

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE CHARLES FERGUSON, presiding

|                                        |   |               |
|----------------------------------------|---|---------------|
| Application of Southern California Gas | ) | PUBLIC        |
| Company (U904G), San Diego Gas &       | ) | PARTICIPATION |
| Electric Company (U902), Pacific Gas   | ) | HEARING       |
| and Electric Company (U39G) and        | ) |               |
| Southwest Gas Corporation (U905G) to   | ) | Application   |
| Establish Hydrogen Blending            | ) | 22-09-006     |
| Demonstration Projects                 | ) |               |



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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION, STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

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SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

SEPTEMBER 26, 2025 - 2:00 P.M.

\* \* \* \* \*

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE FERGUSON: All right.  
Would the court reporter please put us on the record.  
It is 2:00 p.m. on September 26, 2025, and we are  
gathered here at the United Way office at 4699 Murphy  
Canyon Road, if I've got it right, in San Diego.

And the purpose of gathering today is to hold  
what is called a public participation hearing in a  
California Public Utilities Commission proceeding, which  
is identified as Application 22-09-006.

My name is Charles Ferguson. I am the  
administrative law judge that is assigned to this  
particular case. Today, I'm honored to have with us,  
and with me, a representative of Commissioner Darcie  
Houck, who is the Commissioner assigned to oversee  
Application 22-09-006. She has sent one of her staff  
members, Erica Petrofsky. Erica will address you in  
just a few minutes on behalf of the Commissioner.

We also have here from the Commission, as I  
think most of you have found out already because you  
came through the front door, several representatives of  
the Public Advisor's Office. Those folks are people for  
you to go to if you have any kind of difficulty

1 understanding how to communicate with us at the CPUC.  
2 That's a part of their responsibility, to help the  
3 public and actually communicate with us either  
4 electronically or over the telephone or in person like  
5 today, which brings me to the purpose of gathering here  
6 today.

7 It is simply this, we, from the Commission, all  
8 of us, are here to get input from all of you. We use  
9 your input. In fact, I even will write about your input  
10 in my proposed decision when I get to that point. I  
11 will summarize what I have heard in all 10 of the public  
12 participation proceedings that I have conducted for this  
13 proceeding. This is number nine. The one that comes at  
14 five o'clock will be number ten, and that will be the  
15 last public participation proceeding that I hold in this  
16 particular proceeding.

17 I think as most of you know, and if you don't  
18 know, let me inform you, that this particular proceeding  
19 includes four applicants, four gas companies, which are  
20 Pacific Gas and Electric Company, San Diego Gas &  
21 Electric Company, whom we are here primarily to focus on  
22 today, SoCalGas, and Southwest Gas Company. Those are  
23 four large gas companies in California. And the  
24 Commission is interested in having them propose  
25 projects -- test projects to find out whether or not our

1 existing gas system here in California, all of the big  
2 pipelines and all of the distribution lines and all of  
3 the pumps, and so on and so forth, that deliver gas to  
4 your homes and to the businesses throughout  
5 California -- the Commission would like to know whether  
6 or not we can cut down on the greenhouse gases that are  
7 produced from burning methane, which is what we do  
8 today, by introducing into the pipeline system hydrogen,  
9 in some quantity or other.

10 The four gas companies have proposed a total of  
11 five test projects for this particular proceeding and  
12 for the Commission to decide what to do about each one.  
13 They have asked for permission to build each one.  
14 Today, we are focused on San Diego Gas & Electric and  
15 its proposal. And in just a minute or two, San Diego  
16 will explain to you what it has proposed.

17 After that, I'm going to have public comment.  
18 As I said before, your comments are really important to  
19 us. Technically, legally I'm not allowed to base my  
20 decision on what you say because it is, in technical  
21 language, hearsay. And the Supreme Court of California  
22 will not let the Commission make decisions based on  
23 hearsay. But, as I said, I will summarize what people  
24 have told us in these ten public participation hearings.  
25 And what you say is taken down here today by the court

1 reporters, and it is read by the decision-makers at the  
2 Commission, including me. I will go over all of these  
3 transcripts myself a second time even though I have been  
4 in each one of the public participation hearings myself.

5 Your thoughts, your comments, your emotions,  
6 your reactions to what this proposal is from San Diego  
7 could trigger ideas in my head, in other decision-makers  
8 heads at the Commission. And that's why we read all  
9 this stuff and we participate in these sorts of meetings  
10 and conduct these meetings, to get your ideas. Because  
11 they can germinate ideas in the decision-makers minds,  
12 like me. So you're here to help me make a good decision  
13 ultimately about San Diego's proposed project.

14 So without further ado, I think I'm going to  
15 move forward so we can get to the point where we can  
16 hear from all of you. If you are reluctant to speak in  
17 public, that's okay. We have got other ways for you to  
18 do that. You could find out about them from the Public  
19 Advisor's Office representatives in the front hallway  
20 here.

21 One way that is really, I think, unique in my  
22 experience throughout the United States is that we allow  
23 you, the public, to actually put written comments in  
24 what's called the docket sheet of this proceeding.  
25 Those are the -- that's the case file, if you will, for

1     this particular proceeding. And you can actually get  
2     onto the CPUC website and put your thoughts in writing  
3     on the record so, again, I can read them and the other  
4     decision-makers.

5             There are five commissioners. Once I write my  
6     decision, I have got to get a vote from three of the  
7     five commissioners; otherwise, there's no decision. So  
8     I encourage you, if you are reluctant to talk in public  
9     and have your -- your comments put on the record here,  
10    then think about going home and just getting on your  
11    computer and writing to us. You can write right into  
12    the case proceeding. You will see there are hundreds of  
13    documents already in there from all the parties and  
14    other -- other sources, me included, that are there.  
15    Your -- your comments will be on that same docket sheet  
16    electronically.

17            Okay. Enough from me. I think next what I  
18    would like to do is have the commissioner's  
19    representative, Erica, talk to you. And then we are  
20    going to move to having San Diego present what it is  
21    proposing to do. I then will ask that any public  
22    official who has to be in the audience, if they want to  
23    speak, they -- they go next. Or a representative of  
24    some -- of some public official, if there is someone in  
25    this audience like that. After that, the parties in the

1 proceeding. There are many, many parties in this  
2 proceeding besides the utilities. If they have  
3 representatives of the parties and they want to speak,  
4 they will go next and then we open up to everybody else  
5 to make comments.

6 Typically, what I will do is I will call your  
7 name, and you can come up and deliver your comment right  
8 here. Usually, I read off three names so that the next  
9 two know that -- to get ready to come up and speak. And  
10 then I can give another three names and another three  
11 names, and so on and so forth, until we get through  
12 everybody.

13 So that's the agenda for today. And we're  
14 going to start with Erica, who is going to address you  
15 on behalf of the commissioner.

16 Erica?

17 MS. PETROFSKY: All right. Good afternoon,  
18 everyone, and thank you for joining us today. I'm Erica  
19 Petrofsky, an advisor to Commissioner Darcie Houck of  
20 the CPUC, the assigned commissioner of this proceeding.

21 The purpose of today's hearing is to hear from  
22 members of the communities that may be impacted by these  
23 proposed hydrogen blending pilot projects.

24 We are here to listen to you, the public, to  
25 elected officials, and to all who have come to comment



1 on these projects, specifically the one proposed here in  
2 San Diego. Your input is invaluable to the CPUC as we  
3 navigate the issues associated with our clean energy  
4 transition.

5 Thank you to the United Way for hosting us  
6 today, to Administrative Law Judge Ferguson for his work  
7 in managing this complex proceeding, to Energy Division  
8 staff, the court reporters, Rhonda Norberg and Joanna  
9 Kostapapas, and to Claudia, Nora, and Eric from the  
10 Public Advisor's Office for making this event run  
11 smoothly.

12 I'm just going to lay out a brief history of  
13 the pilot projects at issue in this proceeding. They  
14 are part of a broader state strategy to decarbonize  
15 various sectors, including hard-to-electrify end uses,  
16 where clean fuels like hydrogen are considered to play a  
17 critical role in achieving climate and air quality  
18 goals.

19 The major gas utilities first proposed pilots  
20 to explore hydrogen blending in 2020. Following the  
21 dismissal of that application, A.20-11-004, Decision  
22 22-12-057 directed California's large gas investor-owned  
23 utilities to propose new pilot projects.

24 This directive came after the CPUC Commissioned  
25 UC Riverside to conduct a study on the viability of

1     blending hydrogen into existing natural gas  
2     infrastructure.

3             The resulting Hydrogen Blending Impact Study  
4     highlighted knowledge gaps that could not be addressed  
5     by modeling or laboratory work alone and noted the need  
6     for real-world demonstrations under safe and controlled  
7     conditions.

8             This past February, a second study was  
9     published, the Hydrogen Blending Compendium Report, that  
10    summarized the existing global research on hydrogen's  
11    effects on pipelines.

12            The CPUC will carefully consider the proposal  
13    presented and the positions of the parties in this  
14    proceeding, including testimony submitted, examination  
15    during evidentiary hearings, and briefs filed by the  
16    applicants and parties.

17            The UC Riverside study explicitly concluded  
18    that a full understanding of real-world safety and  
19    operational impacts is desirable before a system-wide  
20    hydrogen injection standard can be safely established  
21    for California's common carrier pipeline system.

22            These demonstration projects have the potential  
23    to provide information as to impacts on materials,  
24    components, facilities, and equipment, as well as  
25    mitigation strategies to any potential impacts.

1           The assigned commissioner's June 12th scoping  
2     memo and ruling for this proceeding, as the judge  
3     mentioned, A.22-09-006, identified several key issues  
4     that will be explored in the proceeding. And you can  
5     follow this proceeding on the CPUC docket.

6           Based on the scoping memo and ruling, our  
7     priorities in this proceeding include usefulness and  
8     design, costs, safety, equity and community impacts, and  
9     regulatory compliance. I will add a little context  
10    regarding each of these priorities.

11           Regarding usefulness and design:

12           We have requested information as to what  
13    specific knowledge gaps each pilot project addresses  
14    that are not already covered in the existing two  
15    reports.

16           We have requested information as to whether  
17    each pilot would complement existing research and be  
18    useful to utility operators and state policymakers.

19           We also want to know what alternative  
20    approaches or experimental sites were considered; why  
21    the specific site and experimental design were chosen  
22    among alternatives; and how findings will be documented,  
23    validated, and shared with all stakeholders and the  
24    Commission.

25           Regarding costs:

1           A number of public comments on the pilots have  
2           expressed concerns about their costs. The CPUC is also  
3           very concerned about costs and about understanding what  
4           specific benefits ratepayers would receive from  
5           investment in these projects.

6           Regarding safety:

7           Safety is Paramount.

8           We will require the applicants to provide  
9           information on the safety of these pilots, as well as  
10          how they could be used to improve safety around blended  
11          hydrogen.

12          We also want to understand what emergency  
13          response plans would be in place, as well as how each  
14          utility plans to monitor hydrogen embrittlement and  
15          other risks that could be associated with any of the  
16          pilot projects.

17          Regarding equity and community impacts:

18          The Commission has an Environmental and Social  
19          Justice Action Plan that requires us to consider impacts  
20          to ESJ communities.

21          The Commission will also consider information  
22          on how the pilot project locations were selected and  
23          what mechanisms for ongoing community engagement will be  
24          implemented.

25          Regarding regulatory compliance:

1           We will examine whether each proposed pilot  
2 project complies with specific requirements set forth in  
3 Decision 22-12-057 and with existing public utilities  
4 code, which concerns issues such as cost causation.

5           Again, today's public participation hearing is  
6 for the Commission to hear from all of you. Your  
7 comments, concerns, and issues are important and will be  
8 carefully considered as we review the information  
9 presented in the proceeding. We understand that your  
10 time is valuable and that these issues are important to  
11 you. We appreciate your participation today.

12           ALJ FERGUSON: Thank you, Erica. That was very  
13 good. Thank you.

14           All right. Next, I want to invite San Diego  
15 Gas & Electric to come forward. Will the speaker state  
16 his full name, spell it slowly for the court reporter,  
17 and then you will have 10 minutes to explain the project  
18 that you are proposing to the Commission.

19           MR. ROMERO: Hello. My name is Miguel Romero,  
20 M-i-g-u-e-l R-o-m-e-r-o. I'm senior vice president and  
21 chief commercial officer at San Diego Gas & Electric.

22           Thank you, Judge Ferguson and advisor to  
23 Commissioner Houck, for allowing us this opportunity to  
24 engage with the Commission and the public to discuss our  
25 proposed blending demonstration project, located within

1     SDG&E's facilities, and sharing with you our perspective  
2     on the use of clean fuels and hydrogen in support of  
3     California's energy future.

