

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



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Order Instituting Rulemaking for the Purpose of Reviewing and Potentially Amending General Order 156 and to Consider Other Measures to Promote Economic Efficiencies of an Expanded Supplier Base and to Examine the Composition of the Utilities' Workforce.

R.09-07-027  
(Filed July 30, 2009)

**RESPONSE OF WILD GOOSE STORAGE, LLC  
TO SCOPING MEMO QUESTIONS**

GOODIN, MACBRIDE, SQUERI,  
DAY & LAMPREY, LLP  
Michael B. Day  
Jeanne B. Armstrong  
505 Sansome Street, Suite 900  
San Francisco, CA 94111  
Telephone: (415) 392-7900  
Facsimile: (415) 398-4321  
E-Mail : [jarmstrong@goodinmacbride.com](mailto:jarmstrong@goodinmacbride.com)

Date: May 26, 2010

Attorneys Wild Goose Storage, LLC

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Order Instituting Rulemaking for the Purpose of Reviewing and Potentially Amending General Order 156 and to Consider Other Measures to Promote Economic Efficiencies of an Expanded Supplier Base and to Examine the Composition of the Utilities' Workforce.

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TO SCOPING MEMO QUESTIONS**

In accord with the Assigned Commissioner and Administrative Law Judge Scoping Memo issued in the above captioned rulemaking proceeding on March 17, 2010, Wild Goose Storage, LLC (Wild Goose) provides the following responses to the questions contained therein.

**I. INTRODUCTION**

Wild Goose is an independent natural gas storage provider currently operating a 29 Bcf facility in Butte County, California. By virtue of its operation of a gas storage facility in California, it is deemed under section 222 of the Public Utilities Code to be a “gas corporation”, and correspondingly, a “public utility” under Section 216. As a public utility that earns more than \$25,000,000 in gross annual revenue in the state, Wild Goose is subject to the reporting requirements of General Order 156, and, concomitantly to working towards the goals set forth in the General Order for the utilization of women, minority and disable veteran owned businesses enterprises (WMDVBE) for the procurement of products and services utilized by the utility.

As a natural gas storage provider whose entire enterprise within the state is the operation of a single facility, meeting the percentage goals set forth in the General Order for use of minority (15%), women (5%) and disabled veteran (1.5%) businesses present a significant challenge. That said, Wild Goose is cognizant of the state of California’s interest in promoting WBMDVEs and, as illustrated below, is continually striving to find opportunities to engage such enterprises.

## **II. RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS**

Wild Goose provides the following responses to the questions set forth in the Scoping Memo:

### **Question No. 1**

- . Identify specific one-year and two-year interim steps (e.g., increase MBE spend by 10% per year) you aspire to achieve in 2011 and 2012 in furtherance of your commitment to the target goals of GO 156. Include not only steps towards growth in WBEs, MBEs, and DVBEs, but also any sub-group or procurement category which you have identified as particularly under-utilized by your company's procurement team (e.g., increase spend by 5% per year on minority disabled veteran suppliers, create a program for mentoring financial services suppliers, etc.)

### **Response**

In responding to this question Wild Goose would first highlight for the Commission that it has increased its level of minority spend from \$0 recorded dollars in 2008 (or 0%) to \$763,000, or 1.3%, of overall spend in 2009. This increase, however, was largely driven by Wild Goose's undertaking of a significant expansion project whereby a large increase in capital spending from approximately \$8 million in 2008 to approximately \$57 million in 2009 was realized. The largest percentage of this spend was labor, followed by materials. Such allowed for increased procurement from minority owned businesses. This amount of capital expenditure, however, will not be repeated this year as Wild Goose will not be pursuing as an aggressive capital program. That said, Wild Goose believes that, through other venues, such as the use of local minority owned businesses for the provision of products and services needed for the ongoing operation of the natural gas storage facility, it can increase its utilization of WMDVBEs.

Specifically, Wild Goose is setting the following goals for 2011 / 2012: Wild Goose will endeavor to increase WMDVBE to 5% of overall purchasing for 2011 and to 10% by 2012. Wild Goose believes that these goals are achievable by having an increased presence within the geographic area where its facilities are located. Wild Goose's procurement coordinator will work with the operations personnel and local business groups to enhance Wild Goose business

opportunities. This increased presence should drive further minority business spend on facilities' operation and maintenance.

**Question No. 2.**

Is there any specific assistance you want to better advance your aspirations of achieving the identified interim steps for any procurement category or DBE group?

