

J. Steve Rahon
Director
Tariffs & Regulatory Accounts

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March 3, 2005

Advice No. 3474 (U 904 G)

Public Utilities Commission of the State of California

### **Subject:** Request to Discontinue Wrap and Strap Service

Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) hereby submits for filing with the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) revisions to its tariff schedules, applicable throughout its service territory, as shown in Attachment B to this advice letter.

#### **Purpose**

This filing requests Commission approval to revise Rule No. 10, Service Charges, to allow SoCalGas to discontinue offering the Wrap and Strap Service due to the decline in requests to provide this service because of changes in appliance design and building code requirements.

### **Background**

Resolution G-2972 dated November 20, 1991 approved SoCalGas' Advice No. 2078 filed on October 18, 1991 requesting Commission authority to offer customers the opportunity to have, among others, a water heater blanket (Wrap) and anchor (Strap) installed on residential water heaters with a capacity of 20 to 50 gallons. Experience over the past three years has shown that customers have little or no need for this service offering. In 2002, 38 wrap and strap orders were completed, in 2003, 17 requests were completed, and in 2004, through November, only 16 orders were completed.

Improvements in appliance design, and energy efficiency requirements, have eliminated the need for water heater blankets. Water heater manufacturers warn customers not to wrap higher efficiency model appliances because the improved water heater thermal efficiency ratings eliminate the need for additional insulation.

Building codes now require water heaters to be strapped whenever a home is purchased, remodeled or newly built. This service is usually performed by the contractor involved, or scheduled for them by a realtor. In addition, the availability of do-it-yourself water heater strapping kits in hardware stores state wide, now makes it simple for the customers to perform this service themselves, if desired. The location of a water heater has caused

additional problems with providing this service. When the appliance is located in a closet, metal cabinet or other confined area, additional carpentry or construction work is required in order to create the space for strap or blanket installation. As SoCalGas is unable to provide this type of work, the customer is inconvenienced and does not get the service expected.

As seen by the inefficiencies in providing this service and minimal number of customer requests, and supported by changes in appliance efficiency ratings and building codes, water heater wrapping and strapping offered by SoCalGas is no longer a service desired by the customer. Based on these findings, SoCalGas is requesting that this service offering be discontinued under our current tariffs.

### **Requested Tariff Revisions**

Sheets 2 through 5 of Rule No. 10, Service Charges, are revised as follows:

- The whole Section E. Water Heater Wrapping and/or Strapping Charges has been deleted;
- The sections following the above have been re-lettered and moved; and
- Two references to water heating wrapping and strapping in the new Section F.
   Payment for Service Charges have also been deleted.

#### **Protest**

Anyone may protest this Advice Letter to the Commission. The protest must state the grounds upon which it is based, including such items as financial and service impact, and should be submitted expeditiously. The protest must be made in writing and must be received within 20 days of the date this Advice Letter. There is no restriction on who may file a protest. The address for mailing or delivering a protest to the Commission is:

Energy Division - IMC Branch California Public Utilities Commission 505 Van Ness Avenue, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor San Francisco, CA 94102

Copies of the protest should also be sent via e-mail to the attention of both Jerry Royer (<a href="mailto:ijr@cpuc.ca.gov">ijr@cpuc.ca.gov</a>) and to Honesto Gatchalian (<a href="mailto:inj@cpuc.ca.gov">inj@cpuc.ca.gov</a>) of the Energy Division. A copy of the protest should also be sent via both e-mail <a href="mailto:and">and</a> facsimile to the address shown below on the same date it is mailed or delivered to the Commission.

Attn: Sid Newsom Tariff Manager - GT14D6 555 West Fifth Street Los Angeles, CA 90013-1011 Facsimile No. (213) 244-4957

E-mail: snewsom@SempraUtilities.com

# **Effective Date**

SoCalGas respectfully requests that this filing be made effective as of April 12, 2005, which is not less than 40 days regular statutory notice.

# **Notice**

In accordance with Section III.G of General Order No. 96-A, a copy of this advice letter is being sent to the parties listed on Attachment A.

