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

Application of Southern California Gas Company (U904G) in Compliance with Ordering Paragraph 6 of Decision 24-12-076.

Application 26-01-009

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE’S RULING GRANTING MOTION TO COMPEL**

On April 6, 2026, Sierra Club filed a Motion to Compel Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas or Applicant) to provide the information requested in its first set of data requests, served February 27, 2026. This discovery dispute involves questions 1-1 through 1-4, and 1-16 of Sierra Club’s first data request. In compliance with California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) Rules of Practice and Procedure 11.3 (Rule), Sierra Club met and conferred with SoCalGas’ counsel on April 6, 2026. Per Sierra Club’s Motion, the dispute remains unresolved.

On April 16, 2026, SoCalGas responded. SoCalGas surmises that Sierra Club seeks historical information in order to relitigate the past. SoCalGas also indicates that, “Sierra Club has the burden to establish that the sought information is relevant or likely to lead to the discovery of relevant information, and here it has failed to meet that burden.”<sup>1</sup>

SoCalGas has an open Application before the Commission, and, therefore, must abide by the rules that apply to the process under which its application is

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<sup>1</sup> Response of Southern California Gas Company (U904G) to Sierra Club Motion to Compel SoCalGas to Provide Information Requested in Sierra Club’s First Set of Data Requests at 2.

being reviewed. Parties must also abide by the rules the Commission applies to the process under which Applicant's application is being reviewed. For Discovery issues, Commission Rule 10.1 governs:

*Without limitation to the rights of the Commission or its staff under Pub. Util. Code Sections 309.5 and 314, any party may obtain discovery from any other party regarding any matter, not privileged, that is relevant to the subject matter involved in the pending proceeding, if the matter either is itself admissible in evidence or appears reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence, unless the burden, expense, or intrusiveness of that discovery clearly outweighs the likelihood that the information sought will lead to the discovery of admissible evidence. Where it would aid in efficiency and transparency, parties may request that the assigned Administrative Law Judge establish a process whereby discovery requests and non-confidential responses from parties are appropriately distributed to other parties in the proceeding.*

The Commission's discovery rule mirrors the rule of the State of California, in favor of discovery.<sup>2</sup> As stated at the Prehearing Conference on March 17, 2026, in response to Cal Advocates' indication of pending discovery issues, the assigned Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) noted for the record that the Applicant is not the arbiter of the breadth of Cal Advocates' legislatively mandated, broad discovery rights, and should ensure that discovery flowed expeditiously.<sup>3</sup>

Similarly, here, Applicant should provide timely responses to party discovery requests. Parties to a proceeding have broad discovery rights, Applicant should not assume as to know what a Party seeks to do with

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<sup>2</sup> Code Civ. Proc., § 2017, subd. (a); *Gonzalez v Superior Court* (1995) 33 Cal. App. 4th 1539, 1546.

<sup>3</sup> *See*, Virtual Prehearing Conference Transcript at 60-63.

information sought in a discovery request. And the Commission, rather than SoCalGas, determines both the admissibility of information and evidence and the weight granted to it.

Though not directly at issue in this data request, if the Applicant seeks confidential treatment for information in future data requests, the Applicant must provide the requesting party with an executable Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) within five (5) days of the request. If the NDA requires negotiation, the Applicant must return a revised, executable NDA within forty-eight (48) hours of receiving the requesting party's redlines. Once the NDA is executed by the requesting party, the Applicant must produce the requested information within ten (10) days of receiving the executed NDA. There is no claim for confidentiality with regard to the information at issue here.

SoCalGas, the responding party, must provide responses to discovery requests made by Parties to this proceeding rather than prejudge the relevance of the request. Sierra Club's Motion to Compel is granted. Applicant must produce full, complete, and unredacted responses within ten (10) days of the date of the issuance of this Ruling.

**IT IS SO RULED.**

Dated April 17, 2026, at San Francisco, California.

          /s/ JAMIE ORMOND            
          Jamie Ormond  
          Administrative Law Judge