26, 2021 transcript, page 1316,
27	lines 3 through 8. That's one of the
28	that's related to Mr. Holzschuh's testimony

Evidentiary Hearing 2544 Vol 18 - May 10, 2021 1 about relying on information. 2 ALJ HECHT: Thank you. 3 MS. BONE: Could you please repeat that? 4 5 ALJ HECHT: In fact, no. He will not repeat that until after the lunch break, at 6 7 which time he will repeat it and we can all note it down. I apologize. I'm going to go 8 have lunch. We'll be off the record. 9 ] 10 (Whereupon, at the hour of 12:24 p.m., a recess was taken until 1:45 11 p.m.) \* \* \* \* 12 \* 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

# Evidentiary Hearing

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1	AFTERNOON SESSION - 1:45 P.M.
2	* * * *
3	ALJ POIRIER: We'll be back on the
4	record. We are returning from our lunch
5	break. While off the break, we indicated
6	that we are going to move forward with the
7	cross with Mr. Hower and Mr. Stinson by Cal
8	Advocates, and that but before we do that,
9	Mr. Stoddard is going to provide those record
10	citations. After that, we won't have any
11	further discussion of the motion today.
12	And I'll also offer some direction
13	on the timing of motions: The parties try to
14	do so after the conclusion of the witnesses
15	unless it's related to that
16	cross-examination, or during especially at
17	the beginning or end of the day.
18	With that, Mr. Stoddard, please
19	provide those references.
20	MR. STODDARD: Thank you, your Honor.
21	The first, which relates to Blade
22	testimony related to communications with
23	SoCalGas is Volume V, March 22nd, 2021, and
24	that's page 667, lines 2 through 13.
25	The next citation is related to the
26	testimony of Mr. Holzschuh regarding the
27	meetings with Blade in 2019 and that's in
28	Volume 9, and that's pages 1311 through 1318.

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1	MS. BONE: Thank you.
2	ALJ POIRIER: With that, let's go ahead
3	and move forward with the cross-examination
4	of Mr. Hower and Mr. Stinson by Cal
5	Advocates.
6	Ms. Bone, please proceed.
7	CHARLIE STINSON and TIM HOWER,
8	resumed the stand and testified further as
9	follows:
10	CROSS-EXAMINATION
11	BY MS. BONE:
12	Q Good afternoon both Mr. Hower and
13	Mr. Stinson. I'm going to start with
14	Mr. Stinson.
15	I understand, Mr. Stinson, from
16	your witness qualifications that you headed
17	up teams of gas storage professionals to
18	perform a risk assessment for two gas storage
19	facilities; is that correct?
20	WITNESS STINSON: That's correct.
21	Q When did that risk assessment
22	occur?
23	A Started in 2017.
24	Q Did you perform any risk assessment
25	prior to that date?
26	A Not a formal risk assessment, no.
27	Q Before this case, is it fair to say
28	that the majority of your gas storage work

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1	was focused on well construction,
2	installation, and productivity issues?
3	A I mean, that's certainly a part of
4	it, but also the evaluation reservoirs for
5	development, ongoing reservoir management
6	issues, so, yeah. What you stated is
7	certainly a piece of it, but not the
8	entirety.
9	Q Adding in well storage development,
10	could you estimate on a percentage basis how
11	much of that was occurring prior to this case
12	before you worked on this case?
13	A Yeah. I mean, it varied over time.
14	Sometimes I would be engaged 100 percent in
15	looking at underground storage development
16	for months at a time. Other times it just
17	depends on the development activity.
18	Other times, it would be there
19	would be no development activity going on,
20	and in the case of Gill Ranch, we were
21	involved in the development there for the
22	it was pretty much full time for about three
23	years on that project.
24	Q Mr. Hower, you mention in your
25	witness qualification that you co-authored an
26	industry textbook covering gas storage
27	reservoir management. Did you write the
28	portion of the book covering gas storage

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1	reservoir management?
2	WITNESS HOWER: Yes.
3	Q When was that book published?
4	A Mid-90s.
5	Q Did the discussion on reservoir
6	management address how to perform a risk
7	assessment?
8	A No.
9	Q Do you have any other risk
10	assessment experience?
11	A Well, certainly, I mean over my
12	career both in oil and gas and gas storage,
13	we're looking at and we're evaluating and
14	assessing risk all the time. Whether it's
15	done on a very formal basis or whether it's
16	done more informally just observing and
17	evaluating the data that are collected.
18	Q And similar to my question for
19	Mr. Stinson, before this case, is it fair to
20	say that the majority of your gas storage
21	work has focused on well construction,
22	development, installation and productivity
23	issues?
24	A No. Again, my answer is probably
25	similar to Mr. Stinson's. My in answering
26	questions from Mr. Gruen, I explained that my
27	experience in gas storage was typically
28	working with companies and individuals like

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1	Mr. Neville year after year as an outside
2	expert assessing their field operations
3	plant, so that involved the things you
4	mentioned, but it also involved looking at
5	workovers, looking at well integrity, looking
6	at taking wells out of service for whatever
7	reason. So it was really much more than just
8	the things you described.
9	Q Thank you.
10	I'll start with Mr. Stinson. And
11	then, Mr. Hower, if you have something to add
12	or something different, I'd like to hear from
13	you.
14	Mr. Stinson, do you believe that
15	risk assessments are useful?
16	WITNESS STINSON: Certainly.
17	Q How long have you held this view?
18	A Well, as Mr. Hower indicated, I
19	think it's a matter of whether you're talking
20	formal or informal risk assessments, but
21	certainly throughout my entire career
22	assessing risk for individual wells or
23	individual reservoirs has been a part of the
24	normal activity of an engineer. It has
25	certainly gotten more formal over time, but,
26	yeah, risk assessment is very important.
27	Q And, Mr. Hower, what do you have to
28	add to that?

1	WITNESS HOWER: Nothing really to add.
2	I would agree with Mr. Stinson. I think risk
3	assessment is important. I would say yes to
4	that.
5	Q Do you know of well fields where
6	risk assessments have been performed?
7	WITNESS STINSON: Are you talking about
8	formal risk assessments, informal risk
9	assessments? Can you be more definitive,
10	please.
11	Q Formal risk assessments.
12	A Yeah, well, every storage field,
13	you know, since the Interim Final Rule had to
14	perform some type of formal, qualitative risk
15	assessment. And so that's sort of the
16	kind of a start for what I would consider
17	more documented formal risk assessment.
18	Q And how would you distinguish
19	between a formal risk assessment and an
20	informal one?
21	A Formal risk assessment, there's a
22	lot of documentation involved with it, that
23	involves, you know, looking at the various
24	attributes, looking at the potential
25	consequence of a failure. Looking at the
26	likelihood of that failure, analyzing
27	particular data on a well by well
28	surface-facility basis. So much more

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1	detailed, much more documented, and I would
2	say I would say that, you know, informal
3	risk assessments include the same things just
4	not to the same degree.
5	Q And by the same degree, do you mean
6	that they're less comprehensive?
7	A I think they're formal, less
8	documented. There's less writing done. That
9	isn't to say that the analysis behind the
10	assessment isn't there. It just may not be
11	written down on the same sort of format. You
12	may not do the actual calculations of a
13	you know, trying to quantify a risk, but, you
14	know, a good engineer, given a set of wells,
15	they know which wells are riskier than
16	others. So it's I would say it's the
17	same process is there regardless of whether
18	it's fully documented or not.
19	Q Can you tell me what a qualitative
20	risk assessment is.
21	A Certainly. I've been involved
22	in the risk assessments I've been involved
23	in have been more of a qualitative nature.
24	The challenge in the gas storage industry is,
25	unlike other industries, there's really isn't
26	sufficient data to do a true quantitative
27	risk assessment. Meaning, there isn't enough
28	data on the risk of certain failures.

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1	So you can't really sit down and
2	with any certainty and calculate a factor
3	that would truly be a quantitative analysis.
4	So from a qualitative standpoint, I
5	can look at a group of facilities and say,
6	well, this one I have more concern about than
7	that one.
8	So qualitatively, I can prioritize
9	a list of wells or surface facilities or
10	pipelines or whatever, and say, you know,
11	these fall in a higher-risk category than
12	these. So to me that's what a qualitative
13	risk assessment is.
14	Q So you're comparing quantitative
15	versus qualitative. Would you say that the
16	formal risk assessments that are now being
17	done are more quantitative?
18	A No. I don't think the data exists
19	today in the underground storage industry to
20	do a what would be considered a true
21	qualitative risk assessment. I think they
22	are I'm sorry a true quantitative risk
23	assessment. They are to my knowledge, the
24	ones that out there being done are of a
25	qualitative nature.
26	There is a push in the industry to
27	make things more quantitative, but it's going
28	to take better data than what's available