J. STEVE RAHON
Director
Tariffs and Regulatory Accounts

Attachments

# **ATTACHMENT A**

# Advice No. 3474

(See Attached Service List)

ACN Energy Gary Morrow

GMorrow@acninc.com

**Aglet Consumer Alliance** 

James Weil jweil@aglet.org

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**CPUC** 

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City of Long Beach, Gas Dept.

Chris Garner 2400 East Spring Street Long Beach, CA 90806-2385

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**Crossborder Energy** 

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CPUC

Consumer Affairs Branch 505 Van Ness Ave., #2003 San Francisco, CA 94102

California Energy Market

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Light & Power Dept. 215 E. Foothill Blvd. Azusa, CA 91702

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City Attorney

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# ATTACHMENT B Advice No. 3474

Cal. P.U.C. Sheet No.	Title of Sheet	Cancelling Cal. P.U.C. Sheet No.
Revised 38903-G	Rule No. 10, SERVICE CHARGES, Sheet 2	Revised 34691-G
Revised 38904-G	Rule No. 10, SERVICE CHARGES, Sheet 3	Revised 34692-G
		Revised 34693-G
Revised 38905-G	Rule No. 10, SERVICE CHARGES, Sheet 4	Revised 34693-G
		Revised 34694-G
Revised 38906-G	Rule No. 10, SERVICE CHARGES, Sheet 5	Revised 34694-G
Revised 38907-G	TABLE OF CONTENTS	Revised 38511-G*
Revised 38908-G	TABLE OF CONTENTS	Revised 38902-G

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA CANCELING

Revised Revised

CAL. P.U.C. SHEET NO. CAL. P.U.C. SHEET NO.

38903-G 34691-G

### Rule No. 10 SERVICE CHARGES

Sheet 2

(Continued)

### C. SET-TIME APPOINTMENT CHARGE

Where the customer requests a non-emergency service call (i.e. new service turned on or appliance service) for a specifically designated time, the Utility shall provide, for a charge, a specifically scheduled appointment.

Such set-time appointment shall be provided on a first-come, first served basis Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Set-time appointments shall be scheduled on the hour and half-hour and shall be scheduled for the next day or later. Set-timed appointments are not provided on weekends and Company Holidays.

The Utility shall make every effort to arrive at the customer's premises at the agreed upon time, but no earlier than 30 minutes before the agreed upon time and no later than 30 minutes after the agreed upon time.

Where the Utility has met the agreed upon appointment time as specified above, the charge shall be as follows:

Set-time appointment charge, per visit ..... \$25.00

#### D. MISSED APPOINTMENTS

The customer shall not be required to pay the \$25.00 charge if the agreed upon time is missed for any reason, such as customer being absent or late arrival of the Utility representative.

Where the Utility is responsible for the missed appointment, no charge shall be made for a subsequent appointment, if it is for the same type of service.

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(Continued)

(TO BE INSERTED BY UTILITY) 3474 ADVICE LETTER NO. DECISION NO. 2H13

ISSUED BY Lee Schavrien Vice President

Regulatory Affairs

(TO BE INSERTED BY CAL. PUC) Mar 3, 2005 SUBMITTED Apr 12, 2005 **EFFECTIVE** RESOLUTION NO.

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA CANCELING

34693-G

## Rule No. 10 **SERVICE CHARGES**

Sheet 3

(Continued)

### E. APPLIANCE CONNECTION CHARGE

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- 1. General. The Utility, for a charge, shall connect residential free-standing gas ranges, dryers and barbecues for customers with existing accounts, provided all of the following conditions can be met:
  - a. Service can be performed safely and without damaging the customers' facilities.
  - b. Service can be performed without loosening fittings in the wall.
  - c. The houseline need not be extended more than seventy-two (72) inches or six (6) feet, or installed through walls or cabinets.
  - d. The appliance will not present a hazardous or unsatisfactory condition after connection.
  - e. Taps (added outlets to existing appliance stubs) are not made from stubs currently supplying gas to other appliances.
- 2. <u>Charges</u>. If the conditions referenced above are met, the charge(s) shall be as follows:

Connection of a gas range or dryer	\$38.00
Connection of a gas range or dryer	\$43.00
(includes valve)	
Connection of a gas range or dryer	
(includes connector)	
Connection of a gas range or dryer	
(includes connector and valve)	
Connection of a gas barbecue	
(includes hose, valve, and miscellaneous fittings)	

Charges for connection of additional appliances will be limited to parts and materials.

