

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COMMISSIONER MATTHEW BAKER, in attendance

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE JEFFREY LEE, presiding

Application of Southwest Gas Corporation ) PREHEARING  
(U 905 G) for Authority to Increase ) CONFERENCE  
Rates and Charges for Gas Service in )  
California, Effective January 1, 2026. ) Application  
) 24-09-001  
)



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Telephonic Proceeding  
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TELEPHONIC PROCEEDING

DECEMBER 11, 2024 - 10:07 A.M.

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ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE LEE: We are now on the record, and the Commission will come to order.

It is 10:00 a.m. Pacific time -- I'm sorry. It is 10:07 Pacific time on Wednesday, December 11th, 2024. This is a telephonic prehearing conference in Proceeding 24-09-001, the Application of Southwest Gas Corporation for Authority to Increase Rates and Charges for Gas Service in California, Effective January 1st, 2026.

I am Administrative Law Judge Jeffrey Lee and the ALJ assigned to this proceeding. Commissioner Matthew Baker is the assigned commissioner, and he is in attendance today. The commissioner's chief of staff, Justin Ong, is also in attendance.

Commissioner Baker, would you like to make any remarks today?

COMMISSIONER BAKER: Yes. Thank you, Judge Lee.

I'm the assigned commissioner for this proceeding which requests authority to increase base rates for natural gas service for its 200,000-plus California customers in El Dorado, San Bernardino, Placer and Nevada County.

1           In this application, Southwest Gas Company is  
2 requesting to cumulatively increase collections from its  
3 customers across its three jurisdictions by \$50 million  
4 in 2026, adjust its capital structure and make other  
5 changes that will impact customer bills.

6           I take all rate increases very seriously, and  
7 it is up to the utility to prove their case. As I do  
8 for all general rate cases, I will evaluate this  
9 proposed rate increase by balancing the public interest  
10 through a lens of affordability and maintaining safe,  
11 reliable utility service.

12           Finally, I just want to say often settlements  
13 can be an efficient way to determine just and reasonable  
14 rates. Even limited settlements and stipulations can  
15 also limit the number of contested issues, and I  
16 encourage the parties to look for any common ground and  
17 comit that I will work with Judge Lee to dispose of any  
18 settlement in an efficient manner.

19           I will be following the -- today's discussion  
20 with great interest and look forward to working with you  
21 all, as well as with Judge Lee, on the issues raised in  
22 this application.

23           Finally, I want to thank the parties for their  
24 participation in today's conference. And with that,  
25 I'll turn it back over to you, Judge Lee.

1 Thank you.

2 ALJ LEE: Okay. Thank you very much,  
3 Commissioner Baker.

4 All right. So I wanted to mention to the  
5 parties that this proceeding is being transcribed by a  
6 court reporter. Let me reiterate the ground rules for  
7 today's prehearing conference that we previewed before  
8 we went on the record. Now, these rules will help  
9 ensure a successful telephonic hearing.

10 So please do not speak unless I call you on you  
11 to speak. Speak slowly and clearly for the benefit of  
12 the court reporter and for a clear transcript. I will  
13 try to do the same. I ask the court reporter, please,  
14 let me know if I'm going too quickly.

15 Please do not speak over one another. Remember  
16 to mute your phones and refrain from side conversations,  
17 and please state your name prior to speaking so that the  
18 court reporter knows who is addressing the record. If  
19 anyone would like a transcript of today's prehearing  
20 conference, please send me an email -- please --  
21 sorry -- please send an email to [reporting@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:reporting@cpuc.ca.gov).

22 The purpose of today's prehearing conference is  
23 to discuss the scope, schedule, need for hearings and  
24 the category of this proceeding.

25 Now, in an ALJ ruling on December 27th, 2024,

1 the Commission ordered the parties in this proceeding to  
2 file the joint prehearing conference statement  
3 identifying their positions on those issues by December  
4 9th, 2024.

5           Unfortunately, looking at the docket of -- the  
6 online docket maintained by the Commission, I did not  
7 find the joint prehearing conference statement  
8 identifying the parties' positions. However, I have  
9 been informally advised prior to the conference by both  
10 parties that it was filed. So I do not have any  
11 explanation for that. And it makes it a little  
12 difficult to proceed with this joint prehearing  
13 conference without having seen a statement on the  
14 parties' positions.

15           However, what we will do is I will go through  
16 the prehearing conference, address the issues that I've  
17 just identified, and the parties will again try to serve  
18 and provide me with the joint prehearing conference  
19 statement. I will read it after the conference. And if  
20 I have any follow-up questions, we will address it with  
21 the parties directly, if necessary, in a status  
22 conference or some other means. And at that point,  
23 hopefully we'll have the parties' positions.

24           So as the parties address anything with me  
25 today, please note that I have not yet seen their

1 statements, and please, you know, give me -- connect  
2 some of the dots for me, so to speak, so that I know  
3 what I'll be seeing in the joint prehearing conference  
4 statement.

5 All right. I note we will not make any  
6 determination today regarding the issues I've just  
7 identified. Commissioner Baker and I will consult after  
8 today's prehearing conference, and he will make these  
9 determinations in a scoping memo that will issue  
10 following the prehearing conference.

11 Let's start with appearances for the applicant  
12 and other parties that are appearing today. Now,  
13 because this is a telephonic prehearing conference, I  
14 ask that only one person speak on behalf of each party  
15 present. For the record, before speaking, please state  
16 your full name, spell your last name, identify the full  
17 name of the party or parties that you represent.

18 First I'll take the appearance of the applicant  
19 Southwest Gas Corporation, which I'll refer to as  
20 Southwest Gas.

21 MR. HALL: Good morning, your Honor. This is  
22 Andrew Hall on behalf of Southwest Gas Corporation. My  
23 last name is spelled H-a-l-l.

24 ALJ LEE: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Hall. Welcome.

25 Second, I'll take the appearance of -- or on

1 behalf of the intervenor Public Advocates Office at the  
2 California Public Utilities Commission, which I'll refer  
3 to as Cal Advocates.

4 MS. ANG: Your Honor, this is Marybelle Ang,  
5 A-n-g, for the Public Advocates Office of the California  
6 Public Utilities Commission.

7 ALJ LEE: Okay. Welcome, Ms. Ang.

8 And let me see if there's anybody else here.  
9 So I note this prehearing conference was noticed on the  
10 Commission's daily calendar. Is there anyone else in  
11 attendance except those appearing on behalf of the  
12 parties already identified that would like to actively  
13 participate in this proceeding?

14 (No response.)

15 ALJ LEE: Okay. Hearing none, at this point,  
16 let me move on then to the scope of the issues.

17 Now, in my November 27th, 2024, ALJ ruling, I  
18 preliminarily identified 17 proposed issues to be  
19 included in the scope of this proceeding. Again, I have  
20 not seen the parties' positions regarding the proposed  
21 scope of the proceeding because I have not yet seen a  
22 copy of the joint prehearing conference statement that  
23 details the parties' decisions on those 17 proposed  
24 issues. But let me ask the parties if in the prehearing  
25 conference statement there is anything that they wish to

1 identify for me or wish to add or modify that was in  
2 that statement so as I read it I'm better informed.

3 All right. Let me start with Southwest Gas.  
4 Mr. Hall, is there anything in the -- that you want to  
5 add or change in the joint prehearing conference  
6 statement as I read it?

