

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER FOR OUR PLAYA DEL REY NEIGHBORS

A WORD FROM JOHN THOMPSON

Playa del Rey
Storage Facility Manager



Dear Playa del Rey community members,

All of us at the SoCalGas® Playa del Rey Natural Gas Storage Facility (PDR) are proud of our long-standing relationship with our neighbors in this community. We have made a lot of enhancements at PDR, much of it related to safety, which remains at the core of everything we do.

The large rigs at our site are used to conduct maintenance and testing of wells to verify their safety. These rigs are not being used to create additional natural gas storage wells, nor drill for oil or natural gas.

Each well has undergone a battery of tests under our Storage Integrity Management Plan. State energy experts have called these the most comprehensive tests in the country. SoCalGas is at the forefront of safety controls and procedures, using the latest technologies to monitor and operate our storage facilities.

All of the storage wells at PDR are now configured so that natural gas only flows through newly installed steel inner tubing. That inner tubing allows the outer casing to act as a second barrier of protection against any potential releases outside of the well, so it enhances safety.

We are sustaining our noise mitigation efforts. We're doing things like placing noise absorbing material on top of well cellars, wrapping pipes with noise absorbent material and placing sound walls around equipment that could be loud.

We believe these actions will enhance public safety and make our presence less intrusive. We're always looking for ways to be a good neighbor to the PDR community.

You can read more about PDR at socialgas.com/playadelrey.



DID YOU KNOW...

PDR was originally an oil production field in the 1930s, as was the case throughout the Venice - PDR - Marina del Rey area. A decrease in pressure over more than a decade of oil operations made the PDR field less viable for oil production, but more suitable for natural gas storage. In the early 1940s, the process to convert the field from oil production to underground natural gas storage began.

SoCalGas initially operated the field beginning in 1942 under United States government ownership. SoCalGas then took ownership of the PDR facility in 1955. The facility is critical to the reliability of Southern California's natural gas and electricity generation systems. The storage field's central location in the heart of the metropolitan service area helps provide an important source of energy when customer demand for natural gas is high. In the South Bay, specifically, PDR helps to power the local electric generation plants, acting as a vital link in producing electrical power that keep the lights on for everyone.

– John Thompson,
Playa del Rey Storage Facility Manager





AIR MONITORING & AREA ODORS

From time to time, the Playa del Rey area experiences odors that people think smell like natural gas, but are not from the storage facility. Through the use of specialized equipment, SoCalGas crews are able to determine whether the source of these odors is natural gas related. While crews are typically able to rule out natural gas as the cause of the odor, they are not always able to determine where the odor is coming from. As a reminder, SoCalGas inspects every home or business that reports an odor complaint and we encourage customers to call us at 800-427-2200 if a natural gas leak is suspected.

SoCalGas is installing two air monitors at the Playa del Rey storage facility to detect any change in ambient methane levels. These new monitors will serve as an added safety measure. If one of the monitors shows an increase in ambient methane levels, a SoCalGas technician will investigate with sensitive hand-held equipment that can detect methane at levels below what human senses can detect. If we do discover any sort of leak or emission, we will begin our process to address the leak and appropriately notify agencies and the community.

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT...

We have been getting a lot of questions about our PDR facility and SoCalGas activities within the local community. Many of these questions are based on incorrect information.

When an old, abandoned oil well in Marina del Rey experienced a blowout in January, initial media reports erroneously claimed the well was owned by SoCalGas. This led some people to believe that the PDR facility had suffered a leak. But the well in question is not part of SoCalGas' PDR underground storage operation. An investigation by [state regulators](#)* showed the natural gas released during the incident was the result of a "naturally existing geologic formation" and not caused by storage gas from the PDR facility.

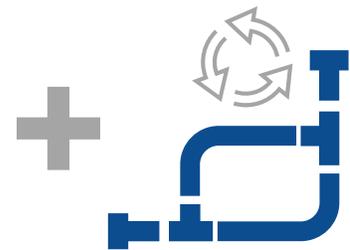
OUR VISION

To become the cleanest natural gas utility in North America, delivering affordable and increasingly renewable energy to our customers. Working together, we can create measurable progress toward reducing emissions.

WE NEED SCALABLE, AFFORDABLE SOLUTIONS to solve these issues



Solar, wind & hydro alone are not enough.



We need to use ALL the tools in our toolbox - including Renewable Natural Gas.