4             I would like to begin by highlighting that  
5     SDG&E is a proud leader in enabling clean fuels,  
6     electrification, and clean technologies that support our  
7     state's reliability and sustainability goals. We  
8     believe hydrogen should continue to be part of  
9     California's overall decarbonization tool kit among  
10    other clean solutions and technologies.

11            Today, as it relates to hydrogen, SDG&E  
12    operates the only combined cycle natural gas power plant  
13    in California that is starting to blend hydrogen with  
14    natural gas. At our Palomar energy facility in  
15    Escondido, there are dedicated solar panels that power  
16    an electrolyzer that makes hydrogen use to cool the  
17    powerplant's generator and blend fuel to power its  
18    turbines. The Palomar facility also has sufficient  
19    renewable hydrogen production capacity to support this  
20    particular blending project we are presenting today.

21            Additionally, through the Electric Program  
22    Investment Charge, or EPIC program, SDG&E is operating a  
23    fully renewable nanogrid with green hydrogen to support  
24    San Diego customers during Public Safety Power Shutoff,  
25    or PSPS, events.

1           And finally, SDG&E is an active participant in  
2   ARCHES, California's clean hydrogen public-private  
3   partnership. And we are leveraging federal funding from  
4   the Department of Energy to study hydrogen production  
5   via hydrolysis and other methods in our region.

6           In 2022, following the direction of this  
7   Commission through Decision 22-12-057, SDG&E  
8   collaborated with SoCalGas, PG&E, and Southwest Gas to  
9   develop a hydrogen pilot project that is complementary  
10   and distinct from the other projects discussed at the  
11   previous public hearings across the state. Throughout  
12   the proceeding, and in response to stakeholder feedback,  
13   SDG&E's project has evolved over time in regards to  
14   location and configuration but has always been focused  
15   on studying the impacts of blending 5 to 20 percent  
16   hydrogen on new state-of-the-art medium-density  
17   polyethylene plastic pipe. Polyethylene is the  
18   most commonly used plastic pipe in our service territory  
19   and is the material of choice for plastic pipeline  
20   replacement via our pipeline Distribution Integrity  
21   Management Program.

22           Initially, SDG&E and UCSD collaborated for  
23   years to develop a pilot on UCSD's property. But given  
24   subsequent land constraints, timing issues, stakeholder  
25   feedback, and other considerations, the collaboration

1 did not move forward.

2 As a result, in May of this year, SDG&E  
3 submitted revised testimony for a new project location  
4 within SDG&E's property at 5488 Overland Avenue, as you  
5 can see in the maps in front of the room. The project,  
6 as proposed to the Commission today, will be sited here,  
7 in Kearny Mesa, inside SDG&E's existing Kearny  
8 Construction & Operation Center, or our C&O Center as we  
9 call it. The Kearny C&O facility is in an industrial  
10 area and is fully fenced and secured.

11 SDG&E's proposed demonstration project will  
12 utilize up to 20 percent hydrogen blended gas to support  
13 a fuel cell that puts energy back onto the SDG&E grid.  
14 The renewable hydrogen used in the project will be  
15 produced at SDG&E's power plant facility in Escondido  
16 and transported as needed to the Kearny C&O Center, as  
17 indicated on the map. ]

18 There will be no interaction with customer  
19 appliances for this pilot. We have taken safety and  
20 cost into account during every aspect of planning for  
21 this project, and I would like to address some of those  
22 items here.

23 From a safety standpoint, the 2025 Hydrogen  
24 Blending Compendium Report ordered by the Commission and  
25 developed by UC Riverside with the utilities reviewed



1 literature, study, and demonstrations of hydrogen  
2 blending.

3 From the report, SDG&E and the other utilities  
4 have concluded that hydrogen blending up to 20 percent  
5 by volume in the medium and low pressure distribution  
6 system is safe for pipes and for common appliances.

7 The compendium report shows that up to  
8 20 percent by volume hydrogen gas mixed with natural gas  
9 does not preferentially leak, meaning if a system is  
10 leaking for natural gas, it would also be leaking for  
11 blended gas.

12 At up to a 20 percent mix, hydrogen natural gas  
13 blends follow a similar flow regime to natural gas and  
14 current odorization methods are sufficient. The report  
15 also indicated no significant impact from hydrogen  
16 natural gas blends on plastic materials at pressure  
17 conditions observed on the California gas distribution  
18 system.

19 Many of the claims by stakeholders around the  
20 flammability, dispersion, and leakage issues of hydrogen  
21 are based on hydrogen systems with hydrogen mixes  
22 exceeding 20 percent, or 100 percent, and are not  
23 applicable to this nor to the other proposed pilots.

24 From a cost standpoint, SDG&E is not seeking  
25 any capital funding for the project; rather, only

1 operations and maintenance expenses to conduct the  
2 pilot. SDG&E's most recent revised testimony seeks to  
3 reduce the cost of the project by utilizing renewable  
4 hydrogen where we already are producing at our  
5 facilities in Escondido. SDG&E estimates this will save  
6 over \$2 million from its earlier cost estimates by  
7 leveraging this existing asset.

8 In general, using existing pipeline  
9 infrastructure to transport and deliver clean hydrogen  
10 is the most cost-effective way to transport this clean  
11 fuel and decarbonize carbon-electrified end users.

12 In conclusion, the California Air Resources  
13 Board has indicated that hydrogen blending can be a key  
14 tool to reaching net zero energy supply by 2045.  
15 Hydrogen technologies offer a promising pathway to  
16 reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing  
17 reliability while supporting California's climate goals  
18 and SDG&E's commitment to a cleaner, more sustainable  
19 energy future.

20 Hydrogen has the potential to compliment both  
21 the electric and gas grids; and we see hydrogen as a key  
22 enabler of reliability of clean, firm, dispatchable  
23 electricity for California among its many potential  
24 uses.

25 The practice of blending hydrogen with natural

1 gas is not new. It's been around for decades and has  
2 already been safely demonstrated in many other places in  
3 the U.S. and worldwide.

4 As an example, Hawaii Gas has been using  
5 hydrogen in its fuel mix for half a century to serve  
6 homes, restaurants, and businesses on the island of  
7 Oahu; and similarly, hydrogen blending has been safely  
8 and reliably used in many countries around the world  
9 such as Singapore, Canada, the United Kingdom, France,  
10 and the Netherlands, who are all leaders in clean energy  
11 and creating a clean economy.

12 With me today are members of the SDG&E's  
13 project who will be available to answer questions about  
14 the project, its merits, and our outreach efforts.

15 Thank you for your time. We are here to listen  
16 and we look forward to continuing this process together.

17 ALJ FERGUSON: Thank you very much. I just  
18 want to make one clarification of something that you  
19 said for everybody here.

20 One of the five projects, the one that is  
21 proposed by PG&E, PG&E has indicated to the Commission  
22 in the papers that have been filed in this proceeding  
23 that beyond this experiment, it may continue to test its  
24 transmission system up to 100 percent.

25 It's a special isolated loop of transmission

1 pipe that does not serve any customer; and they may test  
2 it to 100 percent after they're finished with meeting  
3 what we're interested in at the Commission, which is  
4 1 percent -- more or less 1 percent to 20 percent  
5 infusion of hydrogen or mixing of hydrogen with natural  
6 gas. Okay. Enough said about that.

7 Next, if there is any government-elected  
8 official or representative of a government agency in the  
9 audience who wants to make a comment, please raise your  
10 hand right now.

11 There is one. Okay. Would you come forward,  
12 please?

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can I make a quick  
14 suggestion, sir, before they -- could we turn the podium  
15 around slightly into the middle so they both face us and  
16 so we can see the speakers speaking to us?

17 ALJ FERGUSON: I -- I know that's what you  
18 would like. It's what I would like if I were in your  
19 shoes. Unfortunately, we've found, after hundreds of  
20 thousands of pages of reported statements, that we need  
21 to face -- we have to have speakers face the court  
22 reporters.

23 They're not facing me, they're actually facing  
24 the court reporters.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We could put it right

1       there and have it face her and then face us so we can at  
2       least see the speaker.

3               UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I agree with --

4               ALJ FERGUSON: No, we're not going to --

5               UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I agree with the judge.  
6       We're speaking to the government body, not to the  
7       public. We're speaking to the government body.

8               UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Gotcha.

9               ALJ FERGUSON: All right? Okay.

10              Please come forward; and I want you to state  
11     your full name, and spell it for the record, and tell us  
12     what government agency you represent.

13              MS. DOHERTY: Good afternoon. My name is  
14     Lillian Doherty, spelled L-i-l-l-i-a-n, last name  
15     Doherty, Doherty; and I am here on behalf of North  
16     County Transit District.

17              ALJ FERGUSON: Okay. Typically I allow  
18     government officials three minutes to speak.

19              Is that enough for you?

20              MS. DOHERTY: I have just a few things to say.

21              ALJ FERGUSON: Go right ahead.

22              MS. DOHERTY: So the North County Transit  
23     District is dedicated to a transition to a full clean  
24     energy fleet, a zero-emission fleet. We are in the  
25     process after acquiring a number of buses. Currently we

1 have 35 fuel cell electric buses that are operated  
2 through a hydrogen-based technology.

3 In addition, along our Escondido subdivision,  
4 meaning a train corridor that runs from Oceanside to  
5 Escondido, we are in the process of seeking to  
6 transition our rail fleet to another hydrogen-based  
7 propulsion technology.

8 Pilots like this help us to better understand  
9 how we can make that adoption more feasible. Over the  
10 last year, we have struggled with the cost of hydrogen;  
11 and so opportunities that allow us to learn about  
12 hydrogen technology, safe practices, as well as  
13 potentially lower the cost of hydrogen from 60 -- \$60  
14 per kilogram, which is what we are paying up to today,  
15 is a significant improvement.

16 We are hoping that one day we can see \$10 per  
17 kilogram, but that is not our reality today. This has  
18 been a significant impact on our operations; and we're  
19 hopeful that a pilot, if approved, will help to lower  
20 the cost of hydrogen for the hydrogen community as well.

21 Thank you.

22 ALJ FERGUSON: Thank you.

23 Are there any other representatives of  
24 government offices or elected officials in the audience?

25 (No response.)

1           ALJ FERGUSON: No? So next I want to invite  
2 any representative of a party to the proceeding to come  
3 up. Now, there -- there may be several of you. Let --  
4 let me see your hands first so I -- I can see how many.

5           One -- one. Okay. Just one.

6           All right. Come forward. Tell us your full  
7 name, spell your full name slowly, and then tell us what  
8 organization you represent.

9           MR. McRAE: Thank you. My name is Tim McRae,  
10 T-i-m M-c-R-a-e; and I represent the California Hydrogen  
11 Business Council.

12           I will center my remarks this afternoon on the  
13 aspect of this application that is unique from the  
14 others. It is the one demonstration pilot project of  
15 the five that involves fuel cells.

16           The proposal is to take hydrogen from SDG&E's  
17 already existing hydrogen production facility at Palomar  
18 and truck it to a site where it will be used to power a  
19 fuel cell to make electricity for the grid.

20           California Hydrogen Business Council has  
21 several fuel cell companies as members, including Bloom  
22 Energy, FuelCell Energy, HyAxiom, and Plug Power. These  
23 members make stationary fuel cells which can use a gas  
24 that includes hydrogen, or hydrogen itself, and combine  
25 it with oxygen to create electricity.

1           Stationary fuel cells can power hospitals;  
2   campus environments; microgrids; telecommunication hubs;  
3   and, increasingly, data centers. They can also feed  
4   power to the electricity grid.

5           In this way, hydrogen can be used as a  
6   decarbonized power generation solution that has both  
7   reliability benefits for fuel cell customers that want  
8   to have the option to island from the grid, and  
9   resiliency benefits for the grid as a whole.

10          Customers also can have affordability benefits  
11   from using fuel cells, as they can use them to control  
12   their energy costs. There are roughly 400 megawatts of  
13   stationary fuel cells deployed in California today.  
14   Most use some type of natural gas as the input to create  
15   hydrogen for the FuelCell at present. Many of them are  
16   running on biogas or directed biogas today.

17          This project will demonstrate the benefit of  
18   blending hydrogen with natural gas for fuel cell  
19   applications for the future.

20          Thank you.

21          ALJ FERGUSON: Thank you very much.

22          All right. One more time, are there any  
23   representatives of any of the parties in the proceeding  
24   who want to speak on the record here today?

25          (No response.)



1           ALJ FERGUSON: All right. I don't see anybody  
2       raising their hand, so let us -- just hang on a moment  
3       here. We've got a new system we're using, and I need to  
4       get everybody's name here.