7 MR. HALL: Yes, your Honor. There are three  
8 items we would like to address in the -- within the  
9 scope of issues in the proceeding. The first issue is  
10 that letter F in the scope of issues from your email  
11 ruling. We would like to make a correction on the  
12 overall rates of return for the Southern California  
13 jurisdiction and the Northern California and South Lake  
14 Tahoe jurisdiction. The correction we would like to  
15 make to the proposed rates of return for Southern  
16 California should be 7.74 and --

17 ALJ LEE: Okay.

18 MR. HALL: And -- for California. And South  
19 Lake Tahoe, it should be 7.85.

20 ALJ LEE: Instead of 8.02?

21 MR. HALL: You got it.

22 ALJ LEE: Okay. Can you -- would you please  
23 read the numbers to me again just to make sure I copied  
24 them correctly in my notes here. 7.74 for Southern  
25 California.



1 MR. HALL: Correct.

2 ALJ LEE: Okay. And then 7 -- sorry. Not 8.02  
3 but 7.84? Is that correct?

4 MR. HALL: 7.85 for Northern California.

5 ALJ LEE: 85. Okay.

6 MR. HALL: Yes.

7 ALJ LEE: Okay. All right. And are those --  
8 are those corrections reflected in the joint prehearing  
9 conference statement that you'll -- I'll be reading?

10 MR. HALL: They are.

11 ALJ LEE: Okay. All right. Very well. Is  
12 there anything else you'd like to identify for me or  
13 call out?

14 MR. HALL: Yes. We would like to add an issue  
15 to the scope of issues, and that issue is whether  
16 Southwest Gas' intention to adopt the safe harbor tax  
17 accounting method outlined in Internal Revenue Service  
18 Revenue Procedure 2023-15 is reasonable. That issue is  
19 addressed in the prepared direct testimony of Byron C.  
20 Williams, and it's -- the issue of whether we will be  
21 making that adoption is covered in his testimony, and we  
22 will be filing -- as noted in his testimony, we will be  
23 filing supplemental testimony later in the proceeding to  
24 address that issue.

25 ALJ LEE: All right. Okay. All right. Is

1 there anything else that you wish me to take note of as  
2 I'm reading the statement?

3 MR. HALL: Yes. One last thing. The joint  
4 parties agreed that the issue of whether the Commission  
5 should grant Southwest Gas' motion to establish a  
6 general rate case memorandum account should be removed  
7 from the scope of issues as the -- you know, the  
8 disposition of the subject motion is not germane to the  
9 request made in the company's application.

10 ALJ LEE: Okay. Very well. So in other words,  
11 you wish to -- I think I've identified it as 3Q, whether  
12 the Commission should grant Southwest Gas a motion to  
13 establish a general rate case memorandum account. You  
14 wish to remove that from the scope of the proceeding and  
15 be a standalone issue? Is that -- am I getting the  
16 gist?

17 MR. HALL: Yeah. That's it. Correct. Thank  
18 you.

19 ALJ LEE: All right. Okay. Very well. All  
20 right. Is there anything else you'd like to add about  
21 the scope of the proceeding at this point, Mr. Hall?

22 MR. HALL: Nothing else.

23 ALJ LEE: Very good. Thank you.

24 Let me move to Cal Advocates. Ms. Ang, so  
25 you've heard what Mr. Hall has identified. Let me first

1 ask you to address what -- well, again, could you give  
2 me a preview of what's in the joint prehearing  
3 conference statement but also address the issues that  
4 Mr. Hall has just raised, the first being letter 3F from  
5 my -- from my ALJ proposed issues, whether the proposed  
6 overall rate of return for Southern California and  
7 Northern California and Lake -- South Lake Tahoe  
8 jurisdictions are reasonable.

9           Would you address that first. And if there's  
10 anything else I need to know that's, you know, not in  
11 the joint prehearing conference statement, please let me  
12 know.

13           MS. ANG: Yes. Thank you, your Honor. We  
14 discussed the corrections Mr. Hall proposed, and we  
15 are -- we concur with those corrections in 3F. So we do  
16 not --

17           ALJ LEE: Okay. Very well.

18           MS. ANG: Okay.

19           ALJ LEE: Okay. Very good. Understood. So  
20 that -- that -- parties are in agreement regarding issue  
21 3F. Okay.

22           And then there's an additional issue Mr. Hall  
23 raised regarding the reasonableness of, I think -- was  
24 it IRS Publication 2023-15 and the methodology therein?  
25 This was separate testimony to be filed. Would you

1 address that for me, please.

2 MS. ANG: Yes. We also discussed that at our  
3 meeting, our staff and Mr. Hall and myself, and we also  
4 found that reasonable. So we do not object to that  
5 either.

6 ALJ LEE: All right. Very well. Okay. And  
7 then -- and Mr. Hall represented that as far as issue  
8 3Q, the issue of whether the motion for a general rate  
9 case memorandum account remains as a scoped issue, he  
10 represented that the parties are in agreement that that  
11 should not be a scoped issue. Is that a fair  
12 representation?

13 MS. ANG: Yes. That is a fair representation,  
14 your Honor.

15 ALJ LEE: Okay. All right. Very well. So it  
16 appears there's agreement on the three issues. I will  
17 read through the joint prehearing conference statement  
18 when it comes with our discussion in mind today.

19 Ms. Ong -- Ms. Ang -- sorry -- is there  
20 anything else that I need to know or that you want to  
21 address regarding the scope of the proceeding?

22 MS. ANG: No. I think all the issues have been  
23 addressed within the scope.

24 ALJ LEE: Okay. Very well. All right.

25 Mr. Hall, do you have anything to add at this

1 point?

2 MR. HALL: Nothing on the scope, your Honor.

3 Thank you.

4 ALJ LEE: All right. Very well. All right.

5 So the parties have given me their comments, and again,

6 I will read the joint PHC statement with interest.

7 But at this point, let's move on then to the

8 next issue. All right. So the next issue I wanted to

9 discuss was categorization and the need for hearings.

10 We'll take those together. Now, the Commission has

11 preliminarily determined that this is a ratesetting

12 proceeding through Resolution ALJ-176 published

13 September 27, 2024.

14 Well, let me ask the parties if there's any

15 objection regarding the Commission's categorization.

16 Southwest Gas, Mr. Hall, do you have any

17 objection?

18 MR. HALL: No objection. Thank you.

19 ALJ LEE: Okay. And for Cal Advocates,

20 Ms. Ang, any objection to the Commission's

21 categorization?

22 MS. ANG: No. No objection. Thank you.

23 ALJ LEE: All right. Very well. All right.

24 Then let's move on to the issue of the need for

25 discovery and an evidentiary hearing. Again, this is --

1 this is -- these are issues that will be in the joint  
2 prehearing conference statement, but let me ask the  
3 parties if they have anything they want me to know or  
4 consider that is not found in that prehearing conference  
5 statement.

6 For Southwest Gas, Mr. Hall, is there anything  
7 that I need to know regarding those issues?

8 MR. HALL: None, your Honor. Thank you.

9 ALJ LEE: Okay. So the statement will cover --  
10 cover what you want me to consider then at that point?

11 MR. HALL: Yes. That's correct.

12 ALJ LEE: Okay. Very well. And I will, of  
13 course -- the joint prehearing conference statement, I  
14 want both parties to understand, I will evaluate it and  
15 pass on and discuss with the commissioner any issues  
16 that arise there that seem to be disputed or that the  
17 Commission will need to resolve.

