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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY (U904G) Proposing Woody Biomass Pilot Project.

Application 25-10-008

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE’S RULING
GRANTING SIERRA CLUB MOTION IN PART TO ALLOW
SUR-REBUTTAL TESTIMONY, GRANTING SIERRA CLUB MOTION
FOR EVIDENTIARY HEARING, AND REVISING PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE**

In response to several motions filed by Sierra Club, this ruling denies Sierra Club’s request to strike portions of Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) testimonies and approves Sierra Club’s alternative request to allow sur-rebuttal testimony. This ruling also grants the Sierra Club motion to hold evidentiary hearing, directs additional prehearing activity, and updates the procedural schedule accordingly.

1. Motion to Strike or Alternatively Allow Sur-Rebuttal Testimony

On April 22, 2026, Sierra Club filed concurrent motions. The first Sierra Club motion requests to strike portions of SoCalGas’ updated testimony and rebuttal testimony, alleging the updates violate Commission Rule of Practice and Procedure (Rule) 13.8.¹ Alternatively, Sierra Club requests an opportunity to serve sur-rebuttal testimony on the new facts, argument and analysis presented

¹ Sierra Club requests to strike SoCalGas’ Second Corrected Revised Testimony at JLMS-17 and Attachment 1; and to strike SoCalGas’ Rebuttal Testimony at JLMS-11 at line 25, JLMS-12 at line 1 including footnote 44, JLMS-19 at line 1 to line 5, JLMS-29, JLMS-30, and Attachment 1.

in SoCalGas' testimonies. The second Sierra Club motion is for expedited consideration of its first motion and has become moot due to the passage of time. On May 7, 2026, SoCalGas responded to Sierra Club's motion to strike or alternatively allow sur-rebuttal testimony, opposing striking and sur-rebuttal on the basis that some of its changes are immaterial and that new facts, argument and analysis are responsive to the scope of issues established in the assigned Commissioner's Scoping Memo and Ruling (Scoping Memo). SoCalGas also argued that allowing sur-rebuttal testimony would violate due process.² With the permission of the assigned Administrative Law Judge, on May 18, 2026, Sierra Club filed a response to SoCalGas' opposition. No other parties filed responses to the Sierra Club motions or to the SoCalGas response.

On April 9, 2026, SoCalGas served updated testimony titled Second Corrected Revised Testimony. On April 10, 2026, SoCalGas served rebuttal testimony. There is no dispute that the updates in SoCalGas' Second Corrected Revised Testimony were made subsequent to the intervenor testimony. Nor is there a dispute that the SoCalGas updates are partially driven by Sierra Club's testimony. Finally, the updated evidence is material to scoped items 4, 6, and 8.

This ruling denies Sierra Club's motion to strike. SoCalGas persuasively argues the updated values in its revised and corrected testimony are necessary "to support an accurate and complete record, and to directly address Sierra Club's criticisms."³ However, SoCalGas' assertion that the updates are not substantive is incorrect. As Sierra Club asserts, the SoCalGas updates to testimony are germane to the fact finding and determinations on the scoped

² SoCalGas Response to Sierra Club Motion to Strike at 6.

³ *Id.*, at 5.

issues of this proceeding. Additionally, SoCalGas includes in its rebuttal testimony new evidence. Sur-rebuttal testimony is necessary and appropriate to develop a full record on the scoped issues and to avoid prejudicing the parties. The inclusion of evidentiary hearing on the procedural schedule provides an additional opportunity for argument and thus preserves due process.

On or before June 12, 2026, all intervenors may serve sur-rebuttal testimony.

2. Motion for Evidentiary Hearing

On May 8, 2026, on behalf of itself and all parties to this proceeding, SoCalGas served a Joint Case Management Statement as required by the Scoping Memo. With the exception of Sierra Club, parties stipulate to the receipt of prepared testimony into evidence without the need for direct or cross-examination, including SoCalGas, the Public Advocates Office at the California Public Utilities Commission, Small Business Utility Advocates, and The Bioenergy Association of California. On May 15, 2026, Sierra Club filed a motion for evidentiary hearing on scoped issues 4, 6, and 8 as follows:

4. Does the Proposed Project comply with applicable California Air Resources Board regulations, including but not limited to 17 CCR sections 95893(d)(3), (d)(5), and (d)(8)?
6. Should SoCalGas's review and reporting of methane leakage and emissions information from the Proposed Project be publicly available? Has SoCalGas established that the Commission should treat any part of such information as confidential?
8. What, if any, are the impacts on environmental and social justice communities, including the extent to which the Proposed Project impacts the achievement of any of the nine goals of the Commission's Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan.

The facts in dispute pertaining to these scoped issues include (1) SoCalGas' emissions modeling methodology and calculations; and (2) the Project's methane emissions.

Good cause shown, evidentiary hearings are added to the procedural schedule.

3. Preparation for Evidentiary Hearing

The Commission calendar currently shows availability for a two-day evidentiary hearing in San Francisco on the following days in July 2026: July 14-15, July 15-16, July 27-28, July 28-29, July 29-30. As soon as possible and no later than May 27, 2026, SoCalGas and Sierra Club shall meet and confer to identify all of the days on which party representatives and their witnesses are available to appear in San Francisco, and notify the service list of this proceeding of their availability.

In preparation for the evidentiary hearing, parties shall continue to meet and confer to develop one master exhibit list with pre-marked proposed exhibit numbers, including links to the exhibits in the Commission's Supporting Documents system. All exhibits shall be pre-marked with an acronym in capital letters followed with a number. Parties are reminded to prepare exhibits in accordance with Rule 13.7. The master list shall indicate exhibits stipulated for entry into the record of this proceeding without objection. At least five business days prior to the first day of evidentiary hearing, on behalf of all parties, SoCalGas is directed to file a motion to admit the stipulated exhibits into evidence, attaching the proposed master exhibit list.

4. Revised Schedule of Procedural Activities

The schedule of procedural activities in this proceeding is revised as indicated in the table below.

EVENT	PREVIOUS DATE	NEW DATE (2026)
Sierra Club sur-rebuttal testimony served	n/a	June 12
Motion to admit stipulated exhibits	n/a	5 business days prior to first day of Evidentiary Hearing
Evidentiary Hearing, held in-person in San Francisco	TBD	TBD in July
Opening Briefs	June 8, 2026	August 14 or August 28, TBD
Reply Briefs <i>[matter submitted]</i>	July 1, 2026	September 4 or September 18, TBD
Proposed Decision	<i>[no later than 90 days after submission]</i>	No change

IT IS RULED that:

1. The Sierra Club request to strike portions of Southern California Gas Company testimonies is denied.
2. The Sierra Club request to serve sur-rebuttal testimony is granted.
3. On or before June 12, 2026, intervenors are authorized to serve sur-rebuttal testimony.
4. The Sierra Club motion for evidentiary hearing is granted.
5. On or before May 27, 2026, Southern California Gas Company and Sierra Club shall meet and confer to identify all available days in July 2026 for in-person evidentiary hearings in San Francisco and notify the service list of this proceeding of their availability.
6. Southern California Gas Company, the Public Advocates Office at the California Public Utilities Commission, Small Business Utility Advocates, Sierra

Club, and The Bioenergy Association of California Parties shall meet and confer to develop one master pre-marked exhibit list as directed in this ruling.

7. At least five business days prior to the first day of evidentiary hearing, Southern California Gas Company shall file a motion to admit the stipulated exhibits into evidence, attaching the proposed master exhibit list.

Dated May 21, 2026, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ CAMILLE WATTS-ZAGHA

Camille Watts-Zagha
Administrative Law Judge