1	today to be able to do that.
2	Q I may already have the answer to
3	this question, but I'm going to ask it. Do
4	you know if SoCalGas ever performed a
5	qualitative risk assessment at the Standard
6	Sesnon field at any time after it acquired
7	the field in the 1970s?
8	A If you are talking about a fully
9	documented qualitative risk assessment, I am
10	not aware of that, but if you are talking
11	about knowing where your risks are and sort
12	of establishing higher- and lower-priority
13	items based on that assessment, certainly,
14	they were doing that they were doing that
15	continuously.
16	Q That's what you refer to as the
17	informal risk assessment; correct?
18	A Correct. Correct.
19	Q So as I understand that, SoCalGas's
20	risk analysis was based on its prior
21	experience with the wells, but didn't
22	consider future events that might occur if it
23	had never experienced them before; is that
24	correct?
25	A I don't I don't know what
26	factors they took into account when they were
27	looking at risks for the wells.
28	Q So, Mr. Katzenberg, can you please

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1	pull up Cal Advocates Exhibit 408.
2	Mr. Stinson, and Mr. Hower, we'll
3	start with Mr. Stinson.
4	Have you seen this exhibit before
5	it was provided to you as a cross-examination
6	exhibit?
7	WITNESS STINSON: No.
8	Q And, Mr. Katzenberg, can you scroll
9	to the next page so that we can see what it's
10	about. Okay. So this is a SoCalGas Data
11	Response, Cal Advocates Data Request No. 38.
12	And, Mr. Stinson, did you review
13	this exhibit in preparation for your
14	cross-examination?
15	A I did.
16	Q Do you know how old SS-25 was at
17	the time of rupture?
18	A It was drilled in yeah, it was
19	approximately 60-something years old. I'd
20	have to get the exact number.
21	Q Is it foreseeable that an older
22	well might experience wear that had not
23	previously been observed in a gas storage
24	field before?
25	A I'm not sure I understand that
26	question.
27	Q As wells get older, they could have
28	other problems with them that might not have

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1	been seen before; is that correct?
2	A Well, certainly, any well can
3	experience issues that have not been seen
4	before. I'm not sure if there's anything
5	particular about SS-25 in that regard. ]
6	Q In your experience of touring 33
7	gas storage fields in 13 states, have you
8	ever seen corrosion of a well casing?
9	A I have seen corrosion on well
10	casing that's been pulled out of a well, yes.
11	Q And what was the corrosion caused
12	by?
13	A Corrosion is generally caused by
14	water in the formation that's up against the
15	casing.
16	Q Mr. Stinson, do you know what a
17	risk matrix is?
18	A I'm sorry, you cut out.
19	Q Sorry. Do you know what a risk
20	matrix is?
21	A I can think of a couple three
22	different types of risk matrices. Is there
23	something in particular you're looking for?
24	Q No. I think that we were looking
25	at
26	Mr. Katzenberg, if you can go to
27	Question 2 on this data request.
28	We had asked SoCalGas whether they

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1	had ever created a risk matrix for the
2	Standard Sesnon field gas wells at any time
3	after acquiring the field in the '70s. They
4	had told us that they had not. I was curious
5	what you thought a risk matrix would be.
6	A Well, like I said, I can think of a
7	couple of different types of risk matrices,
8	so I mean it's looking at the various risks
9	that could be applied to different
10	facilities, for sure.
11	Q And in going through the SS-25 well
12	files, did you see any evidence of a risk
13	matrix
14	A No.
15	Q for SS-25?
16	A No.
17	Q What about for the Standard Sesnon
18	well field?
19	A No.
20	Q Mr. Hower, the same question.
21	WITNESS HOWER: Just the last question
22	or the risk matrix
23	(Crosstalk.)
24	BY MS. BONE:
25	Q Did you see evidence of a risk
26	matrix in the SS-25 well file?
27	A No.
28	Q Did you see evidence of a risk

#### Evidentiary Hearing 2557 Vol 18 - May 10, 2021 matrix anywhere in the Standard Sesnon well 1 2 field file? No, I did not. 3 Α So do you know if SoCalGas created 4 Ο a risk matrix for either SS-25 or the 5 Standard Sesnon well field at any time after 6 7 it acquired that field? А This is Mr. Hower. If you're still 8 9 asking me, I do not know. 10 Mr. Stinson? $\bigcirc$ 11 WITNESS STINSON: No, I don't know 12 either. And with regard to Question 3 in 13 Ο 14 that data request -- Mr. Katzenberg, if you 15 can scroll down -- we asked SoCalGas if they 16 could provide documents where they discuss 17 the risk of subsurface ruptures or whether 18 they considered the risk of low-probability, 19 high-consequence events. 20 I was wondering if prior to the 21 incident you know whether SoCalGas ever 22 considered the risk of a low-probability, 23 high-consequence event at Aliso Canyon. 24 Α Who are you asking? 25 We'll start with Mr. Stinson. 0 26 Α I do not know. 27 Did you see any evidence, Ο Mr. Stinson, in the well files of such 2.8

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1	consideration?
2	A No.
3	Q And in looking at the well files,
4	Mr. Stinson, did you see evidence that
5	SoCalGas ever considered the risk of
6	subsurface ruptures of its gas wells?
7	A No.
8	Q And, Mr. Hower, did you see any
9	evidence that SoCalGas had considered the
10	risk of subsurface ruptures in its gas wells
11	when you were reviewing the well file?
12	WITNESS HOWER: Well, I think that
13	their actions show that they did consider the
14	risks. The installation or the trials of the
15	deep subsurface safety valves, that was
16	specifically done to mitigate against a
17	possible rupture. They had had two wells
18	that had subsurface leaks that there was gas
19	migration away from the wellbore. And as is
20	described in our testimony, in our opinion,
21	SoCalGas followed up those leaks with some
22	more extensive investigation beyond what was
23	typically done for a routine casing leak.
24	Q When did that investigation occur?
25	A The two wells I'm talking about are
26	the FF-34A, and the Frew 3. I don't have the
27	dates of those leaks memorized so I don't
28	know that, but it is discussed in our

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1	testimony.
2	Q And, Mr. Hower, do you know if
3	prior to the incident SoCalGas ever
4	considered the risk of a low-probability,
5	high-consequence event at Aliso Canyon?
6	A Well, again, I think they did. I
7	think by implementing a program such as the
8	deep subsurface safety valves, which is
9	something most storage operators do not do, I
10	think they were anticipating the possibility
11	that something like that could happen and
12	were trying to put in measures to prevent it.
13	Q Mr. Hower, was there anything in
14	the well files that reflected this?
15	A The deep subsurface safety valves?
16	Q Yes.
17	A Yes.
18	Q Reflective that they had done
19	these, but did it explain why? Did it
20	explain that they were concerned about
21	high-consequence events?
22	A Well, that's really the only reason
23	you put a deep subsurface safety valve in a
24	well. You don't really need to explain it.
25	That's why you're doing it. That's what
26	they're designed to prevent.
27	Q If we could move on,
28	Mr. Katzenberg, to Exhibit CalPA-410.

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ALJ POIRIER: This is ALJ Poirier. 1 Let's qo off the record very quickly. 2 (Off the record.) 3 ALJ POIRIER: Let's go back on the 4 5 record. Please continue, Ms. Bone. 6 7 BY MS. BONE: Mr. Katzenberg, if you could scroll 8 0 9 this to page 15. And while Mr. Katzenberg is 10 doing that, we'll start with Mr. Stinson. 11 Have you seen this exhibit before 12 it was provided to you as a cross-examination 13 exhibit? 14 WITNESS STINSON: Yes, I have. 15 For the record, this is Blade's 0 16 response to SED Data Request-78. Did you review this --17 18 Α Yes, I read it. 19 -- exhibit in preparation for your Ο 20 cross-examination? 21 А Yes, I did. 22 0 Mr. Hower, had you seen this 23 exhibit before it was provided to you as a 2.4 cross-examination exhibit? 25 WITNESS HOWER: Yes, I did. And did you review it in 26 0 27 preparation for your cross-examination? 2.8 А Yes.

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1	Q Mr. Stinson, do you agree that this
2	exhibit sets forth Blade's opinions regarding
3	portions of your reply testimony dated
4	March 20, 2020, and identified as SoCalGas
5	Exhibit 4-2 here?
6	WITNESS STINSON: I don't see the date.
7	Q If you go to page 4 of the exhibit,
8	which is entitled 1 Background.
9	Are you there, Mr. Stinson?
10	A Yes, I am.
11	Q And you see the third paragraph
12	states:
13	The questions are related to the
14	document titled Chapter 1,
15	Prepared Reply Testimony of Tim
16	Hower and Charlie Stinson of MHA
17	Petroleum Consultants on Behalf of
18	Southern California Gas Company?
19	A Yes, I see that.
20	Q Do you see that? So can we agree
21	that this exhibit sets forth Blade's opinions
22	regarding your reply testimony?
23	A Yes.
24	Q And, Mr. Hower, do you agree as
25	well?
26	WITNESS HOWER: Yes.
27	Q So let's go back to page 15 of this
28	document. Blade's response to Question 8 is

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1	Blade's expert opinion on the sufficiency of
2	SoCalGas' risk assessment that will perform
3	before 2007. Would you agree to that? And
4	specifically if you look at page 15, the
5	Section 2.8.1, Blade's responses.
6	WITNESS STINSON: Yes, I see it's
7	related to risk assessments pre-dating 2007.
8	Is that your question?
9	Q Correct.
10	A Yes.
11	Q And among other things, Blade finds
12	the pre-2007 risk assessment to be lacking.
13	Would you agree?
14	A They identify items they felt
15	should have been included.
16	Q Now let's go to page 9 of this
17	document, Question 4. That question asks
18	whether SoCalGas should have had a reasonable
19	understanding of groundwater depths relative
20	to the surface casing shoe and production
21	casing at SS-25 before the incident.
22	Do you see that?
23	A Yes.
24	Q And Blade answered that SoCalGas
25	should have had an understanding of the
26	groundwater depths; is that correct?
27	A Yes.
28	Q And Blade explained that the

