

## **HHIA - Utility Report for Meeting on 2018.01.22**

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:** 181.20 ft. (As of 2018.01.12, **61.36%** vs High (295.30 ft.); **lower than previous month @ 182.40 ft.**

### **Related link:**

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

Local Groundwater Level: **19%** of Capacity

Major Reservoir Condition in CA: **65%** of Capacity (down from 63% in Nov, 2017)

Local Rainfall: **3%** of Season Normal (down from 13% in Nov, 2017)

CA Snowpack Level: **24%** of Normal to Date

### **Related link:**

<http://sgvmwd.org/>

## **La Puente Valley County Water District**

**THE BOARD ADOPTS A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE PUENTE VALLEY OPERABLE UNIT INTERMEDIATE ZONE REMEDY PROJECT**

**THE BOARD ADOPTS A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE PUENTE VALLEY OPERABLE UNIT INTERMEDIATE ZONE REMEDY PROJECT**

**On December 21, 2017, the Board of Directors of La Puente Valley County Water District, adopted Resolution No. 249, A Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Puente Valley Operable Unit, Intermediate Zone Remedy Project, located within the Cities of Industry and La Puente, California.**

### **Contact Person:**

Roy Frausto, Compliance Officer/Project Engineer

La Puente Valley County Water District

112 N. First Street

La Puente, CA 91744 (626) 330-2126 [rfrausto@lapuentewater.com](mailto:rfrausto@lapuentewater.com)

### **Related link:**

[http://www.lapuentewater.com/#Current\\_News](http://www.lapuentewater.com/#Current_News)

## **Rowland Water District**

**ROWLAND WATER DISTRICT BOARD APPROVES EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT FOR GENERAL MANAGER**

**January 9, 2017**–The Rowland Water District (RWD) Board of Directors approved an amended employment agreement for General Manager Tom Coleman at its meeting on December 12. The new

agreement reflects changes to Coleman's medical and vacation benefits which take effect January 2018 and extends the contract term by seven years. The Board of Directors reviews the General Manager's employment agreement on an annual basis.

Coleman was appointed General Manager of the District in December 2014 after serving as the District's Assistant General Manager. He is responsible for the decision-making and day-to-day management that allows the District to fulfill its mission of delivering high-quality, reliable drinking water to about 55,000 people.

"I am honored to serve as the General Manager of Rowland Water District," Coleman said. "I am committed to building the District's position as a best-in-class organization and maintaining its impact as a leader in this region. But above all else, I am excited to continue the District's commitment to securing a dependable, reliable water supply for our customers in the face of unprecedented challenges."

Coleman's career in the water industry spans more than 25 years. He has served in leadership roles at several water agencies in the region, including Bellflower-Somerset Mutual Water Company and Orchard Dale Water District, and in various water management positions with the City of Alhambra.

"Tom's experience and dedication to Rowland Water is invaluable as we face the numerous pressures and changes ahead in our region and our industry," said Rowland Water Board President Szu Pei Lu-Yang. "He is a champion for our rate payers and a terrific leader for our team. We look forward to working together to achieve the District's strategic goals for the future."

**Related link:**

<https://www.rowlandwater.com/rowland-water-district-board-approves-employment-agreement-for-general-manager/>

**Upper San Gabriel Water District**

UPPER SAN GABRIEL VALLEY MWD BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPOINT PRESIDENT TO A SECOND TERM

**Posted on January 4, 2018**

UPPER SAN GABRIEL VALLEY MWD BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
APPOINT PRESIDENT TO A SECOND TERM

MONROVIA, CA – At the first board meeting of 2018, the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (Upper District) Board of Directors conducted its annual selection of officers. Director Ed Chavez was appointed to a second year as president by unanimous vote.

"It is an honor to represent the community as the Upper District board president," Chavez said.

"Together, with my fellow board members, we will continue to fulfill our commitment of ensuring reliable water supplies for the future and sustainability of the Main San Gabriel Basin."

**Related link:**

<http://upperdistrict.org/upper-san-gabriel-valley-mwd-board-of-directors-appoint-president-to-a-second-term/>

## **Southern California Gas**

### **SoCalGas Works to Develop New Technology that Makes Carbon Fiber During Hydrogen Production**

#### **Process selected for development funding by U.S. Department of Energy**

Jan 4, 2018

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 4, 2018 /PRNewswire/ -- Southern California Gas Co. (SoCalGas) today announced it is partnering with a development team to advance a new process that converts natural gas to hydrogen, carbon fiber, and carbon nanotubes. The low-emission process, selected for funding by the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Fuel Cell Technologies Office (FCTO) within the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), will create both hydrogen that can be used in fuel cell vehicles and industrial processes, as well as carbon fiber used in applications from medical devices and aerospace structures to building products.

