PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION 505 Van Ness Avenue San Francisco CA 94102-3298



Southern California Gas Company GAS (Corp ID 904) Status of Advice Letter 6086G As of March 2, 2023

Subject: Information Only Implementation of Emergency Disaster Relief Program in Southern

California Gas Company's Service Territory for Winter Storms to Institute Residential and

Non-Residential Customer Protections

Division Assigned: Energy

Date Filed: 01-18-2023

Date to Calendar: 01-27-2023

Authorizing Documents: D1907015

Disposition: Accepted

None

Effective Date: 01-04-2023

Resolution Required: No

Resolution Number:

Commission Meeting Date: None

CPUC Contact Information:

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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION 505 Van Ness Avenue San Francisco CA 94102-3298



To: Energy Company Filing Advice Letter

From: Energy Division PAL Coordinator

Subject: Your Advice Letter Filing

The Energy Division of the California Public Utilities Commission has processed your recent Advice Letter (AL) filing and is returning an AL status certificate for your records.

The AL status certificate indicates:

Advice Letter Number
Name of Filer
CPUC Corporate ID number of Filer
Subject of Filing
Date Filed
Disposition of Filing (Accepted, Rejected, Withdrawn, etc.)
Effective Date of Filing
Other Miscellaneous Information (e.g., Resolution, if applicable, etc.)

The Energy Division has made no changes to your copy of the Advice Letter Filing; please review your Advice Letter Filing with the information contained in the AL status certificate, and update your Advice Letter and tariff records accordingly.

All inquiries to the California Public Utilities Commission on the status of your Advice Letter Filing will be answered by Energy Division staff based on the information contained in the Energy Division's PAL database from which the AL status certificate is generated. If you have any questions on this matter please contact the:

Energy Division's Tariff Unit by e-mail to edtariffunit@cpuc.ca.gov



Joseph Mock Director Regulatory Affairs

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January 18, 2023

Advice No. 6086 (U 904 G)

Public Utilities Commission of the State of California

Subject: Information Only: Implementation of Emergency Disaster Relief Program in

Southern California Gas Company's Service Territory for Winter Storms to Institute Residential and Non-Residential Customer Protections Pursuant to

Decision (D.) 19-07-015

Purpose

Pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission (Commission or CPUC) D.19-07-015, Ordering Paragraph (OP) 2, utilities are required to submit a Tier 1 Advice Letter (AL) in the event the Governor of California or a President of the United States declares a state of emergency when a disaster has either resulted in the loss or disruption of the delivery or receipt of utility service and/or resulted in the degradation of the quality of utility service. Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) hereby submits an AL to notify the Commission of its implementation of emergency customer protections for directly affected residential and non-residential (small business)¹ customers arising from the Winter Storms in SoCalGas' service territory, which include the counties of Fresno, Kings, Tulare, Kern, Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside, and Imperial.

Background

In D.19-07-015, the Commission established a permanent set of minimum emergency disaster customer protection measures the utilities are mandated to implement, in the event of a declared emergency. Pursuant to D.19-07-015, OP 2, utilities are required to submit a Tier 1 AL within 15 days, if the Governor of California or a President of the United States

¹ In Decision (D.) 19-07-015, small businesses are "defined in accordance to the utilities' definition of 'small business' in their rules and tariffs." D.19-07-015 at 55, fn. 146. Accordingly, for the purposes of implementing these customer protections, small business customers include all customers taking service on a non-residential core rate schedule with an annual consumption of 10,000 therms of gas or less. See, e.g., SoCalGas' Rule No. 01 ("Small Nonresidential Service"), Rule No. 23, and Rate Schedule Nos. G-10, G-AC, G-EN, G-NGV, GT-NC, and GTTLS. Additionally, in D.10-10-032, a small business customer is defined as a non-residential customer with an annual consumption of 10,000 therms of gas or less. See D.10-10-032 at p. 1, fn. 1.

declares a state of emergency because a disaster has either resulted in the loss or disruption of the delivery or receipt of utility service and/or resulted in the degradation of the quality of utility service. On January 4, 2023, Governor Gavin Newsom (Governor) issued an emergency proclamation, due to the effects of the Winter Storms, which swept through and impacted SoCalGas' service territory, causing damage and destruction of property and evacuations of customers.