-	
1	utility's failure to know about the
2	groundwater regime resulted in the fact that
3	SoCalGas did not realize that groundwater
4	exposure posted a threat to wellbore
5	integrity; is that correct?
6	A I'll need to read that paragraph.
7	Q If you go down to subsection b
8	under 2.4.1, you see the language "SoCalGas
9	did not know the groundwater regime"?
10	Do you see that?
11	A Yes, I do.
12	Q So you agree that this was a Blade
13	conclusion?
14	A Yes, that's what it says.
15	Q Now if we could go to Question 5 on
16	page 9, just further down there. It quotes
17	your testimony and states at the bottom of
18	page that you concluded "knowledge of
19	hydrogeology and groundwater is only relevant
20	for the design and implementation of the
21	surface casing."
22	I believe that's the last sentence
23	if you flip to the next page on page 10 where
24	it's quoting your testimony. Do you see
25	that? "Knowledge of the hydrogeology and
26	groundwater is only relevant for the design
27	and implementation of the surface casing."
28	Was that an accurate representation

Evidentiary Hearing 2564 Vol 18 - May 10, 2021 1 of your testimony? 2 Α I'm not following you. I'm sorry. 3 Q Sorry. Let's qo -- are you on page 10 of the document? 4 5 Α I am at the top of page 10. I am. 6 Ο Okay. And if you look to the 7 fourth line down, they're quoting your testimony here. 8 9 Do you agree? 10 Α It says, "footnote omitted." I'm 11 not -- I can't be for certain that's from our 12 testimony. 13 0 That's fair. Let's go to --14 Mr. Katzenberg, if you can pull up 15 SoCalGas Exhibit 4-2 at page 22, lines 10 and 16 11. 17 Mr. Stinson, if you can pull up 18 your testimony as well. 19 Α Okay. 20 On page 22, lines 10 and 11, can Ο 21 you read there starting with "Knowledge." 22 Α "Knowledge of the hydrogeology and 23 groundwater is only relevant for the design 24 and implementation of the surface casing." 25 Correct. Do you know, Mr. Stinson, Ο did Blade agree with this claim? 26 27 Mr. Katzenberg, if you could go 2.8 back to Cal Advocates Exhibit 410 at page 10.

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And the answer to c, if you scroll
down just a bit under 2.5.1, it asks "Is
knowledge of hydrogeology and groundwater
only relevant for the design and
implementation of the surface casing? "
Mr. Stinson, do you see that?
A I do.
Q And what was Blade's position?
Could you read that.
A Yes. It says, "No, it is also
relevant for the management of wellbore
integrity."
Q So now, Mr. Katzenberg, let's go
down to Question 6 on page 10.
There at the last few sentences of
Question No. 6, Mr. Stinson, they're also
quoting your testimony. The statement is
"The purpose and objective of a surface
casing is not to provide a barrier to gas or
oil leaving the wellbore."
Do you see that?
A Yes.
Q And let's look at Blade's response
on the next page at Question 6, subsection d.
It asks "Would knowledge of corrosion on the
surface casing provide the operator with any
useful information related to the safety of
the well?"

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1	Do you see the answer there?
2	A Yes, I do.
3	Q And what is the answer that Blade
4	gives?
5	A "Yes, assuming corrosion
6	information on the surface casing can be
7	obtained."
8	Q Thank you very much for that,
9	Mr. Stinson and Mr. Hower. My
10	cross-examination is concluded at this time.
11	ALJ POIRIER: Thank you, Ms. Bone.
12	We'll go off the record.
13	(Off the record.)
14	ALJ POIRIER: We'll be back on the
15	record. We'll be taking an afternoon break
16	until 2:38. Off the record.
17	(Off the record.)
18	ALJ POIRIER: We'll go back on the
19	record.
20	We're returning form a short break.
21	We discussed availability of witnesses. We
22	indicated to SoCalGas that Mr. Schwecke
23	should be available to go the morning of the
24	18th, but we're going to try to get
25	Boots & Coots to go on that date.
26	SoCalGas was instructed to provide
27	an update on the availability of
28	Boots & Coots by the close of business on

1	Thursday of this week. And at point, once we
2	have more information, ALJ Hecht and I will
3	act accordingly. At this point I want to
4	move ahead with the redirect of witnesses
5	Stinson and Hower.
6	Mr. Lotterman, please go ahead.
7	MR. LOTTERMAN: Thank you, your Honor.
8	REDIRECT EXAMINATION
9	BY MR. LOTTERMAN:
10	Q Mr. Stinson and Mr. Hower, I'm
11	going to walk through my redirect basically
12	in the order that Mr. Gruen and Ms. Bone went
13	through so it may be a little choppy, but I
14	think that's the most efficient way to do
15	this. I'm going to ask certain of you to
16	follow up on your answers for clarifications
17	and other times to give your respective views
18	if they weren't solicited by either Mr. Gruen
19	or Ms. Bone.
20	Obviously if you wish to seek
21	testimony from either one of you, please let
22	me know and we'll certainly accommodate that,
23	but I think we can move through this rather
24	quickly.
25	Mr. Hower, let's start with you.
26	Mr. Gruen started or we spent some time
27	yesterday with you discussing Well P-25. And
28	to orient everyone and we don't need to go

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1	through this in detail but to orient
2	everyone, he was asking you questions about
3	your reply testimony, SoCalGas-04-R at
4	page 13. The very first bullet of the list
5	of Blade's relevant casing failures talked
6	about a number of wells, 11 wells, and one of
7	them was P-25-R.
8	Do you remember that line of
9	questions, Mr. Hower?
10	WITNESS HOWER: Yes, I do.
11	Q Okay. And if I followed you
12	correctly and I just want to make sure
13	we're clear on the record here your
14	supporting documentation for that particular
15	well is set forth in Footnote 54; is that
16	correct?
17	A Yes, that is correct.
18	Q And if I understood the
19	testimony and, again, we don't need to go
20	through this ad nauseam but that in turn
21	directs attention to Exhibit 1-20 in your
22	SoCalGas Exhibit 5; is that correct?
23	A Yeah, I believe it's I-20 but, yes,
24	correct.
25	Q I-20, thank you. Again, we don't
26	need to walk through this on the screen or
27	whatever, but just for the record, could you
28	walk through what in Exhibit I-20 supports

1	the information that you provide on page
2	4.0062 of your reply testimony.
3	A Yes. As I was explaining to
4	Mr. Gruen, the first page in Exhibit I-20 is
5	a notice of intention to rework well P-25-R
6	and it's a 1977 notice. The questions that
7	Mr. Gruen was directing to me were asking why
8	did I characterize this well leak in this
9	or the well leaks in this well as being
10	identified and repaired during conversion of
11	the field based on this 1977 notice.
12	My answer was we had a bit of
13	back-and-forth between myself, Mr. Stinson,
14	and Mr. Gruen. But the answer to that is
15	this first page is just some additional
16	information of a notice of intent in 1977.
17	All the pages behind that, page 2, 3, 4,
18	et cetera, are the actual workover histories
19	from 1973, which supports the language in our
20	testimony because it deals with the
21	identification and repair of the leaks during
22	the conversion of this well from an oil well
23	to a gas storage well in 1973.
24	Q Thank you. Moving on to another
25	exhibit Mr. Gruen showed you, Mr. Hower,
26	Exhibit SED-302. Would you mind just pulling
27	that up quickly.
28	A I have it.