The goal of the partnership, led by C4-MCP, LLC (C4), a Santa Monica-based technology start-up, is to offset the hydrogen production expense with the sales of the carbon fiber and carbon nanotubes, reducing the hydrogen's net cost to under \$2 per kilogram, thus helping make hydrogen fueled cars and trucks cost-competitive with conventional gasoline and diesel vehicles. In addition, this technology will virtually eliminate CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the methane-to-hydrogen process. These efforts support FCTO's focus on early stage research and development to enable innovations to be demonstrated and to help guide further early stage research strategy.

The technology commercialization team includes SoCalGas, C4, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), a U.S. Department of Energy national laboratory located in Richland, Washington, and West Virginia University (WVU). As a result of the DOE selection, the team will negotiate a cooperative research and development agreement (CRADA) consisting of \$375,000 in prior year DOE funding and a \$375,000 co-funding contribution from C4 and SoCalGas. The CRADA will fund PNNL and WVU to develop the technology.

"This technology takes methane, turns it into a zero-emission automotive fuel—hydrogen—then uses the carbon captured in the process to make the strongest possible materials to be used in high-tech manufacturing," said Yuri Freedman, SoCalGas senior director of market development. "Further advances in development of this technology will bring about a unique and potentially revolutionary combination of environmental, manufacturing, and economic benefits."

"The research will lead to transformative advancement in science and engineering, in addressing not only climate change issues but also energy inefficiency issues in natural gas conversion to value-added products," said WVU Statler Chair Engineering Professor John Hu. "WVU will work closely with the team to carry out laboratory research in developing the catalyst and process for the conversion of natural gas to crystalline carbon and hydrogen."

"We are excited to study in more detail and further develop the catalytic process, understand the characteristics of the carbon that is produced, and to help figure out how to economically scale up the process for commercial implementation," said PNNL project manager Robert Dagle. "PNNL will also perform a techno-economic analysis for the process to be developed. Since the precursor for making carbon fiber today is expensive, it is intriguing to think about starting with natural gas and consider the carbon product possibilities."

"We are very pleased to be working with SoCalGas, PNNL, WVU, and DOE to commercialize these exciting and leading-edge carbon-to-value technologies," said Jim McDermott executive chairman of C4-MCP. "As the world strives to find new and innovative ways to simultaneously grow and lower CO2 emissions, working with SoCalGas and the national labs is both an honor and privilege."

While carbon fiber and its uses are well-known, carbon nanotubes (CNTs) are viewed as a big leap forward in materials science and engineering because they have tensile strength and stiffness many times that of carbon fiber. The global CNT market was estimated at approximately \$3.5 billion in 2016 and is expected to increase to \$8.7 billion by 2022 with robust growth rates over 17 percent annually, according to experts at SoCalGas.

The partnership will develop an advanced methane reforming process based on a new catalyst used to make CNTs, recently discovered by Hu. The new catalyst system promotes "base growth" carbon nanotube formation rather than "tip growth," the current technology. Base growth formation enables the catalyst to regenerate while also creating a highly pure and crystalline carbon product. In addition, the reaction conditions can be optimized to tune the diameter and length of the CNTs produced.

The new catalyst and technique will be further developed and evaluated at both West Virginia University and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.

**Related link:**

<https://sempra.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=19080&item=137401>

**SoCalGas Reminds Customers to Sign Up for Free Weekly Bill Tracker Alerts and Other Tools to Help Keep Heating Affordable this Winter**

Dec 18, 2017

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 18, 2017 /PRNewswire/ -- Southern California Gas Co. (SoCalGas) encourages customers to sign up for free bill tracking alerts and other online tools to help keep heating affordable this winter. Customers typically use three to seven times more natural gas for space and water heating during the winter months, which can result in higher bills. "Bill Tracker Alerts" are an easy way to track natural gas use each week—instead of waiting until the monthly bill arrives—and can help customers use less natural gas and lower their bills. Images of a sample alert and bill comparison are available here.

With Bill Tracker Alerts, customers receive a text or email each week that includes their bill-to-date and the projected amount of their next bill. The Alert also shows their projected bill amount compared to their previous month's bill and the same month in the prior year. Within the "Ways to Save" section of My Account, they can also visit "Analyze Usage" to see their daily, and even hourly, gas usage and costs. There is no charge to use the service, and it is available to every customer with an advanced meter.

"Natural gas is the most affordable way for people to heat their homes and water, and for more than two decades SoCalGas has been a leader in promoting energy efficiency programs and innovative ways to help our customers save on energy costs," said Gillian Wright, SoCalGas vice president of customer services. "With the installation of advanced meters, our customers have more tools than they've ever had before to help manage their natural gas use and keep their bills affordable."