SPOTLIGHT ON...RENEWABLE NATURAL GAS

Methane emissions in California are mostly generated by livestock, dairies, agriculture, wastewater treatment plants and landfills.** We can harness these emissions and remove the non-methane elements to produce renewable natural gas (RNG) for use in our pipeline system. RNG is a carbon-negative fuel produced from waste and agriculture that can be used in trucks and buses, to generate electricity, fuel heating systems in homes and businesses, and for cooking.

RNG produced in California has been flowing through SoCalGas pipelines from a green-waste anaerobic digestion facility in Perris. The RNG from that digestion facility is already being used to fuel about 400 waste hauling trucks. And, for the first time, carbon-negative RNG produced from cow manure at Calgren's methane digester facility in Pixley is being injected directly into SoCalGas' natural gas system.

RNG is a smart and cost-effective solution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It's a carbon-negative fuel that benefits the environment through cleaner air and provides jobs to local communities.

Read more at socalgas.com/rng.

* www.conservation.ca.gov/dog/Pages/DOW-RGC10-well.aspx
 ** The California Air Resources Board (CARB) methane inventory

SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY

In 2018, SoCalGas invested more than \$7.5 million to nearly 1,000 organizations across its service territory, benefiting in part, underserved community groups in African American, Hispanic American, Asian Pacific American, and Native American communities. Read the [2018 Community Giving Report](#) for more information.

SoCalGas has a very strong commitment to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education. In 2018, we contributed over \$62,000 to STEM programs at local organizations. We work closely with the LAX Coastal Education Foundation, a non-profit organization that helps us administer the funds. We also engage with local schools to arrange mentoring and STEM education. Here are local educational institutions for which we have provided STEM funding:

- Westchester YMCA
- Kathern Johnson STEM Academy
- WISH Academy High School
- Open Magnet Charter School
- Cowan Avenue Elementary School
- Kentwood Middle School
- Paseo Del Rey School
- Visitation Catholic School
- St. Bernard's High School
- Sunrise Rotary Club
- WISH Charter Elementary
- Westport Middle School
- Westchester Lutheran School
- Westchester Enriched Sciences Magnet High School
- Wright Elementary School STEAM Magnet



SoCalGas and Earth Month

SoCalGas employees, friends and family members, alongside other volunteers from the community, came out to the Ballona Wetlands' saltwater marsh in celebration of Earth Month.

SoCalGas has been supporting Friends of Ballona Wetlands at their Earth Month events for more than five years. This year we had 25 SoCalGas employees removing non-native or invasive plants. They also learned about the birds and animals that call Ballona Wetlands home.

With the abundance of rain we received this season, some non-native plants are flourishing. If not removed, they could eradicate the native plants.

SoCalGas supported a number of events during Earth Month. We are committed to improving the environment, a fact demonstrated in our recently announced plan to help achieve California's ambitious climate goals by replacing 20 percent of the traditional natural gas in our system with non-fossil, RENEWABLE natural gas. You can read more about our vision at socalgas.com/vision.



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Meals on Wheels West Honors Two SoCalGas Employees

SoCalGas Playa del Rey storage field employees John Thompson and Sam Kunemoto received the 2019 Community Champions Award from Meals on Wheels West (MOW West). The organization recognized SoCalGas for its support through their corporate philanthropy program and Thompson and Kunemoto for their more than 14 years of service.

“For more than a decade, Thompson and Kunemoto have steadfastly supported our mission each week by delivering meals to home-bound individuals living in Santa Monica,” Kevin McNulty, Chief Administrative Officer for Meals on Wheels West said. “There is hidden hunger even in the most affluent communities. In 2018, MOW West served nearly 122,000 meals to more than 460 individuals and the need will continue to grow. Meals on Wheels West is grateful for the support of John, Sam and SoCalGas.”

“SoCalGas is proud of Thompson and Kunemoto for generously giving their time and energy volunteering in the community,” said Mike Harriel, regional public affairs manager for SoCalGas. “In addition, our company supports their volunteer efforts through the Volunteer Incentive Program, a corporate philanthropic program.”

“Sam and I appreciate the opportunity to be part of the great work at MOW West,” said John Thompson. “Volunteering is an enjoyable activity. We get to meet people, make new friends and deliver food that is essential to living. It doesn’t take too much time, plus it feels good to support such an important mission.”

QUESTIONS?

To take a tour or request use of our facility for neighborhood watch meetings or CPR training, or if you have any comments or questions about this newsletter, please write or call:

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For more information about PDR, visit socalgas.com/playadelrey.