

Decision _____

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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

Application 24-09-001

ORDER EXTENDING STATUTORY DEADLINE**Summary**

This decision extends the statutory deadline in this proceeding until October 30, 2026.

1. Background

Public Utilities Code (Pub. Util. Code) Section 1701.5(a) provides that the Commission shall resolve the issues raised in the scoping memo of a ratesetting proceeding within 18 months of the date the proceeding is initiated, unless the Commission makes a written determination that the deadline cannot be met and issues an order extending that deadline. The current statutory deadline for this proceeding is March 6, 2026.

On September 6, 2024, Southwest Gas Corporation (Southwest Gas) filed Application (A.) 24-09-001, seeking authority to increase rates and charges for gas service in California, effective January 1, 2026. The Commission preliminarily

determined that this is a ratesetting proceeding in Resolution ALJ-176, published September 27, 2024.

On October 14, 2024, the Public Advocates Office at the California Public Utilities Commission filed a protest.

The assigned Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) held a prehearing conference on December 11, 2024 to address the issues of law and fact, determine the need for hearing, set the schedule for resolving the matter, and address other matters as necessary.

On December 15, 2024, Southwest Gas filed a motion seeking authority to establish a General Rate Case Memorandum Account, effective January 1, 2026. No opposition to that motion was filed.

On December 20, 2024, Southwest Gas filed a timely amendment to the application that reflected corrections of errors in the original application that affected Southwest Gas' Results of Operations models and Class Cost of Service Study/Rate Design model.

On January 14, 2025, Small Business Utility Advocates was granted party status by the assigned ALJ.

On January 22, 2025, the assigned Commissioner issued a Scoping Memo and Ruling that set forth the issues, need for hearing, schedule, category, and other matters necessary to scope the proceeding.

The ALJ held a telephonic status conference on May 30, 2025, and a second status conference on July 9, 2025, via videoconference.

The parties filed a joint motion to admit evidence into the record. A remote evidentiary hearing was conducted on July 29, 2025, where evidence was admitted and received in evidence.

Subsequently, the parties both proposed a partial settlement of undisputed issues and filed briefs to address remaining issues in dispute. The Commission requires additional time to review the record and decide the parties' motion to adopt a partial settlement and to analyze the record and party arguments to resolve and decide the disputed issues. Accordingly, the Commission requires an extension of the existing March 6, 2026 statutory deadline to October 30, 2026 to complete its review and decide the issues presented in this proceeding.

2. Waiver of Comment Period

Under Rule 14.6(c)(4) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, the Commission may reduce or waive the period for public review and comment of proposed decisions extending the deadline for resolving ratesetting proceedings. Accordingly, the otherwise applicable period for public review and comment is being waived.

3. Assignment of Proceeding

Matthew Baker is the assigned Commissioner and Jeffrey Lee is the assigned Administrative Law Judge in this proceeding.

Findings of Fact

1. A.24-09-001 was filed on September 6, 2024.
2. The current statutory deadline for A.24-09-001 is March 6, 2026.
3. A.24-09-001 cannot be completed by March 6, 2026.
4. An extension of the statutory deadline until October 30, 2026, is necessary to allow adequate time to complete this proceeding.

Conclusion of Law

Pursuant to the authority granted to the Commission under Pub. Util. Code Section 1701.5(a), the statutory deadline should be extended until October 30, 2026.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that the statutory deadline in this proceeding is extended until October 30, 2026.

This order is effective today.

Dated February __, 2026, at [Travel Meeting], California.