

## **HHIA - Utility Report for Meeting on 2017.06.19**

### **Main San Gabriel Key Water Well Level updates:**

**Historic Low: 172.20** ft. (As of 2016.10.07)

**Historic High: 295.30** ft. on 1983.07.20 (Since entry of judgment in 1973)

Current: **181.00** ft. (As of 2017.06.09; **61.13%** vs High @ 295.30 ft.) – **it starts getting lower.**

### **Related link:**

<http://www.watermaster.org/>

### **SoCalGas Uses Methane Capture Technology During Pipeline Safety Work**

Conservation effort saves enough natural gas to fuel 2,000 homes

LOS ANGELES, June 9, 2017 – [Southern California Gas Co.](#) (SoCalGas) announced the company used its innovative gas capture technology this week when emptying natural gas from a permanently abandoned pipeline in Santa Clarita, Calif. The special process allows for gas to be saved for later use while eliminating noise and emissions that occur in the traditional venting method. In total, approximately 390,000 cubic feet of natural gas was captured – about what 2,020 homes use each day on average in the U.S.

This week, crews decommissioned a two-and-half-mile section of pipeline that was recently replaced by a new pipeline in a new location. The work required the pipe to be completely emptied of about 422,050 cubic feet of natural gas. Instead of following the standard process of venting the gas, SoCalGas compressed most of it, and then pumped it into two large tanks so it could be put back into SoCalGas' system and used by customers. Some gas along the two-and-half mile pipeline was vented to the atmosphere, however, SoCalGas was able to reduce the pressure from 220 psi to 31 psi, resulting in a significant reduction in gas lost to the atmosphere.

"We're pleased to continue to use this groundbreaking innovation," said Rick Phillips, senior director of SoCalGas' Pipeline Safety Enhancement Plan. "Capturing the methane we would traditionally vent to atmosphere not only reduces noise or smells neighbors might notice, but also minimizes impacts to the environment. We hope to expand the use of this new innovation whenever its application may be suitable."

SoCalGas has been using methane capture technology for about nine months. To date, the company has captured and reinjected more than 900,000 cubic feet of natural gas back into its system. This is approximately equal to what 4,660 homes use each day on average in the U.S. Prior to the use of methane capture technology, this natural gas would have been vented and lost to the atmosphere.

Nationwide, emissions from natural gas distribution systems like SoCalGas' represent less than 1 percent of greenhouse gas emissions.

The methane capture technique is being used as part of SoCalGas' [Pipeline Safety Enhancement Plan](#) (PSEP), a multi-billion-dollar program that identifies various high pressure pipeline sections throughout SoCalGas' system and schedules them to be pressure-tested or replaced. PSEP also includes provisions to upgrade, replace or retrofit hundreds of mainline valves in the system with technology that allows them to be opened or closed remotely by system operators from a central control location, or that automatically shuts off the flow of natural gas in the event of a large drop in pressure.

SoCalGas dedicates significant resources to improving the safety and integrity of its more than 101,000 miles of natural gas pipelines. In 2017, the company plans to spend approximately \$1.2 billion for improvements to distribution, transmission and storage systems and for pipeline safety.

**Related link:**

<http://sempra.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=19080&item=137300>

**UC Riverside and SoCalGas Announce Opening of New Research Center**

Center for Renewable Natural Gas focuses on reduction of carbon emissions and increasing the use of renewable energy in California

RIVERSIDE, Calif., May 17, 2017 /PRNewswire/ -- [Southern California Gas Co.](#) (SoCalGas) today marked the establishment of a new [Center for Renewable Natural Gas](#) at the University of California, Riverside. The Center is the first academic establishment in the United States dedicated to the study and applied research of renewable gas technologies. It was funded in part by SoCalGas with a matching donation from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) and the National Center for Sustainable Transportation (NCST) and is part of UC Riverside's Center for Environmental Research & Technology (CE-CERT).

Just like electricity, natural gas can be made from renewable sources. The Center will focus on improving technologies and removing barriers to increase renewable gas use in California and beyond. To do so it will conduct research on:

- High-yield renewable natural gas production
- Storing renewable energy with power-to-gas technology
- Technologies that can increase renewable gas use in heavy-duty trucking and other transportation
- Market and policy issues
- Potential sites for renewable gas production projects

"Renewable gas can play a key role in reducing greenhouse gases and meeting California's renewable energy goals," said Lisa Alexander, vice president of customer solutions and communications for SoCalGas. "In California, the agriculture and waste industries produce a great deal of methane that could—and should—be used as renewable gas to heat homes, and fuel power plants and near-zero-emissions trucks. We applaud the leadership of the university in establishing an academic center to prove out and advance the technologies needed to develop renewable gas on a large scale in the state."

Arun Raju, director of the Center for Renewable Natural Gas, said this partnership will help California meet several Greenhouse Gas (GHG) and renewable energy targets.

"Renewable natural gas is an important alternative fuel that can help utilize local renewable resources and eliminate waste disposal problems. Through the Center for Renewable Natural Gas we will work with our partners in government and industry to advance research, development and demonstration towards increasing commercial RNG production and use," Raju said.

"We support the Center at UC Riverside because renewable natural gas deployment in near-zero emission trucks provides a triple win for the region: green jobs, sustainable transportation and lower tailpipe emissions," said Wayne Nastri, executive officer for the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

Renewable gas is produced from decomposing organic waste from dairies, agriculture, landfills, wastewater treatment plants and other sources. This methane can be harnessed to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create additional renewable energy. California could produce enough renewable gas each year to replace 75 percent of the smog-producing diesel fuel used by vehicles in our state. Just like fossil natural gas, renewable gas can be stored and delivered through existing infrastructure.

**Related link:**

<http://sempra.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=19080&item=137294>

by *Ted Chang*

HHIA Board Member, Utility