

## **HHIA - Utility Report for Meeting on 2017.09.18**

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:** 179.00 ft. (As of 2017.09.08, 60.62% vs High (295.30 ft.).

### **Related link:**

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

### [Watershed Conservation Authority \(WCA\)](#)

The next public meeting of the Watershed Conservation Authority is scheduled for September 21, 2017 at 1:30pm at the Garvey Center in Rosemead (July's Board Meeting was cancelled). More details are available at [http://www.wca.ca.gov/board\\_meetings](http://www.wca.ca.gov/board_meetings).

### [San Gabriel River Discovery Center Authority \(SGRDCA\)](#)

The next Board Meeting for the San Gabriel River Discovery Center Authority is scheduled for September 14, 2017 at Upper SGVMWD (July's Board Meeting was cancelled). More details are available at <http://discoverycenterauthority.org>

### [SouthWest Water Company \(Business Development\)](#)

#### **Winner of the 2017 SWWC Writing Contest**

Over one hundred and thirty five students competed in our fifth annual middle school writing contest, in which students write about water and its impact on their lives and our world. Mia Parker was the lucky winner.

Parker, an eighth-grade student at Park Crest Middle School, received the grand-prize award for her essay, "Starbank." SouthWest Water Company Director of Operations Gary Rose paid Parker a visit at her school Friday to give her the good news.

### **Related link:**

<http://southwestwatercompany.com/news/winner-of-the-2017-swwc-writing-contest/>

## **SoCalGas' Advanced Meter Project Donates Over 7,600 Tools and Supplies to Workforce Development Organizations**

Sep 8, 2017

SoCalGas today announced the company donated over 7,600 gently used and surplus tools and supplies to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, Los Angeles Trade-Technical College (LATTC) and Orange County Conservation Corps (OCCC). The items are left over from the company's Advanced Meter project and will benefit the organizations' respective workforce development programs.

"SoCalGas is proud to partner with the LA Conservation Corps, LATTC and OCCC, three organizations that are improving the lives of young people through high quality job training programs,"

said Gillian Wright, vice president of customer services at SoCalGas. “We are glad to repurpose tools and supplies from Advanced Meter for continued use long after the project ends.”

The donated items include drills, flashlights, hammers, tool bags and wrenches. They will be used by LA Conservation Corps and OCCC Corpsmembers as they work on conservation projects, such as planting trees, refurbishing hiking trails and building community gardens, and students in LATTC’s Construction, Maintenance and Utilities (CMU) program, which provides education and training in a variety of CMU related careers, such as carpentry, plumbing and refrigeration and air conditioning.

“We are amazed at all the different ways SoCalGas supports our mission,” said Wendy Butts, CEO of the LA Conservation Corps. “This donation will not only help our Corpsmembers do their jobs more efficiently and effectively, but these items will help keep our crews safe while they work on projects in the field. Our teams cannot wait to put this equipment to good use.”

“We are grateful for SoCalGas’ commitment, as well as its continued support and service, to our community and nonprofits like ours,” added Katharyn O. Muniz, CEO of OCCC. “The materials will be invaluable to our Corpsmembers as they work on environmentally driven projects that benefit the people and communities of Orange County.”

“LATTC greatly appreciates SoCalGas’ generous donation,” said Sydney Kamlager, president of the Los Angeles Community College District. “The CMU program provides students with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in their chosen career paths. The donated tools will be an integral part of their hands-on education.”

Photos of the donated items are available.

## **\$1 Billion Advanced Meter Project Nears Completion**

SoCalGas’ \$1.05B Advanced Meter project to upgrade approximately six million natural gas meters across the company’s service territory with advanced meter technology is nearing completion.

Advanced meters automatically and securely transmit natural gas usage data to the company’s customer service and billing center. Hourly usage data is available to customers through SoCalGas’ online My Account portal and mobile app.

The data can help customers better understand how they are using natural gas and assist them in adjusting their consumption to save energy and potentially reduce their monthly bills. Since the project began, SoCalGas has implemented new online tools for customers to view and analyze their hourly usage and costs, compare bills and create customized savings plans.

Hourly usage data also helps SoCalGas better analyze customer load patterns, which aids in the design of new energy efficiency programs. For example, SoCalGas has developed new and innovative residential conservation pilot programs that leverage advanced meter data, such as monthly energy reports that provide energy usage and comparison information and weekly “Bill Tracker Alerts.” During the 2016-2017 heating season, these programs produced an average natural gas savings of 1.6% and savings rates as high as 3.4% for customers included in the pilots.

Additionally, advanced meters identify abnormal natural gas consumption, which allows SoCalGas to more quickly identify and respond to potential safety situations. They will also help improve air quality

by reducing approximately 140,000 tons of CO2 emissions each year through anticipated decreased customer gas use and fewer SoCalGas vehicles driven by meter readers on the road.

**Related link:**

<https://sempra.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=19080&item=137343>

**SoCalGas Streamlines Processes to Support Renewable Gas Projects**

Company makes it easier for biogas developers to connect to its pipeline system

Renewable natural gas has potential to fuel more than 2 million homes in California

Aug 22, 2017

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 22, 2017 /[PRNewswire](#)/ (SoCalGas) today announced new initiatives that will make it easier for renewable gas production facilities to connect to the company's natural gas pipeline system. First is the creation of a [downloadable toolkit](#) to assist renewable gas producers and developers who are interested in interconnecting their projects with the SoCalGas pipeline network. In addition, new provisions will enable SoCalGas and renewable gas producers to accelerate the interconnection process by procuring the necessary material much earlier than previously allowed.

Like electricity, natural gas can be made from renewable sources. About 80 percent of all methane emissions in California come from the state's dairy and farm operations, landfills and wastewater treatment plants. That methane can be harnessed and cleaned to produce renewable natural gas for use in transportation as well as in homes and businesses.