Customers can enroll in My Account at [socalgas.com/pay-bill/my-account](https://socalgas.com/pay-bill/my-account). Once enrolled, they can easily access their gas usage information, pay bills, schedule service orders and sign up for Bill Tracker Alerts by visiting "Manage My Account: Manage Alerts."

Tips to reduce natural gas use and keep bills lower include:

- Set your thermostat to 68 degrees during the day and to 55 degrees at night and when you are not at home. Lowering your thermostat three to five degrees can save up to 10 percent on heating costs.
- Install proper caulking and weather-stripping; this can save roughly 10 to 15 percent on heating and cooling costs.
- Wash clothes in cold water to save up to 10 percent on water heating costs.
- Clean or replace your furnace filters according to manufacturer recommendations.
- Have your air ducts tested for leaks. Leaky ducts can cost between 10 to 30 percent in heating and cooling costs.
- Turn down the temperature on your water heater.
- Take shorter showers to reduce your natural gas use.
- Fix leaky faucets and pipes. Hot water leaks cause increased demand on the water heater, which increases natural gas use. One drop of water per second can waste 500 gallons of hot water per year.
- Limit use of non-essential natural gas appliances, such as spas and fireplaces.

More energy saving tips are located [here](#).

SoCalGas does not make a profit on gas consumption: the company works to buy natural gas when it's cheapest, store it for later use, and deliver those savings directly to customers. That's in part why today, SoCalGas has the second-lowest average bill among the 50 largest gas utilities in America, and natural gas continues to rank among the most affordable sources of energy.

Since 1990, SoCalGas' energy efficiency and rebate programs have helped families and businesses save approximately \$672 million on their natural gas bills. The company offers eligible customers no-cost home weatherization services through the Energy Savings Assistance Program by applying online at <https://www.socalgas.com/save-money-and-energy/assistance-programs/energy-savings-assistance-program> or calling 1 (800) 331-7593. In addition, all SoCalGas customers can find rebates on qualifying energy efficient appliances or home upgrades by going to [socalgas.com/save-money-and-energy](https://www.socalgas.com/save-money-and-energy).

SoCalGas also recognizes that customers face various hardships and encourages those who may be having difficulty paying their natural gas bills to contact SoCalGas to ask about payment arrangements or to find out if they qualify for other bill-assistance programs. Customers can request payment arrangements online or call SoCalGas at (800) 427-2200.

**Related link:**

<https://sempra.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=19080&item=137381>

## **Southern California Edison**

### **SCE Team Helps Plan Puerto Rico Power Restoration**

A new group of SCE employees arrived in Puerto Rico this week to provide planning and logistics support to help restore the island's electricity.

By Mary Ann Milbourn / January 10, 2018

Kelly Whittemore has worked his share of fires, windstorms and other disasters as a principal manager in Transmission and Distribution for Southern California Edison. He was part of an SCE team in 2012 dispatched to the East Coast to help with power restoration after Hurricane Sandy.

So he thought he was ready to head a 10-person SCE team in December to help the Puerto Rico Energy Resiliency Working Group and the Corps of Engineers after hurricanes Irma and Maria devastated the island's power system.

"But nothing I've done before is even close to what's out here," he said from the SCE Emergency Operations Center office in Ponce, Puerto Rico, where the team was assigned after arriving on the island Dec. 7.

Ponce is on the south side of the island, about a two-hour drive across the mountains from San Juan. The SCE team has been doing planning, preparing damage assessments, maps and photos, and ordering materials for the upcoming repairs.

Signs of the destruction are everywhere — poles and wires down, steel power poles bent in half by the winds, trees stripped of their leaves. Only about half the people on the island have their power restored.

Whittemore said that in the Ponce region alone, 10 to 20 miles of wire is down in the mountainous jungle where the only access is on winding roads barely wide enough for one vehicle.

David Karaffa, the SCE team's logistics section chief, said just getting materials and equipment to the island is a challenge.

"It's not like I can call a vendor or arrange a 'will call' for an insulator," he said.

Most equipment takes four or five days to get to the island by barge — plus additional time to be trucked across the U.S. to be shipped.

These challenges have made it a long month for the team, which has worked 12-hour days, seven days a week even over the holidays. Edison tried to ease the hardship by sending a "Charlie Brown" Christmas tree and care packages. The company also arranged to deliver packages from the team's families that included photos, cards and gifts.

Jennifer Potter, a single mother of a teenager and three adult children who is helping the SCE team with resources, bridged the distance using FaceTime to watch her family open their gifts at home. It made her grateful for what she has.

