

Application: A.21-01-XXX
Exhibit No.: SCG-01
Witness: A. Kitson

Application of Southern California Gas
Company (U 904 G) for to Recover Costs
Recorded in the Storage Integrity Management
Program Balancing Account from January 1,
2016 to December 31, 2018

A.21-01-XXX

CHAPTER I
PREPARED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF
AMY KITSON
(SIMP DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION)
ON BEHALF OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY

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

January 28, 2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. PURPOSE AND OVERVIEW OF TESTIMONY..... 2

II. SIMP BACKGROUND 3

 A. SIMP Objective..... 3

 B. Emerging, New Regulations Broadened the SIMP Scope..... 4

 C. SIMP Commission Procedural History..... 7

 D. Commission Staff Have Reviewed 2016-2017 SIMPBA Costs and Have Found Expenses and Expenditures Were Appropriately Recorded and Reasonably Incurred, Approving SoCalGas’s Advice Letter 5253-G 9

 E. 2018 SIMPBA Costs California Public Utilities Commission Utility Audits Branch – 2018 Balancing Account Audit Review Also Provides Additional Regulatory Oversight..... 10

III. SIMP COST COMPONENTS 11

IV. SUMMARY OF SIMP COSTS 13

 A. Program Management and Support 15

 1. Risk Management 19

 2. Data Management 22

 B. Regulatory and Compliance..... 24

V. SIMP COST MANAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT MEASURES 29

VI. SIMPBA COST EXCLUSIONS..... 30

VII. SIMP HAS BEEN MANAGED REASONABLY AND PRUDENTLY AND COSTS SHOULD BE APPROVED BASED ON SOCALGAS’S ACTIONS AND RESULTS . 31

VIII. CONCLUSION..... 33

IX. WITNESS QUALIFICATIONS..... 35

ATTACHMENT A
ATTACHMENT B

1 **CHAPTER I**

2 **PREPARED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF AMY KITSON**

3 **(SIMP Development and Implementation)**

4 **I. PURPOSE AND OVERVIEW OF TESTIMONY**

5 The purpose of my prepared direct testimony is to describe SoCalGas’s program
6 development and implementation activities undertaken to execute the Storage Integrity
7 Management Program (“SIMP”), and to demonstrate the prudent and reasonable management of
8 the SIMP. My testimony describes the activities associated with the SIMP completed between
9 January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2018, which in its entirety, represents \$41.9 million in
10 operations and maintenance (“O&M”) expenditures and \$114.2 million capital additions. This
11 application seeks to recover \$34.4 million revenue requirement, which is the amount above 35%
12 of the \$19.5 million Test Year (“TY”) 2016 General Rate Case (“GRC”) authorized revenue
13 requirement.^{1,2}

14 As part of this demonstration, I will first describe the California Public Utilities
15 Commission (“CPUC” or “Commission”) regulatory history and oversight mechanisms applied
16 to the SIMP, and then I will explain the comprehensive SIMP program cost components and how
17 it complies with new regulatory compliance activities. These cost components provide the basis
18 for determining the revenue requirements recorded in SoCalGas’s SIMP Balancing Account
19 (“SIMPBA”).

¹ See Decision (D.) 16-06-054 at p. 249, 310 (Finding of Fact No. 189), and 323 (Conclusion of Law No. 69).

² A \$6.8 million undercollection (up to 35% above the TY 2016 GRC authorized revenue requirement) for 2016-2018 was approved for recovery in Commission Resolution G-3544.

1 To facilitate the review process and ease of reference, the SIMP activities are broadly
2 characterized into three cost categories: (1) Program Management and Support; (2) Regulatory
3 Compliance; and (3) Well Inspection and Mitigation, with information for each cost category
4 included in supporting workpapers. Additionally, each well inspection and mitigation project
5 level detail is addressed in the Prepared Direct Testimony of Thomas D. McMahon, Technical –
6 Well Inspection and Mitigation (Chapter II), and the corresponding supporting workpapers. The
7 information contained in this chapter is designed to provide a summary of the SIMP cost
8 categories and associated costs.