5           All right. I'm going to call three names out;  
6       and if you would raise your hand as I call your name  
7       out, that would help me out, so I make sure that I --  
8       I've got three people lined up.

9           The first name is Ron Askeland. Is that  
10      correct?

11          SPEAKER ASKELAND: Yes.

12          ALJ FERGUSON: You're here? All right.

13          And then John Richeson? You're here? Great.

14          And then the third one would be John Materiale.

15          SPEAKER MATERIALE: Materiale.

16          ALJ FERGUSON: All right. Okay. So the three  
17      of you in that particular order.

18          First come up -- I'm going to give you the same  
19      as for the public officials, three minutes for  
20      everybody. Okay?

21          Yes, sir?

22          UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Your Honor, a point of  
23      clarification. I do see there's a video camera. Maybe  
24      you'd like to say a few words as to why a video camera  
25      is recording public speaking at this time?

1 I don't think we were notified that there was  
2 going to be a video camera present.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hi. I'm CBSA. It's a  
4 public meeting. I'm from CBSA, just covering it.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's a public meeting.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We're not objecting to  
7 it. I just -- we noticed it, we -- we didn't know if  
8 your order had instructed it or where this was coming  
9 from.

10 ALJ FERGUSON: No, we have not; but we have  
11 typically allowed this to happen as long as it doesn't  
12 interfere with the process.

13 Okay. Let's go for -- your full name, spell  
14 it, and then we'll start the three minutes.

15 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER ASKELAND

16 Good afternoon, I am Ron Askeland. That's  
17 R-o-n A-s-k-e-l-a-n-d. I'm a San Diego resident.

18 And I recently converted my house to all  
19 electric, and I no longer use natural gas. The utility  
20 is proposing to charge ratepayers for an expensive  
21 project that will do little to reduce emissions.

22 The utilities should instead be investing in  
23 proven methods to increase efficiency and reduce  
24 emissions, such as targeted electrification and heat  
25 pump incentives.

1           Hydrogen blending is a false climate solution.  
2       All existing independent studies have concluded that  
3       using hydrogen for heating is inefficient, costly,  
4       dangerous, and harmful to the environment. Hydrogen is  
5       highly flammable, suspect (sic) to explosions, even in  
6       small concentrations.

7           As the smallest and lightest molecule in the  
8       universe, studies show hydrogen leaks more easily than  
9       methane, and is more explosive. Hydrogen blending is a  
10      distraction from building electrification and offers no  
11      significant greenhouse gas benefits.

12           Please do not approve this project. Let's  
13      focus on electrification.

14           Thank you.

15           ALJ FERGUSON: Thank you very much.

16           All right. The next speaker that I called,  
17      come up and state your full name and spell it slowly.  
18      And, again, you've got three minutes to speak.

19           STATEMENT OF SPEAKER RICHESON

20           John Richeson. It's J-o-h-n, and Richeson,  
21      R-i-c-h-e-s-o-n.

22           Basically, I think the purpose of this project  
23      is to reduce emissions -- greenhouse gas emissions  
24      from -- from the gas system, and also, I guess, test  
25      the -- the infrastructure to make sure it can handle

1     that particular thing.

2             My concern here is the -- the feedstock for the  
3     hydrogen itself. I think there's a problem if you're  
4     going to use water for this purpose. I -- I don't know  
5     what SDG&E is using at Palomar; but I was in attendance  
6     at the San Diego World Affairs Council meeting a couple  
7     weeks ago where we heard from the negotiators from the  
8     Colorado River project.

9             One of the big problems that they have is they  
10    don't know how much water is going to be coming and  
11    available to Southern California; so any project that  
12    would be committing to put more water into a project  
13    like this, which would be an ongoing requirement if  
14    we're going to have this as -- as a continuing supply of  
15    gas, should not -- should not be feedstock.

16            Basically, I understand there is a capacity --  
17    I think I just heard it referenced -- to take natural  
18    gas, extract hydrogen from natural gas, sequester the  
19    waste, and pull in the hydrogen from that and use that  
20    for this purpose; and that would be what I would -- I  
21    would propose that this be done.

22            Basically, also, the cost. Certainly, if  
23    you're going to use water for demonstration, it's not  
24    going to give you a clear understanding of the cost of  
25    this project when you're going to fully roll it out

1 unless you're going to be using -- if you're going to be  
2 using natural gas for that purpose at that point.

3 So I certainly support the -- the purpose of  
4 it; but I want to make sure we don't create one problem  
5 by solving another by -- by over -- overstressing the  
6 water supply system.

7 Thank you.

8 ALJ FERGUSON: Thank you very much.

9 And I just will make one comment also with  
10 respect to what you said; and that is that if you have  
11 questions, I'm sure that San Diego's representatives --  
12 there are many of them here -- would be more than happy  
13 to talk to you after we're finished with the meeting.

14 They will stay around. They have -- they have  
15 to stay around because we have a 5:00 o'clock exercise  
16 to do. So you've got an hour to talk to them between  
17 4:00 and 5:00.

18 Okay?

19 SPEAKER RICHESON: Thank you.

20 ALJ FERGUSON: And that goes for everybody, of  
21 course.

22 All right. The next person, come forward and  
23 state your full name, spell it slowly, and then you've  
24 got three minutes.

25

STATEMENT OF SPEAKER MATERIALE

Hello my name is John Materiale, J-o-h-n, last name M-a-t-e-r-i-a-l-e; and I live in Rancho Penasquitos, a homeowner.

And I'd like to speak to these local -- the local experts. I only became an expert an hour ago when I Googled it, so -- but, you know, hydrogen gas is 40 percent lighter, and the molecules are 8 times smaller; but if you're going to do a test and you're going to do it in a construction area with, you know, industrial and commercial -- if you're going to do a test, instead of using polyethylene line, which is -- use it specifically, why don't you do it the way it's built in the commercial area, also in the houses where we use steel pipe and stuff like that?

Because you're telling me hydrogen is safe; but if it's safe, you should be able to use it in the existing infrastructure and then find out if it's the real-world environment, it's not going to cause an issue, so --

And the other thing is if you are using polyethylene and it does work, my first question is, is all the infrastructure going to have to be upgraded? Because natural gas lines are 100 years old.

They come into my house through the attic and

1     they go down into the walls; and because it's a smaller  
2     atom -- excuse me -- molecule, it's lighter than air,  
3     it's going to be up in the eaves of my house, it's going  
4     to be concentrated into the walls.

5             My wife asked if she's cooking on her stove and  
6     there's a flashback, is her spaghetti going to end up on  
7     the ceiling? So, you know, there's safety concerns  
8     there; and if it's going to -- not going to use the  
9     existing infrastructure of steel pipe, then it's going  
10    to be a -- a major cost to change it all out, and that's  
11    going to raise our rates.

12            I'm very happy with my gas bill right now. I  
13    have solar panels control my electricity; but SDG&E just  
14    changed that to getting a baseline of 25 bucks a month  
15    where I was at parity for the roof system that I have  
16    now, so I'm not happy about that.

17            And on Tuesday, there's going to be another  
18    meeting for -- our water could be going up for the  
19    fourth time. They're going to have a hearing on that.  
20    I sent in my objection to that.

21            I'm trying to control costs; but I see if you  
22    can't use the existing Infrastructure, it's going to  
23    raise costs to my bill, and I see it coming.

24            Thank you.

25            ALJ FERGUSON: Thank you.

1 All right. The next three names I'm going to  
2 call here are Nate Fairman, Katharine Harrison, and  
3 Michelle Perez.

4 Okay. So let's start again. Go ahead, state  
5 your full name, spell it slowly, and you've got three  
6 minutes.

7 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER FAIRMAN

8 Hi. Nate Fairman. Last name is F-a-i-r-m-a-n.

9 Nate Fairman, business manager of IBW Local  
10 Union 465 right here in San Diego. I'm proud to  
11 represent approximately 3,000 union utility workers,  
12 including the men and women who work at SDG&E and  
13 Palomar Energy Center.

14 My members work day and night maintaining the  
15 gas and electric infrastructure that our customers and  
16 communities depend on. We are speaking in support of  
17 this pilot.

18 Look, we need to take an all-of-the-above  
19 approach to decarbonization and utilities' resiliency.  
20 This study, which is a pilot, is a key part of that  
21 picture. We don't know the real impacts of this blend  
22 of fuel approach unless we study it and have pilots like  
23 this; and it would be wrong to roll this out on a large  
24 scale without fully understanding its implications.

25 But in my experience, the union workers who



1     spent their lives building and maintaining existing gas  
2     infrastructure -- these workers, my members, they  
3     deserve to be included in this complex project and this  
4     complex decision regarding our future decarbonization.

5             They deserve a just transition. Their families  
6     deserve our utilities and regulators to have studied --  
7     an -- an impact and studied every approach to this  
8     complex issue, and they deserve to be involved in the  
9     future of our gas infrastructure in the state.

10            So please approve this pilot. Please include  
11     workers in discussions like this. Please ensure to push  
12     forward a just transition for all of our natural gas and  
13     fossil fuel workers, and please take an all-of-the-above  
14     approach that protects jobs while we all work to meet  
15     our climate goals.

16            Thank you very much. ]

17            ALJ FERGUSON: Thank you. All right. Next,  
18     Katharine Harrison. All right. After you state your  
19     name, spell it slowly for the court reporter.

20            STATEMENT OF SPEAKER HARRISON

21            Katharine, K-a-t-h-a-r-i-n-e, Harrison with two  
22     Rs.

23            ALJ FERGUSON: All right. Go ahead. You have  
24     three minutes.

25            SPEAKER HARRISON: Yes. Hi. I'm a retired

1 teacher from San Diego and volunteered five years of my  
2 retirement so far to help us put fossil fuel pollution  
3 to rest. So I'm strongly opposed to hydrogen methane  
4 blending. I think it's costly and unnecessary. And  
5 from what I've read, I'm highly skeptical of safety  
6 claims, especially those I'm hearing today.

7           Greenhouse gases continue to accumulate. Their  
8 effects are evident to anybody paying attention. Oil  
9 and gas companies and IOUs continue to profit handsomely  
10 off consumers as they lead us away from what we need,  
11 which is we need to electrify everything now not  
12 sometime down the road. We need to retire methane  
13 pipelines not find expensive ways to prolong the use of  
14 gas indefinitely and pass those costs on. Leaking  
15 methane is a potent greenhouse gas. It is already bad  
16 enough, but hydrogen makes it worse.

17           At scale, corrosive leaking will increase  
18 adverse health effects and risk of explosions. Think of  
19 the spaghetti on the ceiling. The estimated reduction  
20 in emissions is negligible next to health and safety  
21 concerns for people near gas infrastructure. There are  
22 so many more effective ways that we can reduce emissions  
23 besides this. But only -- but any of us who still use  
24 gas at home will be at increased risk and have to absorb  
25 costs of upgrade infrastructure. So please cancel these

1 gas blending projects. Thank you.

2 ALJ FERGUSON: Thank you.

3 Okay. Next is Michelle Perez. Okay. You want  
4 to spell your full name.

5 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER PEREZ

6 Michelle Perez, M-i-c-h-e-l-l-e P-e-r-e-z.

7 Thank you.

8 ALJ FERGUSON: You have three --

9 SPEAKER PEREZ: Good afternoon.

10 ALJ FERGUSON: Go ahead. Three minutes.

11 SPEAKER PEREZ: Good afternoon, everyone. I'm  
12 Michelle Perez from the University of California, San  
13 Diego. I'm the interim director of utility  
14 sustainability.

15 Just a few words on UC San Diego and our  
16 relationship with SDG&E. We value our longstanding  
17 relationship with SDG&E and appreciate this -- the  
18 opportunity had to explore innovative solutions to  
19 support California's energy -- clean energy goals.

20 As was previously stated, since back in 2022,  
21 our teams worked together to identify a potential site  
22 on our campus for -- for this pilot equipment and  
23 infrastructure to be installed. During that time, there  
24 was extensive engagement, especially with our students  
25 and our faculty and staff through town halls and many

1 site visits.

2 After careful evaluation, unfortunately, we  
3 determined that we could not accommodate the proposed  
4 infrastructure due to space limitations on our campus  
5 and future development -- development plans that  
6 prioritized our academic research and clinical needs.

7 That said, UC San Diego remains deeply  
8 committed to sustainability in our community  
9 partnerships. We are always open to exploring student  
10 internships, collaborative research, and educational  
11 opportunities that align with our mission and benefit  
12 the broader San Diego region.

