PUBLIC PARTICIPATION HEARING

Southern California Gas Company – Hydrogen Blending Pilot in Orange Cove
(A.22-09-006)

# What is a Public Participation Hearing?

The purpose of this Public Participation Hearing (PPH) is to provide an opportunity to communicate directly with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) regarding the pending Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) application to pilot hydrogen blending into the natural gas distribution system of Orange Cove, California, to learn how this application would impact you, and share any concerns you may have about the proposed pilot project with the CPUC.

# What is this Pilot Project About?

This pilot project is part of a broader, statewide effort led by California’s major gas utilities to explore the safe and effective blending of clean renewable hydrogen into the natural gas system. The use of clean renewable hydrogen generated using renewable energy is seen as a potential way to help reduce the carbon intensity of the gas supply and move California closer toward its goal of 100 percent carbon-free energy by 2045. If approved, this pilot project will evaluate hydrogen blending in a distribution network that serves approximately 2,000 customer meters and 10,000 residents in Orange Cove. Hydrogen will be produced outside of town using solar energy and introduced into the community’s gas supply starting at 0.1 percent by total volume and gradually increasing to a maximum of 5 % by volume, depending on the outcome of safety studies conducted during the study. Data gathered from the pilot will help determine how blended hydrogen affects a broad range of customer appliances and gas distribution pipeline materials under typical operating conditions and will support the development of a statewide hydrogen blending standard.

# Background

As California pursues ambitious carbon reduction targets, including carbon neutrality by 2045, clean renewable hydrogen has emerged as a fuel that could potentially help decarbonize hard-to-electrify commercial and industrial customer operations. Blending clean renewable hydrogen into the existing natural gas infrastructure may offer a near-term strategy to lower greenhouse gas emissions while utilizing current pipeline systems.

In response to CPUC Decision 22-12-057, SoCalGas and other utilities were directed to develop pilot projects testing hydrogen blends above 0.1 percent concentration (the currently permissible amount of hydrogen content allowed in natural gas). If approved, these pilot projects will inform the development of a safe, statewide clean renewable hydrogen injection standard by evaluating real-world safety, operational, and environmental impacts of blending such hydrogen in greater amounts.

# Key Project Details

* **Location:** Blended gas will be served to approximately 2,000 gas meters serving approximately 10,000 residents in Orange Cove, California in Fresno County.
* **Duration:** The testing is planned to occur over four phases, with the initial planning and demonstration phases spanning approximately three years to collect and evaluate data across time and seasonal operating conditions.
* **Cost:** Project costs are estimated at $64.3 million.

# Public Participation Hearings

PPHs will be held on Monday, August 25, 2025 at 2:00 PM. and at 6:00 PM at:

**Orange Cove Community Center**

**633 Sixth Street, Orange Cove, CA 93646**

For the most up to date information on the PPHs, visit [cpuc.ca.gov/pph](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/pph).

# How Your Voice Can Be Heard/Find More Information

This project is part of Application (A.) 22-09-006. You can find more information or submit comments related to this application and project via the methods outlined for CPUC proceedings, such as:

* Speak at an upcoming PPHs in your community.
* Submit comments electronically to the CPUC using the “Add Public Comment” button on the Docket Card for A.22-09-006 at: [apps.cpuc.ca.gov/c/A2209006](http://www.apps.cpuc.ca.gov/c/A2209006).
* You can subscribe to receive documents regarding A.22-09-006 at: [subscribecpuc.cpuc.ca.gov](http://subscribecpuc.cpuc.ca.gov/fpss/Default.aspx).
* View the pending application (including SoCalGas’s portion) at: [docs.cpuc.ca.gov/p/A2209006](http://www.docs.cpuc.ca.gov/p/A2209006).
* Contact SoCalGas with questions about their project at: projectinfo@socalgas.com.
* Contact the CPUC’s Public Advisor’s Office for questions on CPUC processes or assistance participating in this proceeding:
	+ Visit their webpage: <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PAO/>.
	+ E-mail: public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov.
	+ Phone: 1-866-849-8390 or 1-415-703-2074.
	+ Mail: CPUC Public Advisor’s Office, 505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102.
	+ Please reference “A.22-09-006” in any communications you have with the CPUC regarding this matter.