18 All right. And for Cal Advocates, Ms. Ang,  
19 anything regarding the issues that we're now addressing  
20 that is discussing --

21 MS. ANG: No.

22 ALJ LEE: -- the need for an evidentiary  
23 hearing? Okay.

24 MS. ANG: No. It -- no, no. It's all in the  
25 statement.

1 ALJ LEE: Okay. All right. Very well. So  
2 let's move on then to the proceeding schedule. Now, I  
3 did propose a proceeding schedule in Section 5 of the  
4 November 27th ruling that I issued. I don't have the  
5 parties' comments on those as of yet, but I suspect I  
6 will see those in the joint prehearing conference  
7 statement.

8 Now, my proposed schedule in that ruling  
9 identified service of intervenor prepared testimony no  
10 later than April 4th, 2025, and evidentiary hearing  
11 commencing no later than July 16th, 2025, and followed  
12 by party briefing so that the matter would then be  
13 submitted no later than September 2nd, 2025.

14 Let me -- again, I will read the joint PHC  
15 statement, but let me ask Southwest Gas, Mr. Hall, is  
16 there anything that you want to address or have me focus  
17 on regarding the proposed proceeding schedule?

18 MR. HALL: I'm not sure there's anything  
19 that -- we do propose a few modifications to the  
20 proceeding schedule. One thing we add is the -- a date  
21 for Southwest Gas Corporation to file the supplemental  
22 testimony of Byron C. Williams we discussed when we were  
23 talking about the scope of issues.

24 ALJ LEE: Mm-hmm. Okay.

25 MR. HALL: We -- we kept the April 4th date for

1 the intervenor prepared testimony to be served and  
2 rebuttal on May 9th. We -- we made an adjustment to the  
3 evidentiary hearing date. We proposed that the  
4 evidentiary hearing commence no later than May 27th,  
5 2025, given the scheduling conflicts with the parties.

6 ALJ LEE: Okay. So there are conflicts -- so  
7 tell me a little bit more about any conflicts that  
8 you're aware of so that I can speak with the  
9 commissioner and set a reasonable schedule for  
10 everybody's interest.

11 MR. HALL: And perhaps I can defer to Cal  
12 Advocates on there. I believe they had both out in  
13 June, if my memory serves me correctly.

14 MS. ANG: This is Marybelle for Cal  
15 Advocates -- Marybelle Ang for Cal Advocates.

16 Yes, that's correct. There is a schedule  
17 conflict in the latter part of June. So we modified the  
18 hearing date to avoid that.

19 ALJ LEE: Okay. And is -- the statement, will  
20 that have -- identify those dates which are going to be  
21 challenges for Cal Advocates to meet?

22 MS. ANG: Yes, your Honor. The statement does  
23 cover that.

24 ALJ LEE: So the July -- would the July 16th  
25 commencement date for the evidentiary hearing pose a



1 conflict for anybody at Cal Advocates?

2 MS. ANG: I believe the statement -- your  
3 ruling initially said to commence no later than July 16.  
4 So we wanted -- we modified it to say "to commence no  
5 later than May 27th." As it is right now, to commence  
6 no later than July 16th could -- could conflict with a,  
7 you know, June -- it could actually commence in June.  
8 So we wanted to avoid that.

9 ALJ LEE: I see. Okay. I understand. I  
10 understand your issue.

11 MS. ANG: Yeah.

12 ALJ LEE: All right. If it were to commence --  
13 if it were to commence on July 16th, would that pose a  
14 hardship either by way of attendance for the  
15 proceeding -- and I'm referring to counsel, witnesses,  
16 any other -- any other necessary members of your team or  
17 any, you know, hardship or prejudice to you, or is that  
18 simply something that because the -- the uncertainty of  
19 it that would make it difficult to commit to it?

20 MS. ANG: Your Honor, this is Marybelle for Cal  
21 Advocates.

22 If it -- if it were to start on July 16th, I do  
23 not believe at this point in time that it would  
24 present -- present a conflict. The dates would be in  
25 the latter part of June, which would present -- present

1 a conflict.

2 ALJ LEE: All right. All right. So noted. So  
3 I will keep that in mind. All right. Ms. Ang, is there  
4 anything else you'd like to point me to regarding the  
5 proposed schedule at this point?

6 MS. ANG: I believe Mr. Hall has covered the --  
7 has referred to the modifications, and we have -- we've  
8 jointly captured that in the statement. So I do not  
9 have anything to add at this point.

10 ALJ LEE: Okay. And is there anything -- Okay.  
11 Thank you, Ms. Ang. Is there anything that you have a  
12 conflict with Southwest Gas -- Southwest Gas' proposed  
13 changes to the proposed proceeding schedule?

14 MS. ANG: No. We do not have any -- we do not  
15 have any conflict or objections to what's being  
16 proposed.

17 ALJ LEE: Okay. Very well. All right.

18 Ms. Ang, we need to go back to Mr. Hall and see  
19 if he has any comments to our discussion so far.

20 Mr. Hall, so you heard what Ms. Ang has been  
21 telling us. Is there anything you'd like to add or  
22 address regarding her comments?

23 MR. HALL: Nothing to address with respect to  
24 her comments, just a note that the subsequent dates  
25 to -- the dates that are subsequent to the evidentiary

1 hearing were modified as a result of that modification  
2 to the evidentiary hearing date. So just putting that  
3 on your radar, your Honor.

4 ALJ LEE: Yes. Okay. Very well. So,  
5 Mr. Hall, Ms. Ang, what I've tried to do is capture with  
6 the evidentiary hearing date no later than July 16th,  
7 2025, opening briefs and reply briefs, August 12 -- no  
8 later than August 12th, 2025, no later than September  
9 2nd, 2025. I've tried to just build in some time for  
10 you to address the evidence and prepare your briefs and  
11 give you adequate time to give a -- you know, a full set  
12 of briefs to the -- to the Commission for consideration  
13 when the matter is submitted upon the reply briefs being  
14 filed.

15 Mr. Hall, is there any issue with the amount of  
16 time that I'm providing through the difference between  
17 the evidentiary hearing and the opening briefs and reply  
18 briefs? Or does that timeframe seem reasonable based on  
19 the dates that I've proposed?

20 MR. HALL: The amount of time seems reasonable  
21 to me. Thank you.

22 ALJ LEE: Okay. All right. All right.

23 And, Ms. Ang, do you concur? Is the amount of  
24 time between the evidentiary hearing, opening briefs  
25 being filed and reply briefs being filed sufficient for

1 Cal Advocates?

2 MS. ANG: Yes. We concur with that as well.

3 Thank you, your Honor.

4 ALJ LEE: Okay. All right. Very well then.

5 Okay. Well, I don't think there is anything more I  
6 wanted to address regarding the proceeding schedule.

7 Mr. Hall, is there anything else before we move  
8 on?

9 MR. HALL: Nothing else, your Honor. Thank  
10 you.

11 ALJ LEE: Ms. Ang, any -- thank you, Mr. Hall.  
12 Anything else, Ms. Ang, before we move on?

13 MS. ANG: No. No. No thank you.

14 ALJ LEE: All right. So very good. So I'll  
15 confer with Commissioner Baker regarding any issues and  
16 the proposed scheduling considerations that you've set  
17 forth here and what I'll see in the joint PHC statement.  
18 I want to thank you. And I'll take the scheduling  
19 issues under submission at this point.

20 Okay. So let me ask the parties if there are  
21 any other issues that we want to address or that you  
22 want to bring to the Commission's attention at this  
23 point?

24 And I'll open it up to you first, Mr. Hall. Is  
25 there anything further you'd like to raise at this

1 point?

2 MR. HALL: Just one thing, your Honor, to put  
3 on your -- on your radar as well, that Southwest Gas  
4 intends to file an amendment to its application by  
5 December 20th, 2024. So within the next week and a half  
6 or so here. So I just wanted to put that on your radar  
7 to be on the lookout for that.