**Response**

The ability of Wild Goose to expand minority opportunities will be largely dependant on public awareness. Accordingly, mechanisms that serve to expose Wild Goose to local minority businesses, and vice versa, such as minority business expos that are sponsored by the Commission would be of significant assistance to Wild Goose personnel striving to ensure that all potential business opportunities are captured.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 26, 2010

GOODIN, MACBRIDE, SQUERI,  
DAY & LAMPREY, LLP  
Michael B. Day  
Jeanne B. Armstrong  
505 Sansome Street, Suite 900  
San Francisco, California 94111  
Telephone: (415) 392-7900  
Facsimile: (415) 398-4321  
E-Mail: [jarmstrong@goodinmacbride.com](mailto:jarmstrong@goodinmacbride.com)

By     /s/ Jeanne B. Armstrong      
Jeanne B. Armstrong

Counsel for Wild Goose Storage, LLC

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Melinda LaJaunie, certify that I have on this 26th day of May 2010 caused a copy of the foregoing

**RESPONSE OF WILD GOOSE STORAGE, LLC  
TO SCOPING MEMO QUESTIONS**

to be served on all known parties to R.09-07-027 listed on the most recently updated service list available on the California Public Utilities Commission website, via email to those listed with email and via U.S. mail to those without email service. I also caused courtesy copies to be hand-delivered as follows:

Commissioner, President Michael R. Peevey  
California Public Utilities Commission  
Executive Division  
505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 5218  
San Francisco, CA 94102

ALJ Melanie Darling  
California Public Utilities Commission  
Executive Division  
505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 2106  
San Francisco, CA 94102

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 26th day of May 2010 at San Francisco, California.

/s/ Melinda LaJaunie  
Melinda LaJaunie

Service List – R.09-07-027  
(Updated May 24, 2010)

