

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA



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ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE CAMILLE WATTS-ZAGHA, presiding

Application of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS) PREHEARING
COMPANY (U904G) Proposing Woody Biomass) CONFERENCE
Pilot Project.)
) Application
) 25-10-008
)

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT
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Reported by: Andrea L. Ross, CSR No. 7896

VIRTUAL PROCEEDING

JANUARY 12, 2026 - 1:30 P.M.

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ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE WATTS-ZAGHA: We'll be on the record.

My name is Camille Watts-Zagha, and I am the administrative law judge assigned to this proceeding. It is 1:30 on Monday, January 12, 2026, and this is the prehearing conference for Application 25-10-008, an application by Southern California Gas Company for authority to execute a Woody Biomass Pilot Project, which we are calling the "Proposed Project" with a chosen third-party contractor, West Biofuels, LLC.

John Reynolds is our assigned commissioner to this proceeding. Unfortunately, he is not able to join us here today, but he will be conferring with me after this prehearing conference.

The purpose of a prehearing conference is to discuss the scope and schedule of the proceeding. As such, my agenda for today is to first go over the service list, then discuss the categorization of this proceeding, followed by the scope of issues, the need for hearings, and the schedule for the remainder of the proceeding. Nothing will be decided today, and a final determination will be made in the scoping memo issued by

1 Commissioner John Reynolds.

2 At this point, does anybody have any questions
3 or clarifications before we move on to taking
4 appearances?

5 (No response.)

6 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Wonderful. I'll also mention
7 that there were no requests for an expedited transcript
8 of today's hearing as of last Friday. You may still
9 request an expedited transcript. I ask you to do so
10 when you make your appearance this afternoon. If you
11 have any questions about this, you can refer to an email
12 that you should have received from Chief Hearing
13 Reporter Jason Stacey who sent this email on January 7,
14 2026.

15 Now, on to the service list. As you must know,
16 in Commission proceedings, the applicant and those who
17 have filed protests or responded to the application are
18 automatically added to our service list as parties. For
19 each company or organization, there is just one
20 representative listed for the party. All the other
21 individuals associated with that company or organization
22 are listed as "Information Only."

23 After we go through those who already have
24 party status, I will open this up for any motions for
25 individuals or organizations that did not yet receive

1 party status and wish to make a motion to do so.

2 All right. Let's start with the applicant.
3 Please state your name for the record and spell your
4 last name as well.

5 MR. BAUTISTA: Good afternoon, your Honor, this
6 is Ismael Bautista, B-a-u-t-i-s-t-a, on behalf of
7 applicant, Southern California Gas Company.

8 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you.

9 Now the Public Advocates Office.

10 MS. DELAPORTA: Thank you, your Honor. This is
11 Megan Delaporta, D-e-l-a-p-o-r-t-a, counsel for the
12 Public Advocates Office. Thank you.

13 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you.

14 Small Business Utility Advocates, go ahead.

15 MS. WEBERSKI: Good afternoon, your Honor.
16 Jennifer Weberski, spelled W-e-b-e-r-s-k-i, on behalf of
17 Small Business Utility Advocates, or SBUA.

18 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you.

19 Next, Bioenergy Association of California.

20 MS. LEVIN: Hi. Julia, J-u-l-i-a, Levin,
21 L-e-v-i-n, Bioenergy Association of California. Thank
22 you.

23 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Yes.

24 Next, Sierra Club.

25 MS. ROBERTSON: Good afternoon, your Honor,

1 Nina Robertson, N-i-n-a R-o-b-e-r-t-s-o-n, on behalf of
2 Sierra Club. Thank you.

3 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you.

4 That concludes the list of those I have with
5 party status. And for others interested, you are
6 welcome to now make a motion for party status. I'm
7 going to pause a moment and see if anyone has joined us
8 and intends to make a motion for party status.

9 (No response.)

10 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: It appears there are no
11 individuals interested in making a motion for party
12 status. For the record, it is possible to do so by
13 filing a written motion pursuant to Rule 1.4 and
14 Rule 11.1, so that is a possibility going forward in
15 this proceeding. And there is also the possibility to
16 participate informally without being a party to this
17 proceeding.