8 ALJ LEE: You're saying by December -- sorry.  
9 By December 24? Did I hear that correctly?

10 MR. HALL: December 20th. And --

11 ALJ LEE: 20th. Okay.

12 MR. HALL: And in line with that note, just we  
13 also request -- and you'll see this in our joint  
14 prehearing conference statement -- that a scoping memo  
15 not be issued until the company's forthcoming amendment  
16 is filed.

17 ALJ LEE: All right. Very well. Yeah. Thank  
18 you for advising me of that. I do ask, as -- not out of  
19 anything that I've seen in the filing in this proceeding  
20 but in another proceeding that we're addressing --  
21 please file any documents, to the extent that you can,  
22 in a searchable format. Later on down the line, it  
23 helps a great deal to go through the record with some  
24 searchability, such as a PDF -- a searchable PDF rather  
25 than just scanning something that is voluminous and

1 can't be searched. So I please ask for that courtesy.

2 And if that's not possible, please let us know,  
3 and perhaps there is something that we can do by way of  
4 a courtesy copy that might be searchable.

5 MR. HALL: A good piece of (inaudible).

6 ALJ LEE: All right. Well, thank you. Thank  
7 you, Mr. Hall. Thank you for the heads-up on the  
8 amended application. We'll look for it in the docketing  
9 system. And as far as the scoping memo, we will take  
10 the amendment -- the amended application into account.

11 All right. And, Mr. Hall, have you discussed  
12 the amendments -- the amended application, rather, with  
13 Cal Advocates at this point?

14 MR. HALL: We have, your Honor. Thank you.

15 ALJ LEE: Okay. All right. Okay. Is there  
16 anything else, Mr. Hall?

17 MR. HALL: Nothing for me. Thank you.

18 ALJ LEE: All right. And then for Cal  
19 Advocates, Ms. Ang, do you have anything further that  
20 you'd like to address or raise at this point?

21 MS. ANG: No, not at this point. Thank you,  
22 your Honor.

23 ALJ LEE: Okay. And -- okay. And you are  
24 aware then about the amended application. And as I  
25 mentioned to Mr. Hall, we will take that into account in

1 the scoping memo we'll issue, you know, taking the  
2 amendment into account. I don't know if that's going to  
3 be before or after the issuance of a ruling on the -- on  
4 the motion for memorandum account at this point.

5 MS. ANG: No. We have no objections to the  
6 amendment, your Honor.

7 ALJ LEE: Okay. Oh. Let me raise one more  
8 question I had. My review of the record indicates that  
9 the -- Southwest Gas' motion for a GRC memorandum  
10 account is unopposed at this point.

11 Is that correct, Ms. Ang?

12 MS. ANG: That is correct, your Honor.

13 ALJ LEE: All right. Well, thank you very  
14 much. All right. So as I mentioned, I will confer with  
15 Commissioner Baker on all the issues addressed through  
16 this prehearing conference. Again, we'll review the  
17 joint prehearing conference statement when I receive it  
18 and your respective party positions that are reflected  
19 in today's conference and the statement that I'll read.

20 A scoping ruling will be issued by the  
21 commissioner. We will wait for the amended application  
22 and consider that. And -- oh. Let me ask Mr. Hall.

23 Mr. Hall, in the amended application, will that  
24 raise any new issues that we need to address in the  
25 scope of the proceeding?

1 MR. HALL: Great question, your Honor. No.  
2 The amendment will not -- should not raise any  
3 additional issues to be included in the scope.

4 ALJ LEE: Okay. All right. So -- and for Cal  
5 Advocates, Ms. Ang, Mr. Hall says it will not raise any  
6 new issues. Of course, if you do see any -- any new  
7 issues that you would like the Commission to consider,  
8 please file something in a timely manner so that we can  
9 consider whether the new issues need to be added but  
10 except for -- for now Mr. Hall's representation that it  
11 will not change the proposed scope that you've already  
12 met and conferred on and had discussed and will present  
13 in this -- in the prehearing conference statement.

14 Okay. Understood, Ms. Ang?

15 MS. ANG: That's understood. Thank you, your  
16 Honor.

17 ALJ LEE: Okay. All right. Well, thank you  
18 both. As I mentioned, the scoping ruling will be issued  
19 by the commissioner. And at this point, I'd like to go  
20 briefly off the record to double-check on a few  
21 housekeeping issues.

22 Okay. So we are now off the record.

23 (Off the record.)

24 ALJ LEE: Let's go back on the record.

25 All right. While we were off the record a



1 moment ago, the court reporter and I conferred, and the  
2 court reporter would like a clarification on the  
3 spelling of a name that Mr. Hall identified, a  
4 Mr. Williams.

5 So, Mr. Hall, would you please spell the full  
6 name of Mr. Williams, the person to whom you were  
7 referring.

8 MR. HALL: Yes. Of course. It's Byron  
9 Williams. His first name is spelled B-y-r-o-n. Last  
10 name is Williams, W-i-l-l-i-m-s -- i-a-m-s. I'm sorry.

11 ALJ LEE: Okay. So the last name,  
12 W-i-l-l-i-a-m-s.

13 MR. HALL: That's correct.

14 ALJ LEE: Okay. All right. Very well then. I  
15 don't see any other clarifications that were necessary  
16 and can think of none myself. So I want to thank  
17 everybody for their participation today, and I want to  
18 thank our court reporter for taking down our remarks and  
19 transcribing this particular prehearing conference.

20 Our telephonic prehearing conference is now  
21 adjourned, and we are now off the record.

22 (At the hour of 10:40 a.m., the Commission  
23 then adjourned.)

24 \* \* \* \* \*

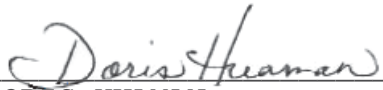
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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CERTIFICATION OF TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDING  
I, DORIS HUAMAN, CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER  
NO. 10538, IN AND FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, DO  
HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE PAGES OF THIS TRANSCRIPT  
PREPARED BY ME COMPRISE A FULL, TRUE, AND CORRECT  
TRANSCRIPT OF THE TESTIMONY AND PROCEEDINGS HELD IN  
THIS MATTER ON DECEMBER 11, 2024.

I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT I HAVE NO INTEREST IN THE  
EVENTS OF THE MATTER OR THE OUTCOME OF THE PROCEEDING.  
EXECUTED THIS JANUARY 09, 2025.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DORIS HUAMAN  
CSR NO. 10538