2	5	7	0

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1	Q Can you tell from Exhibit SED-302
2	what type of safety valve Schlumberger is
3	marketing here?
4	A Yes. This is a shallow set safety
5	valve designed to be used from zero to 2,500
6	feet. That's
7	(Crosstalk.)
8	BY MR. LOTTERMAN:
9	Q Excuse me. Where in this exhibit
10	do you find that information?
11	A The lower portion of the page, the
12	first page, where it's being highlighted on
13	our screen right now.
14	Q Could you tell from Exhibit SED-302
15	what the year of this publication was?
16	A Yes. On the second page, again, in
17	the very lower left, this document was
18	copyrighted in 2009.
19	Q Now, what is the difference between
20	a shallow-set subsurface safety valve and a
21	deep-set valve very briefly?
22	A The main difference is they're
23	designed usage. The deep-set safety valve,
24	like the one that was in the SS-25, is set
25	very deep in the well down by the actual gas
26	storage reservoir, so down around 8,000 feet.
27	The exhibit we're looking at that Mr. Gruen
28	directed me to is a shallow subsurface safety

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1	valve designed to be used up near the
2	surface.
3	Q Okay. Let's turn to SED Exhibit
4	303, please. Before we look at the document,
5	the exhibit in particular, I was wondering if
6	you would just explain for a moment what
7	exactly you reviewed in developing your
8	testimony on industry regulations, industry
9	standards, and industry prevailing practices.
10	Would you mind explaining to the judges the
11	difference between those three.
12	A Sure. The gas storage industry for
13	most of its life never really had anything in
14	the way of documented standards. For a long
15	period of time, through the '90s, the early
16	2000s, really up until just about the time of
17	the SS-25 incident, really all there was to
18	go on or to guide operators was industry
19	practice, which is really a comparison of
20	what the various operating companies and gas
21	storage were doing, and state regulations, so
22	California's regulations versus
23	Pennsylvania's regulations versus Kansas'
24	regulations.
25	And that's what the operators had
26	to go on. They had to look at their state
27	regulations and adhere to those and then look
28	at industry practices. It's only been very

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1	recently that we're seeing the move towards
2	documented national standards in gas storage.
3	So Mr. Stinson and I formed our
4	opinions and did our reviews based on our
5	experience and working with many of these
6	operators in a large over a hundred
7	different fields and in looking at
8	regulations, gas storage regulations, in all
9	31 states that have any kind of gas storage
10	operation.
11	Q Okay. And now focusing on Exhibit
12	SED-303, are you familiar with this document?
13	A Yes.
14	Q Is it a standard for applying
15	cathodic protection on underground storage
16	wells?
17	A It's a standard for really going
18	about an investigation to determine if you
19	should, if you need cathodic protection, if
20	you should put it in or not. It's a standard
21	more for analyzing your field or your
22	scenario to determine if it's appropriate to
23	use cathodic protection. ]
24	Q And where in this document can you
25	point to, if anywhere, language which
26	supports what you just said?
27	A The best place to look is Paragraph
28	1.2.

And would you just read the first 1 0 2 sentence into the record, please. If you want to get it on the 3 Α Yeah. screen, it's down a little further. We're 4 5 looking for paragraph 1.2. 6 Ο Next page, please. 7 Α Yeah. You got to get through some There we go. nomenclature. 8 9 So Paragraph 1.2 starts with: 10 This standard does not designate 11 practices for specific situations. 12 Does it explain in the next 0 13 sentence why it takes that view? 14 Α Yeah. In fact, very similar to 15 what is expressed in our testimony, it 16 discusses the complexity and the difficulties 17 and the challenges in applying cathodic 18 protection when your wells are in close 19 proximity to other wells, when you have 20 certain environmental conditions. 21 0 And did SoCalGas, in fact, 22 implement or put in cathodic protection on 23 some wells at Aliso Canyon? 24 Α Yes, they did. 25 And do you know why they did some 0 wells? 26 27 Α Yes. They implemented cathodic protection on a number of wells, and it was 2.8

1	
1	those wells that were located in portions of
2	the field where they were relatively remote
3	and away from other wells, both in the
4	storage zone and shallower wells.
5	There's quite a lot of information
6	in this document, this NACE document, that
7	talks about interference currents, and the
8	problems that those interference currents can
9	cause. They can actually make corrosion
10	worse. Rather than stop corrosion, you can
11	put in cathodic protection and actually
12	accelerate corrosion if you have interference
13	currents.
14	So where SoCalGas did implement
15	cathodic protection in Aliso Canyon, it was
16	done with a lot of thought and to where these
17	wells are, where they're located, and their
18	proximity to potential interference currents.
19	Q Did SoCalGas equip FF-34A with
20	cathodic protection?
21	A Yes.
22	Q Let's turn to the next exhibit that
23	Mr. Gruen asked you about, SED-304. Let's go
24	to the Bates-stamped page that ends 1865.
25	Mr. Moshfegh, if you would start at
26	the very first sentence, I believe Mr. Gruen
27	called that out. Does it read:
28	It is recommended that FF-34A be

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1	equipped with cathodic protection
2	(CP)?
3	A Yes, it does.
4	Q And if you go down to the fourth
5	very short paragraph, does it say:
6	If funds are available, the
7	division should equip FF-34A with
8	CP as soon as is operationally
9	feasible?
10	A Yes, it does.
11	Q And if I understand your earlier
12	answer, did, in fact, SoCalGas do so?
13	A Yes, they did.
14	Q Why were they able to do it at
15	FF-34A?
16	A Again, it was I mean, they could
17	put cathodic protection in anywhere, but they
18	did it here because it was a well that was
19	relatively remote and their evaluation of the
20	situation indicated that that was a location
21	that was feasible to put in cathodic
22	protection without having to worry about the
23	destructive interference currents.
24	Q Thank you, Mr. Hower. We'll keep
25	you on the hot seat for a couple more
26	minutes.
27	Mr. Gruen asked you a couple
28	questions about reviewing the well files and

	23/0
1	I believe you gave him the confirmed date
2	today of June 2018. Do you remember that
3	line of questioning?
4	A Yes, I do.
5	Q What does the June 2018 date
6	signify?
7	A That was our first opportunity to
8	meet with Mr. Neville in his office with all
9	of the well files from the Aliso Canyon
10	field, all the hard-copy well files.
11	Q And how many subsequent visits did
12	you have after June 2018?
13	A Well, I believe I testified about
14	this on Friday. It was three or four. We
15	met with Mr. Neville for three or four
16	different times, each time spending at least
17	a full day working with him in his office
18	going through all the well files.
19	Q So, actually, go back to an earlier
20	answer you gave. Do you have a sense in
21	reviewing the well files as to how SoCalGas
22	decided whether to put cathodic protection on
23	certain wells?
24	A I'm sorry. Could you repeat that?
25	Q I guess, what I was asking is, in
26	understanding which wells SoCalGas, in fact,
27	did equip with cathodic protection, was there
28	a common factor or denominator?

1	A Well, again, I think it really had
2	to do with where the wells were located, and
3	if they were in a portion of the field that
4	was viable to equipment with cathodic
5	protection.
6	Q Do you recall what portion of Aliso
7	Canyon field it was?
8	A Yeah. I believe it's the
9	southeastern portion of the field, which is
10	relatively distant from the SS-25 well.
11	Q How is the field that SS-25 is in
12	different from that southeastern area?
13	A Well, for one thing, it has very
14	high well density. Just the SS-25 pad alone
15	has three wells within a few hundred feet of
16	each other. That's literally a nightmare for
17	cathodic protection because, again, if you
18	design a cathodic protection program for the
19	SS-25 itself, and you don't have everything
20	perfectly balanced and worked out, which is
21	extremely difficult to do, you will get
22	interference currents and accelerate
23	corrosion on the other wells that are
24	impacted.
25	Q Does the western portion of Aliso
26	Canyon facility also have other producers
27	with other wells?
28	A Yes, it does. It has shallower

wells that are not in gas storage operations, 1 but shallower oil wells, and those will be 2 impacted also. 3 In a positive way or a negative 4 0 5 way? Very negative way because you 6 Α 7 wouldn't be designing your program for those wells and the nodes that you use for your 8 9 cathodic protection currents are at the 10 surface. So those currents have to get from 11 the surface down to the portion of the well 12 you're trying to protect. 13 And, again, if those currents 14 happen to pass by and impact shallower wells 15 that are not in the design, they're going to 16 cause corrosion on those wells. 17 All right. Let's turn to SED 0 18 Exhibit 306, which I believe, Mr. Hower, 19 Mr. Gruen also asked you about. 20 And I would like to go to the very 21 last page of this exhibit, Mr. Moshfegh, 22 SED-306.002. 23 Now, Mr. Gruen asked you a number of questions, Mr. Hower, if you recall, about 24 25 the leak or leaks at Frew 3; do you remember 26 that? 27 Yes, I do. Α 2.8 0 And I believe he showed you one

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1	portion of your testimony and asked you if
2	you were able to find a discussion of the
3	leaks in that portion, and I believe your
4	answer was no; is that right?
5	A In the portion of the discussion
6	that, yeah, that Mr. Gruen was pointing me
7	to; correct.
8	Q Okay. And in Response No. 1 on
9	page 2 of this exhibit, Mr. Moshfegh, would
10	you just highlight Answer B.
11	So the question is:
12	In support of the answer to
13	Question 1A, please provide copies
14	of the well file pages that show
15	the dates, methods of inspection,
16	and type of repair.
17	Do you see that?
18	A Yes.
19	Q During lunch were you able to
20	review the document with Bates
21	No. AC_CPUC_0022894?
22	A Yes, I was.
23	Q And does that, in fact, provide the
24	dates and the methods of inspections and the
25	type of repairs that Mr. Gruen was asking
26	about vis-à-vis Well Frew-3?
27	A Yes. It's a very documented
28	wellbore diagram showing the location of the

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1	leak, listing the dates and the
2	identification and the treatment.
3	Q And, in fact, did Mr. Gruen provide
4	you that document in preparation for cross
5	and label it "SED-307"?
6	A Yes. That's correct.
7	Q All right. Mr. Stinson, you're up.
8	WITNESS STINSON: Okay.
9	Q A couple questions for you, sir.
10	You mentioned Ms. Bone showed
11	you an exhibit that she marked as CalPA-408.
12	Let me just get it in front of me here. Here
13	it is. And it talked about risk assessments
14	as well as qualitative risk assessment. Do
15	you remember that line of questions?
16	A Yes, I do.
17	Q In one of your answers, you spoke
18	about an Interim Final Rule; what were you
19	referring to?
20	A Yeah. Late in 2016, PHMSA, which
21	is the Pipeline Hazardous Material Safety
22	Administration issued a rule related to
23	underground gas storage that became effective
24	in January 2017, and in part that rule
25	adopted portions of a recommended practice,
26	that one by American Petroleum Institute
27	Recommended Practice 1171, which was
28	published in September of 2015.