18 Next, we move to categorization of this
19 proceeding. In Resolution ALJ 176-3571 issued on
20 October 30, 2025, the Commission made a preliminary
21 determination categorizing this proceeding as
22 ratesetting. No party objected to the proposed
23 category, which it was required to do under Rule 2.6(d)
24 if it had any objections or proposed alternatives.

25 I agree that the ratesetting categorization is

1 logical for this case, and I will remind folks here that
2 the ratesetting categorization triggers ex parte rules
3 described in Article 8 of the Commission's Rules of
4 Practice and Procedure.

5 The safest way to communicate with me in
6 consideration of these ex parte rules is to communicate
7 via email. And when you do send an email, copy the
8 entire service list.

9 All right. We can actually move ahead to the
10 scoped issues proposed by all of the parties jointly in
11 this proceeding for the most part. As you know, you
12 have done preliminary work by meeting and conferring
13 regarding the proposed scope for this application.
14 SoCalGas filed the proposed revised scope on January 7,
15 2026, in this docket so you may wish to have that handy
16 at this point, although I will be reading aloud the
17 issues that were filed as the revised proposed scope.

18 It appears to me that the first eight items
19 were unanimously proposed by all five parties here
20 today, and then there are a few more proposed items that
21 appear to be just proposed by selected parties. We can
22 talk a little bit more about that after I read the
23 scope. All right.

24 Issue one, is the proposed project a pilot as
25 described in Ordering Paragraph 43 of Decision 22-02-025

1 and consistent with the common usage of the term "Pilot
2 Project?"

3 Second, does the Proposed Project meet the
4 requirements of Decision 22-02-025?

5 Third, does the Proposed Project support
6 California state goals of decreasing greenhouse gas
7 emissions?

8 Fourth, does the Proposed Project comply with
9 applicable California Air Resources Board regulations,
10 including but not limited to 17 CCR, Sections
11 95893(d)(3), (d)(5), and (d)(8)?

12 Fifth, should SoCalGas' review and reporting of
13 methane leakage and emissions information from the
14 Proposed Project be publicly available? Has SoCalGas
15 established that the Commission should treat any part of
16 such information as confidential?

17 Six, what, if any, are the impacts on
18 environmental and social justice communities, including
19 the extent to which the project impacts achievement of
20 any of the nine goals of the Commission's Environmental
21 and Social Justice Action Plan?

22 Seven, does the project meet the requirements
23 of D.24-12-032?

24 Eight, applicability of Commission
25 determinations for SoCalGas Senate Bill 1383 Dairy

1 Biomethane projects to the project, specifically to the,
2 A, project readiness framework; B, emissions study and
3 reporting; and C, monetary incentive program.

4 The ninth issue was proposed only by
5 Cal Advocates and Sierra Club. Is the project
6 consistent with D.25-05-003?

7 And 10 was an item proposed just by SoCalGas
8 and Bioenergy Association of California. Should
9 SoCalGas' request to reserve up to the 19.704 million
10 greenhouse gas cap-and-trade allowance be approved?

11 Now I'd like to hear a little bit from the
12 parties about this list and particularly why not all
13 parties wanted to propose the ninth and the tenth issue.
14 I think the best way for me to go about it is for me to
15 call each party in turn, and then you can address
16 anything you'd like to about the scope.

17 I will start with Ismael Bautista, SoCalGas,
18 please.

19 MR. BAUTISTA: Thank you, your Honor. This is
20 Ismael Bautista for SoCalGas. As your Honor mentioned,
21 we met and conferred and agreed on the first eight
22 issues listed in the notice that we served last week.

23 With respect to Issue Number 9, the reason why
24 we're hesitant to propose that issue into the scoping
25 memo is because Decision 25-05-003 was issued in PG&E's

1 Application 23-06-023 for its own woody biomass pilot
2 project application, which was ultimately denied.

3 We don't think that that -- that decision and
4 that project are -- should be part of the standard or
5 issues that need to be determined in this proceeding
6 because that was a different project with different
7 feedstock in a different service territory, so it would
8 be unfair for SoCalGas to be held to a standard of a
9 project that was not approved by the Commission.