Eligibility and Time Limits for Emergency Customer Protections

The emergency disaster relief program adopted in D.19-07-015 is intended to assist utility customers in keeping vital utility services and receiving financial support in the wake of a disaster. The mandated customer protections within this program shall remain in effect from the date of the Governor of California's state of emergency declaration or a Presidential state of emergency declaration, and shall conclude no sooner than twelve (12) months from the date of the original emergency declaration, or as appropriately determined by the Governor's Office of Emergency Services.² Additionally, the Commission has granted utilities the discretion to go beyond the mandated protections, where appropriate:

These customer protections are a floor, not a ceiling. As we stated in D.19-07-015 and D.19-08-025, we support and encourage the utilities and communications service providers to do more to help Californians in this time of need. The utilities and communications service providers have the discretion to add additional customer relief efforts that are unique to their customers' experience, or the specific type of damage a customer may suffer from as a result of COVID-19.3

SoCalGas has implemented these protections to help Californians in this time of need.

<u>Description of Adopted Consumer Protections</u>

In the following section, SoCalGas describes the implementation of each of the residential and non-residential customer protections identified in D.19-07-015.⁴ Unless otherwise noted, each of these customer protections are applicable to both residential and small business customers and are effective through January 4, 2024. Also, noted are certain protections that are now obsolete since the issuance of D.20-06-003.⁵

OP 1 and 2 of D.19-07-015 directs the utilities to:

² D.19-07-015 at 2.

³ Resolution (Res.) M-4842 at 4. D.19-08-025 at 34. D.19-07-015 at 24-25, 63 (OP 1).

⁴ D.19-07-015, at 58-59 (Conclusions of Law 14).

⁵ On June 16, 2020, the Commission issued D.20-06-003, adopting rules and policy changes for Investor-Owned Utilities (IOUs) designed to reduce the number of residential customer disconnections and to improve reconnection processes. D.20-06-003 (1) prohibits requiring residential customers to pay establishment of credit deposits for new service, (2) prohibits requiring residential customers to pay reconnection fees or reestablishment of service deposits for reestablishment of service, and (3) requires IOUs to offer 12-month payment plans.

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(1) waive deposit requirements for affected residential customers seeking to reestablish service for one year and expedite move in and move out service requests;

In compliance with D.20-06-003, SoCalGas no longer collects deposits from residential customers. The relief offered by this customer protection is obsolete.

(2) stop estimated usage for billing attributed to the time period when the home/unit was unoccupied as result of the emergency;

SoCalGas will attempt to use actual reads to bill all customers directly affected by the Winter Storms. SoCalGas has installed advanced meter modules to collect reads for most meters in its service territory. All directly affected customers with communicating advanced meter devices will be billed using the actual reads from the meter. If an actual read is not available, SoCalGas will estimate a customer's usage. SoCalGas will review the system estimates to confirm the reasonableness of bills. SoCalGas will make necessary corrections so the estimated usage reflects reduced consumption during the period of time the home or unit may have been unoccupied, as a result of the damage caused by the Winter Storms.

(3) discontinue billing;

SoCalGas will close eligible customers' accounts for customers whose residential and/or non-residential unit is destroyed or damaged and uninhabitable. SoCalGas will review residential customer accounts for possible bill forgiveness. Furthermore, SoCalGas will fully refund any existing deposit on the account after forgiving any bills.