<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	11,25 10:10,19,23 11:5, 17,19 12:6,15,24 13:4, 19,23 14:9,12,22 15:1, 24 16:6,19,24 17:9,12 18:2,10,17 19:4,22 20:4,11,14 21:8,11,17 22:6,15,18,23 23:7,13 24:4,17,24	<b>based</b> 19:18 <b>behalf</b> 6:14,22 7:1,11 <b>benefit</b> 4:11 <b>bit</b> 16:7 <b>briefing</b> 15:12 <b>briefly</b> 24:20 <b>briefs</b> 19:7,10,12,13,17, 18,24,25 <b>bring</b> 20:22 <b>build</b> 19:9 <b>Byron</b> 9:19 15:22
<b>12</b> 19:7 <b>12th</b> 19:8 <b>16</b> 17:3 <b>16th</b> 15:11 16:24 17:6, 13,22 19:6 <b>17</b> 7:18,23	<b>8.02</b> 8:20 9:2 <b>85</b> 9:5	<b>9</b>	<b>ALJ-176</b> 13:12 <b>amended</b> 22:8,10,12, 24 23:21,23 <b>amendment</b> 21:4,15 22:10 23:2,6 24:2 <b>amendments</b> 22:12 <b>amount</b> 19:15,20,23 <b>Andrew</b> 6:22 <b>Ang</b> 7:4,7 10:24 11:13, 18 12:2,13,19,22 13:20, 22 14:18,21,24 16:14, 15,22 17:2,11,20 18:3, 6,11,14,18,20 19:5,23 20:2,11,12,13 22:19,21 23:5,11,12 24:5,14,15 <b>appearance</b> 6:18,25 <b>appearances</b> 6:11 <b>appearing</b> 6:12 7:11 <b>appears</b> 12:16 <b>applicant</b> 6:11,18 <b>application</b> 10:9 21:4 22:8,10,12,24 23:21,23 <b>April</b> 15:10,25 <b>arise</b> 14:16 <b>attendance</b> 7:11 17:14 <b>attention</b> 20:22 <b>August</b> 19:7,8 <b>avoid</b> 16:18 17:8 <b>aware</b> 16:8 22:24
<b>2</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>ALJ-176</b> 13:12 <b>amended</b> 22:8,10,12, 24 23:21,23 <b>amendment</b> 21:4,15 22:10 23:2,6 24:2 <b>amendments</b> 22:12 <b>amount</b> 19:15,20,23 <b>Andrew</b> 6:22 <b>Ang</b> 7:4,7 10:24 11:13, 18 12:2,13,19,22 13:20, 22 14:18,21,24 16:14, 15,22 17:2,11,20 18:3, 6,11,14,18,20 19:5,23 20:2,11,12,13 22:19,21 23:5,11,12 24:5,14,15 <b>appearance</b> 6:18,25 <b>appearances</b> 6:11 <b>appearing</b> 6:12 7:11 <b>appears</b> 12:16 <b>applicant</b> 6:11,18 <b>application</b> 10:9 21:4 22:8,10,12,24 23:21,23 <b>April</b> 15:10,25 <b>arise</b> 14:16 <b>attendance</b> 7:11 17:14 <b>attention</b> 20:22 <b>August</b> 19:7,8 <b>avoid</b> 16:18 17:8 <b>aware</b> 16:8 22:24	<b>C</b>
<b>2023-15</b> 9:18 11:24 <b>2024</b> 4:25 5:4 7:17 13:13 21:5 <b>2025</b> 15:10,11,13 16:5 19:7,8,9 <b>20th</b> 21:5,10,11 <b>24</b> 21:9 <b>27</b> 13:13 <b>27th</b> 4:25 7:17 15:4 16:4 17:5 <b>2nd</b> 15:13 19:9	<b>A-N-G</b> 7:5 <b>account</b> 10:6,13 12:9 22:10,25 23:2,4,10 <b>accounting</b> 9:17 <b>actively</b> 7:12 <b>add</b> 8:1,5 9:14 10:20 12:25 15:20 18:9,21 <b>added</b> 24:9 <b>additional</b> 11:22 24:3 <b>address</b> 5:16,20,24 8:8 9:24 11:1,3,9 12:1,21 15:16 18:22,23 19:10 20:6,21 22:20 23:24 <b>addressed</b> 9:19 12:23 23:15 <b>addressing</b> 4:18 14:19 21:20 <b>adequate</b> 19:11 <b>adjustment</b> 16:2 <b>adopt</b> 9:16 <b>adoption</b> 9:21 <b>advised</b> 5:9 <b>advising</b> 21:18 <b>Advocates</b> 7:1,3,5 10:24 13:19 14:18 16:12,15,21 17:1,21 20:1 22:13,19 24:5 <b>agreed</b> 10:4 <b>agreement</b> 11:20 12:10,16 <b>ALJ</b> 4:2,25 6:24 7:7,15, 17 8:17,20,22 9:2,5,7,	<b>ALJ-176</b> 13:12 <b>amended</b> 22:8,10,12, 24 23:21,23 <b>amendment</b> 21:4,15 22:10 23:2,6 24:2 <b>amendments</b> 22:12 <b>amount</b> 19:15,20,23 <b>Andrew</b> 6:22 <b>Ang</b> 7:4,7 10:24 11:13, 18 12:2,13,19,22 13:20, 22 14:18,21,24 16:14, 15,22 17:2,11,20 18:3, 6,11,14,18,20 19:5,23 20:2,11,12,13 22:19,21 23:5,11,12 24:5,14,15 <b>appearance</b> 6:18,25 <b>appearances</b> 6:11 <b>appearing</b> 6:12 7:11 <b>appears</b> 12:16 <b>applicant</b> 6:11,18 <b>application</b> 10:9 21:4 22:8,10,12,24 23:21,23 <b>April</b> 15:10,25 <b>arise</b> 14:16 <b>attendance</b> 7:11 17:14 <b>attention</b> 20:22 <b>August</b> 19:7,8 <b>avoid</b> 16:18 17:8 <b>aware</b> 16:8 22:24	<b>C</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>ALJ-176</b> 13:12 <b>amended</b> 22:8,10,12, 24 23:21,23 <b>amendment</b> 21:4,15 22:10 23:2,6 24:2 <b>amendments</b> 22:12 <b>amount</b> 19:15,20,23 <b>Andrew</b> 6:22 <b>Ang</b> 7:4,7 10:24 11:13, 18 12:2,13,19,22 13:20, 22 14:18,21,24 16:14, 15,22 17:2,11,20 18:3, 6,11,14,18,20 19:5,23 20:2,11,12,13 22:19,21 23:5,11,12 24:5,14,15 <b>appearance</b> 6:18,25 <b>appearances</b> 6:11 <b>appearing</b> 6:12 7:11 <b>appears</b> 12:16 <b>applicant</b> 6:11,18 <b>application</b> 10:9 21:4 22:8,10,12,24 23:21,23 <b>April</b> 15:10,25 <b>arise</b> 14:16 <b>attendance</b> 7:11 17:14 <b>attention</b> 20:22 <b>August</b> 19:7,8 <b>avoid</b> 16:18 17:8 <b>aware</b> 16:8 22:24	<b>Cal</b> 7:3 10:24 13:19 14:18 16:11,14,15,21 17:1,20 20:1 22:13,18 24:4 <b>calendar</b> 7:10 <b>California</b> 7:2,5 8:12, 13,16,18,25 9:4 11:6,7 <b>call</b> 4:10 9:13 <b>capture</b> 19:5 <b>captured</b> 18:8 <b>case</b> 10:6,13 12:9 <b>categorization</b> 13:9, 15,21 <b>category</b> 4:24 <b>challenges</b> 16:21 <b>change</b> 8:5 24:11 <b>clear</b> 4:12 <b>commence</b> 16:4 17:3, 4,5,7,12,13 <b>commencement</b> 16:25 <b>commencing</b> 15:11 <b>comments</b> 13:5 15:5 18:19,22,24 <b>Commission</b> 5:1,6 7:2,6 10:4,12 13:10 14:17 19:12 24:7
<b>4</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>ALJ-176</b> 13:12 <b>amended</b> 22:8,10,12, 24 23:21,23 <b>amendment</b> 21:4,15 22:10 23:2,6 24:2 <b>amendments</b> 22:12 <b>amount</b> 19:15,20,23 <b>Andrew</b> 6:22 <b>Ang</b> 7:4,7 10:24 11:13, 18 12:2,13,19,22 13:20, 22 14:18,21,24 16:14, 15,22 17:2,11,20 18:3, 6,11,14,18,20 19:5,23 20:2,11,12,13 22:19,21 23:5,11,12 24:5,14,15 <b>appearance</b> 6:18,25 <b>appearances</b> 6:11 <b>appearing</b> 6:12 7:11 <b>appears</b> 12:16 <b>applicant</b> 6:11,18 <b>application</b> 10:9 21:4 22:8,10,12,24 23:21,23 <b>April</b> 15:10,25 <b>arise</b> 14:16 <b>attendance</b> 7:11 17:14 <b>attention</b> 20:22 <b>August</b> 19:7,8 <b>avoid</b> 16:18 17:8 <b>aware</b> 16:8 22:24	<b>Cal</b> 7:3 10:24 13:19 14:18 16:11,14,15,21 17:1,20 20:1 22:13,18 24:4 <b>calendar</b> 7:10 <b>California</b> 7:2,5 8:12, 13,16,18,25 9:4 11:6,7 <b>call</b> 4:10 9:13 <b>capture</b> 19:5 <b>captured</b> 18:8 <b>case</b> 10:6,13 12:9 <b>categorization</b> 13:9, 15,21 <b>category</b> 4:24 <b>challenges</b> 16:21 <b>change</b> 8:5 24:11 <b>clear</b> 4:12 <b>commence</b> 16:4 17:3, 4,5,7,12,13 <b>commencement</b> 16:25 <b>commencing</b> 15:11 <b>comments</b> 13:5 15:5 18:19,22,24 <b>Commission</b> 5:1,6 7:2,6 10:4,12 13:10 14:17 19:12 24:7
<b>5</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>ALJ-176</b> 13:12 <b>amended</b> 22:8,10,12, 24 23:21,23 <b>amendment</b> 21:4,15 22:10 23:2,6 24:2 <b>amendments</b> 22:12 <b>amount</b> 19:15,20,23 <b>Andrew</b> 6:22 <b>Ang</b> 7:4,7 10:24 11:13, 18 12:2,13,19,22 13:20, 22 14:18,21,24 16:14, 15,22 17:2,11,20 18:3, 6,11,14,18,20 19:5,23 20:2,11,12,13 22:19,21 23:5,11,12 24:5,14,15 <b>appearance</b> 6:18,25 <b>appearances</b> 6:11 <b>appearing</b> 6:12 7:11 <b>appears</b> 12:16 <b>applicant</b> 6:11,18 <b>application</b> 10:9 21:4 22:8,10,12,24 23:21,23 <b>April</b> 15:10,25 <b>arise</b> 14:16 <b>attendance</b> 7:11 17:14 <b>attention</b> 20:22 <b>August</b> 19:7,8 <b>avoid</b> 16:18 17:8 <b>aware</b> 16:8 22:24	<b>Cal</b> 7:3 10:24 13:19 14:18 16:11,14,15,21 17:1,20 20:1 22:13,18 24:4 <b>calendar</b> 7:10 <b>California</b> 7:2,5 8:12, 13,16,18,25 9:4 11:6,7 <b>call</b> 4:10 9:13 <b>capture</b> 19:5 <b>captured</b> 18:8 <b>case</b> 10:6,13 12:9 <b>categorization</b> 13:9, 15,21 <b>category</b> 4:24 <b>challenges</b> 16:21 <b>change</b> 8:5 24:11 <b>clear</b> 4:12 <b>commence</b> 16:4 17:3, 4,5,7,12,13 <b>commencement</b> 16:25 <b>commencing</b> 15:11 <b>comments</b> 13:5 15:5 18:19,22,24 <b>Commission</b> 5:1,6 7:2,6 10:4,12 13:10 14:17 19:12 24:7
<b>7</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>ALJ-176</b> 13:12 <b>amended</b> 22:8,10,12, 24 23:21,23 <b>amendment</b> 21:4,15 22:10 23:2,6 24:2 <b>amendments</b> 22:12 <b>amount</b> 19:15,20,23 <b>Andrew</b> 6:22 <b>Ang</b> 7:4,7 10:24 11:13, 18 12:2,13,19,22 13:20, 22 14:18,21,24 16:14, 15,22 17:2,11,20 18:3, 6,11,14,18,20 19:5,23 20:2,11,12,13 22:19,21 23:5,11,12 24:5,14,15 <b>appearance</b> 6:18,25 <b>appearances</b> 6:11 <b>appearing</b> 6:12 7:11 <b>appears</b> 12:16 <b>applicant</b> 6:11,18 <b>application</b> 10:9 21:4 22:8,10,12,24 23:21,23 <b>April</b> 15:10,25 <b>arise</b> 14:16 <b>attendance</b> 7:11 17:14 <b>attention</b> 20:22 <b>August</b> 19:7,8 <b>avoid</b> 16:18 17:8 <b>aware</b> 16:8 22:24	<b>back</b> 18:18 24:24 <b>Baker</b> 4:3 6:7 20:15 23:15
<b>7</b> 9:2 <b>7.74</b> 8:16,24 <b>7.84</b> 9:3 <b>7.85</b> 8:19 9:4	<b>agreed</b> 10:4 <b>agreement</b> 11:20 12:10,16 <b>ALJ</b> 4:2,25 6:24 7:7,15, 17 8:17,20,22 9:2,5,7,	<b>back</b> 18:18 24:24 <b>Baker</b> 4:3 6:7 20:15 23:15	