10 I think that the other issues that have been
11 scoped are consistent with the original application that
12 SoCalGas filed, Application A.23-06-024, and of course
13 the underlying decision, D.22-02-025, that ordered
14 SoCalGas and PG&E to file these applications.

15 So therefore, we believe that that particular
16 issue should not be scoped into this proceeding, that
17 this project proposed by SoCalGas should not be held to
18 the specific standards in findings set forth in that
19 decision, 25-05-003.

20 Does your Honor want me to address Issue
21 Number 10 as well or do you want to stick to Number 9 at
22 this point?

23 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Oh, please address Number 10
24 as well. I'd like you to address all the things you'd
25 like to say about the scoping memo as we go through.

1 MR. BAUTISTA: Okay. Thank you, your Honor.
2 With respect to Issue Number 10 -- and I'll repeat it
3 just for the record -- "Should SoCalGas' request to
4 reserve up to the 19.704 million GHG cap-and-trade
5 allowance be approved?"

6 That issue is almost identical to an issue that
7 was scoped in PG&E's application. All you have to do is
8 replace the name "SoCalGas" and then the rest is
9 identical.

10 Perhaps this is a semantics issue because it is
11 true that up to 19.704 million has been set aside for
12 this project, but nonetheless, they have not been
13 reserved for SoCalGas to spend on this project because
14 the project itself has not been approved. So perhaps I
15 think to be consistent with at least that other -- the
16 scoping issues in PG&E, I think it's -- it would be wise
17 for us to include this additional issue.

18 Ultimately it may not matter because everyone
19 understands that we're asking for approval with this
20 project including up to the 19.704 million in
21 cap-and-trade funds, but that's the justification.
22 Thank you, your Honor.

23 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you. I'll actually ask
24 next to hear from -- let me see here. Yes. I'd like to
25 hear next from Bioenergy Association of California since

1 you were listed alongside SoCalGas with Item Number 10.

2 MS. LEVIN: Thank you, your Honor. So if I
3 may, since you want to address all of our feedback on
4 the proposed scoping -- scope -- and I apologize to all
5 the other parties that I did not raise this before -- I
6 would like to add one minor change, even to Issue
7 Number 4 because it should say -- sorry -- Issue
8 Number 3 -- it should include short-lived climate
9 pollutant reductions as well as greenhouse gas
10 reductions.

11 The underlying law, Public Utilities Code
12 Sections 650 and 651, the legislation that created the
13 pipeline biomethane procurement program, was, if
14 anything, more focused on short-lived climate pollutants
15 than on greenhouse gas emissions. And that was written
16 into the law with the reference to Health and Safety
17 Code Section 13780.5, I believe it is, 37 -- sorry. I'm
18 mixing up the section number.

19 It is written into SB 1440, the legislation
20 that created the biomethane procurement program, and
21 short-lived climate pollutions is listed more times and
22 it's always listed first. And that really was the focus
23 of the procurement program because organic waste
24 produces about 87 percent of the state's biomethane --
25 or methane emissions, but this pilot project also can

1 reduce black carbon. And black carbon is a short-lived
2 climate pollutant that's regulated under state law, the
3 state's short-lived climate pollutant law, but it is not
4 a greenhouse gas.

5 And so if this, you know, the assessment of
6 cost and benefits for this project doesn't consider
7 black carbon, it's ignoring one of the sort of legally
8 central parts or central objectives of the biomethane
9 procurement program.

10 So our first request -- and, again, apology to
11 the parties I didn't raise this before. I was more
12 focused on the areas of disagreement when we all spoke.
13 But if -- I hope the other parties will not object to
14 adding short-lived climate pollutant reductions,
15 decreasing short-lived climate pollutant, and greenhouse
16 gas emissions in Issue Number 3. That's our first
17 request.

18 And then in terms of Issue Number 9, I agree
19 with everything that Ismael just said, and I would add a
20 few points. Neither SoCalGas nor BAC were parties to
21 the PG&E application and so I don't -- nor were most
22 other market participants that have a broader interest
23 in pipeline biomethane but weren't part of the PG&E
24 pilot project.

25 An application is not a rulemaking, and so to

1 apply things that were determined on a specific
2 application where most of the market participants
3 weren't involved, I don't think, is actually
4 appropriate.