Where a customer is turning on new residential service, the Utility will connect the gas range, dryer and barbecue at no charge when parts are not needed. The Utility will not connect gas ranges, dryers and barbecues that would normally be installed by the builder or contractor.

(Continued)

(TO BE INSERTED BY UTILITY) 3474 ADVICE LETTER NO. DECISION NO. 3H16

ISSUED BY Lee Schavrien Vice President

Regulatory Affairs

(TO BE INSERTED BY CAL. PUC) Mar 3, 2005 DATE FILED

Apr 12, 2005 **EFFECTIVE** RESOLUTION NO.

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LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA CANCELING

Revised Revised CAL. P.U.C. SHEET NO. CAL. P.U.C. SHEET NO.

38905-G 34693-G

34694-G

## Rule No. 10 SERVICE CHARGES

Sheet 4

(Continued)

#### F. PAYMENT FOR SERVICE CHARGES

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Customers may elect to pay for the Set-timed Appointment and Appliance Connection Charge(s) at the time service is rendered or by separate billing. If billed, payment is due within 30 days.

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The Utility shall advise the customer that appliance connection services are also provided by plumbers and contractors.

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#### G. EARTHQUAKE VALVE SERVICE

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#### 1. Applicability

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The Utility offers a valve removal service if the valve is installed on the Utility's facilities, and a gas restoration service. The Utility will provide this service to customers in all classes, including residential, commercial and industrial customers.

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# 2. Responsibility for Valve after Installation

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After installation, the valve is the property of the Utility's customer. The customer can have the valve removed at any time, except where the valve is required by law to be installed. At the time of installation, the Utility may require the customer to agree to transfer the valve to a subsequent purchaser of the premises or to remove the valve before the time of sale (where removal is allowed by law).

# 3. Charge for Removal of Valves

The Utility offers a valve removal service. The removal service charge for customers is \$83.28 plus materials for the first hour and \$13.87 for every quarter hour thereafter (per person). A trip charge for estimating the cost of removal of EQV is \$34.89. This cost will be applied if the removal is not authorized at the time of the estimate. A trip charge of \$34.89 will be applied to any trip made to the customer's location for any reason due to the customer's and not SoCalGas' circumstances where removal of an EQV on SoCalGas' pipeline is performed.

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(to be inserted by utility) advice letter no. \$3474\$ decision no.

ISSUED BY

Lee Schavrien

Vice President

 $\begin{array}{c} \text{(TO BE INSERTED BY CAL. PUC)} \\ \text{DATE FILED} & \underline{Mar\ 3,\ 2005} \\ \text{EFFECTIVE} & \underline{Apr\ 12,\ 2005} \end{array}$ 

RESOLUTION NO.

Regulatory Affairs

Revised Revised LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA CANCELING

CAL. P.U.C. SHEET NO. CAL. P.U.C. SHEET NO.

38906-G 34694-G

### Rule No. 10 **SERVICE CHARGES**

Sheet 5

(Continued)

### G. EARTHQUAKE VALVE SERVICE (Continued)

L,T

#### 4. Charge for Restoring Gas Service after a Valve Activates

If a valve is activated and shuts off gas service, it is the responsibility of the customer to arrange and pay for restoration of service. The Utility offers to restore service after activation of an earthquake shut-off valve for a charge of \$63.39 for residential and small commercial customers. For larger customers with larger meters, the Utility's charge for restoration of service will be quoted in advance based on an estimate. The Utility has the option to waive charges for restoration of service after a major earthquake.

#### 5. Payment

All charges will be due on completion of the service provided, unless other options, such as installment payments, are agreed to by the Utility and the customer. The Utility may bill for services rendered pursuant to this Section in its bill for gas service, but will not terminate gas service for failure to pay for any services rendered pursuant to this section.