13 We thank SDG&E for their respectful engagement  
14 throughout this process, and we look forward to  
15 continuing to work together in ways that support  
16 innovation, education, and climate resilience. Thanks.

17 ALJ FERGUSON: Thank you very much.

18 Okay. I'm going to read three more names out:  
19 George Wu, Jack Shu, and Philip Petrie.

20 So let's start with George Wu. Mr. Wu, restate  
21 your name and spell it for the record, please, and then  
22 you have got three minutes.

23 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER WU

24 My name -- excuse me. My name is George Wu,  
25 G-e-o-r-g-e. My last name Wu, spelled W-u. I'm a

1     retired civil engineer. I live in San Diego. Maybe  
2     later I moved to Poway is 30 years ago.

3             Today, I -- I listen to the SDG&E  
4     representative explain about the hydrogen blending and  
5     the natural gas system. Yeah. My concern is do we have  
6     to consider the impact on the economy? I mean, the  
7     manufacturer of the hydrogen -- hydrogen appliance, the  
8     gas power -- like a broad or burner or something like  
9     that. Because that's different view. So we need  
10    different type of appliance to put a stop to the new  
11    fuel. So that is going to impact our local economy and  
12    also impact our customer.

13            So I would suggest that, to put that  
14    consideration into our study, how the impact of our  
15    appliance. And if need something and they want to  
16    change the fuel and the customer has to -- to change  
17    their -- their appliance. And that is going to be a lot  
18    of impact. So thank you.

19            ALJ FERGUSON: Thank you.

20            And let me just add that, again, you are here  
21    with us today to talk about San Diego primarily, but you  
22    can speak to any of the other four projects. And one of  
23    those projects, San Diego's sister corporation,  
24    SoCalGas, is proposing to deliver the blended gas  
25    directly into the homes and businesses that all the

1 homes and all the businesses located in a city called  
2 Orange Cove, California. So we have already done public  
3 participation proceedings on that. But that does not  
4 limit people going to other meetings to comment on that  
5 particular meeting.

6 So there is a project that does what you are  
7 suggesting. It is going to accumulate data about what  
8 happens when you actually burn this blended mixture in  
9 residential homes, their stovetops, their ovens, their  
10 hot water heaters, their furnaces, et cetera, et cetera.  
11 And -- and in commercial establishments as well.

12 So there -- you -- you can feel free to make  
13 comments about that even though it doesn't apply to the  
14 proposal, the specific pilot project that you heard  
15 proposed here today by San Diego Gas & Electric where  
16 they're not burn -- there is not a customer burning  
17 anything. Okay? Thank you.

18 SPEAKER WU: Thank you.

19 ALJ FERGUSON: All right. Next person, please.  
20 That is Jack Shu, I think.

21 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER SHU

22 Thank you. My name is Jack Shu, J-a-c-k, Shu,  
23 S-h-u, from La Mesa. Thank you for having this hearing  
24 and hearing thoughts from the entire community and not  
25 just those who have special interests.

1 I have been, for decades, following public  
2 utility companies and the PUC make various efforts to  
3 reduce greenhouse gas emissions. And I'm sorry to say  
4 these various strategies are not very good. In fact, I  
5 would rather call them rather like schemes or scams.

6 The best way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions  
7 is conservation. And it simply reduces our dependence  
8 on all forms of energy, including natural gas and -- and  
9 hydrogen as well.

10 You know, we all pay all kinds of rates in our  
11 utility bills. And I'm sorry to say sometimes we are  
12 just paying for things that we don't need to pay for.  
13 We shouldn't be doing that. We need to keep our utility  
14 companies in check and not let them build facilities  
15 simply because they want to provide more sources of  
16 energy under the guise of reducing greenhouse gas  
17 emissions.

18 The priority of the Public Utilities Commission  
19 should be to help citizens not come up with various  
20 schemes or ideas that on the outside may initially look  
21 like we are reducing greenhouse gas emissions but in  
22 actuality we don't. And build more infrastructure that  
23 us ratepayers have to pay for increasing our bills.

24 If you want to reduce greenhouse gas emissions  
25 in this sense by, let's say, 20 percent, let's have good

1 conservation systems and come up with better  
2 alternatives for the energy that we must have, which we  
3 know is solar systems. I already do that now. I -- my  
4 solar system already pays for itself. It provides all  
5 the energy I need. I really don't need natural gas. I  
6 shouldn't have to pay for an experiment to see ways for  
7 the -- for my utility company, SDG&E, to simply feed  
8 more natural gas into my system. That extends our  
9 problem not solving it.

10 So please act on behalf of citizens and not  
11 these schemes that on paper may initially look a little  
12 good, but if you would dig down deep into it, it is not  
13 solving problems with greenhouse gas emissions and only  
14 increases our bill. It is a scheme. It is not a  
15 solution.

16 ALJ FERGUSON: Thank you.

17 Okay. Next is Philip Petrie. Again, state  
18 your name and spell it fully for the court reporter.

19 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER PETRIE

20 Okay. So it's Philip, P-h-i-l-i-p, Petrie,  
21 P-e-t-r-i-e.

22 Okay. I want to thank the Commission for  
23 allowing these comments, allowing us all to come forward  
24 and speak. And I'm going to speak fundamentally as a  
25 person of faith. I am with the Interfaith Coalition for



1 Justice, co-chair of that organization, as well as San  
2 Diego 350.

3 To me, as a person of faith, there is no more  
4 important thing that I can do and work toward than the  
5 transition to clean energy. Our planet is under radical  
6 threat from fossil fuels with climate change, and we  
7 have to do everything we can to get off of fossil fuels.  
8 And that's a big project, and we know that's a big  
9 project.

10 This project sounds to be more like a way to  
11 continue burning methane, refract methane gas long into  
12 the future, and that's essentially staying on fossil  
13 fuels. Methane is a fossil fuel. There's no question  
14 about that.

15 So, to me, we need to stop these ways of  
16 tweaking this fossil fuel industry and our fossil  
17 fuel -- our reliance on fossil fuels and address this  
18 problem head on and truly transition to renewables.  
19 Only by doing that are we really going to get out of  
20 this climate crisis. And this is the biggest thing, in  
21 my opinion, that human beings have ever faced. So I  
22 urge you to reject this, what I see as essentially a  
23 foolish project, and truly work towards sustainable  
24 energy. Thank you.

25 ALJ FERGUSON: Thank you.

1 All right. The next three names are Masada  
2 Disenhouse, Sally Smith, and Sean Ellis, I think. So  
3 let's do that in that order.

4 First up would be Masada. We need you to spell  
5 your full name, please.

6 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER DISENHOUSE

7 Definitely. I will do it slowly. Masada  
8 Disenhouse; it's M-a-s-a-d-a, last name  
9 D-i-s-e-n-h-o-u-s-e. I hope that doesn't count against  
10 me.

11 ALJ FERGUSON: No. I don't start the  
12 three minutes until after.

13 SPEAKER DISENHOUSE: Hello. My name is Masada  
14 Disenhouse, and I represent San Diego 350, the  
15 grassroots climate organization with over 8,000  
16 supporters in San Diego County. We strongly oppose the  
17 proposed hydrogen blending pilot.

18 The gas industry, including SDG&E and its  
19 parent company Sempra, are threatened by the push to  
20 electrification and are promoting hydrogen to create  
21 doubt about electrification and renewable energy in  
22 order to keep their profits and fossil fuels flowing.

23 This project and others across the state are  
24 designed to create a model for dangerous hydrogen  
25 methane blending that would cause Californians billions.

1 We oppose this because it is dangerous. Hydrogen  
2 corrodes pipelines, leaks, catches fire, and increases  
3 the chances of explosion as well as worsening indoor air  
4 pollution. It's expensive. We already pay the highest  
5 electricity rates in the country.

6           SDG&E makes huge profits by building and  
7 maintaining infrastructure. The \$21 million for this  
8 project is just the start. As ratepayers, we especially  
9 should not be asked to shoulder the costs of fuel cell  
10 experiments that won't benefit our families and keeps us  
11 dependent on fossil fuels. We must decarbonize,  
12 electrify, and transition to 100 percent renewable  
13 energy now not tomorrow.

14           As your own Public Advocates Office has noted,  
15 the use of renewable hydrogen for blending finds itself  
16 at cross purposes with the state's intention to  
17 decommission the natural gas system. And it's clearly  
18 at odds with the state of California's commitments to  
19 phase out oil drilling and achieving net zero carbon by  
20 2045.

21           We call on the PUC to invest in our health and  
22 our future. That includes creating pathways to  
23 transition utility workers to alternative good-paying  
24 jobs and a green economy. What we don't need is a  
25 dangerous, expensive, and unnecessary project like this

1 one. Thank you.

2 ALJ FERGUSON: Thank you.

3 Okay. Next is Sally Smith.

4 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER SMITH

5 I got so many notices, I thought I just better  
6 come down and talk. Sally Smith, S-a-l-l-y, Smith,  
7 S-m-i-t-h.

8 I support the hydrogen project for Kearny Mesa.  
9 I commend San Diego Gas and Electric for the job it does  
10 for San Diego. I had the opportunity to switch to the  
11 city's energy program. No way. The city does a  
12 terrible job with water, and it's going to do a worse  
13 job with trash, so I'm sticking with SDG&E. SDG&E has  
14 the expertise to handle our energy needs. I commend  
15 SDG&E for its linemen working 24/7. Yay, the union guy  
16 that is here representing them.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Here, here.

18 SPEAKER SMITH: I appreciate the courtesy of  
19 its employees when I call. I don't call often, but I do  
20 call for its alerts with outages. You guys are always  
21 right on with those. You let me know when they are  
22 starting.

23 I'm telling you this because everybody is  
24 always beating on them. But I went to Peru. I was in  
25 Lima, and I saw an electrical system there like it was

1 in the early 20th century. I mean, there were wires  
2 strung out from these poles and the poles are leaning  
3 over. I mean, you are just looking at electrocutions  
4 and fires. And we don't have that anymore.

5 I trust SDG&E with their hydrogen project. I  
6 think they are delivering our energy safely. And more  
7 importantly, I want the CPUC to start listening to  
8 President Trump and the things he's telling us about  
9 energy. President Trump is right about the energy  
10 policies that he is proposing.

11 ALJ FERGUSON: Okay. Thank you.

12 Next is Sean Ellis. So Mr. Ellis, make sure  
13 you give us the spelling of your name.

14 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER ELLIS

15 Absolutely. My name is Sean Ellis. First name  
16 S-e-a-n, last name E-l-l-i-s. Okay. Awesome.  
17 Hopefully I don't get too carried away. My name is Sean  
18 Ellis. I am a organizer, political director for the  
19 United Association of Plumbers, Steam Fitters, Pipe  
20 Welders, and HVACR Service Technicians. And I'm also  
21 community organizer for our members and spaces like this  
22 where, to be quite frank, they are working on these  
23 systems right now making sure that they are working well  
24 and safely, so they can't be here to voice their  
25 concerns.

1           So let me explain to you very quickly about  
2 just the facts here. I have heard some of our community  
3 folks talk about electrification. You don't get there  
4 unless you do this project; right? The same folks that  
5 want to electrify are the same folks that want to put  
6 hundreds of thousands of solar panels in the desert and  
7 say that is green. This is going to take up an eighth  
8 of that space. That's being real honest with you. And  
9 this is a step forward to what we are going to see as a  
10 circular economy. This is a step forward to creating  
11 massive amounts of jobs, apprenticeships targeting  
12 vulnerable communities. Matter of fact, giving jobs to  
13 probably some of these community members grandkids where  
14 they are going to make \$100,000 a year, a pension, all  
15 that good stuff that makes us a union.

16           But let's talk about the environment. You  
17 don't get to electrification by having 60 percent of  
18 energy costs insourced from other states. Right now we  
19 are bringing in energy from Arizona and Nevada that has  
20 less worker rights. Or as a union organizer, less human  
21 rights than we do in California. So the same people  
22 that are telling you not to have this demonstration  
23 happen that could take us to a circular economy, that  
24 could build hydrogen, that could literally create a  
25 whole new infrastructure that is going to create

1 thousands of jobs, home ownership, and lifting the  
2 community, whether it be from East County all the way to  
3 Oceanside where I live. And talking about those other  
4 projects, guess what? We are there too. And those are  
5 going to uplift the communities.

6 The other side of my community that's opposing  
7 this project, what are they offering in return for this?  
8 They are not offering jobs, they are not offering  
9 cheaper costs. Matter of fact, the reason why your  
10 costs are so high, ladies and gentlemen, let's be frank,  
11 is because a lot of the regulation that's put on these  
12 folks. I know because I'm the organizer that has to  
13 talk to the contractors that won't bid on the project  
14 because it's too much for them. And so there goes one  
15 more union contractor that has to go into the wild west  
16 and compete.