5 If the application set new standards that
6 weren't included in the original decision that
7 established the requirement for the pilot projects, that
8 would be really unfair to the other market participants,
9 including SoCalGas and BAC.

10 I think that's the difference between a
11 quasi-legislative rulemaking like R.13-02-008 and a
12 specific application on behalf of one utility. So it
13 might be helpful to know from the parties that support
14 Issue 9 what is it in that decision, 25-05-003, that is
15 different from the requirement set forth in the broader
16 decision requiring these pilot projects.

17 And that will be helpful to understand what it
18 is they think referencing this decision adds because my
19 concern is if it does set new requirements that weren't
20 in the original decision, that's not fair to PG&E which
21 wasn't a party to the -- sorry -- it's not fair to
22 SoCalGas which wasn't a party to the PG&E application.

23 So I think there's a fairness issue, but I'm
24 also concerned that there may be issues that go beyond
25 what the original decision set forth. I think I will

1 stop there, and I agree with Ismael on Issue Number 10.

2 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you, Julia Levin. And,
3 you know, we have the opportunity to discuss the scope
4 here, notwithstanding your meet-and-confer. So parties
5 will now have a chance to, you know, address your
6 proposed addition also.

7 So let's next go to Cal Advocates, and then
8 following Cal Advocates, I'll have Sierra Club go, and
9 finally Small Business Utility Advocates will conclude.
10 We can go through the speakers again or individuals can
11 add more after we hear from each party.

12 So let's go back to Public Advocates Office
13 now.

14 MS. DELAPORTA: Thank you, your Honor. In
15 addition to the eight issues agreed upon by the parties,
16 Cal Advocates respectfully requests the issue of whether
17 the proposed pilot project is consistent with Decision
18 25-05-003 being included in the scope of the proceeding.

19 Decision 25-05-003 provides valuable precedent
20 for how compliance with the CARB regulations should be
21 analyzed and clarifies what constitutes compliance with
22 the CARB regulations.

23 As far as fairness, the PG&E proceeding was
24 subject to the same requirements from D.22-02-025,
25 SoCalGas' previous pilot project application, so I think

1 that's important to include.

2 And then as for Issue 10, Cal Advocates opposes
3 SoCalGas and BAC's proposal to include the issue of
4 whether SoCalGas' request to reserve up to the
5 \$19.7 million is reasonable. Decision 22-02-025
6 allocates SoCalGas the \$19.7 million, and the use of the
7 funds is limited to and contingent upon the approval of
8 the application, which already requests to use the funds
9 for the various infrastructure components involved in
10 the Proposed Project.

11 In addition, Cal Advocates takes issue with the
12 word "reserve" because it implies that the funds will be
13 saved for a later purpose rather than used for the
14 instant pilot project. The reserve language is taken
15 directly from the scoping memo for SoCalGas' previous
16 woody biomass pilot project application, Application
17 23-06-024, in which SoCalGas included a cost estimate in
18 its application that was less than the total
19 \$19.7 million allocated.

20 And it requested to reserve any leftover funds
21 for other uses such as an additional future pilot
22 project. This language was also included in the scope
23 for Application 23-06-023, which is PG&E's previous
24 woody biomass pilot project application. And in that
25 application a similar request to use leftover funds for

1 other uses was made.

2 So SoCalGas does not include a cost estimate in
3 this application or make a similar request to reserve
4 leftover funds for uses other than its Proposed Project
5 in the instant application, so Cal Advocates does not
6 see the need to include this issue in the proceeding.

7 Thank you.

8 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Megan Delaporta, let me ask
9 you because on one hand, you do wish for Issue 9 to be
10 included and the language about reserving the funds up
11 to a certain amount was also scoped in that '25 decision
12 denying PG&E's pilot application, so you are looking to
13 have it be consistent with that decision but not that
14 particular item that was scoped in that application?

15 MS. DELAPORTA: Yeah. Decision 25-05-003
16 really focused -- it really hinged on the failure to
17 comply with the CARB regulations. And I think that
18 Cal Advocates is asking to include -- is asking that
19 consistency with the decision be included in the scope
20 of this proceeding for that analysis, in particular on
21 what constitutes compliance with the CARB regulations.