<b>Commission's</b> 7:10 13:15,20 20:22		<b>establish</b> 10:5,13	<b>great</b> 21:23 24:1
<b>commissioner</b> 4:3 6:7 14:15 16:9 20:15 23:15, 21 24:19	<hr/> <b>D</b> <hr/>	<b>evaluate</b> 14:14	<b>ground</b> 4:6
<b>commit</b> 17:19	<b>daily</b> 7:10	<b>everybody's</b> 16:10	<hr/> <b>H</b> <hr/>
<b>company's</b> 10:9 21:15	<b>date</b> 15:20,25 16:3,18, 25 19:2,6	<b>evidence</b> 19:10	<b>H-A-L-L</b> 6:23
<b>concur</b> 11:15 19:23 20:2	<b>dates</b> 16:20 17:24 18:24,25 19:19	<b>evidentiary</b> 13:25 14:22 15:10 16:3,4,25 18:25 19:2,6,17,24	<b>half</b> 21:5
<b>confer</b> 20:15 23:14	<b>deal</b> 21:23	<b>explanation</b> 5:11	<b>Hall</b> 6:21,22,24 8:4,7, 18,21 9:1,4,6,10,14 10:3,17,21,22,25 11:4, 14,22 12:3,7,25 13:2, 16,18 14:6,8,11 15:15, 18,25 16:11 18:6,18,20, 23 19:5,15,20 20:7,9, 11,24 21:2,10,12 22:5, 7,11,14,16,17,25 23:22, 23 24:1,5
<b>conference</b> 4:7,20,22 5:2,7,9,13,16,18,19,22 6:3,8,10,13 7:9,22,25 8:5 9:9 11:3,11 12:17 14:2,4,13 15:6 21:14 23:16,17,19 24:13	<b>December</b> 4:25 5:3 21:5,8,9,10	<b>extent</b> 21:21	<b>Hall's</b> 24:10
<b>conferred</b> 24:12	<b>decisions</b> 7:23	<hr/> <b>F</b> <hr/>	<b>harbor</b> 9:16
<b>conflict</b> 16:17 17:1,6, 24 18:1,12,15	<b>defer</b> 16:11	<b>fair</b> 12:11,13	<b>hardship</b> 17:14,17
<b>conflicts</b> 16:5,6,7	<b>details</b> 7:23	<b>file</b> 5:2 15:21 21:4,21 24:8	<b>heads-up</b> 22:7
<b>connect</b> 6:1	<b>determination</b> 6:6	<b>filed</b> 5:10 11:25 19:14, 25 21:16	<b>hear</b> 21:9
<b>consideration</b> 19:12	<b>determinations</b> 6:9	<b>filing</b> 9:22,23 21:19	<b>heard</b> 10:25 18:20
<b>considerations</b> 20:16	<b>determined</b> 13:11	<b>find</b> 5:7	<b>hearing</b> 4:9 7:15 13:25 14:23 15:10 16:3,4,18, 25 19:1,2,6,17,24
<b>consult</b> 6:7	<b>difference</b> 19:16	<b>focus</b> 15:16	<b>hearings</b> 4:23 13:9
<b>conversations</b> 4:16	<b>difficult</b> 5:12 17:19	<b>follow-up</b> 5:20	<b>helps</b> 21:23
<b>copied</b> 8:23	<b>direct</b> 9:19	<b>format</b> 21:22	<b>Honor</b> 6:21 7:4 8:7 11:13 12:14 13:2 14:8 16:22 17:20 19:3 20:3,9 21:2 22:14,22 23:6,12 24:1,16
<b>copy</b> 7:22 22:4	<b>directly</b> 5:21	<b>forthcoming</b> 21:15	<b>housekeeping</b> 24:21
<b>Corporation</b> 6:19,22 15:21	<b>discovery</b> 13:25	<b>found</b> 12:4 14:4	<hr/> <b>I</b> <hr/>
<b>correct</b> 9:1,3 10:17 14:11 16:16 23:11,12	<b>discuss</b> 4:23 13:9 14:15	<b>full</b> 6:16 19:11	<b>identified</b> 5:17 6:7 7:12,18 10:11,25 15:9
<b>correction</b> 8:11,14	<b>discussed</b> 11:14 12:2 15:22 22:11 24:12	<hr/> <b>G</b> <hr/>	<b>identify</b> 6:16 8:1 9:12 16:20
<b>corrections</b> 9:8 11:14, 15	<b>discussing</b> 14:20	<b>Gas</b> 6:19,20,22 8:3 10:12 13:16 14:6 15:15, 21 18:12 21:3	<b>identifying</b> 5:3,8
<b>correctly</b> 8:24 16:13 21:9	<b>discussion</b> 12:18 18:19	<b>Gas'</b> 9:16 10:5 18:12 23:9	<b>inaudible</b> 22:5
<b>counsel</b> 17:15	<b>disposition</b> 10:8	<b>general</b> 10:6,13 12:8	<b>included</b> 7:19 24:3
<b>court</b> 4:6,12,13,18	<b>disputed</b> 14:16	<b>germane</b> 10:8	
<b>courtesy</b> 22:1,4	<b>docket</b> 5:5,6	<b>gist</b> 10:16	
<b>cover</b> 14:9,10 16:23	<b>docketing</b> 22:8	<b>give</b> 6:1 11:1 19:11	
<b>covered</b> 9:21 18:6	<b>documents</b> 21:21	<b>good</b> 6:21 10:23 11:19 20:14 22:5	
	<b>dots</b> 6:2	<b>grant</b> 10:5,12	
	<b>double-check</b> 24:20	<b>GRC</b> 23:9	
	<hr/> <b>E</b> <hr/>		
	<b>email</b> 4:20,21 8:10		
	<b>ensure</b> 4:9		