17 So that's why I tell you guys, if my members  
18 were here today, they would ask you a very simple  
19 question: Do we have careers? Are we going to have  
20 living wages? This has been proven in multiple  
21 countries. The gentleman brought up Singapore, the best  
22 circular economy where they take stuff like this, waste,  
23 and they create this thing called syngas that can create  
24 36 different green gases. And guess what? They are on  
25 a small island that's a fraction. It's like -- it's an

1 island, ya'll. And they have massive amounts of  
2 electricity.

3 Let me throw another thing out there. You have  
4 got three nuclear energy plants floating in the harbor  
5 of the bay yet nobody is upset about that. But we have  
6 a way to do green energy abundance; right? They talk  
7 about green energy, I want to talk about green energy  
8 abundance. Green energy abundant jobs. That's what I  
9 want to hear.

10 So, once again, I don't want to get carried  
11 away because I will stand for three hours talking about  
12 it. I -- this is how much it means to my brothers and  
13 sisters, my business partners, and this great company  
14 that hires 100 percent union. 100 percent union  
15 guaranteed. So that being said, my name is Sean Ellis.  
16 I proudly represent the plumbers, pipe fitters, and  
17 steam fitters in this region and everywhere else we  
18 survive and we live. God bless you guys, and thank  
19 you.]

20 ALJ FERGUSON: Thank you.

21 All right. Now I'm going to call three more  
22 names. Dave Mason, Zac Dobbin, and Dave Lewis.

23 So let's start with David Mason.

24 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER MASON

25 Hello. My name is David Mason, D-a-v-i-d



1 M-a-s-o-n.

2 I'm not going to be able to follow that energy.  
3 That was very abundant. And to be honest, I misread the  
4 email a little bit. I stand a little more informed  
5 having been here.

6 My main concern, which has been repeated before  
7 me by many others, is cost. I do care about the  
8 environment and green energy. I do my best to reduce  
9 the amount of water I take up in my household, as well  
10 as electricity.

11 And recently with these flat rates applied to  
12 our bills for both utilities, un -- unrelated to this,  
13 but -- I do fear that this project could be another one  
14 of those flat-rate increases; and as someone that  
15 already tries to like pinch every kilowatt hour I can to  
16 save the environment and my family's budget, I do have  
17 concerns about this.

18 My main concern would be if they -- if this  
19 does get approved, are they planning on making it a flat  
20 rate or is the plan to try and increase the amount of  
21 cents per kilowatt hour?

22 As someone that, you know, already reduces the  
23 amount I have, I would appreciate the change in kilowatt  
24 hour. As a household that uses little, it incentivizes  
25 me to continue to try and reduce the amount of

1 electricity that our family produces.

2 These flat-rate increases whether I use  
3 electricity or not, just to be hooked up,  
4 disincentivizes myself and several other people I know,  
5 which is, I guess, hearsay, but --

6 We don't feel that it is fair when there are  
7 other households and businesses that actually benefit  
8 from these flat rates and then the kilowatt hour rate  
9 drops; so I guess what I'm hoping for is a proposition  
10 that instead of doing a flat rate for this, if it does  
11 go through, to instead think of how we can adjust the  
12 kilowatt hours to spread it across.

13 Thank you.

14 ALJ FERGUSON: All right. Let me just point  
15 out to you that this is about gas and not about  
16 electricity.

17 SPEAKER MASON: I thought the gentleman said  
18 that the gas would be used to generate electricity in  
19 cells, which would then be used to power houses.

20 Yes?

21 ALJ FERGUSON: Right, but --

22 SPEAKER MASON: Did I misunderstand that?

23 ALJ FERGUSON: Well, no. That's what they're  
24 going to use -- use it for in their service yard that  
25 they -- they have; but it's still a gas issue from the

1 perspective of the Commission because we're talking  
2 about what we're going to do with gas, and this is going  
3 to go towards your gas bill, not your -- the cost of  
4 this pilot project will go towards your gas bill, not  
5 your electric bill.

6 Okay?

7 SPEAKER MASON: Then I also misunderstand how  
8 my bill structure works. I thought since it was  
9 San Diego Gas and Electric, it was just all lumped in  
10 together.

11 ALJ FERGUSON: No. They're separate bills.

12 Why don't you -- I'll recommend that you get  
13 together with them afterwards.

14 SPEAKER MASON: I apologize for wasting  
15 everyone's time. Sorry.

16 ALJ FERGUSON: No, no, no. You're not wasting  
17 anybody's time. The concept of flat rates, and so on  
18 and so forth, applies to all kinds of utilities.

19 So why don't you get together with them  
20 after -- afterwards, when we're finished with this; and  
21 they'll tell you more about how they are looking into  
22 the future. I -- I can't speak for them. I don't know.

23 It's not necessary for them to really tell us  
24 what they're going to do if we approve of this and then  
25 approve of the whole concept of putting hydrogen into

1 the gas infrastructure system that we have here in  
2 California; but they probably have thought long term  
3 like that and they can -- they can talk to you about  
4 that.

5 SPEAKER MASON: I would like to talk later.  
6 Thank you.

7 ALJ FERGUSON: Great. Hang around.

8 All right. Let's see. I think next is  
9 Zac Dobbin.

10 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER DOBBIN

11 That's correct. Hello. Zac Dobbin, Z-a-c  
12 D-o-b-b-i-n.

13 Good afternoon everyone. My name is  
14 Zac Dobbin, and I'm here representing Cleantech  
15 San Diego and our support for San Diego Gas & Electric's  
16 proposed hydrogen project. Thank you to the Commission  
17 for having us today.

18 As background, Cleantech San Diego is a  
19 renewable energy business association founded 18 years  
20 ago to support the Cleantech sector here in San Diego.  
21 Today, the industry employs over 40,000 people and has a  
22 \$9 billion impact on our regional economy.

23 Cleantech San Diego supports a number of member  
24 companies that are developing and deploying clean energy  
25 innovations that incorporate hydrogen. We believe

1 hydrogen is an important component to our state and  
2 local energy goals, and are hoping that the proposed  
3 project by San Diego Gas and Electric will allow for the  
4 increased production of hydrogen in broader market  
5 options.

6 Thank you.

7 ALJ FERGUSON: All right. Thank you very much.

8 Next we have -- I think David Lewis.

9 Is that right?

10 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER LEWIS

11 Yep. Dave Lewis, D-a-v-e L-e-w-i-s.

12 ALJ FERGUSON: You have three minutes.

13 SPEAKER LEWIS: This project would make sense  
14 if you could get hydrogen for free. You can't. Not  
15 now, not ever. By "free," I don't mean in terms of  
16 money, although somebody just mentioned that hydrogen  
17 is -- costs \$60 a kilogram. That's outrageous.

18 I mean in terms of energy. All -- energy is  
19 the point of all this, right? You are all in the  
20 business of supplying energy. Hydrogen is not an energy  
21 source. All the hydrogen on earth is locked up in  
22 compounds. That means it's tightly bonded to atoms of  
23 other elements.

24 Breaking those molecular bonds to extract  
25 hydrogen takes a great deal of energy, more than you

1     could ever get from the hydrogen. There are four  
2     processes for producing hydrogen in commercial  
3     quantities; using natural gas, oil, coal, or  
4     electricity. All four are wasteful. They consume more  
5     resources and generate more pollution than just using  
6     those energy sources directly.

7             The issue of embrittlement cannot be casually  
8     ditched. Hydrogen is not good for steel. It causes it  
9     to turn brittle, prone to crack under stress. The pumps  
10    contain steel parts that will be prone to breakage.

11            Hundreds of miles of steel gas pipes would have  
12    to be replaced before you could safely add the hydrogen  
13    to our gas system. Unfortunately, the government is  
14    full of politicians and bureaucrats that don't  
15    understand these facts. They know nothing about  
16    chemistry, physics, or engineering.

17            They have got this notion of hydrogen as some  
18    sort of pollution-free miracle fuel, so they will waste  
19    our tax money on any boondoggle if the magic word  
20    "hydrogen" is involved.

21            I know some of you understand, but you'll go  
22    along with the boondoggle because the government will  
23    pay for it. Of course it will. The government  
24    subsidizes failure. If adding hydrogen to the gas  
25    supply made sense or was practical, the government

1 wouldn't have to pay for it.

2 If you go forward with this, keep in mind that  
3 some of us are aware that it's a waste of money that  
4 will never provide any benefit to the public.

5 ALJ FERGUSON: Thank you.

6 Okay. Now I think there are three more names  
7 I'm going to call. Lillian Doherty, Ansermio Estrada,  
8 and Heather Loves.

9 So let's start with Lillian, please.

10 SPEAKER DOHERTY: I already spoke.

11 ALJ FERGUSON: You already did? Oh, I'm sorry.  
12 I'm sorry. My apologies.

13 All right. Next, Ansermio Estrada.

14 And we need to have your name spelled slowly  
15 for the court reporter.

16 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER ESTRADA

17 Sure. A-n-s-e-r-m-i-o, last name  
18 E-s-t-r-a-d-a.

19 ALJ FERGUSON: And speak up a little so  
20 everybody can hear you.

21 SPEAKER ESTRADA: Sure. No problem.

22 My name is Ansermio Jake Estrada. I'm the  
23 political director of the San Diego Building Trades  
24 Council.

25 You know, I think everybody here has the same

1 goal; a reliable, safe, clean energy sector. Now, as  
2 conversations over the best strategies and tactics  
3 continue, as they will, I want to note that the building  
4 trades represents workers on the front lines of that  
5 fight for renewable energy; and as that fight continues,  
6 we have learned that for our communities across  
7 California to be truly secure in their energy needs, we  
8 must have access to a reliable and robust energy  
9 portfolio.

10 Hydrogen needs to be part of that conversation.  
11 We need to be forward-thinking, and this pilot is a  
12 perfect opportunity to do just that. What that means  
13 for all of us is simple; great union paying jobs,  
14 forward-thinking research to secure our energy future,  
15 and certainty for consumers in a time where there's  
16 uncertainty everywhere.

17 Thank you.

18 ALJ FERGUSON: Thank you very much.

19 All right. Next is Heather Loves.

20 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER LOVES

21 My name is Heather Loves, H-e-a-t-h-e-r  
22 L-o-v-e-s.

23 I oppose this hydrogen project because I  
24 believe it's unsafe and it will unnecessarily raise  
25 people's rates.



1                   And thank you. That's it.

2                   ALJ FERGUSON: Okay. Thank you very much.

3                   SPEAKER LOVES: I also don't like the baseline  
4 of electricity, even though it's not part of it. I  
5 don't live at my house, and so it's like I pay for it  
6 for no reason.

7                   ALJ FERGUSON: All right. Next I'm going to  
8 read two more names, Matthew Thompson and  
9 Isaiah Glasoe.

10                  Mr. Thompson, state your full name and spell  
11 your full name, please.

12                               STATEMENT OF SPEAKER THOMPSON

13                  Certainly. Matthew Thompson, M-a-t-t-h-e-w  
14 T-h-o-m-p-s-o-n.

15                  ALJ FERGUSON: All right. Go ahead.

16                  SPEAKER THOMPSON: I'm here representing my  
17 family of four. I thought I was coming here to get some  
18 questions and answers, but it sounds like I'm hearing  
19 statements, so I'm going to pass on my questions to you  
20 so that hopefully you can take those into account.

21                  I don't have the scientific background to make  
22 heads or tails of some of these questions. If you need  
23 something about a satellite or an antiballistic missile,  
24 I've got you covered; but a lot of these things are  
25 beyond me, so I've got to ask if this CPUC announcement

1 is about a possible 10 percent increase of hydrogen by  
2 volume to our gas supply, why was the presentation that  
3 was given talking about 20 percent?

4 It causes uncertainty as to what is actually  
5 being proposed. So hopefully the pilot plan is very  
6 clear about what's actually trying to be done there.

7 ALJ FERGUSON: Well, let me make -- make clear  
8 to you right now, so that there's no confusion, there  
9 are different levels of percentage for the five  
10 projects. All right?

11 So we're exploring different levels depending  
12 upon what project we're talking about; and in this one,  
13 it is as the -- as San Diego stated earlier. Okay? So  
14 if that's -- that's it. The actual projects -- as I  
15 pointed out, in one of them, PG&E is going way beyond  
16 where we are interested.

17 It's their project. They -- they own it.  
18 They're paying the money up front. They have not got a  
19 green light to put it into rates at this point.