9 My testimony shows that SoCalGas demonstrated a responsible, forward looking, and
10 industry leading commitment to enhancing underground gas storage well safety and integrity;
11 activities were accelerated or enhanced to meet or exceed emerging regulatory requirements; the
12 SIMP was implemented with a prospective, long-term objective to enhance the overall safety,
13 integrity, and reliability of the gas system; and costs were reasonably and prudently incurred and
14 should be approved for recovery.

15 **II. SIMP BACKGROUND**

16 **A. SIMP Objective**

17 Safety has been and will always be paramount at SoCalGas. The objective of the SIMP
18 is to mitigate safety-related risks with a forward looking and in-depth approach. SIMP
19 accomplishes this objective with enhanced risk management activities, processes, and procedures
20 for well integrity.³ The SIMP is a comprehensive program to enhance the safety of SoCalGas's
21 underground storage facilities through integrity management practices, fortifying the reliability
22 of Southern California's natural gas infrastructure in the near term and for decades to come, by

³ Id at 5.

1 providing a safe, dependable source of gas supply that mitigates the potential impact of gas
2 supply-chain constraints. The underground storage system is becoming increasingly critical to
3 sustaining system reliability as large-capacity, quick-start electric generators and intermittency
4 limitations of renewable energy compound.

5 By design for this period, the SIMP also aligned with SoCalGas’s Risk Assessment
6 Mitigation Phase (“RAMP”) Report activities,⁴ which support mitigation of risk-based events
7 related to storage well integrity and is prioritized based on safety and overall infrastructure
8 condition, considerations for regulatory compliance deadlines, and gas system operation and
9 planning requirements.

10 With the introduction of new legislative mandates, federal and state regulations over the
11 course of 2016-2018 for underground gas storage, and as prudent gas storage operators,
12 SoCalGas took additional, anticipatory actions to comply with and incorporate these
13 recommended practices, legislation, and direction from regulators into the SIMP as accelerated
14 or enhanced activities consistently among its four storage fields. SoCalGas’s storage fields are
15 held to the most rigorous monitoring, inspection and safety requirements in the nation.

16 **B. Emerging, New Regulations Broadened the SIMP Scope**

17 Beginning in early 2016 (and after SoCalGas’s TY 2016 GRC was filed in 2014), new
18 federal and state legislation and regulations for gas storage emerged. SoCalGas’s SIMP activities
19 incorporated an adoption of American Petroleum Institute (“API”) Recommended Practice
20 (“RP”) 1171 which SoCalGas considers as an integral component of creating a safety
21 management system for underground storage.

⁴ I.16-10-015/I.16-10-016 Risk Assessment and Mitigation Phase Report of San Diego Gas & Electric Company and Southern California Gas Company, November 30, 2016.

1 State Regulations

2 Regulatory and prescriptive mandates from the state California Department of
3 Conservation’s Geologic Energy Management Division (“CalGEM”), which was at the time
4 known as the Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (“DOGGR” or the “Division”))⁵
5 offered the most significant changes for underground gas storage. SoCalGas actively
6 participated in DOGGR’s rulemaking processes and followed the development of federal and
7 state regulatory changes. The draft regulatory language and proposals were early signals to
8 SoCalGas of the direction of the regulations. SoCalGas took prospectively steps to achieve
9 compliance by the effective dates of the proposed regulations as the rulemaking was being
10 finalized. To comply with these new mandates, SoCalGas expanded the scope of the SIMP
11 activities originally planned and accelerated the scheduled assessments and mitigation of gas
12 storage wells.

13 As a result, SoCalGas’s SIMP activities from 2016-2018 reflect accelerated baseline
14 assessment activities for its wells (four years instead of six years), an enhanced suite of
15 inspections for its well assessments, and additional integrity management activities.

16 DOGGR undertook an emergency rulemaking action in January 2016 and finalized
17 changes under California Code of Regulations ("CCR"), Title 14, §1724.9 (Emergency
18 Underground Gas Storage (“UGS”) Regulations) in February 2016.⁶ Under the emergency
19 rulemaking, DOGGR mandated additional requirements specific to underground gas storage

⁵ On January 1, 2020, CalGEM replaced DOGGR as a result of Assembly Bill 1057 (Assemblymember Limón, D-Santa Barbara), Section 1.

⁶ Final Text of Emergency Regulations specified requirements for, among other things: data, a Project Approval Letter stating the maximum and minimum reservoir pressure limits, monitoring requirements of the tubing-casing annulus, function testing of all surface and subsurface safety valve systems, an inspection and leak detection protocol, testing of the master valve and wellhead pipeline isolation valve, submittal of a Risk Management Plan.

