

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



Transmitted via electronic mail to: Paul.Goldstein@socalgas.com

March 2, 2022

Paul Goldstein, Vice President
Gas Transmission and Storage
Southern California Gas Company
555 W. 5th Street, GT18A1
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Subject: Approval of Limited Waiver from the Aliso Canyon Withdrawal Protocol Pursuant to Southern California Gas Company's Request for Authorization of Limited Withdrawal at Aliso Canyon to Conduct Performance Flow Testing

Dear Paul Goldstein:

California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) staff has reviewed the Southern California Gas Company's (SoCalGas) letter dated January 25, 2022, requesting the extension of a limited waiver from the current Aliso Canyon Withdrawal Protocol and authorization to perform flow testing on specified wells at Aliso Canyon. Your letter indicates that the purpose of the flow testing is to develop more precise estimates of withdrawal capabilities at Aliso Canyon because well conditions have changed due to the ongoing well assessment work required by the California Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM).

The letter states that testing will be limited to one well at a time and no more than two wells per week. It further states that flow tests will typically last roughly six hours, the maximum volume withdrawn per test is not expected to exceed 12 million cubic feet (MMcf), and, when possible, the tests will be conducted when the Aliso Canyon Withdrawal Protocol conditions have otherwise been met. A notice will be posted to Envoy stating when these tests will occur.

The results of the performance flow testing will be provided quarterly to the CPUC's Safety and Enforcement Division (SED) and to CalGEM.

CPUC staff agrees that SoCalGas should proceed with its proposed flow testing plan on specified wells at Aliso Canyon that have undergone reassessment. As noted in your letter, this request is consistent with previously approved requests for authorization to make limited withdrawals at Aliso Canyon.

Paul Goldstein

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On the basis of the above, this letter grants SoCalGas a limited waiver from the July 23, 2019, Aliso Canyon Withdrawal Protocol to conduct the performance flow testing as described in its January 25, 2022, letter. This limited waiver will expire on March 2, 2023. SoCalGas must seek authorization if it needs to conduct further flow testing after the expiration of this waiver.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel Peterson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rachel Peterson

Executive Director

California Public Utilities Commission

CC:

Simon Baker, Interim Deputy Executive Director for Energy & Climate Policy, CPUC /
Interim Director, Energy Division, CPUC / Director of Distributed Energy Resources, Natural Gas
& Retail Rates, Energy Division, CPUC

Bruce Kaneshiro, Program Manager, Energy Division, CPUC

Jean Spencer, Supervisor, Energy Division, CPUC

Matthewson Epuna, Program and Project Supervisor, Safety and Enforcement Division, CPUC

Uduak-Joe Ntuk, State Oil and Gas Supervisor, CalGEM