22 And again, I just want to emphasize that the
23 reserve language is mostly the issue with Issue 10 for
24 Cal Advocates just because of the use of that language
25 with the previous two woody biomass pilot project

1 applications, and both applications requested to use
2 leftover funds for purposes other than the pilot
3 project. So that's kind of where that issue --
4 really the meat of that issue lies, if that is helpful,
5 your Honor.

6 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: That is helpful. And do you
7 have anything to add about Bioenergy Association's
8 request to expand the third scoped issue?

9 MS. DELAPORTA: Nothing to add, your Honor.
10 Thank you.

11 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you.

12 All right. Let's hear from Sierra Club next.

13 MS. ROBERTSON: Thank you, your Honor. On
14 Issue 9, we agree, of course, with Cal Advocates, which
15 is why we proposed inclusion of consistency with the
16 25-05-003 in the scope of this proceeding.

17 You know, that decision, your Honor,
18 interpreted some very complicated regulations. The CARB
19 regulations have several provisions that interact, and
20 their meaning was not clarified until that decision was
21 issued. So for consistency across Commission decisions,
22 that decision should be referenced and scoped in here so
23 that the future -- any future interpretation of the CARB
24 regulations and their applicability to the pilot
25 projects are consistent across Commission decisions.

1 Just to give an example, that decision found
2 that there needs to be an Ex Ante showing by the
3 utilities that there will be demonstrated GHG
4 reductions. So here, that same interpretation should
5 apply when the Commission reviews SoCalGas' pilot
6 project.

7 On the issue of Number 10, we -- Sierra Club
8 concur completely with Cal Advocates' explanation and
9 position on that issue. And on the issue raised by
10 Ms. Levin regarding short-lived climate pollutants,
11 Sierra Club doesn't take a position on that addition.

12 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you.

13 Small Business Utility Advocates.

14 MS. WEBERSKI: Thank you, your Honor. Jennifer
15 Weberski for SBUA. As indicated in the joint statement,
16 SBUA agreed with the first eight issues that were
17 outlined by the parties, and we took no position on
18 Issue 9 and 10.

19 With respect to Ms. Levin's suggestion
20 regarding Issue 3, we're not prepared at this time to
21 necessarily support it, but we don't necessarily oppose
22 it. We would just need to do the research. We're just
23 not as familiar with the law that was cited by
24 Ms. Levin, and I wouldn't want to necessarily say we
25 support it at this point without doing some additional

1 research. Thank you, your Honor.

2 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thank you.

3 I think we do not need to have me call each one
4 of the parties again. Instead, I should be able to just
5 call your name if you want to respond to anything you've
6 heard about the scoped issued. You can raise your hand,
7 or you can raise your electronic hand, and I should be
8 able to see it. All right.

9 I will ask Ismael Bautista. Go ahead, please.

10 MR. BAUTISTA: Thank you, your Honor. I just
11 have a couple of points to clarify. The first one has
12 to do with the fact that in the application we did ask
13 for funding towards lanes 4, 6 -- I'm sorry, lanes --
14 give me one second -- 4, 3, and 5, but to the extent
15 that the funding for lanes 7, 8, and 9 have been
16 exhausted.

17 In our Chapter 2 testimony, it was specified
18 that to the extent there are any funds remaining, that
19 any funds approved by the Commission could be used
20 towards lane 4, which is compression, and if there are
21 any funds left over after lane 4 funding is exhausted,
22 then we also ask that it be used to cover lanes 3 and
23 lanes 5, as indicated in the map that we submitted, and
24 also the lanes that we submitted in our supplemental
25 filing from last week. That's point number one.

1 Point number two, the revision that Ms. Levin
2 proposed to Issue Number 3, I would make a slight
3 modification to it to be consistent with Decision
4 22-02-025. And what that decision says, page 46, quote:

5 To help achieve the GHG and criteria air
6 pollutant emission reductions associated with
7 procuring bio-SNG, we direct the Joint
8 Utilities to collectively set aside \$40 million
9 from their 2022 cap-and-trade allocated
10 allowance auction proceeds.