1	And in that document it was sort of
2	a first attempt by the American Petroleum
3	Institute to put in place some standards to
4	be followed or in this case recommended
5	practices to be followed by the gas storage
6	industry, but that included certain elements
7	related to risk assessments.
8	Q Okay. I'm sorry. I thought you
9	were done.
10	A Well, I just wanted to finish up.
11	PHMSA made that rule final in July
12	of 2020, and in that, they adopted certain
13	segments of RP 1171, but not the entire
14	document.
15	Q Okay. And just to be clear, was
16	that rule issued and adopted by PHMSA after
17	the SS-25 leak?
18	A Yes, it was.
19	Q And is that rule or that standard
20	sort of described as API 1171 in the
21	industry?
22	A Yes. API RP 1171, Recommended
23	Practice 1171.
24	Q And how did and is that
25	recommended practice operable today; operated
26	by SoCalGas?
27	A Yes, it is.
28	Q Now, how did the issuance, just

,	
1	briefly, of API Recommended Practice 1171
2	change the landscape or the practices for gas
3	operators vis-à-vis qualitative risk
4	assessment.
5	A Yeah. It provided a very good
6	blueprint for going about risk assessments,
7	what threats should be looked at, how
8	operators should view those various threats,
9	and it gave a really good blueprint for just
10	the steps to follow in performing that kind
11	of assessment.
12	Q Does the blueprint require a more
13	formal or formalistic risk assessment?
14	A Yes, it does.
15	Q How so?
16	A There's required documentation that
17	involves looking well by well, assessing each
18	individual penetration of the gas storage
19	reservoir, whether it's an operating well or
20	a previous well that had been plugged and
21	abandoned. So there's a fair bit of
22	documentation required and recordkeeping
23	associated with that.
24	Q And are gas operators, underground
25	storage gas operators, like SoCalGas,
26	attempting to implement the new Recommended
27	Practices of API 1171 today?
28	A Yes, they are.

1	Q Mr. Hower, back to you because I
2	believe Mr. Stinson was asked these questions
3	and I would like to get your perspective on
4	them as well.
5	Let's turn to CalPA Exhibit 410. I
6	believe Ms. Bone asked Mr. Stinson about
7	this, and so we'd like to get your
8	perspective as well if you would.
9	What I am going to do, I'm going to
10	reverse the order, and I'm just going to kind
11	of walk through the document in the order
12	that the answers are laid out. Let's start
13	with Question 4. Let me know what you are
14	there, Mr. Hower.
15	WITNESS HOWER: I'm there.
16	Q If I understood your answers,
17	Ms. Bone's question addresses whether or not
18	SoCalGas had a reasonable understanding of
19	groundwater depths in and around the SS-25
20	well. Is that gist of the question?
21	A Yes. That's correct.
22	Q And in your review, did SoCalGas
23	have a reasonable understanding of the
24	groundwater depth vis-à-vis the casing shoe,
25	the production casing, in and around the well
26	SS-25?
27	A Yes. Absolutely.
28	Q How?

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1	A Well, the I mean, I guess, first
2	thing as a bit of a preface, the term
3	"groundwater" is being used pretty
4	indiscriminately in the conversations here,
5	including the Blade report and all the
6	testimony.
7	Blade really never defines what
8	they mean by "groundwater." To me well,
9	not just to me, but if you look up the United
10	States Geological Survey, their definition of
11	"groundwater" is "water in the ground,"
12	whether it's at the surface or down 8,000
13	feet at the storage zone.
14	That being said, my interpretation
15	of the way Blade is using "groundwater" is to
16	describe fresh water zones near the surface,
17	and SoCalGas was certainly aware of those
18	because their surface casing was set
19	consistent with DOGGR regulations at the time
20	so that it was deep enough below the deepest
21	fresh water zone.
22	Below that, is still groundwater.
23	It just becomes brackish and more and more
24	saline until you have brine. And SoCalGas
25	was well aware of that and SoCalGas was well
26	aware of the potential risks associated with
27	that.
28	When you put steel in the ground,

	VOI 10 - May 10, 2021 2005
1	you're going to get corrosion. It's not a
2	question of if; it's a question of when. And
3	the way you deal with that and the way you
4	manage that is to have a well-thought-out
5	testing and survey program to indicate if and
6	when you have issues with corrosion that need
7	to be mitigated.
8	And as we've seen, SoCalGas had a
9	very robust program of running annual
10	surveys, monitoring the field for corrosion,
11	they so they were well aware of the impact of
12	the groundwater, both above the surface
13	casing shoe, where you have potable water,
14	and below the casing shoe, where you have
15	brines and more saline waters.
16	Q All right. Let's turn, if you
17	would, Mr. Hower, to page 10 of Cal Advocates
18	410, and I want to focus on Blade's response,
19	which is set forth in 2.5.1. I believe this
20	is response to Question 5.
21	So to move this along a little bit,
22	the question is:
23	Does Blade agree that and I
24	believe they're quoting your
25	testimony based on the
26	historical data in the Aliso
27	Canyon field, there was no reason
28	for SoCalGas to anticipate there

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1	might be a potential problem with
2	corrosion of the production casing
3	at a depth above the surface
4	casing shoe inside the annulus
5	between the production casing and
6	the surface casing as occurred in
7	the SS-25 well.
8	What was Blade's response?
9	A "Yes."
10	Q And when asked why or why not Blade
11	agreed with you, what was their answer?
12	A Their answer that was historically
13	that corrosion above the casing shoe was only
14	observed in two instances with 116 wells and
15	a history of almost 40 years. It was
16	extremely rare.
17	Q Let's move to Question 6. And,
18	again, to get your perspective on it. I know
19	Mr. Stinson had his time.
20	Question 6, the question is:
21	Does Blade agree with the
22	statement and this is out of
23	your testimony basically that
24	the purpose and objective of
25	surface casings is not to provide
26	a barrier to gas or oil leaving
27	the wellbore.
28	What was their answer? ]

1	
1	A They agreed. They said yes.
2	Q Okay. And then I believe Ms. Bone
3	jumped down to Question d and focused on
4	that. I'd like you to elaborate on that if
5	you would. The question is "Would knowledge
6	of the corrosion on the surface casing
7	provide the operator with any useful
8	information related to the safety of the
9	well?"
10	What was Blade's response?
11	A I'm sorry, I missed it when you
12	jumped oh, there it is, d; correct?
13	Q Yes.
14	A Okay.
15	Q So page 11 of 17, the answer to
16	Question d.
17	A Sorry, I heard e. Yes. Their
18	answer was "Yes, assuming that corrosion
19	information on the surface casing can be
20	obtained."
21	Q Now, what does it mean to say
22	"assuming corrosion information on the
23	surface casing can be obtained"?
24	A Oh, generally it's impossible to be
25	able to monitor your surface casing for
26	corrosion because inside your surface casing
27	is your production casing, and inside your
28	production casing, in some cases, is your

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1	tubing. Now, the tubing isn't cemented so it
2	can be removed, but the production casing is
3	cemented in.
4	The tools that are used in the gas
5	storage industry and the tools that were
6	available at the time of the SS-25 incident
7	can only take measurements. The casing
8	inspection logs can only measure one string
9	of tubing. So that production inspection
10	log or casing inspection log, excuse me
11	would be able to make some measurements on
12	the production casing but not the surface
13	casing.
14	Blade had the benefit of being able
15	to come in and literally rip the well apart
16	by extracting the production casing, but
17	that's not something that's practical to do
18	in a well that's in an in an operating
19	well that's in service in a field.
20	Q In one of your earlier answers,
21	Mr. Hower, you said that SoCalGas is well
22	aware of the potential risk of groundwater.
23	In what sense?
24	A In the sense that if you again,
25	if you put steel in the ground, you're always
26	going to have the possibility of corrosion.
27	It's not something you have to inquire about.
28	It happened. Steel and water equals rust,

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1	and so they were well aware of that and they
2	designed a casing integrity program, a risk
3	management program to monitor that.
4	Q And is knowing the groundwater in
5	the area important in setting the surface
6	casing depth?
7	A If yes, in terms of
8	understanding where the fresh water zones are
9	in that groundwater and where they stop so
10	that your surface casing one of the main
11	purposes of surface casing is to protect
12	fresh water zones during the drilling of the
13	well. So you need to make sure you
14	operators need to make sure they set that
15	surface casing deep enough so that it is
16	below the deepest fresh water zone as
17	stipulated by, in this case, DOGGR.
18	Q Finally, let's turn to Question 8.
19	Again, we're on Cal Advocates Exhibit 410.
20	This is on page 14. This is a rather long
21	one so I'm not going to bother to re-cap it.
22	Basically Ms. Bone asked Mr. Stinson a number
23	of questions about risk assessments and the
24	like.
25	My question to you is in reviewing
26	all of the hard copy well files at Aliso
27	Canyon, as well as certain electronic data,
28	did you get an understanding as to whether or