(4) prorate any monthly access charge or minimum charges;

SoCalGas applies this relief to residential and non-residential (small business) customers whose property is destroyed or damaged and uninhabitable. SoCalGas does not assess access or minimum charges on residential accounts. SoCalGas will close eligible customers' accounts, as of a date to be determined, to prevent additional charges from being assessed for customers directly impacted by the Winter Storms.

(5) implement payment plan options for residential customers;

SoCalGas will review the accounts of residential eligible customers to forgive outstanding recent charges when SoCalGas issues the closing bills for customers whose residences are physically destroyed or damaged and uninhabitable by the Winter Storms. SoCalGas will extend the payment plan options, as directed, for any amounts that do not qualify for bill forgiveness. For other eligible customers with service who request additional grace period for payment, SoCalGas will offer payment plan options, as directed, for any amount up to the total outstanding balance on the account. Any eligible customer offered a payment plan will not be precluded from remunerating an arrearage more quickly.

(6) suspend disconnection for non-payment and associated fees, waive deposit and late fee requirements for residential customers;

SoCalGas will suspend collections activity for all customers directly affected by the Winter Storms through January 4, 2024. SoCalGas does not charge late fees to residential customers. In compliance with D.20-06-003, SoCalGas does not require deposits or reconnection fees from residential customers.

- (7) support low-income residential customers, in disaster impacted zip codes which may include all zip codes in a county depending on circumstances, by:
 - (a) freezing all standard and high-usage reviews for CARE program eligibility until, at least, the end of the year and potentially longer, as warranted;

CARE customers directly affected by the Winter Storms will not be subject to eligibility verification until January 4, 2024, unless further extended by SoCalGas or the Commission. High-usage reviews are not applicable to SoCalGas' CARE program.

(b) contacting all community outreach contractors, the CBOs who assist in enrolling hard-to-reach low-income customers into CARE, to help better inform customers of these eligibility changes;

SoCalGas works with CBOs and outreach agencies located throughout the SoCalGas service territory and employs various types of outreach strategies, such as local community event participation, walk-in enrollment, and program material distribution to enroll customers. SoCalGas will employ the services of CBOs and Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs) to reach customers directly impacted by the Winter Storms. CBOs and FBOs serve as trusted sources of information on SoCalGas' Customer Assistance Programs and will provide the community in the areas impacted by the Winter Storms with information on enrollment and of these eligibility changes.

(c) partnering with the program administrator of the customer funded emergency assistance program for low-income customers and increase the assistance limit amount for the next 12 months for impacted customers; and

SoCalGas' Gas Assistance Fund, administered by United Way of Greater Los Angeles, has increased the limit amount to \$200 for eligible impacted customers.

(d) indicate how the energy savings assistance program (ESAP) can be deployed to assist impacted customers;

SoCalGas' ESAP will leverage the outreach efforts described above and below to provide information about the program's benefits to customers directly impacted by the Winter Storms.

(8) suspend all CARE and FERA program removals to avoid unintentional loss of the discounted rate during the period for which the customer is protected under these customer protections; and

CARE customers directly affected by the Winter Storms will not be subject to program removal until January 4, 2024, unless further extended by SoCalGas or the Commission. The FERA program is not applicable to SoCalGas.

(9) discontinue generating all recertification and verification requests that require customers to provide their current income information.

SoCalGas has discontinued generating all recertification and verification requests. CARE customers directly affected by the Winter Storms will not be required to return recertification and verification requests. CARE customers directly affected by the Winter Storms will not be subject to eligibility recertification and verification until January 4, 2024, unless further extended by SoCalGas or the Commission.

Communications Plan

SoCalGas will communicate the availability of emergency customer protections to customers in its impacted service territory using one or more communication channels that may include, but is not limited to, community outreach, web pages, outbound emails, media advisories, social media posts, social networking service for neighborhoods such as Nextdoor, outbound dialing, and SMS text messaging. The communication channels used will be determined by various factors, including size of impacted area, location, number of impacted residents, types of structures, remaining infrastructure, and others. SoCalGas will direct the customers to SoCalGas' Customer Contact Center, 800-427-2200 and to the SoCalGas website for further assistance. A complete explanation of the customer protections available will be located on SoCalGas' website at https://www.socalgas.com/billing-support.