"You look at these families who have been without power here for more than 100 days and it tears at your heartstrings," she said.

One holiday surprise was a visit by Pedro Pizarro, president and CEO of Edison International, Southern California Edison's parent company.

In addition to visiting with the SCE team, Pizarro, who is originally from Puerto Rico, toured damaged areas and talked with residents in the community in Spanish.

"Everybody in Ponce was talking about it all day," said Whittemore.

SCE is just one of the utilities providing support for the restoration effort under the leadership of the Edison Electric Institute. By month's end, about 5,500 workers will be on the island working.

“Providing support to fellow electric companies in need is a hallmark of our industry, and I am very proud of our unique mutual assistance program,” said Institute President Tom Kuhn.

John Perry, who is overseeing operations for the SCE team, said that even though he missed the holidays and his birthday with his family, he has no regrets.

“We have had a once-in-a-lifetime experience that we will always remember,” he said.

Whittemore's team headed home this week and has been replaced by a fresh group from Edison that will stay until February.

**Related link:**

<https://www.insideedison.com/stories/sce-team-helps-plan-puerto-rico-power-restoration>

**Southern California Edison Responds to Area Fires**

December 11, 2017

**Media Contact:** Media Relations, (626) 302-2255

ROSEMEAD, Calif., Dec. 11, 2017 — Multiple wind-driven wildfires moving through Southern California are affecting customers and electric service in Southern California Edison's service territory.

Prior to the fires, based on forecasted winds and red flag warnings, SCE mobilized a full emergency response team, pre-staged critical field personnel and implemented measures to mitigate impacts of high winds and potential fires. Driven by public safety concerns for customers in extremely high-wind areas, these measures included a preventative power shutoff to the Idyllwild area in Riverside County for portions of the period from December 7th through December 8th.

The Thomas fire has significantly affected customers in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties and is continuing to threaten the transmission lines in the area. The fire has intermittently interrupted service for the Santa Barbara area, at times leaving more than 85,000 customers without service. SCE is coordinating its emergency efforts with federal, state, county and local officials. SCE crews are continuing to monitor the situation and have developed contingency plans that include the use of temporary generators and re-routing of power.

Restoration of equipment is important in order to restore and maintain service for customers. Restoration of SCE equipment damaged by the Liberty fire is complete. Restoration of equipment damaged in the Rye and Creek fires is targeted for completion by December 12th, contingent on fire and weather conditions. Where safe, restoration is ongoing in the Thomas fire area, although this fire remains largely uncontained. All restoration work is being conducted in close coordination with fire agencies and other first responders to ensure public and employee safety. SCE teams will continue to assess damage and make repairs when safe to do so.

SCE personnel have completed damage assessments in a majority of the Thomas fire areas where access has been granted and in all of the areas impacted by the Creek and Rye fires. More than 600 SCE workers have been deployed on the wildfires, including those repairing fire-damaged equipment

(including damaged poles, wires and insulators), setting poles, installing electrical equipment and stringing wire to restore power to customers as quickly and safely as possible. As of today, in the areas that have been inspected, crews have replaced over 300 of the more than 500 poles that were destroyed, while damage assessment continues in the Thomas fire area. The company continues conducting inspections on the ground and using aerial resources.

Edison International is supporting customers impacted by the fires through a \$250,000 donation to the Southern California Wildfire Fund through the United Way of Greater Los Angeles. In addition, the company has provided a \$40,000 grant to United Way Ventura County for local support of its outreach to fire victims. SCE is working with known medically sensitive customers in the areas impacted by the fires, including providing temporary generators and other support for critical care customer without power. The company also continues to work with affected customers to offer flexible payment arrangements or bill forgiveness depending upon the situation.

The causes of the wildfires are being investigated by CAL FIRE, other fire agencies and the California Public Utilities Commission. The investigations now include locations beyond those identified last week as the apparent origin of these fires. SCE believes the investigations now include the possible role of its facilities. SCE continues to cooperate with the investigations. The wildfire investigations may take a considerable amount of time to complete. SCE will provide updated information as circumstances warrant.

#### **Safety around Power during Outages:**

- Stay away from downed wires. If you see a wire down, call 911.
- If you are using generators, do not run them inside your home. There is a danger of carbon monoxide poisoning from generators used indoors. Plug appliances directly into the generator, do not plug the generator into the 220v line, as this could cause backfeed which could electrocute crews working on the lines.
- Stay away from crews working in or around lines or vehicles. They are working as quickly as possible and they should not be distracted from this dangerous work.

#### **Related link:**

<https://newsroom.edison.com/releases/southern-california-edison-responds-to-area-fires>

Report by *Ted Chang*  
HHIA Board Member, Utility