20 SPEAKER THOMPSON: I'm sorry. Who is "they"?

21 ALJ FERGUSON: The utility.

22 The utilities don't -- don't have green lights  
23 to put the cost of these projects into rates right now.  
24 They may in the future get them into their rates; but up  
25 front, they're going to -- they're going to front the

1 money to build these things, so if they want to carry  
2 them on for a period beyond what we're interested in,  
3 we're not going to be paying -- the ratepayers are not  
4 going to be paying for that kind of -- of work that's  
5 being done beyond what we need. We're just going to  
6 look at what we need.

7 Okay?

8 SPEAKER THOMPSON: Understood. Thanks for  
9 elaborating. Appreciate it.

10 ALJ FERGUSON: All right.

11 SPEAKER THOMPSON: Something I'm also curious  
12 about, we've heard talk about what the hydrogen impact  
13 on PE is; but most people have black iron in their  
14 homes, so where are the long-term accelerated tests on  
15 hydrogen embrittlement of black iron?

16 Because that's what we have, and we're not  
17 exactly in the most calm seismic area around here, so  
18 that could be really important if there's some  
19 association with the percentage of hydrogen usage.

20 ALJ FERGUSON: Okay. Let me stop you there.

21 You heard the Commissioner's representative  
22 here tell you that there is -- there are two major  
23 studies that have been done. One, I think, was the  
24 University of California at Irvine prepared a study; and  
25 recently, independent experts that the utilities pooled

1     their money and -- and paid for have also done another  
2     study.

3             And those things are in the record of the  
4     proceedings, so you will have access to those if you get  
5     to the docket sheet in the CPUC. They're -- they're  
6     very voluminous.

7             SPEAKER THOMPSON: Yes, I imagine they would  
8     be. Good. I'll find them.

9             ALJ FERGUSON: Whether or not the specific type  
10    of test that you're talking about is found in there -- I  
11    wouldn't be surprised at all if you found many tests on  
12    black iron listed in the materials that have already  
13    been supplied, but I don't know.

14            It may be that there are none. I -- I haven't  
15    gone through it yet. Those things are huge studies.

16            SPEAKER THOMPSON: Understood.

17            ALJ FERGUSON: All right.

18            SPEAKER THOMPSON: That's one possible  
19    pass-down. I'm more concerned about any unforeseen  
20    costs passed on to the consumer due to using a type of  
21    fuel that items haven't been designed for, gas utilities  
22    haven't been designed for, and their distribution  
23    system. So I'm not specifically only concerned about  
24    hydrogen embrittlement. That's just an example.

25            ALJ FERGUSON: Okay. Well, we are concerned

1 about what kind of embrittlement occurs in the existing  
2 system when it's blended with -- when methane and  
3 hydrogen are blended.

4 SPEAKER THOMPSON: As am I.

5 We also have an issue here where San Diego  
6 County used to be a really clear place. We've got a  
7 nice onshore breeze, offshore breeze, it clears out very  
8 well.

9 That's changing. We're having changes in wind  
10 patterns because of changes in temperatures, and  
11 constantly seeing nitrogen oxide content increasing.

12 I'm concerned about the lower -- the ignition  
13 temperature that comes from the addition of hydrogen to  
14 the source; so I'd like to ensure that you are getting  
15 information that talks about what the possible increase  
16 in nitrogen oxide output would be from this.

17 I'd also like to know if there's any concerns  
18 associated with the combination between the lower  
19 temperature of ignition, the hydrogen, and the methyl  
20 mercaptan, the sticky stuff in the gas, and if there's  
21 any possible interaction between the sulfides that are  
22 contained in that.

23 We've heard various people bringing up concerns  
24 about the safety issues. I'm specifically interested in  
25 possible leak sources or even human intentional action

1     that would allow sufficient volume of natural gas with  
2     hydrogen in it to be contained in a home and then  
3     possibly have an explosion.

4             We've seen gas explosions before. We know how  
5     devastating they can be when it's -- when it's a massive  
6     scale; but I want to know if I'm at work, is my family  
7     going to be taken out because a whole block goes because  
8     of the hydrogen inclusion?

9             I don't know the answer to that. I hope that  
10    that's something that has been studied.

11            ALJ FERGUSON: That is something that we will  
12    be studying because we're well aware of what happens  
13    when there are defects or some risk of explosion. We --  
14    ever since the San Bruno explosions in Northern  
15    California, we have been very cautious about what we  
16    authorize.

17            SPEAKER THOMPSON: Very good.

18            As a minimum, I am not opposed to the pilot  
19    program. I have a scientific background. I have no  
20    emotion associated with this topic. But I would like us  
21    to get the data, so I would definitely strongly  
22    encourage that pilot program to have detailed exhaust --  
23    exhaust species output data that comes from it as a  
24    function of temperature and percentage of fuel. I hope  
25    that is in the plan.

1           Now, I say this last part with all due respect.  
2     You have a very distinguished background in  
3     jurisprudence, but I have to say I have a problem with  
4     this process where we have administrative law folks in  
5     charge of gathering all these very highly technical  
6     details and making decisions on those.

7           I take nothing away from the fact you have a  
8     long time at the CPUC. I imagine you've probably picked  
9     up a few things along the way; but I would urge you that  
10    even though everybody has to have their say, not  
11    everybody's say should be weighted equally, and I would  
12    caution you to consider both the scientific background  
13    and the fiscal motivations and even agendas behind all  
14    the input that you've received today.

15           ALJ FERGUSON: I can assure you I will, and my  
16    colleagues at the CPUC will do that.

17           SPEAKER THOMPSON: Thank you very much.  
18    Appreciate it.

19           ALJ FERGUSON: Thank you. ]

20           All right. Last speaker that I have listed is  
21    Isaiah Glasoe.

22           STATEMENT OF SPEAKER HARRISON

23           Yeah. My name is Isaiah Glasoe; it's  
24    I-s-a-i-a-h G-l-a-s-o-e. I'm with Public Power San  
25    Diego, and I'm here to represent over 9,000 San Diegans

1 in support of public power. I want to urge the CPUC to  
2 consider the underlying motivations of this proposal.

3 SDG&E is a for-profit monopoly that will always  
4 prioritize profit over people and planet. SDG&E and  
5 other investor-owned utilities across the state have  
6 immense financial power over everyone in this room.  
7 They will influence, lobby, and capture their way into  
8 ever higher profit margins.

9 Regulated for-profit monopolies are a totally  
10 failed experiment just like this hydrogen blending  
11 experiment will be. This proposal is nothing more than  
12 a dangerous and expensive experiment. Hydrogen is more  
13 explosive than natural gas, and blending it into our  
14 pipelines puts San Diegans health and safety at risk  
15 while we, the ratepayers, will eventually foot the bill  
16 for this.

17 Instead of throwing away \$21 million for a  
18 project that prolongs our reliance on fossil fuels, we  
19 should be investing in real solutions like local solar,  
20 battery storage, and transition to publicly owned  
21 utilities. Public power would mean accountability,  
22 lower rates, and clean energy that serves San Diegans  
23 not a for-profit monopoly. I urge you to reject this  
24 project and stand with the people not San Diegans -- or  
25 not -- not SDG&E's profits.



1 ALJ FERGUSON: All right. Thank you.

2 All right. I'm at the end of the list of  
3 people who were willing to put their names in at the  
4 front desk here. Let me throw open the floor to anybody  
5 who hasn't spoken yet who would like to speak and didn't  
6 give their name to us in the lobby of the building.

7 Anybody here who wants to speak who hasn't  
8 spoken?

9 (No response.)

10 ALJ FERGUSON: Going once? Twice?

11 (No response.)

12 ALJ FERGUSON: All right. Okay. Well, I want  
13 to say on behalf of the Commission and personally,  
14 myself, this has been one of the more interesting public  
15 participation proceedings that we have had with respect  
16 to this proceeding, 22-09-006. So that is something  
17 that you should treat as a compliment to all of you  
18 regardless of what position you are arguing. It's a  
19 very sophisticated group of the public, and the  
20 comments, I think, have been very, very good. And  
21 given -- you know, there are some ideas in this that I  
22 have heard. So thank you very much, everyone.

23 You are welcome to stay for the five o'clock  
24 public participation hearing, if you like. And you will  
25 be given an opportunity to speak again, if you want, in

1     that particular meeting, but you don't have to. You are  
2     not going to gain anything by repeating what you said  
3     already here. It is in the record right now. So thank  
4     you very much. And at that point, it is 3:23 p.m. and  
5     the meeting is closed. We can go off the record,  
6     please.

7                     (At the hour of 3:23 P.M., this matter having  
8                     been concluded to 5:00 P.M., the Commission  
9                     then adjourned.)

10                    \*   \*   \*   \*   \*]

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1                   EVENING SESSION - 5:00 P.M.

2                           \*   \*   \*   \*   \*

3                   ALJ FERGUSON: All right. Let's go on the  
4 record, please. The time is 5:00 p.m., and today is  
5 September 26th, 2025. We have gathered here today at  
6 the United Way Office in San Diego at 4699 Murphy Canyon  
7 Road for purposes of conducting a public participation  
8 hearing in CPUC Application Number 22-09-006.

9                   For those of you who are joining us in this  
10 evening's PPH, let me just say that -- quickly, that it  
11 is a application that involves four applicants, the four  
12 major gas companies in the state of California. Each  
13 one has proposed at least one proposed project for the  
14 CPUC to review in this proceeding. SoCalGas has  
15 proposed two. So we have five proposed projects to  
16 examine the impact and plausibility and viability of the  
17 existing -- using the existing infrastructure -- gas  
18 pipeline infrastructure in California to transport a  
19 blend of both hydrogen and methane gas to all of the  
20 customers of all of these -- of all four of these  
21 utilities in California.

22                   I'm not going to say much more because I think  
23 that if this group is anything like the group this  
24 afternoon, you are very up to speed on what is going on,  
25 and you are very sophisticated.

1           So the way this is going to go is we are going  
2     to put on the record San Diego's project. They are  
3     going to speak about it for a few minutes. And before  
4     that happens, we have the honor of having one of the  
5     assigned commissioner's, and that's Commissioner Darcie  
6     Houck. One of her staff members is here representing  
7     that office, and she will deliver some comments about  
8     the purpose of this proceeding and how the Commissioner  
9     looks at it.

10           I will tell you, those of you who weren't here  
11    this afternoon, that the way I look at it, as the  
12    administrative law judge assigned to this proceeding, is  
13    I'm looking for your ideas, your emotions, your  
14    thoughts. Because often times, and I have gone to a lot  
15    of these public participation hearings for a lot of  
16    different utilities, your thoughts start my thoughts and  
17    feed my thoughts, and I can then conduct the evidentiary  
18    hearing in a much more intelligent fashion than if I  
19    didn't hear what you had to say to me.

20           So the purpose of this is for, not only me but  
21    all of the decision-makers, all five commissioners and  
22    all of the staff members, for me and for the  
23    commissioners to review. And I will review this record  
24    that will be made here. Your comments are going to be  
25    put down in -- in a transcript. They don't count as

1 evidence because you're not under oath and you are not  
2 being cross-examined by witness -- by opposing counsel.  
3 But, like I said, I have to summarize what is said in  
4 all of the PPHs in my written proposed decision. And  
5 often times, I -- as I go through all of the written  
6 transcripts to do that, I get ideas about how to conduct  
7 the evidentiary hearing and what information to look for  
8 in that. And that's the value of what we're -- of this  
9 kind of a meeting, at least for me and for the other  
10 decision-makers at the Commission. So we encourage  
11 people to give their thoughts to us, share their  
12 emotions with us, share whatever thoughts you have about  
13 this proposal.

14 So without further ado, Erica Petrofsky is  
15 going to give you some comments from the assigned  
16 commissioner.

17 Erica?

18 MS. PETROFSKY: Good evening, everyone. Thank  
19 you for joining us this evening -- or afternoon. I am  
20 Erica Petrofsky, an advisor to Commissioner Darcie Houck  
21 of the CPUC.

22 The purpose of today's hearing is to hear from  
23 members of the communities that may be impacted by the  
24 proposed hydrogen blending pilot projects.

25 We are here today to listen to you, the public,

1 to elected officials, and to all of you that have come  
2 to provide comment on the proposed hydrogen blending  
3 demonstration projects, specifically the one proposed  
4 here in San Diego. Your input is invaluable to the CPUC  
5 as we navigate the issues associated with our clean  
6 energy transition.

7 Thank you to the United Way for hosting us.  
8 Thank you to Administrative Law Judge Ferguson for his  
9 work in managing this complex proceeding, to the Energy  
10 Division staff, the court reporters, and the Public  
11 Advisor's Office staff for helping run this event  
12 smoothly.