Emergency Customer Protections Memorandum Account (ECPMA)

SoCalGas will record costs associated with the protections described herein in the ECPMA. The costs recorded to this memorandum account will be incurred commencing January 4, 2023, which is the start date of the Governor's emergency proclamation. Pursuant to Res. M-4833 and M-4835, SoCalGas will seek recovery of these costs in a General Rate Case or other appropriate ratemaking proceeding.

Protests

In accordance with General Order (GO) 96-B, General Rule 6.2, this information-only AL is not subject to protest.

Effective Date

This submittal is subject to Energy Division disposition and should be classified as Tier 1 (effective after approval) pursuant to GO 96-B and OP 2 of D.19-07-015. Therefore, SoCalGas respectfully requests this submittal be approved and made effective January 4, 2023, which is the start date of the Governor's emergency proclamation.

Notice

A copy of this AL is being sent to SoCalGas' GO 96-B service list and the Commission's service list in R.18-03-011. Address change requests to the GO 96-B service list should be directed via e-mail to Tariffs@socalgas.com or call 213-244-2837. For changes to all other service lists, please contact the Commission's Process Office at 415-703-2021 or via e-mail at Process_office@cpuc.ca.gov.

/s/ Joseph Mock
Joseph Mock
Director – Regulatory Affairs

Attachments





California Public Utilities Commission

ADVICE LETTER UMMARY



MUST BE COMPLETED BY UTILITY (Attach additional pages as needed)	
Company name/CPUC Utility No.:	
Utility type: ELC GAS WATER PLC HEAT	Contact Person: Phone #: E-mail: E-mail Disposition Notice to:
EXPLANATION OF UTILITY TYPE ELC = Electric GAS = Gas WATER = Water PLC = Pipeline HEAT = Heat WATER = Water	(Date Submitted / Received Stamp by CPUC)
Advice Letter (AL) #:	Tier Designation:
Subject of AL:	
Keywords (choose from CPUC listing):	
AL Type: Monthly Quarterly Annual One-Time Other:	
If AL submitted in compliance with a Commission order, indicate relevant Decision/Resolution #:	
Does AL replace a withdrawn or rejected AL? If so, identify the prior AL:	
Summarize differences between the AL and the prior withdrawn or rejected AL:	
Confidential treatment requested? Yes No	
If yes, specification of confidential information: Confidential information will be made available to appropriate parties who execute a nondisclosure agreement. Name and contact information to request nondisclosure agreement/ access to confidential information:	
Resolution required? Yes No	
Requested effective date:	No. of tariff sheets:
Estimated system annual revenue effect (%):	
Estimated system average rate effect (%):	
When rates are affected by AL, include attachment in AL showing average rate effects on customer classes (residential, small commercial, large C/I, agricultural, lighting).	
Tariff schedules affected:	
Service affected and changes proposed ^{1:}	
Pending advice letters that revise the same tariff sheets:	

Protests and all other correspondence regarding this AL are due no later than 20 days after the date of this submittal, unless otherwise authorized by the Commission, and shall be sent to:

CPUC, Energy Division	
Attention: Tariff Unit	
505 Van Ness Avenue	
San Francisco, CA 94102	

Email: EDTariffUnit@cpuc.ca.gov

Name: Title:

Utility Name: Address: City:

State: Zip:

Telephone (xxx) xxx-xxxx: Facsimile (xxx) xxx-xxxx:

Email:

Name:

Title:

Utility Name: Address: City:

State: Zip:

Telephone (xxx) xxx-xxxx: Facsimile (xxx) xxx-xxxx:

Email:

ATTACHMENT A

Advice No. 6086

PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCYFROM GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM and PRESIDENT JOSEPH R. BIDEN Jr. APPROVES CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY DECLARATION From Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA)

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT STATE OF CALIFORNIA

PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS beginning December 27, 2022, severe winter storms related to a series of atmospheric river systems struck California, bringing high winds, substantial precipitation, and river and urban flooding; and

WHEREAS it is forecasted that additional and continuing storms related to this series of atmospheric river systems threaten California, bringing heavy rainfall, expected flooding, strong winds and wind gusts, falling debris, downed trees, and widespread power outages; and

WHEREAS in preparation for the forecasted storms, multiple California Conservation Corps flood fight crews, fire swift water rescue, and urban search and rescue teams have been strategically prepositioned for emergency response; sandbags have been made available throughout the State; and shelters are opening for displaced individuals; and

WHEREAS these storms forced the closure and caused damage to highways and roads, as well as caused levee and culvert failures, and mandatory evacuations in severely impacted counties, and such impacts will likely continue to be caused by the forecasted storms; and

WHEREAS these storms threatened and continue to threaten critical infrastructure, movement of resources, burn scars from recent wildfires potentially causing mud and debris flows; resulted in and threaten power outages to thousands of households and businesses; and caused and continue to threaten river and urban flooding due to excessive and prolonged rainfall; and

WHEREAS due to the series of atmospheric river systems continuously impacting counties throughout the State, the counties have not had time to mitigate the cascading impacts of these storms; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8558(b), I find that conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property exist due to these storms; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8558(b), I find that the conditions caused by these storms, by reason of their magnitude, are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of any single local government and require the combined forces of a mutual aid region or regions to appropriately respond; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8625(c), I find that local authority is inadequate to cope with the magnitude of the damage caused by these storms; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8571, I find that strict compliance with various statutes and regulations specified in this Proclamation would prevent, hinder, or delay the mitigation of the effects of these storms.

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NOW, THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and statutes, including the California Emergency Services Act, and in particular, Government Code section 8625, HEREBY PROCLAIM A STATE OF EMERGENCY to exist throughout California.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- All agencies of the state government utilize and employ state personnel, equipment, and facilities for the performance of any and all activities consistent with the direction of the Office of Emergency Services and the State Emergency Plan. Also, all residents are to obey the direction of emergency officials with regard to this emergency in order to protect their safety.
- 2. The Office of Emergency Services shall provide assistance to local governments, if appropriate, under the authority of the California Disaster Assistance Act, Government Code section 8680 et seq., and California Code of Regulations, Title 19, section 2900 et seq.
- 3. As necessary to assist local governments and for the protection of public health and the environment, state agencies shall enter into contracts to arrange for the procurement of materials, goods, and services necessary to quickly assist with the response to and recovery from the impacts of these storms. Applicable provisions of the Government Code and the Public Contract Code, including but not limited to travel, advertising, and competitive bidding requirements, are suspended to the extent necessary to address the effects of these storms.
- 4. Any fairgrounds the Office of Emergency Services determines suitable to assist individuals impacted by these storms shall be made available to the Office of Emergency Services pursuant to the Emergency Services Act, Government Code section 8589. The Office of Emergency Services shall notify the fairgrounds of the intended use and may immediately utilize the fairgrounds without the fairground board of directors' approval.
- 5. The California Department of Transportation shall formally request immediate assistance through the Federal Highway Administration's Emergency Relief Program, United States Code, Title 23, section 125, in order to obtain federal assistance for highway repairs or reconstruction.
- 6. The California National Guard may be mobilized under Military and Veterans Code section 146 to support disaster response and relief efforts, as directed by the Office of Emergency Services, and to coordinate with all relevant state agencies and state and local emergency responders and law enforcement within the impacted areas. Sections 147 and 188 of the Military and Veterans Code are applicable during the period of participation in this mission, exempting the California Military Department from applicable procurement rules