11 So what I would suggest is not include SLCP
12 term because it's not consistent with the decision's
13 language. There is a reference, though, to reducing
14 criteria air pollutant emission reductions. And those
15 are the only two points that I wanted to make here.

16 Thank you.

17 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: I just want to make sure I
18 understood your final point. You said, "SLCP,"
19 short-lived climate pollutants; is that right?

20 MR. BAUTISTA: Yes, your Honor.

21 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: And you're actually asking
22 that that not be included because -- and can you restate
23 that.

24 MR. BAUTISTA: Yes. SoCalGas is asking that
25 SLCP -- the SLCP term is not added to Issue Number 3

1 because it's not listed in Decision 22-02-025. So
2 actually the way that I would modify Issue Number 3 is
3 to say as follows:

4 Does the Proposed Project support
5 California's state goals of decreasing criteria
6 air pollutant and GHG emissions?

7 That's the change I would suggest, your Honor.

8 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: I couldn't hear the first
9 word, decreasing something air pollutant and the
10 greenhouse gas emissions.

11 MR. BAUTISTA: Yes. Decreasing air pollutant
12 emission and GHG emissions.

13 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Oh, just those two. Okay.

14 MR. BAUTISTA: Yes.

15 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: All right. I do understand
16 that part of the application is requesting that the
17 leftover funds be devoted to those lanes, if there are
18 any remaining. So thank you for that clarification.

19 All right. Let's see if anybody else would
20 like to comment further on the scope. Okay. I have
21 Julia Levin again. Please go ahead.

22 MS. LEVIN: Thank you. So I would like to
23 reiterate why short-lived climate pollutants is actually
24 the goal of this program regardless of whether the
25 decision from 2022 mentioned it or not. The law trumps

1 the decision, and SB 1440, which is the law passed in
2 2018 that led to the creation of the biomethane
3 procurement program lists short-lived climate pollutant
4 reduction as the first goal and a finding that those
5 reductions would be cost effective as one of the
6 pre-requisites of the program.

7 So I apologize that I'm bringing this up today,
8 but I actually did not think this would be
9 controversial. In Public Utilities Code Section A-1, it
10 says, "The targets or goals" -- this is of the
11 biomethane procurement program -- "are cost-effective
12 means of achieving the forecast reduction in the
13 emissions of short-lived climate pollutants pursuant
14 to" -- and it's Health and Safety Code --
15 "Section 39730.5 and other greenhouse gases."

16 But each time these are listed -- again, in
17 B-1 -- it also lists as 39730.8, which is all part of
18 the state's short-lived climate pollutant law, so I
19 think that's critical.

20 We were the sponsor of AB 3163 by
21 Assemblymember Salas, which added biomass as an eligible
22 feedstock. That's what led to the adoption by the
23 Commission in 2022 of this requirement for biomass --
24 woody biomass -- to pipe in biomethane feedstocks. The
25 whole reason we did that -- the whole reason the

1 legislature enacted AB 3163 and added woody biomass is
2 because a lot of it is pile burned, and that emits black
3 carbon.

4 Black carbon is a climate pollutant, but not a
5 greenhouse gas. So we'd lose any analysis or assessment
6 of benefits, costs, impacts and emissions of black
7 carbon if we don't include short-lived climate
8 pollutants.

9 And since that is, you know, a fundamental part
10 of the law that created the pipeline biomethane program,
11 I'm a little perplexed why there would be concern about
12 that. Maybe it would be helpful to understand what is
13 the concern about adding it.

14 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Well, I feel like we covered
15 some of that already, so we have all this on the record
16 right now regarding that addition.

17 All right. I would like us now to move on to
18 the next agenda item, which is the schedule and the need
19 for hearings. SoCalGas does not believe hearings are
20 necessary, and the parties proposed adding to the
21 schedule an opportunity to make a motion for hearings in
22 the event they become necessary, which sounds like a
23 reasonable approach.

24 I'm going to walk through the proposed
25 schedule, and I'm going to refer to Cal Advocates'

1 filing dated November 21, 2025, because they made some
2 specific schedule proposals. And then SoCalGas did
3 respond saying that they were amenable to Cal Advocates'
4 proposed schedule with one small modification. So let
5 me read through that, and then we can discuss how this
6 sounds to the parties.