13 Before we begin, I will lay out a brief history  
14 of the pilot projects at issue in this proceeding.  
15 These efforts are part of a broader state strategy to  
16 decarbonize various sectors, including hard-to-electrify  
17 end uses, where clean fuels like hydrogen are considered  
18 to play a critical role in achieving climate and air  
19 quality goals.

20 The major gas utilities first proposed pilots  
21 to explore hydrogen blending in December 2020.  
22 Following the dismissal of that application in 2021,  
23 Decision 22-12-057 in 2022 directed California's large  
24 gas investor-owned utilities, which are PG&E, Southwest  
25 Gas, SoCalGas, and SDG&E, to propose new pilot projects.

1           This directive came after the CPUC commissioned  
2 UC Riverside to conduct a study on hydrogen blending  
3 impacts on the viability of blending hydrogen  
4 into existing natural gas infrastructure.

5           The resulting Hydrogen Blending Impacts Study  
6 highlighted knowledge gaps that could not be addressed  
7 by modeling or laboratory work alone and noted the need  
8 for real-world demonstrations under safe and controlled  
9 conditions.

10          This February, a second study was published,  
11 which summarized the Hydrogen Blending Compendium  
12 Report, which summarized the existing global research on  
13 hydrogen's effects on pipelines.

14          The CPUC will carefully consider the proposal  
15 presented and the positions of the parties in the  
16 proceeding, including testimony submitted, examination  
17 during evidentiary hearings, and briefs filed by the  
18 applicants and parties in making a determination in this  
19 matter.

20          The UC Riverside Hydrogen Blending Impacts  
21 Study explicitly concluded that a full understanding of  
22 real-world safety and operational impacts is desirable  
23 before a system-wide hydrogen injection standard can be  
24 safely established for California's common carrier  
25 pipeline system.

1           These demonstration projects have the potential  
2     to provide information as to potential impacts on  
3     materials, components, facilities, and equipment, as  
4     well as mitigation strategies as to any potential  
5     impacts.

6           The assigned commissioner's June 12th scoping  
7     memo and ruling for this proceeding identified several  
8     key issues that will be explored in the proceeding. And  
9     you can follow this proceeding on the CPUC docket.  
10    Again, the proceeding number is Application 22-09-006.

11           Based on the scoping memo and ruling, our  
12    priorities in this proceeding include usefulness and  
13    design, costs, safety, equity and community impacts, and  
14    regulatory compliance. I'll add some context regarding  
15    each of those priorities.

16           Regarding usefulness and design:

17           We have requested information as to what  
18    specific knowledge gaps each pilot project addresses  
19    that are not already covered in the existing two reports  
20    I mentioned earlier.

21           We have requested information as to whether  
22    each pilot would complement existing research and be  
23    useful to utility operators and state policymakers.

24           We also want to know what alternative  
25    approaches or experimental sites were considered; why



1 the specific site and experimental design were chosen  
2 among alternatives; and how findings will be documented,  
3 validated, and shared with all stakeholders and the  
4 Commission.

5 Regarding costs:

6 A number of public comments on the pilots have  
7 expressed concerns about their costs. The CPUC is also  
8 very concerned about the costs of the pilots and about  
9 understanding what specific benefits ratepayers would  
10 receive from these investments.

11 Regarding safety:

12 Safety is paramount.

13 We will require the applicants to provide  
14 information on the safety of these pilots, as well as  
15 how the pilots could be used to improve safety around  
16 blended hydrogen.

17 We also want to understand what emergency  
18 response plans would be in place, as well as how each  
19 utility plans to monitor hydrogen embrittlement and  
20 other risks that could be associated with any of the  
21 pilot projects.

22 Regarding equity and community impacts:

23 The Commission has an Environmental and Social  
24 Justice Action Plan that requires us to consider impacts  
25 to environmental and social justice communities.

1           The Commission will also consider information  
2   on how the pilot project locations were selected and  
3   what mechanisms for ongoing community engagement will be  
4   implemented.

5           Finally, regarding regulatory compliance:

6           We will examine whether each project complies  
7   with specific requirements set forth in Decision  
8   22-12-057 and with existing public utilities code.

9           Again, today's public participation hearing is  
10   for the Commission to hear from all of you. Your  
11   comments, concerns, and issues are important and will be  
12   carefully considered as we review the information  
13   presented in the proceeding. We understand that your  
14   time is valuable and that these issues are important to  
15   you, so we appreciate your participation today.

16           ALJ FERGUSON: Thank you, Erica.

17           All right. So here is how we are going to run  
18   this meeting. First, I'm going to give San Diego a  
19   chance to explain their project to everybody. They  
20   should be able to do that in five or six minutes if this  
21   afternoon was any example. Then I always ask if there  
22   is any elected official in the audience, or a  
23   representative of an elected official or agency, that  
24   has something to do with this particular proceeding, and  
25   they get to come up next and speak. Then I ask if there

1 is anybody here representing a party in the proceeding.  
2 There are many parties in this proceeding. We may have  
3 some in the audience today. They get the next  
4 opportunity. And then it's the public's turn. That is  
5 the majority of the people that are in the room right  
6 now. If they feel like making a comment, I give  
7 them -- everybody will get at least three minutes to  
8 make a comment. I may extend that a little bit  
9 if -- if -- because we don't have that big an audience  
10 right now. But three minutes is what you should prepare  
11 to have if you are speaking on your own behalf or on  
12 behalf of some other organization.

13 Okay. So let's start with San Diego. You have  
14 six minutes. Start with your full name and spell your  
15 name for the record when you start.

16 MR. ROMERO: Hello. My name is Miguel Romero,  
17 M-i-g-u-e-l R-o-m-e-r-o. I'm senior vice president and  
18 chief commercial officer at San Diego Gas & Electric.

19 Thank you for allowing us this opportunity to  
20 engage with the Commission and the public to discuss our  
21 proposed blending demonstration project, located within  
22 SDG&E facilities, and share with you our perspectives on  
23 the use of clean fuels and hydrogen in support of  
24 California's clean energy future.

25 I would like to begin by highlighting that

1     SDG&E is a proud leader in enabling clean fuels,  
2     electrification, and clean technologies that support our  
3     state's reliability and sustainability goals. We  
4     believe hydrogen should continue to be part of  
5     California's overall decarbonization tool kit alongside  
6     other clean solutions and technologies.

7             Today, as it relates to hydrogen, SDG&E  
8     operates the only combined cycle natural gas power plant  
9     in California that is starting to blend clean hydrogen  
10    with natural gas. At our Palomar energy facility in  
11    Escondido, there are dedicated solar panels that power  
12    an electrolyzer that makes hydrogen use to cool the  
13    powerplant's generators and blend fuel to power its  
14    turbines. The Palomar facility also has sufficient  
15    renewable hydrogen production capacity to support this  
16    particular blending project we are presenting today.

17            Additionally, through the Electric Program  
18    Investment Charge, or EPIC program, SDG&E is operating a  
19    fully renewable nanogrid with green hydrogen to support  
20    San Diego customers during Public Safety Power Shutoff,  
21    or PSPS, events.

22            And finally, SDG&E is an active participant in  
23    ARCHES, California's clean energy hub public-private  
24    partnership. And we are leveraging federal funding from  
25    the Department of Energy to study hydrogen production

1 via hydrolysis and other methods in our region.

2 In 2022, following the direction of the  
3 Commission through Decision 22-12-057, SDG&E  
4 collaborated with SoCalGas, PG&E, and Southwest Gas to  
5 develop a hydrogen pilot project that is complementary  
6 and distinct from the other projects discussed at the  
7 previous public hearings across the state. Throughout  
8 the proceeding, and in response to stakeholder feedback,  
9 SDG&E's project has evolved over time in regards to  
10 location and configuration but has always been focused  
11 on studying the impacts of blending 5 to 20 percent  
12 hydrogen on new state-of-the-art medium-density  
13 polyethylene plastic pipe. Polyethylene is the most  
14 commonly used plastic pipe in our service territory and  
15 is the material of choice for plastic pipeline  
16 replacement via our pipeline Distribution Integrity  
17 Management Program.

18 Initially, SDG&E and UCSD collaborated  
19 four years to develop a pilot on UCSD's property. But  
20 given subsequent land constraints, timing issues,  
21 stakeholder feedback, and other considerations, that  
22 collaboration did not move forward.

23 As a result, in May of this year, SDG&E  
24 submitted revised testimony for a new project location  
25 within SDG&E's property at 5488 Overland Avenue, as you

1 can see in the maps in front. The project, as proposed  
2 to the Commission today, will be sited here, in Kearny  
3 Mesa, inside SDG&E's existing Kearny Construction &  
4 Operation Center, or C&O Center. The Kearny C&O  
5 facility is in an industrial area and is fully fenced  
6 and secure.

7 SDG&E's proposed demonstration project will  
8 utilize up to 20 percent hydrogen blended gas to support  
9 a fuel cell that puts energy back onto the SDG&E grid.  
10 The renewable hydrogen used in the project will be  
11 produced at SDG&E's power plant facility in Escondido  
12 and transported as needed to the Kearny C&O Center.  
13 There will be no interactions with customers applying  
14 for this pilot.

15 We have taken safety and costs into account  
16 during every aspect of planning for this project, and I  
17 would like to address some of those items here.

18 From a safety standpoint, the 2025 Hydrogen  
19 Blending Compendium Report, ordered by the Commission  
20 and developed by UC Riverside with the utilities,  
21 reviewed literature studies on demonstration of hydrogen  
22 blending. From the report, SDG&E and the utilities  
23 concluded that hydrogen blending up to 20 percent by  
24 volume and the medium and low pressure distribution  
25 system is safe for pipes and for common appliances.

1           The compendium report shows that up to  
2   20 percent by volume hydrogen gas mixed with natural gas  
3   does not preferentially leak; meaning if a system is  
4   leaked tight for natural gas, it will also be leaked  
5   tight for blending gas. At up to 20 percent mix,  
6   hydrogen natural gas blends follow a similar flow regime  
7   to natural gas and current odorization methods are  
8   sufficient. And their report also indicated that no  
9   significant impacts from hydrogen natural gas blend on  
10  plastic materials at pressure conditions observed on the  
11  California gas distribution system. Any other claims by  
12  stakeholders around the flammability, dispersion, and  
13  leakage issues of hydrogen are based on hydrogen system  
14  with hydrogen mixing exceeding 20 percent, or even  
15  100 percent hydrogen systems, and that is not applicable  
16  to our pipe.

17           SDG&E is not seeking -- from a cost standpoint,  
18  SDG&E is not seeking any capital funding for this  
19  project; rather, only operations and maintenance  
20  expenses to conduct the pilot. SDG&E's most recent  
21  revised testimony seeks to reduce the cost of the  
22  project by utilizing renewable hydrogen we are already  
23  producing at our facility in Escondido. SDG&E estimates  
24  it will save over \$2 million from its earlier cost  
25  estimate by the originally existing assets.

1           In general, using existing pipeline  
2       infrastructure to transport and deliver clean hydrogen  
3       is the most cost-effective way to transport this clean  
4       fuel and decarbonize hard-to-electrify end uses.

5           In conclusion, the California Air Resources  
6       Board, or CARB, has indicated that hydrogen blending can  
7       be a key tool to reaching net zero energy supply by  
8       2045.

9           Hydrogen technologies offer a promising pathway  
10      to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing  
11      reliability while supporting California's climate goals  
12      and SCE's commitment to a cleaner more sustainable  
13      energy future. Hydrogen has the potential to complement  
14      both the electric and gas grids. And we see hydrogen as  
15      a key enabler of reliable, clean, firm, dispatchable  
16      electricity from California among its many potential  
17      uses.

18          The practice of blending hydrogen with natural  
19      gas is not new. It has been around for decades and has  
20      already been safely demonstrated in many other places in  
21      the U.S. and worldwide.

22          As an example, Hawaii Gas has been using  
23      hydrogen in its fuel mix for a half a century to serve  
24      homes, restaurants, and businesses on Oahu island; and  
25      similarly, hydrogen blending has been safely and



1 reliably used in many countries around the world such as  
2 Singapore, Canada, the United Kingdom, France, and the  
3 Netherlands, who are all leaders in creating a clean  
4 economy and a clean future.

5 With me today are members of SDG&E's project  
6 team who will be available to answer questions about the  
7 project in our broad reach efforts. Thank you for your  
8 time. We are here to listen, and we look forward to  
9 continuing this process together. ]

10 ALJ FERGUSON: Thank you very much, and we did  
11 it in the time limit I said.

12 I want to add one thing to the comments that  
13 San Diego just made. The compendium is something that's  
14 very important to the Commission. It's something that  
15 we ordered the utilities to provide to us.