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	VOI 10 - May 10, 2021 2000
1	not SoCalGas was historically assessing risk
2	across that facility?
3	A Yes, I did. And I think
4	Mr. Stinson talked about it in the context of
5	what he and I would call an informal risk
6	management or risk assessment plan. They had
7	a long history with a lot of wells and annual
8	measurements essentially on all these wells,
9	monitoring any kind of anomalies, any kind of
10	casing leaks, any kind of issues, potential
11	issues, with corrosion.
12	By, you know, 1988, 1990, they had
13	over 15 years of history in monitoring these
14	wells. So they knew that they were able
15	to look at that and determine is there any
16	trend, is there any correlation to the
17	corrosion that does occur, is there any
18	correlation with depth, is there any
19	correlation with the age of the wells, is
20	there any correlation with the location of
21	the well, hot spots if you will.
22	And the answer and this is not
23	just my opinion, but also the opinion of
24	Blade the answer is there wasn't. There
25	was no trend, no correlation. And over the
26	years, as we've seen, until the SS-25, there
27	never was a release an uncontrolled
28	release of gas to the surface. There never

1	
1	was gas lost to the surface in any
2	significant quantity. Their program worked.
3	Q Gentlemen, out of all the gas
4	storage facilities you've either put boots on
5	the ground or you've worked on remotely or
6	otherwise, how would you rank SoCalGas in
7	that group?
8	Mr. Hower, why don't you start.
9	A I would put them in if I had to,
10	say, make three baskets, top, medium, low,
11	I'd put them in the upper third.
12	Q Mr. Stinson?
13	WITNESS STINSON: Yeah, I agree with
14	that, I mean to the extent that I actually
15	copied some of the things they had in place
16	in the early '80s that we incorporated in our
17	Mist gas field development and my interaction
18	with the SoCal people who were
19	representatives on the AGA underground
20	storage committee. I think SoCal is one of
21	the pioneers and really did a lot of R&D on
22	the whole subsurface safety valves. There's
23	a lot of things I could point to that really
24	kind of puts them in that upper tier.
25	MR. LOTTERMAN: Your Honor, I have no
26	further questions.
27	ALJ POIRIER: Thank you, Mr. Lotterman.
28	Let's go off the record.

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(Off the record.) 1 2 ALJ POIRIER: Let's go back on the record. 3 While we were off the record, I 4 inquired of both SED and Cal Advocates and 5 they indicated they did not have any recross 6 7 for these witnesses. Therefore, Mr. Stinson and Mr. Hower, thank you. You are done. 8 Ι 9 appreciate your time and your participation 10 in these hearings. Thank you. 11 WITNESS HOWER: Thank you, your Honor. 12 WITNESS STINSON: Thank you. 13 ALJ POIRIER: Let's go back off the 14 record. (Off the record.) 15 16 ALJ POIRIER: Let's go back on the 17 record. 18 We're now going to deal with 19 exhibits and moving them into the record. 20 We'll start with SoCalGas. 21 MR. MOSHFEGH: Thank you, your Honor. The first exhibit is SoCalGas-04.2, the 22 23 Prepared Reply Testimony of Tim Hower and 2.4 Charlie Stinson of MHA Petroleum Consultants 25 served March 20, 2020. The second exhibit is SoCalGas-04-R, 26 27 the redline version of the Prepared Testimony of Tim Hower and Charlie Stinson of MHA 2.8

1 Petroleum Consultants, also originally served March 20, 2020. 2 The third exhibit is SoCalGas-05, 3 the Exhibit to the Prepared Reply Testimony 4 of Tim Hower and Charlie Stinson of MHA 5 Petroleum Consultants. 6 7 The next exhibit is SoCalGas-27, Prepared Sur-Reply Testimony of Tim Hower and 8 9 Charlie Stinson of MHA Petroleum Consultants, 10 originally served June 30, 2020. 11 And the last exhibit is SoCalGas-28, Exhibit to the Prepared Reply Testimony of 12 Tim Hower and Charlie Stinson of MHA 13 14 Petroleum Consultants, originally served 15 June 30, 2020. 16 ALJ POIRIER: And SoCalGas asks that these exhibits be moved? 17 18 MR. MOSHFEGH: Yes, your Honor. 19 SoCalGas requests that these Exhibits be 20 moved into the record. 21 ALJ POIRIER: Thank you. 22 Do we have any objections to moving these exhibits into the record? 23 24 MS. PURCHIA: No objections from SED. 25 MS. BONE: No objections from Cal Advocates. 26 27 ALJ POIRIER: Thank you. 2.8 Exhibits SoCalGas-04.2,

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SoCalGas-04-R, SoCalGas-05, SoCalGas-27, and
SoCalGas-28 are moved into the record. Thank
you.
(Exhibit No. SoCalGas-04.2 was received into evidence.)
(Exhibit No. SoCalGas-04-R was received into evidence.)
(Exhibit No. SoCalGas-05 was received into evidence.)
(Exhibit Nos. SoCalGas-27 and SoCalGas-28 were received into evidence.)
ALJ POIRIER: Let's move to SED,
Ms. Purchia.
MS. PURCHIA: Thank you, your Honor.
We have Exhibit SED-302, Schlumberger WRDP-02

14 MS. PURCHIA: Than 15 We have Exhibit SED-302, Series Safety Valve; SED-303, NACE Standard 16 17 Practice Application of Cathodic Protection 18 for External Surfaces of Steel Well Casings; 19 SED-304, Interoffice Correspondence RE FF-34A 20 Casing Corrosion, Aliso Canyon; and SED-306, 21 SoCalGas Response to SED Data Request-65, 22 Question 1.

23 SED requests to move these into the 24 record. 25 Thank you, Ms. Purchia. ALJ POIRIER: Does any party object to moving 26 these into the record? 27 28 MR. MOSHFEGH: No objection, your

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1	Honor.	
2	ALJ POIRIER: Thank you.	
3	Exhibits SED-302, 303, 304, and 306	
4	are moved into the record.	
5	(Exhibit Nos. SED-302, SED-303 and SED-304 were received into	
6	evidence.)	
7	(Exhibit No. SED-306 was received into evidence.)	
8		
9	ALJ POIRIER: Let's move to Cal	
10	Advocates, please.	
11	MS. BONE: Cal Advocates would like to	
12	move SoCalGas Data Response to	
13	CalAdvocates-38 identified as Exhibit Cal	
14	Advocates Exhibit 408 into the record and	
15	Cal Advocates would like to submit Exhibit	
16	CalPA-410 into the record, Blade Response to	
17	SED Data Request-78.	
18	ALJ POIRIER: Do we have any objections	
19	to moving these exhibits into the record?	
20	MR. MOSHFEGH: No objections from	
21	SoCalGas, your Honor.	
22	ALJ POIRIER: The Cal Advocates motion	
23	is granted. The Exhibits Cal Advocates-408	
24	and 410 are moved into the record. Thank	
25	you.	
26	(Exhibit No. CalAdvocates-408 was received into evidence.)	
27	(Exhibit No. CalAdvocates-410 was	
28	received into evidence.)	

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1	ALJ POIRIER: Let's go off the record.
2	(Off the record.)
3	ALJ HECHT: We'll be back on the
4	record.
5	Mr. Gruen, could you repeat that
6	more briefly, please, and
7	MR. GRUEN: Yes, your Honor.
8	ALJ HECHT: you are off the video
9	again.
10	MR. GRUEN: Apologies for the video,
11	the technical difficulties. I am doing the
12	best I can. I'm trying to restart the video.
13	Is that any better? Okay. I'm seeing nods.
14	Thank you.
15	Your Honor, with regards to the
16	deposition of Mr. Holter, we would ask that
17	the there was a question about the
18	six-hour time limits for Mr. Holter. I think
19	we were looking for resolution on that.
20	Also, we would ask we're in the process of
21	reviewing Mr. Holter's field notes and photos
22	taken, privileged. Some of that information
23	may be privileged. We'd ask that what's
24	allowed to be discovered as part of the
25	deposition be limited to the field notes and
26	the photos that Mr. Holter took so that we
27	can move forward expeditiously.
28	ALJ HECHT: Yes, Mr. Stoddard.

1	MR. STODDARD: Thank you, your Honor.
2	Just to restate, the original request for
3	production in the subpoena that was included
4	for the deposition, it was for all documents
5	within the possession of Mr. Holter related
6	to the Aliso Canyon incident, all documents
7	generated or evaluated by Mr. Holter related
8	to the Aliso Canyon incident, and all
9	communications related to the Aliso Canyon
10	incident on which Mr. Holter is included.
11	SED moved to quash the deposition.
12	That was subject to the motion for
13	reconsideration after your Honors initially
14	denied it. In the ruling on reconsideration,
15	your Honors granted that deposition as to
16	at least my reading again, as to
17	Mr. Holter and his work, and whose
18	availability and asked for his
19	availability for a deposition as a percipient
20	witness to SED's preformal investigation.
21	Percipient witness here, I'm not
22	sure whether SED has a different
23	understanding of the term. We have reviewed
24	SED's motion for it to quash. And, again,
25	the ruling on this issue in our view was
26	fairly clear and was not perhaps as narrow as
27	SED appears to still be interpreting it.
28	ALJ HECHT: Mr. Gruen.