PRON LABOR

- for specified emergency purchases, and those rules are hereby suspended.
- 7. Any state-owned properties the Office of Emergency Services determines suitable for staging of debris as a result of these storms shall be made available to the Office of Emergency Services for this purpose in accordance with Government Code section 8570.
- 8. Drivers may exceed the hours-of-service limits specified in California Vehicle Code section 34501.2 and California Code of Regulations, Title 13, section 1212.5 while operating a vehicle engaged in fuel transportation in support of emergency relief efforts, subject to the following conditions:
 - a. Motor carriers or drivers currently subject to an out-of-service order are eligible for the exemption once the out-of-service order expires or when they have met the conditions for its rescission.
 - b. In accordance with Section 1214, Title 13, California Code of Regulations, no motor carrier operating under the terms of this Proclamation will require or allow an ill or fatigued driver to operate a motor vehicle. A driver who notifies a motor vehicle carrier that they need immediate rest shall be given at least ten consecutive hours off-duty before being required to return to service.
 - c. Drivers shall maintain a driver's record of duty status, regardless of number of hours worked each day. These records shall be prepared, submitted, and maintained as required by Section 1213, Title 13, California Code of Regulations.
- 9. Consistent with Parts 390 and 395, Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, drivers may exceed the hours-of-service limits specified while operating a vehicle engaged in fuel transportation in support of emergency relief efforts. These waivers shall be in effect for the duration of the driver's direct assistance in providing emergency relief, or thirty (30) days from the date of this Proclamation, whichever is less.
- 10. In order to allow out-of-state contractors and other utilities driving their own vehicles to provide mutual aid assistance for the restoration of electrical power within the counties impacted by these storms, applicable provisions of the Vehicle Code including, but not limited to, Vehicle Code section 34620 requiring a motor carrier permit [licensing] and imposition of certain fees, are suspended for motor carriers providing such assistance. Also, the requirements for motor carriers and drivers in Vehicle Code sections 1808.1 [pull-notice program that checks for driver's license violations], 27900 [display name on vehicle], 27901 [size and color of display name on vehicle], 34505.5 [requirement to have been inspected within 90 days], and 34501.12 [requirement to set up home base in California] are suspended while providing mutual aid assistance for the emergency restoration of services.

PACH LARES

I FURTHER DIRECT that as soon as hereafter possible, this Proclamation be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this Proclamation.

This Proclamation is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of

California to be affixed this 4th day of January 2023.

AVIN NEWSOM

Governor of California

ATTEST:

SHIRLEY N. WEBER, Ph.D. Secretary of State

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. Approves California Emergency Declaration

Late Sunday evening while in Mexico City, Mexico for the 10th North American Leaders' Summit, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., declared that an emergency exists in the State of California and ordered Federal assistance to supplement State, tribal, and local response efforts due to the emergency conditions resulting from successive and severe winter storms, flooding, and mudslides beginning on January 8, 2023, and continuing.

The President's action authorizes the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), to coordinate all disaster relief efforts which have the purpose of alleviating the hardship and suffering caused by the emergency on the local population, and to provide appropriate assistance for required emergency measures, authorized under Title V of the Stafford Act, to save lives and to protect property and public health and safety, and to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe in the counties of El Dorado, Los Angeles, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Monterey, Napa, Placer, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Sonoma, Stanislaus, and Ventura.

Specifically, FEMA is authorized to identify, mobilize, and provide at its discretion, equipment and resources necessary to alleviate the impacts of the emergency. Emergency protective measures (Category B), limited to direct Federal assistance, under the Public Assistance program will be provided at 75 percent Federal funding.

Deanne Criswell, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Department of Homeland Security, named Andrew F. Grant as the Federal Coordinating Officer for Federal recovery operations in the affected areas.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION MEDIA SHOULD CONTACT THE FEMA NEWS DESK AT (202) 646-3272 OR FEMA-NEWS-DESK@FEMA.DHS.GOV.