<b>informally</b> 5:9	19 12:6,15,24 13:4,19,	<b>modified</b> 16:17 17:4	14 14:3,14 16:5 20:20
<b>informed</b> 8:2	23 14:9,12,22 15:1,24	19:1	<b>parties'</b> 5:8,14,23 7:20,
<b>initially</b> 17:3	16:6,19,24 17:9,12	<b>modify</b> 8:1	23 15:5
<b>intends</b> 21:4	18:2,10,17 19:4,22	<b>morning</b> 6:21	<b>party</b> 6:14,17 15:12
<b>intention</b> 9:16	20:4,11,14 21:8,11,17	<b>motion</b> 10:5,8,12 12:8	23:18
<b>interest</b> 13:6 16:10	22:6,15,18,23 23:7,13	23:4,9	<b>pass</b> 14:15
<b>Internal</b> 9:17	24:4,17,24	<b>move</b> 7:16 10:24 13:7,	<b>PDF</b> 21:24
<b>intervenor</b> 7:1 15:9	<b>letter</b> 8:10 11:4	24 15:2 20:7,12	<b>person</b> 6:14
16:1	<b>lookout</b> 21:7	<b>mute</b> 4:16	<b>PHC</b> 13:6 15:14 20:17
<b>IRS</b> 11:24			<b>phones</b> 4:16
<b>issuance</b> 23:3	<b>M</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>piece</b> 22:5
<b>issue</b> 6:9 8:9 9:14,15,	<b>made</b> 10:9 16:2	<b>Northern</b> 8:13 9:4 11:7	<b>point</b> 5:22 7:15 10:21
18,20,24 10:4,15 11:20,	<b>maintained</b> 5:6	<b>note</b> 5:25 6:5 7:9 10:1	13:1,7 14:10 17:23
22 12:7,8,9,11 13:8,24	<b>make</b> 6:5,8 8:11,15,23	18:24 21:12	18:4,5,9 20:19,23 21:1
17:10 19:15 23:1	17:19	<b>noted</b> 9:22 18:2	22:13,20,21 23:4,10
<b>issued</b> 15:4 21:15	<b>makes</b> 5:11	<b>notes</b> 8:24	24:19
23:20 24:18	<b>making</b> 9:21	<b>noticed</b> 7:9	<b>pose</b> 16:25 17:13
<b>issues</b> 5:3,16 6:6 7:16,	<b>manner</b> 24:8	<b>November</b> 7:17 15:4	<b>positions</b> 5:3,8,14,23
18,24 8:9,10 9:15 10:7	<b>Marybelle</b> 7:4 16:14,15	<b>numbers</b> 8:23	7:20 23:18
11:3,5 12:16,22 14:1,7,	17:20		<b>prehearing</b> 4:7,19,22
15,19 15:23 20:15,19,	<b>matter</b> 15:12 19:13	<b>O</b>	5:2,7,12,16,18 6:3,8,10,
21 23:15,24 24:3,6,7,9,	<b>means</b> 5:22		13 7:9,22,24 8:5 9:8
21	<b>meet</b> 16:21		11:2,11 12:17 14:2,4,13
<b>items</b> 8:8	<b>meeting</b> 12:3	<b>object</b> 12:4	15:6 21:14 23:16,17
	<b>members</b> 17:16	<b>objection</b> 13:15,17,18,	24:13
<b>J</b>	<b>memo</b> 6:9 21:14 22:9	20,22	<b>prejudice</b> 17:17
	23:1	<b>objections</b> 18:15 23:5	<b>preliminarily</b> 7:18
<b>joint</b> 5:2,7,12,18 6:3	<b>memorandum</b> 10:6,13	<b>Office</b> 7:1,5	13:11
7:22 8:5 9:8 10:3 11:2,	12:9 23:4,9	<b>Ong</b> 12:19	<b>prepare</b> 19:10
11 12:17 13:6 14:1,13	<b>memory</b> 16:13	<b>online</b> 5:6	<b>prepared</b> 9:19 15:9
15:6,14 20:17 21:13	<b>mention</b> 4:4	<b>open</b> 20:24	16:1
23:17	<b>mentioned</b> 22:25	<b>opening</b> 19:7,17,24	<b>present</b> 6:15 17:24,25
<b>jointly</b> 18:8	23:14 24:18	<b>ordered</b> 5:1	24:12
<b>July</b> 15:11 16:24 17:3,	<b>met</b> 24:12	<b>outlined</b> 9:17	<b>preview</b> 11:2
6,13,22 19:6	<b>method</b> 9:17		<b>previewed</b> 4:7
<b>June</b> 16:13,17 17:7,25	<b>methodology</b> 11:24	<b>P</b>	<b>prior</b> 4:17 5:9
<b>jurisdiction</b> 8:13,14	<b>mind</b> 12:18 18:3		<b>Procedure</b> 9:18
<b>jurisdictions</b> 11:8	<b>Mm-hmm</b> 15:24	<b>part</b> 16:17 17:25	<b>proceed</b> 5:12
	<b>modification</b> 19:1	<b>participate</b> 7:13	<b>proceeding</b> 4:5,24 5:1
<b>L</b>	<b>modifications</b> 15:19	<b>parties</b> 4:5 5:1,10,17,	7:13,19,21 8:9 9:23
	18:7	21,24 6:12,17 7:12,24	10:14,21 12:21 13:12
<b>Lake</b> 8:13,19 11:7		10:4 11:20 12:10 13:5,	15:2,3,17,20 17:15
<b>LEE</b> 4:2 6:24 7:7,15			18:13 20:6 21:19,20
8:17,20,22 9:2,5,7,11,			23:25
25 10:10,19,23 11:17,			