ANITA TAFF-RICE  
anitataffrice@earthlink.net

MARILYN H. ASH  
ashm@telepacific.com

BILL WINSTON  
bill.winston@slharecapital.com

ROBERT L. KELLY  
bkelly@swwc.com

CARL WOOD  
carl.wood@verizon.net

CASE ADMINISTRATION  
Case.Admin@sce.com

CALIFORNIA ENERGY MARKETS  
cem@newsdata.com

CARLOS PENA  
CFPena@SempraUtilities.com

BOB MULZ  
chairman@elitesdvob.org

CHARLIE BORN  
Charlie.Born@frontiercorp.com

Cheryl Lee  
cni@cpuc.ca.gov

COLIN R. PETHERAM  
colin.petheram@att.com

CLIFFORD SWINT  
cswint@brv-llc.com

DANIEL A. DELL'OSA  
dadelloso@srgwater.com

DRISHA MELTON  
ddm@cpuc.ca.gov

DARIN DUNCAN  
dduncan@calwater.com

SARAH DE YOUNG  
deyoung@caltel.org

DOUGLAS M. GRANDY, P.E.  
dgrandy@caonsitegen.com

DAN M. SILVERBOARD  
dsilverboard@diepenbrock.com

DEBORAH SHEFLER  
DSS8@pge.com

DOUGLAS PHASON  
dpxhaso@sbcglobal.net

EDWARD N. JACKSON  
ed.jackson@parkwater.com

ELAINE M. DUNCAN  
elaine.duncan@verizon.com

ELAINE VALDEZ  
elaine@mabuhayalliance.org

ELENA P. MELLO  
emello@sppc.com

ESTHER NORTHRUP  
esther.northrup@cox.com

TERRY FARRELLY  
farrellytc@earthlink.net

DAVID A. FINKELSTEIN  
finkelstein@willcap.com

FRED JORDAN  
frederickjordan@aol.com

E. GARTH BLACK  
gblack@cwclaw.com

GEORGE HANIBLE  
ghanible@um.att.com

GLORIA ING  
gloria.ing@sce.com

GWEN MOORE  
gwen@pacbell.net

ILEANA WINTERHALTER  
ileana.winterhalter@att.com

INGRID MERRIWETHER  
Ingrid@imwis.com

JACQUE LOPEZ  
jacque.lopez@verizon.com

JENNY DARNEY-LANE  
jadarneylane@gswater.com

J. ALFRED SMITH, JR  
jalfredsmithjr@yahoo.com

JANE J. WHANG  
janewhang@dwt.com

JEANNE B. ARMSTRONG  
jarmstrong@goodinmacbride.com

JOEL AYALA  
jayala@cahcc.com

Joyce de Rossett  
jdr@cpuc.ca.gov

JEAN CHUNG  
jeanc@greenlining.org

JUAN D. ESPINOSA  
jespinosa@cabreracapital.com

JESUS G. ROMAN  
jesus.g.roman@verizon.com

JOHN GARON  
jgaron@gswater.com

JACQUELINE R. GLOVER  
jglover@parkwater.com

JOSE E. GUZMAN, JR.  
jguzman@nossaman.com

JOHN K. HAWKS  
jhawks\_cwa@comcast.net

JEDEDIAH J. GIBSON  
jgg@eslawfirm.com

JOSH DAVIDSON  
joshdavidson@dwt.com

JOSE L. PEREZ  
jperez@cudc.biz

JERRY J. RUIZ  
jrui@adorno.com

KEITH M. KROM  
keith.krom@att.com

KEN MACIAS  
kmacias@mgocpa.com

KATY MIRR  
KMirr@SempraGlobal.com

Karen M. Shea  
kms@cpuc.ca.gov

KRISTIN L. JACOBSON  
Kristin.L.Jacobson@sprint.com

KEITH SWITZER  
kswitzer@gswater.com

LORI ANNE DOLOQUEIST  
ldolqueist@manatt.com

LEIGH K. JORDAN  
leigh@parkwater.com

LEN CANTY  
lencanty@blackeconomiccouncil.org

LAWRENCE B. GARCIA  
lgarcia@diepenbrockharrison.com

LEON M. BLOOMFIELD  
lmb@wblaw.net

LORRAINE A. KOCEN  
lorraine.kocen@verizon.com

LINDA WRAZEN  
LWrazen@SempraUtilities.com

SKIP COOPER  
mail@bbala.org

MARGARET L. TOBIAS  
marg@tobiaslo.com

MARIA CARBONE  
mariacarbone@dwt.com

Service List – R.09-07-027  
(Updated May 24, 2010)

MARK WHITLOCK  
markw@corchurch.org

Michael Colvin  
mc3@cpuc.ca.gov

Moises Chavez  
mcv@cpuc.ca.gov

Melanie Darling  
md2@cpuc.ca.gov

MARC D. JOSEPH  
mdjoseph@adamsbroadwell.com

MARK FOGELMAN  
mfogelman@friedumspring.com

MICHAEL MOSS  
michael@jwharrislaw.com

MICHELLE CHOO  
michelle.choo@att.com

MICHELLE R. MISHOE  
michelle.mishoe@pacificorp.com

Marshall Kennedy  
mke@cpuc.ca.gov

MARTIN A. MATTES  
mmattes@nossaman.com

MELANIE SHELBY  
mmshelby@ggsvllc.com

Melicia Charles  
mvc@cpuc.ca.gov

NANCI TRAN  
nancitrان@gswater.com

R. NEIL CHEATHAM  
ncheatham@cniinc.com

Natalie Wales  
ndw@cpuc.ca.gov

NELSONYA CAUSBY  
nelsonya.causby@att.com

DAVID GLOVER  
occur@sbcglobal.net

PETER A. CASCIATO  
pacasciato@gmail.com

PATRICK ALEXANDER  
palexander@calwater.com

Douglas Phason  
ph1@cpuc.ca.gov

MELISSA A. KASNITZ  
pucservice@dralegal.org

ROSE DAVIS  
RDAVIS@NVENERGY.COM

MICHAEL R. HANNEKEN  
resources@ressapproach.com

RICHARD DRYDEN  
rich.dryden@cadvbe.org

ROBERT GNAIZDA  
robertgnaizda@gmail.com

ROB HOWARD  
rphoward06@yahoo.com

ROBERT W. NICHOLSON  
rwnicholson@sgvwater.com

SAMUEL KANG  
samk@greenlining.org

SANDRA CAROLINA  
sandra.carolina@swgas.com

SEAN BEATTY  
Sean.Beatty@mirant.com

SARAH E. LEEPER  
sleeper@manatt.com

FRANCIS TROTTIER  
soapyone@jps.net

SALVADOR PEINADO, JR  
speinado@calwater.com

DAIL ST. CLAIRE  
stclaire@willcapmanagement.com

STEPHANIE CHEN  
stephaniec@greenlining.org

STEPHEN H. KUKTA  
stephen.h.kukta@sprint.com

STEWART LEWIS MACKENZIE II  
stewart.mackenzie@cdva.ca.gov

SUZANNE TOLLER  
suzannetoller@dwt.com

TED PUNTILLO  
ted.puntillo@cdva.ca.gov

TARRELL GAMBLE  
tgamble@brv-llc.com

TIMOTHY J. RYAN  
tjryan@sgvwater.com

TRACY STANHOFF  
tracy@adproweb.com

TRACY PORTER  
Tracy@Eliteautonetwork.com

TRISTAN REYES CLOSE  
tristan.reyesclose@sce.com

VALERIE J. ONTIVEROZ  
valerie.ontiveroz@swgas.com

A.J. WILSON  
vicechairman@elitesdvob.org

VIL SOUTHASARN  
vsouthasarn@nvenenergy.com

Marzia Zafar  
zaf@cpuc.ca.gov

EMMA E. MAXEY  
SUPPLIER DIVERSITY SPECIALIST  
GOLDEN STATE WATER COMOPANY  
1920 WEST CORPORATE WAY  
ANAHEIM, CA 92801

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