7 So after the scoping memo issues, we would have
8 intervenor's prepared direct testimony served, and that
9 would be six weeks after the scoping memo issues, which
10 potentially could be April 2026.

11 After intervenor testimony, SoCalGas would like
12 prepared rebuttal testimony due four weeks after the
13 intervenor testimony, potentially May 2026. There would
14 be the status conference, or joint case management
15 statement, and a motion for evidentiary hearings that
16 would be due four weeks after rebuttal testimony,
17 June 2026.

18 If evidentiary hearings became necessary, they
19 could be at the end of June or early July 2026.

20 Opening briefs would be due four weeks after
21 either rebuttal testimony or evidentiary hearings,
22 probably August 2026.

23 Reply briefs would occur three weeks after the
24 opening briefs were due.

25 I will also just mention to folks here that if

1 we did find evidentiary hearings become necessary, I
2 would hold those in person in San Francisco.

3 I'll call on each one of the parties and see if
4 you'd like to make any comments on the schedule. Let's
5 start again with Southern California Gas.

6 MR. BAUTISTA: Thank you, your Honor. Ismael
7 Bautista again for SoCalGas. We have no comment on the
8 proposed schedule. Thank you.

9 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: All right. Cal Advocates, do
10 you have a comment on the schedule you'd like to make?

11 MS. DELAPORTA: Thank you, your Honor. Just
12 that Cal Advocates is accepting of the revision to make
13 rebuttal testimony due four weeks after intervenor
14 testimony is served. No other comment, thank you.

15 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Thanks. Do state your name
16 and who you're representing every time you speak. It's
17 probably moot at this point, but just if anybody else
18 needs a reminder.

19 Okay. Sierra Club.

20 MS. ROBERTSON: Thank you, your Honor. Nina
21 Robertson for Sierra Club. We don't have any comment on
22 the proposed schedule. It looks fine to us.

23 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: All right. Small Business
24 Utility Advocates.

25 MS. WEBERSKI: Thank you, your Honor. Jennifer

1 Weberski on behalf of SBUA. The only comment that I
2 would suggest with regard to the schedule is if
3 evidentiary hearings are not requested and are not
4 needed, that the scoping ruling identify your Honor's
5 preferred method for entering in the testimony into the
6 record with proper exhibit numbers so that way that
7 occurs prior to briefing.

8 It's just much easier to brief if we're all
9 working off of the same exhibit number and the exhibits
10 have been entered into the record. So if that could be
11 clarified, is it one motion where you have the parties
12 put together that exhibit list or not just so that way
13 we're prepared to move quickly towards briefing. Thank
14 you, your Honor.

15 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: Yes. That is noted.

16 And finally, Bioenergy Association of
17 California.

18 MS. LEVIN: Julia Levin, Bioenergy Association
19 of California. We have no comments on the proposed
20 schedule. Thank you.

21 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: I feel like we have gathered
22 a good amount of information and are poised to move
23 forward. I'm going to see briefly if anybody has
24 anything they've forgotten to raise or any other
25 questions, so you can indicate by raising a hand if you

1 want to say one more thing before we close out this
2 hearing.

3 (No response.)

4 ALJ WATTS-ZAGHA: All right. I thank the
5 parties for meeting and conferring on this proposed
6 scope and for your participation today. I look forward
7 to a fruitful proceeding. Thank you. We are off the
8 record.

9 (At the hour of 2:14 p.m., this matter
10 having concluded, the Commission then
11 adjourned.)

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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CERTIFICATION OF TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDING
I, ANDREA L. ROSS, CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER
NO. 7896, IN AND FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, DO
HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE PAGES OF THIS TRANSCRIPT
PREPARED BY ME COMPRISE A FULL, TRUE, AND CORRECT
TRANSCRIPT OF THE TESTIMONY AND PROCEEDINGS HELD IN
THIS MATTER ON JANUARY 12, 2026.

I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT I HAVE NO INTEREST IN THE
EVENTS OF THE MATTER OR THE OUTCOME OF THE PROCEEDING.
EXECUTED THIS MARCH 10, 2026.



ANDREA L. ROSS
CSR NO. 7896

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