A study conducted by the University of California at Davis estimates that the natural gas needs of around 2.4 million California homes could be fueled with RNG derived from the state's existing organic waste alone. Already, 60 percent of the fuel used in natural gas vehicles in California is renewable, and SoCalGas expects that to increase to 90 percent by 2018. This can help reduce the need for other fossil-based fuels, and increase our supplies with a local renewable fuel.

"Renewable natural gas is key to achieving the state's ambitious air quality goals and providing families in California with a clean and reliable source of energy to heat and power their homes for generations to come," said Lisa Alexander, vice president of customer solutions for SoCalGas.

"Renewable natural gas will also help transform transportation in the state, which accounts for 80 percent of smog-forming pollution and that disproportionately burdens our most vulnerable communities. With today's technology, we can harness this otherwise wasted energy to de-carbonize our pipeline system, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and slow climate change."

"Since 1988 all but two renewable natural gas projects have been developed outside of California—which explains why the state imports most of the renewable natural gas (RNG) it consumes," said Johannes Escudero, chief executive officer and executive director of the [Coalition for Renewable Natural Gas](#). "That is changing—and we appreciate SoCalGas' leadership and ongoing commitment to the RNG Coalition and industry as it relates to addressing the minimum heating value requirement that would prevent California from fully realizing the total economic and environmental benefits associated with increased RNG development, pipeline interconnection, deployment and utilization in-State."

"SoCalGas is leading the way to a decarbonized gas supply in California, which will help the state reduce the most damaging climate and air pollutants," said Julia Levin, executive director of the Bioenergy Association of California. "In addition to protecting communities from pollution and

wildfires, increasing in-state biogas production will create good jobs throughout California. These efforts are a win-win for the environment and the economy."

SoCalGas is also working to accelerate the use of renewable natural gas, by capturing methane emissions to decarbonize its pipelines. SoCalGas aims to build and operate more renewable natural gas interconnection facilities throughout California to bring more clean, renewable natural gas to its customers. This summer the company will complete its first renewable natural gas [interconnection](#) project in Perris, California. When the project is completed, renewable natural gas produced by a waste management company will power a fleet of more than 320 waste hauling trucks.

SoCalGas recently launched a new [Renewable Gas website](#) to provide general information on biogas derived renewable natural gas. A key feature of this site is a [downloadable toolkit](#) to assist biogas producers and developers who are interested in putting renewable natural gas into the SoCalGas pipeline network. In addition, the new website also explains the monetary incentive program for utility interconnection projects. In the future, SoCalGas plans to include information on other types of renewable gases and technologies to the website, such as renewable hydrogen and [power-to-gas](#).

SoCalGas reviewed its current system and identified several areas that would smooth the path to interconnection for renewable natural gas developers.

One enhancement, approved by the [California Public Utilities Commission](#) (CPUC) on April 8, enables SoCalGas and potential interconnectors to speed the process by procuring the necessary materials much earlier than previously allowed. Previously, procurement of these materials could only be done when the interconnection studies were concluded and a construction agreement was executed.

**Related link:**

<https://sempra.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=19080&item=137338>

**Southern California Edison**

[Settlement Announced in Suit Challenging Nuclear Fuel Storage at San Onofre](#)

**August 28, 2017**

[Media](#) Contact: Maureen Brown, (626) 302-2255

ROSEMEAD, Calif., Aug. 28, 2017 — The parties in a lawsuit challenging the permit which allows for temporary storage of [used nuclear fuel](#) at the San Onofre nuclear plant have settled the case and will not proceed to hearing on Sept. 8, as scheduled.

In a [filing](#) today with a San Diego Superior Court judge, the parties acknowledge a shared interest in relocating San Onofre's used nuclear fuel to an off-site facility. The parties to the settlement are Southern California Edison, majority owner of San Onofre, and plaintiffs, Citizens Oversight, Inc. and Patricia Borchmann, represented by attorneys Michael Aguirre and Maria Severson. The California Coastal Commission, which issued the permit in 2015 authorizing expansion of on-site storage of used nuclear fuel, is the defendant in the suit.

The settlement agreement details multiple steps SCE will take in support of its efforts to move San Onofre's used nuclear to an off-site location. In light of SCE's commitments, plaintiffs have requested a dismissal of the lawsuit. Here is a [summary](#) of the settlement.

“A cooperative effort between the public, independent experts and Southern California Edison has begun and will continue until the nuclear waste is removed from San Diego,” said Aguirre. “We are thankful SCE worked hard to reach this common goal,” added Severson.

“The agreement plots a prudent strategy in furtherance of the goal of moving the fuel sooner than later,” said Ray Lutz of Citizens Oversight.

“SCE is proud to take a leadership role in what we expect will become an industry-wide effort over many years to work with the federal government and other key stakeholders to achieve off-site storage,” said Ron Nichols, president of SCE. “We will be vigilant in our efforts to prompt the federal government to act, and until we can secure off-site storage, will continue our 30-year track record of safely storing used fuel at San Onofre.”

The suit was filed in November 2015 after the coastal commission granted SCE’s permit to expand on-site storage of used nuclear fuel at San Onofre. One-third of San Onofre’s used fuel is currently in dry cask storage and the remaining two-thirds is stored in steel-lined concrete pools. In order to facilitate the safe decommissioning of the plant, SCE plans to move the fuel from the pools into dry storage by 2019, where it would remain until an off-site storage facility is available.

For more information about San Onofre, visit [songscommunity.com](http://songscommunity.com).

**Related link:**

<http://newsroom.edison.com/releases/settlement-announced-in-suit-challenging-nuclear-fuel-storage-at-san-onofre>

by ***Ted Chang***

HHIA Board Member, Utility