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1	MR. GRUEN: Your Honor, I did my best
2	to summarize, but I'm surprised, frankly, I'm
3	aghast that SoCalGas is now going back to its
4	original deposition, or its original notice
5	of request, when I had understood your Honors
6	were clear that the ruling applied to him
7	only as a percipient witness, not to
8	documents and communications.
9	We're trying to be up front here to
10	make clear that there are perhaps certain
11	documents that relate to Mr. Holter as a
12	percipient witness, but that is very narrow.
13	Our understanding of percipient, to be clear,
14	is what Mr. Holter observed out there.
15	To the extent that he observed
16	things and wrote notes about what he
17	observed, perhaps that's fair game. Perhaps.
18	But we're trying to be clear so that we're
19	not having an argument down the road at the
20	deposition as to what's fair game and what's
21	not. We anticipate that this could enable a
22	streamlined process to get clarity that his
23	field notes and photos are that are not
24	privileged, of course, that he took that show
25	what observations he made, are fair game.
26	Other than that, we could be going
27	down a road that's going to take a lot of
28	time and labor-intensive efforts to figure

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1	out whether things are privileged. They're
2	now going back to asking about
3	communications, which is not his observations
4	now. We're talking about communications that
5	have to do with his role as an advisory
6	staffer. We're now back beyond the scope of
7	the ruling, your Honor. We would ask
8	that's why we're asking for clarity that the
9	ruling, sticking with it we think it's
10	consistent to stick with field notes and
11	photos that to which privilege does not
12	apply.
13	ALJ HECHT: Yes, Mr. Stoddard.
14	MR. STODDARD: Your Honor, I believe,
15	as I noted the first time we argued this
16	issue a few weeks back, percipient witness
17	does not that term in and of itself does
18	not mean what Mr. Holter observed while he
19	was at Aliso Canyon. Percipient witness
20	stands in contrast to expert witness or PMQ
21	or PMK, and he can have perceptions about
22	documents, and he can have observations about
23	documents, things he perceived includes
24	documents. It's a direct witness. It's just
25	that, again, this is in contrast to an expert
26	witness or a PMQ or a PMK witness.
27	In terms of SED's objection to my
28	reading of the ruling, I'm not sure what to

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1	say. Again, I'm reading back what the ruling
2	says regarding his availability for a
3	deposition as a percipient witness to SED's
4	preformal investigation. And, again, you can
5	be a percipient witness to something you work
6	on. The ALJ's ruling understands that, and I
7	think it's clear. I'm not sure what further
8	argument is really appropriate or necessary
9	on this point at this time.
10	ALJ HECHT: Mr. Gruen.
11	MR. GRUEN: Your Honor, if we're going
12	to broaden this to any document that he
13	worked on, including potentially
14	communications with decision makers,
15	communication while he was advisory if
16	we're going to extend it to that, we're going
17	to have a lengthy potentially a lengthy
18	privilege log that's going to take a long
19	time and it's going to be put before we're
20	going to have to probably put it before your
21	Honors to do a line-by-line assessment as to
22	whether privilege applies. I mean this is
23	the nature of what SoCalGas' request has
24	suddenly evolved to.
25	So the burden has suddenly shifted
26	to a much greater degree than what we had
27	initially understood and contemplated by the

28

ruling.

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1	ALJ HECHT: Mr. Stoddard.
2	MR. STODDARD: Thank you, your Honor.
3	We're not changing anything. I literally,
4	again, I'm reading your Honors' ruling here.
5	I would also note that the ruling
6	specifically directed SED to brief the issue
7	of privilege to the degree that I believe the
8	privilege applied in this context. It did
9	not do so. Instead, it re-argued issues it
10	had previously briefed.
11	At this point in time, again, I
12	understand SED may be providing a privilege
13	log, but we will absolutely be carefully
14	assessing and reviewing any claims of
15	privilege in this case given that they did
16	not brief the issue as directed, and any
17	claims of privilege would need to be
18	substantiated both as to fact and law. ]
19	MR. GRUEN: Your Honor, may I address
20	that briefly?
21	ALJ HECHT: I think I'm going to stop
22	you using the word "briefly." Yes. Please,
23	go ahead.
24	MR. GRUEN: Thank you, your Honor. I
25	understand.
26	This is not a matter of briefing an
27	issue about privilege. Now that we have the
28	ruling, we're coming forward to say, hey,

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1	here potentially are some notes, and now that
2	we have guidance, instructions about doing a
3	percipient witness deposition, we're looking
4	at them and seeing afresh if privilege
5	applies.
6	We're trying to figure that out and
7	flag that for you. It's not a matter of a
8	briefing. It's a matter of looking at what's
9	out there now that we know there's guidance
10	and figuring out for the first time if
11	privilege applies.
12	So, your Honor, we're doing our best
13	here, but I think there may be a
14	misunderstanding as to what the role is to
15	move forward to have an expeditious and
16	efficient deposition here. We need to take a
17	look at those notes. I assume that we're
18	going to provide them, but we have to see if
19	there's privilege, if certain things in those
20	notes are privileged, and identify them as
21	such.
22	ALJ HECHT: All right. Thank you.
23	There are a couple things that I think are
24	pretty easy, and that is field notes and
25	photographs, clearly, seem to be within the
26	scope.
27	The scope did not exclude all
28	documents. So I think that SED's proposal

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1	that those be part of the scope of this is
2	correct, and we will at least go that far
3	today. We did not address on a
4	document-by-document or question-by-question
5	level any issues of privilege and I don't
6	think we expected to. We were asking about
7	privilege with respect to whether he could be
8	a percipient witnesses. So there may be
9	documents that are privileged. I do not
10	know.
11	What I would like to do is resolve
12	the questions that I can and defer the other
13	questions to a future time. I will say the
14	request was for either six hours or from
15	SoCalGas seven hours for the deposition.
16	We're going to stick with the six hours.
17	And I'm going to say, clearly, yes,
18	those field notes and photographs and things
19	that were, obviously, observations of
20	Mr. Holter's work are within the scope and
21	should be provided.
22	For things other than that, there
23	may be a review process, and one of you
24	mentioned that that would probably end up
25	coming in front of us, as the ALJs, and
26	you're probably right, and I think I'm not
27	going to try to answer that question now.
28	If you want to refine the question

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1	slightly now, we can try to work on it over
2	the next few days, but as far as I'm prepared
3	to go today is please turn over the field
4	notes and the photos, things that are,
5	obviously, not privileged and, obviously, are
6	related to his experience there.
7	Yes, Mr. Gruen.
8	MR. GRUEN: Your Honor, we may need to
9	do some refinement, but I think a couple
10	things: One is having I need an
11	opportunity to review the field notes to tell
12	whether information on them is privileged
13	whether some of the information on them is
14	privileged. So we'll review them
15	expeditiously at the end of hearings to see,
16	but that's going to take some time to figure
17	out.
18	And the other thing is just to
19	clarify. My understanding is we're limiting
20	our role to the review of the photos and the
21	field notes at this point.
22	Am I tracking that right? Or is
23	there that's my understanding of how the
24	term "documents" is applied in this case.
25	ALJ HECHT: Mr. Stoddard.
26	MR. STODDARD: Thank you, your Honor.
27	In the course of reviewing and
28	collecting documents, given what we believe,

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1	our understanding was that your Honors were
2	considering the date issue, but, otherwise,
3	were not intending to revise the language of
4	the ruling as it was issued, the ruling on
5	the motion for reconsideration.
6	The language in that ruling is
7	fairly clear in our view. And, again, I
8	think the scope is broader than SED is
9	characterizing it for sure. And it relates
10	to Mr. Holter's role as a percipient witness
11	as to SED's preformal investigation not just
12	the leak itself. However, to the degree that
13	there's kind of an interim, initial step,
14	which is what it sounds like your Honor is
15	contemplating, that they at least begin
16	production of notes and photographs, field
17	notes sorry and photographs. In the
18	course of that, they may also look at other
19	documents.
20	And we would just like it to be
21	clear that they shouldn't be limiting their
22	review. They should be even if they are
23	for now possibly providing an incremental,
24	initial production because just so we
25	don't have to restart this process for
26	purposes of some kind of a privilege log if
27	they are going to claim that certain
28	communications notes or documents within

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1	Mr. Holter's possession are privileged.			
2	ALJ HECHT: I was trying to make things			
3	easier, and I believe that I was not clear.			
4	I am contemplating that there is this initial			
5	step that there are certain things that,			
6	clearly, would not be privileged, and I think			
7	most, if not all, of the field notes, fine.			
8	Review them. But the field notes and the			
9	photos you have offered, and I think are			
10	clearly within the scope.			
11	We are going to take under			
12	advisement what, if anything else, we want to			
13	adopt as a limit. The ruling contains two			
14	limitations, the percipient witness to the			
15	preformal investigation. So that gives you a			
16	time period and the type of witness. Beyond			
17	that, we can go back, and if you can ask your			
18	questions a little more specifically about			
19	the types of documents you're talking about,			
20	we can consider that, but I prefer not to do			
21	too much of that today. So I'm not sure			
22	exactly where that leaves us, but is that at			
23	least as far as it goes?			
24	(No response.)			
25	ALJ HECHT: I think silence probably			
26	means that it is not.			
27	MR. GRUEN: I think where the			
28	discrepancy was that I'm hearing is I'm			

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1	clear on your point about field notes and
2	sort of with an understanding that we may
3	identify certain privileges on the field,
4	that we have an opportunity.
5	Where I think Mr. Stoddard has
6	exceeded that is his assertion that we then
7	need to go beyond and talk about
8	communications.
9	That is going to be that's going
10	to be problematic, and it's going to take
11	extensive time. We're talking about
12	communications during the time he was
13	advisory staff, that where there is, you
14	know, deliberative processes, the
15	deliberative process in the application,
16	there is an issue. That's a concern.
17	Now, with that in mind, we can take
18	your Honor's guidance back, and be more
19	precise with that, but I do want to I'm
20	hearing a discrepancy there in what
21	Mr. Stoddard is pushing for, and I do want to
22	flag what he is asking for is going to be an
23	immense burden.
24	That's one word that can talk about
25	hundreds of communications that would
26	maybe more than 1,000, that would require us
27	to hold, evaluate, assess, put that forward.
28	That would take a long time.