1 facilities above and beyond existing requirements for underground gas storage. DOGGR further
2 instructed specific testing requirements for all wells at Aliso Canyon by DOGGR Order (Order
3 1109) on March 16, 2016.⁷ Although Order 1109 was specific to Aliso Canyon, SoCalGas, as a
4 prudent operator, prospectively implemented the same safety enhancements and integrity
5 assessments at each of SoCalGas's other storage fields.

6 In September 2016, Senate Bill ("SB") 887 was signed into law and codified many of the
7 same requirements in Order 1109 and required DOGGR to promulgate regulations that
8 established standards for all gas storage wells in the State of California. Through SB 887,
9 DOGGR extended the Emergency UGS Regulations and initiated a new formal rulemaking to
10 update the Emergency UGS Regulations. Formal rulemaking for new DOGGR UGS Regulations
11 began in May 2017, were finalized in June 2018, and became effective in October 2018.⁸ The
12 finalized DOGGR UGS Regulations established new requirements which, among other things,
13 required:

- 14 • Prescriptive, project-specific Risk Management Plans,
- 15 • An Emergency Response Plan,
- 16 • Additional project data and casing diagrams,
- 17 • Records management,
- 18 • Well construction and design standards (no single point of failure, a primary and
19 secondary barrier, cementing requirements, etc.)

⁷ Order to Take Specified Actions RE: Aliso Canyon Gas Storage Facility, Order No. 1109, March 4, 2016 required, among other things, for each well: Initial casing assessment consisting of Temperature and Noise Logs, followed by Casing Inspection Log, Cement Bond Log, Multi-arm Caliper Inspection, Casing Pressure Test and recurring Temperature Log, Noise Log and Positive Pressure Test every six-months.

⁸ Requirements for California Underground Gas Storage Projects, 14 CCR §1726 (DOGGR UGS Regulations 14 CCR §1726).

- 1 • Mechanical integrity testing,
- 2 • Pressure testing; and
- 3 • Additional inspection, monitoring, and reporting requirements.

4 Federal Regulations Concurrent with state regulatory mandates, a federal advisory
5 bulletin emerged as early as February 2016, and in June 2016, the Protecting our Infrastructure
6 of Pipelines and Enhancing Safety (“PIPES”) Act became law, where Section 12 of the PIPES
7 Act mandated that the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (“PHMSA”)
8 issue regulations for underground natural gas storage facilities within two years from the date of
9 enactment. In December 2016, PHMSA began to regulate downhole portions of underground gas
10 storage by issuing its Safety of Underground Natural Gas Storage Facilities Interim Final Rule
11 (“IFR”), incorporating API RP 1171 into its regulations by reference.

12 **C. SIMP Commission Procedural History**

13 On June 23, 2016, the CPUC approved the SIMP in SoCalGas’s TY 2016 GRC with a
14 \$19,479,137 revenue requirement for the years 2016-2018. Pursuant to Ordering Paragraph
15 (“OP”) 8 of D.16-06-054, SoCalGas established the SIMPBA, a two-way balancing account, to
16 record and track the actual costs of implementing SoCalGas’s SIMP, effective January 1, 2016.
17 As proposed by SoCalGas and approved in D.16-06-054, any unused funds will be returned to
18 customers,⁹ and to the extent SoCalGas has exceeded the authorized revenue requirement for the
19 three-year period, SoCalGas is authorized to seek recovery of up to 35% above the authorized
20 revenue requirement via Tier 3 advice letter filing, and is authorized to request recovery of
21 amounts above 35% through an application.¹⁰

⁹ See D. 16-06-054 at p. 249 (“Any unused funds will be returned to the ratepayers.”)

¹⁰ See D. 16-06-054 OP. 2 and at pp. 249, 310 (Findings of Fact No. 189), and p. 323 (Conclusion of Law No. 69).

