

Application: A.23-06-024
Witness: Alan L. Haven
Chapter: 3

**PREPARED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF ALAN L. HAVEN
ON BEHALF OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY
(PROCUREMENT PROPOSAL)**

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

December 21, 2023

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5 **I. PURPOSE**

6 Pursuant to Decision (“D.”) 22-02-025, on June 30, 2023, Southern California Gas
7 Company (“SoCalGas”) filed application (“A.”) 23-06-024 proposing a Senate Bill (“SB”) 1440
8 gasification¹ pilot project (“SB 1440 Pilot Project”) that utilizes woody biomass to produce and
9 inject biomethane into the SoCalGas pipeline system (“Application”). Ordering Paragraph 43 of
10 D.22-02-025 provides that SoCalGas and Pacific Gas and Electric Company “shall each file an
11 application no later than July 1, 2023, proposing at least one woody biomass gasification project”
12 that includes “the procurement of bio-SNG from forest, agricultural, and urban wood waste
13 pyrolysis and gasification projects using methanation.”

14 The purpose of this chapter’s testimony is to explain why SoCalGas is not proposing
15 procurement from the SB 1440 Pilot Project. As indicated in the Application, consistent with
16 D.22-02-025 and with the assistance of an independent third party, SoCalGas reviewed the sole
17 proposal that generally met the requirements under D.22-02-025 for the SB 1440 Pilot Project,
18 which was submitted by San Joaquin Renewables LLC in May 2023 (“SJR”).² However, one of
19 the SB 1440 procurement requirements under D.22-02-025 is for new projects, such as SJR’s, to
20 solely use non-combustion technology for onsite electric generation.³ SJR’s proposal included a
21 power island design that contemplates a mix of generation resources, including combustion
22 turbines, internal combustion engines, organic Rankine cycle heat recovery generators, solar
23 panels and batteries, and fuel cells.⁴ Although SJR’s project proposal includes fuel cells for
24 power generation and is expected to have a carbon intensity score between 0 and -35 (as
25 determined under California’s GREET model), it would still not meet the 100% non-combustion

¹ Gasification is thermal conversion of organic materials at elevated temperature and reducing conditions to produce primarily permanent gases, with char, water, and condensables as minor products. See National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) “An Introduction to Biomass Thermal Conversion”, available at: <https://www.nrel.gov/docs/gen/fy04/36831e.pdf>.

² Application at 2.

³ D.22-02-025, OP 40 at 67.

⁴ Chap. 2 Testimony of James Lucas at 15-16, available at <https://www.socalgas.com/sites/default/files/2023-06/Woody-Biomass-Application-Chapter2-ProjectSelection.pdf>.

1 technology requirement under D.22-02-025. For several months, SoCalGas's Gas Acquisition
2 Department diligently worked on a resolution with SJR to comply with such requirement, but
3 doing so would not have made practical sense due to the project's remote location and
4 economics.

5 SoCalGas is therefore not recommending procuring from SJR's project because it would
6 not comply with SB 1440's procurement requirements. However, should the Commission
7 modify the requirement for non-combustion technology for onsite power generation, SoCalGas
8 would consider resuming negotiations with SJR to procure some or all of the biomethane from
9 this project, if any.

10 **II. WITNESS QUALIFICATIONS**

11 My name is Alan L. Haven. My business address is 555 West 5th Street, Los Angeles,
12 California 90013. I am employed by Southern California Gas Company as Manager of Energy
13 Origination and Carbon Trading. My present responsibilities include leading the origination and
14 procurement efforts of RNG/biomethane for Gas Acquisition as it relates to the SB 1440
15 program and for SoCalGas' CNG stations and managing the carbon trading portfolio activities to
16 satisfy the company's carbon emissions obligations.