The Commission will be the arbiter of any disputes over the application or implementation of these criteria.

(TO BE INSERTED BY UTILITY) 3474 ADVICE LETTER NO. DECISION NO.

5H14

**ISSUED BY** Lee Schavrien Vice President

Regulatory Affairs

(TO BE INSERTED BY CAL. PUC) Mar 3, 2005

RESOLUTION NO.

DATE FILED Apr 12, 2005 **EFFECTIVE** 

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

## **RULES**

Rule Number	<u>Title of Sheet</u> <u>Cal. P.U.C. Sheet No.</u>
1	Definitions
2	36715-G,36716-G,36717-G,36718-G Description of Service
	36013-G,35726-G,35727-G,35728-G
3	Application for Service
4	Contracts
4.1	Exemption from Public Inspection Requirements for
	Certain Gas Corporation Contracts
5	Special Information Required on Forms
6	Establishment and Re-Establishment of Credit
7	Deposits
8	Return of DepositInterest on Deposit
9	Discontinuance of Service
	26424-G,36035-G,36779-G
10	Service Charges
11	Disputed Bills
12	Payment of Bills
13	Meters and Appliances
14	Meter Reading
15	Meter Tests
16	Adjustment of Bills
17	Reading of Separate Meters Not Combined
18	Notices
19	Rates and Optional Rates
20	Gas Main Extensions
	31806-G,31807-G,37767-G,37768-G,37769-G,37770-G,37771-G
21	Gas Service Extensions 31813-G,31814-G,31815-G,31816-G,31817-G,31818-G
	31819-G,31820-G,38510-G,31822-G,31823-G,31824-G,31825-G
22	Temporary Service
23	Continuity of Service and Interruption of
	Delivery
	36622-G,33046-G,33047-G,36721-G,37969-G,33050-G
24	Supply to Individual Premises and Resale of Gas
25	Company's Right of Ingress to and Egress from
	the Consumer's Premises

(Continued)

(TO BE INSERTED BY UTILITY) ADVICE LETTER NO. 3474 DECISION NO.

1H13

ISSUED BY Lee Schavrien Vice President Regulatory Affairs

(TO BE INSERTED BY CAL. PUC) Mar 3, 2005 DATE FILED Apr 12, 2005 **EFFECTIVE** RESOLUTION NO.

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#### LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA CANCELING

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

The following listed sheets contain all effective Schedules of Rates and Rules affecting service and information relating thereto in effect on the date indicated thereon.

<u>GENERAL</u>	Cal. P.U.C. Sheet No.
Title Page	
PRELIMINARY STATEMENT	
Part I General Service Information	32-G,24333-G,24334-G,24749-G
Part II Summary of Rates and Charges 39030-G,39031-G,3903 32491-G,32492-G,38848-G,3896	32-G,38694-G,39033-G,38952-G 61-G,38962-G,38698-G,38699-G
Part III Cost Allocation and Revenue Requirement 27024-G,3792	20-G,27026-G,27027-G,38700-G
Part IV Income Tax Component of Contributions and Advances	36614-G,24354-G
	38681-G,34820-G,37156-G 83-G,36084-G,36085-G,36086-G 84-G,38685-G,38686-G,38687-G
	38003-G,38688-G,38689-G 06-G,38007-G,38008-G,38009-G 13-G,38014-G,38015-G,38016-G
Part VII Description of Regulatory Accounts-Tracking	38017-G,38018-G,38019-G 20-G,38021-G,38022-G,38023-G
Part VIII Gas Cost Incentive Mechanism (GCIM)	21-G,35877-G,37922-G,36869-G 36870-G,35881-G
Part IX Hazardous Substances Mechanism (HSM)	26199-G,26200-G,26201-G
Part X Global Settlement	30-G,32531-G,32532-G,32533-G

(TO BE INSERTED BY UTILITY) 3474 ADVICE LETTER NO. DECISION NO.

ISSUED BY Lee Schavrien Vice President

Regulatory Affairs

(Continued)

(TO BE INSERTED BY CAL. PUC) DATE FILED Mar 3, 2005 Apr 12, 2005 **EFFECTIVE** RESOLUTION NO.