1 From the beginning, SoCalGas accelerated and enhanced SIMP activities throughout
2 2016-2018 in efforts to reduce risk and enhance safety by: (1) complying with new, mandated
3 requirements such as the federal PHMSA IFR UGS regulations, new state DOGGR Emergency
4 UGS regulations, DOGGR Order 1109 mandating requirements, and DOGGR California UGS
5 regulations; (2) managing storage well integrity and safety by voluntarily implementing safety
6 enhancements and integrity assessments required by DOGGR Order 1109 at Aliso Canyon
7 consistently across each of SoCalGas's three other storage fields; and (3) executing SoCalGas's
8 commitment to prospectively implement preventative and mitigative measures. The broadened
9 scope and heightened pace of work exceeded what was originally proposed for SIMP in 2014
10 (pre-dating new regulatory requirements) when the TY 2016 GRC was first filed and
11 subsequently also exceeded the authorized revenue requirement in the TY 2016 GRC.

12 On February 8, 2018, SoCalGas filed Advice Letter ("AL") 4253-G requesting recovery
13 of the 35% undercollection (\$6.8 million revenue requirement) that is authorized to be recovered
14 via advice letter. AL 5253-G was uncontested, and on November 29, 2018 the Commission
15 issued Resolution G-3544 authorizing SoCalGas to recover from ratepayers \$6.8 million over the
16 12-month period beginning January 1, 2019.

17 This application now seeks to recover \$34.4 million revenue requirement, which is the
18 undercollection amount above 35% of the \$19.5 million revenue requirement authorized in the
19 TY 2016 GRC. In seeking this recovery, this application presents the entirety of SIMP activities
20 completed between January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2018 to provide a comprehensive
21 showing of the prudence and reasonableness of SIMP expenditures for the TY 2016 GRC
22 program years (2016-2018), wholly representing \$41.9 million in operations and maintenance
23 (O&M) expenditures and \$114.2 million capital additions.

D. Commission Staff Have Reviewed 2016-2017 SIMPBA Costs and Have Found Expenses and Expenditures Were Appropriately Recorded and Reasonably Incurred, Approving SoCalGas’s Advice Letter 5253-G

On February 8, 2018 when SoCalGas filed AL 5253-G, SoCalGas reported a \$15.3 million revenue requirement undercollection, or 78.7% more than the authorized revenue requirement in the SIMPBA. While AL 5253-G limited its requested recovery to the 35% undercollection that the Tier 3 advice letter mechanism permitted, the entirety of the SIMP program costs at the time of filing (\$27.8 million O&M and \$60.4 million capital additions) for the 2016-2017 years were subjected to Commission Staff review to determine that costs were appropriately recorded and incurred. Additionally, as required by D.16-06-054 OP 11, the SIMP submitted two interim Risk Spend Accountability Reports (“RSAR”) to compare TY 2016 GRC authorized and imputed authorized spending (expenditures) to actuals at the time of Commission Staff’s review. Since then, SoCalGas has submitted additional RSARs, comprehensively covering the 2016-2018 period this application discusses.¹¹

Commission Staff reviewed 2016-2017 costs recorded in the SIMPBA as well as a sample of invoices for verification.¹² The review included multiple rounds of data requests that requested detail down to costs for each month (O&M), category and quarter (capital) for 2016-2017, with review of transaction types including capital upgrades and workovers, data management, programming and assessments to the invoice-level. Commission Staff reviewed at length and investigated examples where expenditures exceeded forecasted costs or areas where Commission Staff “identified ledger items with especially high costs.”¹³ The Commission also found SoCalGas’s 201[6] GRC Application, A.14-11-004, was prepared prior to changes in

¹¹ See SoCalGas’s 2016, 2017, and 2018 Interim RSARs submitted pursuant to the Safety Model Assessment Proceeding (S-MAP) Decision, D.19-04-020.

¹² Resolution G-3544 at p.4.

¹³ Resolution G-3544 at p.5.

1 PHMSA and DOGGR regulations,¹⁴ and that changes to regulations covering storage field
2 operations were among the reasons SIMP costs were higher than initially forecasted.¹⁵ This
3 SIMP Application is an extension of the same work previously approved but inclusive of the
4 costs incurred for activities performed in 2018 which were conducted consistently by the same
5 merits found by the Commission’s review of AL 5253-G.

6 Upon completion of the review, Commission Staff found that SoCalGas’s 2016-2017
7 SIMP expenses and expenditures were appropriately recorded and reasonably incurred. CPUC
8 Resolution G-3544 authorized SoCalGas to fully recover its 35% undercollection.