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1	That would be a whole separate
2	process, and we think, frankly, what we're
3	talking about here in terms of the actual
4	deposition and the limited value that we
5	identified, we think that's excessive.
6	That's just, frankly, not necessary to get at
7	what Mr. Holter actually observed when he was
8	out there. We think that just immense burden
9	to place on SED and not a justified one
10	either.
11	ALJ HECHT: That is a question we will
12	need to consult on and weigh.
13	Mr. Stoddard, your response.
14	MR. STODDARD: Thank you, your Honor.
15	Only because Mr. Gruen continues to
16	repeat this apparent limitation that he
17	believes that is there, which is what
18	Mr. Holter observed when he was out there.
19	Again, that is not what the ruling
20	says. The ruling says: Mr. Holter, as a
21	percipient witness to SED's preformal
22	investigation, which went up until the
23	initiation of this OII.
24	And the other point I would just
25	make here, is that the reason we need a
26	privilege log that included communication,
27	putting aside the scope of our actual
28	subpoena, which and that's what it

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1	included, is that it enables us to test and
2	assess their privilege claim.
3	If Mr. Gruen is asserting that any
4	communication that Mr. Holter would have been
5	on related to Aliso Canyon within the
6	Commission is, in fact, privileged, then he
7	needs to substantiate that.
8	And so far we've had a lot of
9	pleadings on this issue, and I don't believe
10	that SED has substantiated that to the point
11	where we are able to test it.
12	And I would also just note, and it's
13	worth noting, we have pending motions to
14	compel on this exact issue where we have
15	asked SED to specifically substantiate
16	specific facts that would help us assess the
17	contours of their claimed privilege.
18	And they didn't do so, which is why
19	on a pending motion to compel, if they're
20	going to take a similar approach at this
21	time, they need to articulate the factual and
22	legal basis for claiming that all
23	communications are privileged such that they
24	don't need to prepare a privilege log.
25	ALJ HECHT: I can no longer see
26	Mr. Gruen, which concerns me. Mr. Gruen, do
27	you have a short response?
28	(No response.)

	1 ·
1	ALJ HECHT: All right. I'll take that
2	as either a "no" or that we have lost,
3	Mr. Gruen. There you are.
4	MR. GRUEN: Your Honor, I apologize. I
5	was just trying to fix my video.
6	Your Honor, this is we have
7	concerns about just this imposing on us.
8	We're our concern and I might add, we
9	have other questions about SoCalGas not
10	having properly articulated their privilege
11	claims with regards to certain pending
12	motions as well, but the issue is the burden
13	that SoCalGas would have they would
14	still and they're repeating they would
15	like to have their notice of deposition trump
16	the ruling it appears.
17	And the ruling is our
18	understanding is it doesn't apply to it
19	applies to the observations that he made.
20	We're going beyond there. I think we've got
21	some concerns about the burden that's going
22	to be placed on us.
23	Pardon me if that's repetitive. I
24	think just because Mr. Stoddard's saying it,
25	it's not recognizing the immense amount of
26	work that we're talking about. And we're
27	we're we are talking about an extensive
28	well, I think my concern is that SoCalGas is

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1	pushing for us on one hand to move forward
2	expeditiously, which we think is the right
3	thing to do.
4	And we offered a solution that we
5	think comports with the ruling, and SoCalGas
6	has, frankly, just a different reading of the
7	ruling than we do.
8	And we think we made the
9	suggestion that we'd look at the field notes
10	and the photos so that we could move forward,
11	get this done expeditiously in a way that's
12	going to work, that's going to take some
13	staff time that we think is doable and enable
14	us to get things done expeditiously.
15	And, now, that doesn't seem to be
16	working for SoCalGas and they're arguing that
17	we're not following the ruling; when, in
18	fact, we volunteered this. We didn't even
19	have to do this much to come forward now to
20	suggest this. We could have waited until the
21	deposition to identify it as an issue and had
22	it out it then.
23	We're trying to move forward
24	expeditiously, and, frankly, I think, from
25	SoCalGas's perspective, I ask that there be a
26	little bit of work towards getting a proper
27	deposition done that's going to achieve an
28	expeditious result in what he actually

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1	observed out there. That's what I would
2	suggest, your Honor.
3	MS. BONE: Your Honor?
4	ALJ HECHT: Just a moment.
5	Did Mr. Stoddard have a response to
6	that?
7	MR. STODDARD: Yes, your Honor. Thank
8	you.
9	Again, I've been quoting from the
10	ruling. I don't believe Mr. Gruen has. I
11	would encourage him to refer to the ruling if
12	he's going to be arguing about it, especially
13	where he's arguing that I've been
14	mischaracterizing it. I believe I've been
15	quoting and characterizing it accurately.
16	And it supports our the scope of
17	our deposition, and if the scope of our
18	deposition in your Honor's view is
19	appropriate, then there's no real basis here
20	for limiting the scope of the document
21	production.
22	To the degree that takes time, we
23	understand. I believe SED was asking for an
24	expeditious resolution of this deposition,
25	but if additional time is needed in order to
26	prepare a privilege log or produce the
27	documents that are responsive, we can work
28	with that.

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1	ALJ HECHT: Ms. Bone.
2	MS. BONE: Nothing further, your Honor.
3	ALJ HECHT: All right. I'm going to
4	repeat the guidance I gave earlier. Clearly,
5	I think the field notes and the photos that
6	are not privileged are part of this. We did
7	not exclude those, and they relate to his
8	being a percipient witness.
9	Honestly, I had not thought about
10	communication in this level of detail, and
11	Judge Poirier and I will take that under
12	advisement and we'll get back to you on it.
13	In the meantime, the direction is
14	six hours. Please, start working on
15	providing those documents. And we will
16	provide in the future further guidance.
17	I think this is a classic example of
18	people looking at the same thing, and
19	interpreting it different ways, and we're
20	going to need to clarify that.
21	So that's really all I've got today.
22	Judge Poirier, do you have anything
23	to add?
24	ALJ POIRIER: Nothing to add. I'm done
25	for today as well.
26	ALJ HECHT: Any other, not those, but
27	other housekeeping items?
28	(No response.)

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1	ALJ HECHT: Okay. I'm seeing no other
2	housekeeping items.
3	This is a reminder that we are no
4	longer in our quiet period on motions. I'm
5	not encouraging you to file lots of motions,
6	but just so you know that it ended last week.
7	We have four days this week that we
8	will not have hearings because we are
9	cancelling tomorrow. We will pick up on
10	Tuesday next week, the 18th, at 10:00 a.m.
11	I hope with the complainant's
12	witnesses, but failing that, with
13	Mr. Schwecke, and I hope that all parties can
14	make arrangements for that, and it's doable
15	by next Tuesday. I expect that we will get
16	an update from SoCalGas later this week, I
17	hope, by Thursday close of business on the
18	status of the (inaudible). The hope is that
19	will clarify the issue of who will be going
20	on Tuesday, but if it doesn't, you have your
21	instructions. Any other questions before we
22	go?
23	(No response.)
24	ALJ HECHT: Okay. No.
25	Thank you, everybody. We will
26	resume Tuesday, the 18th, at 10 a.m. We are
27	adjourned. We'll be off the record. ]
28	///

1	(Whereupon, at the hour of 4:00	
2	p.m., this matter having been continued to Tuesday, May 18, 2021, at 10:00	
3	a.m., via virtual proceeding, the Commission then adjourned.)	
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	PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION, STATE OF CALIFORNI.	 A

1	BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION	
2	OF THE	
3	STATE OF CALIFORNIA	
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5		
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13	I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT I HAVE NO INTEREST IN THE	
14	EVENTS OF THE MATTER OR THE OUTCOME OF THE PROCEEDING.	
15	EXECUTED THIS MAY 14, 2021.	
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19	Andrew Tors	
21	ANDREA L. ROSS CSR NO. 7896	
22	CSK NO. /090	
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21	SHANNON ROSS CSR NO. 8916	
22	CSR NO. 8916	
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