16 We do not want these five projects to repeat  
17 what other people have done, other people in the world  
18 at large have done; so we're looking for new information  
19 in addition to the information that's contained in the  
20 compendium, which is, as was pointed out, a survey of  
21 what's been done in recent memory throughout the world.

22 And it's quite a -- quite a large study that  
23 was ordered and paid for by the utilities for the  
24 benefit of the Commission. So we will measure their  
25 proposals against what we already know from the

1 literature that is cited in the compendium; and if  
2 they're just telling us that a project is going to  
3 repeat something that we already know the answer to,  
4 we're not going to authorize it, obviously.

5 So that's -- that's what the compendium is all  
6 about. It's an important document in this case.

7 All right. I said after the utility makes its  
8 presentation, I would ask is there anyone in the  
9 audience here this evening who is representing an  
10 elected official or an agency of the State of  
11 California? If there is, please raise your hand.

12 (No response.)

13 ALJ FERGUSON: And I see no hands raised, so  
14 that will not happen.

15 Next, I said, would be the parties. There are  
16 many parties in this proceeding on both sides of the --  
17 all the issues in the proceeding. So are there any  
18 party representatives?

19 One hand. Please come forward. You get three  
20 minutes. State your full name and spelling, please, and  
21 then I'll start the three-minute timer.

22 MR. McRAE: Thank you, your Honor. My name is  
23 Tim McRae, T-i-m M-c-R-a-e. I represent the California  
24 Hydrogen Business Council. I will center my remarks  
25 tonight on the projects using hydrogen from the Palomar

1 Energy Center.

2 Palomar currently produces hydrogen on the  
3 power plant campus, using a solar-powered electrolyzer  
4 on-site to separate hydrogen from oxygen in water. It  
5 has the capacity to produce 500 kilograms of hydrogen a  
6 day now.

7 They use that hydrogen for several purposes  
8 today. One, to decarbonize the gas system; two,  
9 blending it into the natural gas turbine to generate  
10 electricity; three, using it as a cooling gas in the  
11 combined cycle process; four, fueling hydrogen-powered  
12 vehicles in the SDG&E fleet.

13 I make these points to emphasize that SDG&E  
14 produces hydrogen today, handles it today, and blends it  
15 with natural gas today. Fears that SDG&E cannot do  
16 these processes safely are misplaced. They do it now.

17 Additionally, hydrogen is being blended into  
18 the gas system in Hawaii, Canada, Germany, the  
19 Netherlands, and the United Kingdom.

20 Thank you.

21 ALJ FERGUSON: I have one question before you  
22 leave the podium.

23 You referred to the Palomar Center. On this  
24 map that has been provided to us here in this hearing by  
25 the utility, is it -- is this -- this -- I'm pointing at

1 something that is labeled "Existing Palomar Energy  
2 Center Hydrogen Systems, Solar and Electrolyzer, at  
3 2300 Harveson Place, Escondido, California."

4 Is that what you were referring to?

5 MR. McRAE: Yes.

6 ALJ FERGUSON: Okay. I just wanted to make  
7 that clear for the record. Thank you very much for your  
8 comments.

9 MR. McRAE: Thank you for your follow-up  
10 question.

11 ALJ FERGUSON: All right. Let's -- let's see  
12 here.

13 Okay. Now I'm going to call three names out,  
14 and you should get ready. The first person -- first  
15 name will be the speaker who comes up to the podium and  
16 will have three minutes; and then the other two get  
17 ready, I'll call your names in order; and then we'll do  
18 another group after that group is finished.

19 So the first person up is Bill Powers.

20 Mr. Powers, will you state your full name and  
21 spell it slowly for the reporter.

22 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER POWERS

23 Yes. My name full name is Bill Powers, B-i-l-l  
24 P-o-w-e-r-s.

25 ALJ FERGUSON: All right. You have three

1 minutes. Go ahead.

2 SPEAKER POWERS: First I want to thank the  
3 California Public Utilities Commission for coming to  
4 San Diego and giving us an opportunity to speak.

5 Second, I did mention earlier, Judge, that I  
6 was an expert -- I'm an engineer by training,  
7 periodically serve as an expert witness for the  
8 Commission. I was in the 2023 GRC where the green  
9 hydrogen pipeline was adjudicated.

10 I just want to point out that the utilities are  
11 very aggressively pursuing green hydrogen pipeline in  
12 that proceeding. My testimony was we are taking solar  
13 energy electricity, which is ready to go to do an end  
14 activity, electricity, and directing it to a very  
15 high-energy electrolyzer, losing efficiency, and that  
16 it's an unfortunate detour from an otherwise excellent  
17 program of renewable energy in San Diego -- or in  
18 California.

19 So now I'll go into my comment. The City of  
20 San Diego is committed in its climate action plan to  
21 largely phasing out natural gas usage by 2035. This  
22 project will cost 21 million, or maybe 19 million. We  
23 could put 1,000 rooftop solar and battery storage  
24 systems in San Diego for that amount of money.

25 Polyethylene pipe, low-pressure pipes serving

1 homes and businesses, San Diego homes and businesses,  
2 will not be using natural gas or blends of natural gas  
3 in just a few years.

4 Green hydrogen costs 12 times the cost of  
5 natural gas, and the application does not look at  
6 innovative alternatives like rooftop solar or solar and  
7 battery storage generally. It focuses on this.

8 The project, to me, has a distinct air of an  
9 expensive and pointless gift to the shareholders of  
10 San Diego Gas and Electric. Given the current uproar of  
11 utilities toward billing, the denial of this application  
12 will send a signal that the Commission is listening, and  
13 listening to that uproar.

14 So thank you.

15 ALJ FERGUSON: Okay. Thank you very much.

16 All right. Next is Bill Roe, R-o-e.

17 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER ROE

18 Hi. Thank you for having me.

19 ALJ FERGUSON: Could you just --

20 SPEAKER ROE: Bill Roe, B-i-l-l R-o-e.

21 ALJ FERGUSON: Thank you.

22 SPEAKER ROE: I'm not an expert in any way; but  
23 I'm a lifelong resident of California, 78 years old, and  
24 I've witnessed a lot of projects approved by the PUC  
25 over many years.

1           And my -- my general view of them is they're  
2           basically cash grabs for shareholders and ratepayers get  
3           screwed; and -- and I think a lot of this is just cash  
4           grabs by corporations that really don't benefit the  
5           average consumer; and I think solar is the way to go;  
6           and I think this whole project that's been proposed --  
7           in spite of all the testimony, I think is dangerous, and  
8           anything that has the word "hydrogen" in it, I don't  
9           trust.

10           And -- and a lot of -- a lot of these projects  
11           that have been approved by PUC or other entities end up  
12           getting located in low income parts of the community,  
13           and -- and the people that live there suffer the  
14           consequences.

15           And that's it.

16           ALJ FERGUSON: Okay. Thank you very much.

17           And next, Barbara Diederichs.

18           STATEMENT OF SPEAKER DIEDERICHS

19           Barbara Diederichs, B-a-r-b-a-r-a  
20           D-i-e-d-e-r-i-c-h-s.

21           I am also not an expert, but I am a ratepayer  
22           and a 30-year resident of California, and Poway in  
23           particular. And we are one of the early adopters of  
24           solar, and are quite dismayed about the recent changes  
25           to our billing that sort of forced us to buy battery

1 storage.

2 On the other hand, now we are enjoying being  
3 very independent and not having to worry about power  
4 outages and such. But still, I really object to the  
5 amount of money that we are subsidizing SDG&E with, and  
6 instead of investing in proven technologies and very  
7 useful and clean technologies such as rooftop solar and  
8 battery storage, either personal or for the City of  
9 San Diego or any city, so I would -- I'm very opposed to  
10 spending this amount of money and that we are paying in  
11 our bills, even just our connection charges.

12 So, yeah, that is my opinion. And also, the  
13 hydrogen, making it into electricity, back to hydrogen,  
14 back to -- just seems completely not reasonable.

15 Thank you.

16 ALJ FERGUSON: Okay. Thank you.

17 I -- I just want to point out just for the  
18 record, but you may want to think about this, the  
19 Commission has not authorized San Diego to charge any  
20 customer, electric or gas, any money associated with  
21 this project as yet.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yet.

23 ALJ FERGUSON: Well, as yet.

24 SPEAKER DIEDERICHs: So we hope you won't.

25 ALJ FERGUSON: All right. But I want to



1 distinguish to you the difference between the gas tariff  
2 and the electric tariff. They're separate. They're  
3 not -- I know you probably don't like some of the things  
4 that have happened in the electric tariff recently, but  
5 this is the gas tariff. It's different from the  
6 electric tariff. Okay?

7 All right. Next is Kelly Lyndon. I think -- I  
8 think it's Lyndon.

9 You'll have to tell us your full name and spell  
10 it. The typing on this is terrible.

11 STATEMENT OF SPEAKER LYNDON

12 So yes, my name is Kelly Lyndon, K-e-l-l-y  
13 L-y-n-d-o-n.

14 ALJ FERGUSON: Go ahead. You have three  
15 minutes.

16 SPEAKER LYNDON: Thank you.

17 So I live in the City of San Diego; and I  
18 volunteer as the cochair of the San Diego Building  
19 Electrification Coalition, which is over 45  
20 organizations in the community advocating for  
21 electric -- equitable electrification.

22 What brings me here on a Friday night is  
23 knowing how much is at stake for future generations if  
24 this project moves forward, and why I am against it. We  
25 already have an amazing solution, to bring clean energy

1 to our buildings. It's called electricity.

2 Over the next few decades, we'll be  
3 transitioning all of our buildings to clean electricity  
4 and we'll no longer need gas pipelines running to every  
5 single building, so there's no point in trying to  
6 understand what it would be like to mix hydrogen into  
7 these pipelines that go all the way out to our  
8 buildings, because they're going to be gone.

9 Many folks are electrifying now since great  
10 products are available and the costs keep coming down;  
11 and while, yes, we may need hydrogen for some  
12 hard-to-electrify applications in the industrial space,  
13 we don't need it for our residences and our commercial  
14 buildings.

15 We already know how to electrify them. They  
16 are not hard to electrify. We don't have any steel  
17 mills or concrete plants in this area. There's really  
18 not going to be any need for hydrogen for those sorts of  
19 applications.

20 And as we are able to phase out these  
21 pipelines, we're going to save an enormous amount of  
22 money on our utility bills and we'll end up with cleaner  
23 and healthier homes.

24 Now, for the case where the hydrogen is being  
25 used for fuel cells, it's super inefficient. You use

1 energy to create the hydrogen, then you have to figure  
2 out how to get it to where it's needed, and then use  
3 energy in a fuel cell to turn it back to electricity.

4 So you started with electricity, ended with  
5 electricity, and wasted a whole bunch of it in between.  
6 Just run a wire. We already know how to do that. And  
7 so in the case where you're just using electricity to  
8 turn it into hydrogen, back to electricity, it's unclear  
9 to me why you're doing that. If you need to store it,  
10 we have batteries. We already have these solutions.

11 So I'm an engineer. I work in the clean energy  
12 industry, and I've reviewed the studies, and I've  
13 reviewed this proposal and the ones throughout the  
14 state; and as far as I can tell, this demonstration  
15 project will not provide any new information about  
16 hydrogen blending and how it will work in the real  
17 world.

18 It's really just setting a foundation for this  
19 gas -- natural gas industry to continue into the future  
20 and continue to be a major part of SDG&E and Sempra's  
21 portfolio.

22 I oppose this project, and I urge you to deny  
23 it as duplicative and unnecessary.

24 Thank you.

25 ALJ FERGUSON: Thank you.

1 All right. Okay. That is the last name I have  
2 on my list.

3 Is there anybody else in the room who has not  
4 spoken who would like to speak? If so, please raise  
5 your hand.

6 Seeing no hands raised, then I think we have  
7 reached the end of our evening presentation and public  
8 participation hearing, and so we'll go off the record at  
9 this point. The time is exactly 5:34.

10 (At the hour of 5:34 p.m., this matter having  
11 been concluded, the Commission then  
12 adjourned.)

13 \* \* \* \* \*

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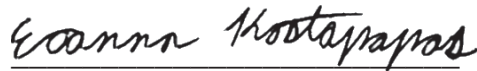
BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CERTIFICATION OF TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDING

I, EOANNA KOSTAPAPAS, CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER  
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EXECUTED THIS NOVEMBER 21, 2025.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rhonda Norberg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rhonda Norberg  
CSR NO. 9265

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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION, STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
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