9 For the same reasons the Commission approved SoCalGas’s AL 5253-G in Resolution G-
10 3544, SoCalGas’s SIMP 2016-2018 expenses and expenditures in this application should be
11 found reasonable and approved for recovery in rates.

12 **E. 2018 SIMPBA Costs California Public Utilities Commission Utility Audits**
13 **Branch – 2018 Balancing Account Audit Review Also Provides Additional**
14 **Regulatory Oversight**

15 On November 14, 2019, the Commission Utility Audits Branch (“UAB”) initiated an
16 audit of SoCalGas’s Balancing Accounts for the period covering January 1, 2018 to December
17 31, 2018, pursuant to Public Utilities (“PU”) Code Section 792.5. The intent of the audit was to
18 determine whether transactions recorded in the balancing accounts (of which includes the
19 SIMPBA) are for allowable purposes and supported by appropriate documentation as required by
20 applicable CPUC directives, orders, rules, regulations, and SoCalGas’s policies and procedures.
21 In addition to a four day on-site UAB document review session in February 2020, the
22 Commission’s UAB has gone through the discovery process, also extensively reviewed 2018

¹⁴ Resolution G-3544 Findings No. 7 and 8.

¹⁵ Resolution G-3544 Findings No. 9.

1 expenditure transactions recorded in the SAP accounting system for the SIMPBA, along with
2 supporting documentation (i.e., work order authorizations, vendor invoices, receipt reports, SAP
3 screen captures, approval workflows, checks/bank statements).

4 The SIMPBA activities are, and continue to be, extensively reviewed by Commission
5 Staff through various means of oversight to determine whether costs are appropriate and
6 reasonable; thus, the costs recorded in the SIMPBA should be found to be prudently managed
7 and reasonably incurred.

8 **III. SIMP COST COMPONENTS**

9 SoCalGas's SIMP activities demonstrates a responsible, forward-looking, and industry
10 leading commitment to enhancing underground gas storage well safety and integrity, and in
11 compliance with new federal and state regulations enacted over the 2016-2018 timeframe.

12 Similar to AL 5253-G, SoCalGas has generally separated SIMP O&M and SIMP capital
13 additions into the categories Program Management and Support, Regulatory Compliance and
14 Well Inspection and Mitigation in presenting and describing the SIMP activities, with total SIMP
15 costs summarized in Table AK-1.

1
2
3

TABLE AK-1 ¹⁶
SIMP - O&M and Capital Additions, Direct Expenditures (2016-2018)

Direct + V&S Recorded (\$000)		2016	2017	2018	Total
Regulatory Compliance	O&M ¹⁷	\$4,656	\$5,064	\$4,676	\$14,396
	Capital Additions	\$892	\$68	\$0	\$960
Program Mgmt. and Support	O&M ¹⁸	\$1,043	\$3,430	\$4,754	\$9,228
	Capital Additions	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Well Inspection and Mitigation	O&M	\$6,115	\$7,909	\$4,257	\$18,281
	Capital Additions	\$33,425	\$49,079	\$30,695	\$113,198
Total - O&M		\$11,814	\$16,404	\$13,686	\$41,904
Total – Capital Additions		\$34,317	\$49,147	\$30,695	\$114,158

4
5
6
7
8

Commission Resolution G-3544, which approved AL 5253-G, found changes to federal and state underground storage regulations¹⁹ increased SoCalGas’s actual SIMP expenditures and were among the reasons SIMP costs were higher than initial forecasted,²⁰ and that these costs were appropriately recorded and reasonably incurred.²¹

¹⁶ AL 5253-G generally summarized costs into three categories of work: (1) Program Management and Support, (2) Regulatory Compliance, and (3) Well Inspection and Mitigation. This Application updates the categorization of certain costs in AL 5253-G to more clearly describe consolidated functions by internal order codes (“IO”) of certain activities.

¹⁷ The 2018 amount reflect an accounting adjustment made in 2019 to reverse a \$0.018 million overcharge in 2018.

¹⁸ The 2018 amount reflect an accounting adjustment made in 2019 to reverse a \$0.153 million overcharge in 2018.

¹⁹ Resolution G-3544 Finding 8, “SoCalGas’ 2014 GRC Application 14-11-004 was prepared prior to changes in The California Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources regulations.”