<b>propose</b> 15:3,19	<b>referred</b> 18:7 20:16,18	<b>scope</b> 4:23 7:16,19,21 8:9,10 9:15 10:7,14,21 12:21,23 13:2 15:23 23:25 24:3,11	<b>state</b> 4:17 6:15
<b>proposed</b> 7:18,20,23 8:15 11:5,14 15:8,17 16:3 18:5,12,13,16 19:19 20:16 24:11	<b>referring</b> 17:15	<b>scoped</b> 12:9,11	<b>statement</b> 5:2,7,13,19 6:4 7:22,25 8:2,6 9:9 10:2 11:3,11 12:17 13:6 14:2,5,9,13,25 15:7,15 16:19,22 17:2 18:8 20:17 21:14 23:17,19 24:13
<b>provide</b> 5:18	<b>reflected</b> 9:8 23:18	<b>scoping</b> 6:9 21:14 22:9 23:1,20 24:18	<b>statements</b> 6:1
<b>providing</b> 19:16	<b>refrain</b> 4:16	<b>searchability</b> 21:24	<b>status</b> 5:21
<b>Public</b> 7:1,2,5,6	<b>reiterate</b> 4:6	<b>searchable</b> 21:22,24 22:4	<b>subject</b> 10:8
<b>Publication</b> 11:24	<b>remains</b> 12:9	<b>searched</b> 22:1	<b>submission</b> 20:19
<b>published</b> 13:12	<b>Remember</b> 4:15	<b>Section</b> 15:3	<b>submitted</b> 15:13 19:13
<b>purpose</b> 4:22	<b>remove</b> 10:14	<b>send</b> 4:20,21	<b>subsequent</b> 18:24,25
<b>put</b> 21:2,6	<b>removed</b> 10:6	<b>separate</b> 11:25	<b>successful</b> 4:9
<b>putting</b> 19:2	<b>reply</b> 19:7,13,17,25	<b>September</b> 13:13 15:13 19:8	<b>sufficient</b> 19:25
<hr/> <b>Q</b> <hr/>	<b>reporter</b> 4:6,12,13,18	<b>serve</b> 5:17	<b>supplemental</b> 9:23 15:21
<b>question</b> 23:8 24:1	<b>reporting@cpuc.ca.gov.</b> 4:21	<b>served</b> 16:1	<b>suspect</b> 15:5
<b>questions</b> 5:20	<b>represent</b> 6:17	<b>serves</b> 16:13	<b>system</b> 22:9
<b>quickly</b> 4:14	<b>representation</b> 12:12, 13 24:10	<b>service</b> 9:17 15:9	<hr/> <b>T</b> <hr/>
<hr/> <b>R</b> <hr/>	<b>represented</b> 12:7,10	<b>set</b> 16:9 19:11 20:16	<b>Tahoe</b> 8:14,19 11:7
<b>radar</b> 19:3 21:3,6	<b>request</b> 10:9 21:13	<b>side</b> 4:16	<b>taking</b> 23:1
<b>raise</b> 20:25 22:20 23:7, 24 24:2,5	<b>Resolution</b> 13:12	<b>slowly</b> 4:11	<b>talking</b> 15:23
<b>raised</b> 11:4,23	<b>resolve</b> 14:17	<b>South</b> 8:13,18 11:7	<b>tax</b> 9:16
<b>rate</b> 10:6,13 11:6 12:8	<b>respect</b> 18:23	<b>Southern</b> 8:12,15,24 11:6	<b>team</b> 17:16
<b>rates</b> 8:12,15	<b>respectively</b> 23:18	<b>Southwest</b> 6:19,20,22 8:3 9:16 10:5,12 13:16 14:6 15:15,21 18:12 21:3 23:9	<b>telephonic</b> 4:9 6:13
<b>ratesetting</b> 13:11	<b>response</b> 7:14	<b>speak</b> 4:10,11,15 6:2, 14 16:8	<b>telling</b> 18:21
<b>read</b> 5:19 8:2,6,23 12:17 13:6 15:14 23:19	<b>result</b> 19:1	<b>speaking</b> 4:17 6:15	<b>testimony</b> 9:19,21,22, 23 11:25 15:9,22 16:1
<b>reading</b> 9:9 10:2	<b>return</b> 8:12,15 11:6	<b>spell</b> 6:16	<b>thing</b> 10:3 15:20 21:2
<b>reasonable</b> 9:18 11:8 12:4 16:9 19:18,20	<b>Revenue</b> 9:17,18	<b>spelled</b> 6:23	<b>time</b> 17:23 19:9,11,16, 20,24
<b>reasonableness</b> 11:23	<b>review</b> 23:8,16	<b>staff</b> 12:3	<b>timeframe</b> 19:18
<b>rebuttal</b> 16:2	<b>rules</b> 4:6,8	<b>standalone</b> 10:15	<b>timely</b> 24:8
<b>receive</b> 23:17	<b>ruling</b> 4:25 7:17 8:11 15:4,8 17:3 23:3,20 24:18	<b>start</b> 6:11 8:3 17:22	<b>today</b> 5:25 6:6,12 12:18
<b>record</b> 4:8,18 6:15 21:23 23:8 24:20,22,23, 24,25	<hr/> <b>S</b> <hr/>		<b>today's</b> 4:7,19,22 6:8 23:19
<b>refer</b> 6:19 7:2	<b>safe</b> 9:16		<b>transcribed</b> 4:5
	<b>scanning</b> 21:25		
	<b>schedule</b> 4:23 15:2,3, 8,17,20 16:9,16 18:5,13 20:6		
	<b>scheduling</b> 16:5		

**transcript** 4:12,19

---

**U**

---

**uncertainty** 17:18

**understand** 14:14  
17:9,10

**understood** 11:19  
24:14,15

**unopposed** 23:10

**Utilities** 7:2,6

---

**V**

---

**voluminous** 21:25

---

**W**

---

**wait** 23:21

**wanted** 4:4 13:8 17:4,8  
20:6 21:6

**week** 21:5

**Williams** 9:20 15:22

**witnesses** 17:15

**words** 10:10