²⁰ Resolution G-3544 Finding 9, “Changes to regulations covering storage field operations increased SoCalGas’ actual SIMP expenditures and were among the reasons SIMP costs were higher than initially forecasted.”

²¹ Resolution G-3544 at p.5, “Based on the information provided by SoCalGas, staff found that the expenses and expenditures examined were appropriately recorded to the SIMP Balancing Account and reasonably incurred.”

1 **IV. SUMMARY OF SIMP COSTS**

2 SIMP was originally contemplated as a six-year timeline to perform baseline assessments
3 of its gas storage wells to identify well integrity risks, which translates to an intent to perform a
4 robust assessment of 50% of the storage wells over the 2016-2018 rate case period.²² The scope
5 of the SIMP in the TY 2016 GRC forecasted approximately \$5.676 million (in 2013 dollars)
6 annual O&M expenditures to complete a certain number of inspections and to develop a threat
7 identification, risk assessment, and well assessment plan.²³ The 2016 TY GRC also forecasted a
8 test year 2016 capital additions of \$24.272 million (in 2013 dollars) for work associated with
9 wellhead valve replacements, well tubing replacements, wellhead leak repairs, and well inner-
10 string replacements.

11 Beginning in early 2016, SoCalGas took additional, anticipatory actions to comply with
12 and incorporate new legislative mandates,²⁴ and emerging federal and state regulations to
13 accelerate and enhance SIMP activities, out scoping the SIMP as it was originally developed. For
14 example, the SIMP TY 2016 capital testimony forecasted 28 storage well workovers in 2016,
15 whereas the actual activity level in 2016 was 29 completed storage well workovers, with an
16 additional 51 workovers completed from 2017-2018. For SIMP O&M, 2016 forecasted 40 well
17 inspections per year, and actual levels in 2016 were over 50 well inspections per year.
18 Additionally, the pace of storage field datasets input into the WellView²⁵ in 2016 increased from
19 one field to two fields completion of data digitization. Continuous well pressure monitors that
20 alert a centralized on-site operations center, leak surveys with optical gas imaging (“OGI”)

²² A.14-11-004, Direct Testimony of Phillip E. Baker at p. 18.

²³ Id. at p.22.

²⁴ SB 887 (Pavley) – Natural Gas Storage Facility Monitoring legislation that was approved by the California Governor and filed with the Secretary of State on September 26, 2016.

²⁵ WellView is a well information management system for well planning, drilling, completion, testing and workovers.

1 technology, and well mitigations such as enhanced well construction standards with tubing-only
 2 flow are additional examples of expanded SIMP activities.

3 Table AK-2 itemizes the new and emergent federal (PHMSA) and state (DOGGR)
 4 regulations that became effective over the span of 2016-2018 and describes the corresponding
 5 incremental and expanded SIMP scope activities the regulation mandated.

6 **TABLE AK-2**
 7 **Regulations and Requirement Description**
 8

Regulation	Description of Regulatory Requirement	New Requirements	Expanded Requirements	Effective Date
DOGGR Emergency Underground Storage Regulations, 14 CCR §1724.9	Well Inspection and Leak Detection Protocol	X		2/5/2016
	Well Pressure Monitoring	X		2/5/2016
	Mechanical Integrity Testing		X	2/5/2016
	Increased Frequency of Safety, Isolation, Master Valves Function Testing		X	2/5/2016
	Underground Storage Risk Management Plan	X		2/5/2016
PHMSA Advisory Bulletin ADB-2016-02	Safe Operation of Underground Storage Facilities for Natural Gas	*advisory		2/11/2016
DOGGR Order 1109	Well Tubing and Packer	X		3/4/2016
	Real-time Well Pressure Monitoring		X	3/4/2016
	Comprehensive Battery of Tests ²⁶		X	3/4/2016
	Comprehensive Safety Review ²⁷	X		3/4/2016
PHMSA IFR 49 CFR Part 192, Subpart 192.12	Storage Operation Requirements		X	1/18/2017
	Well Maintenance Requirements		X	1/18/2017
	Well Integrity Demonstration and Verification		X	1/18/2017
	Well Monitoring Requirements		X	1/18/2017
	Well Threat and Hazard Identification		X	1/18/2017
	Well Assessments		X	1/18/2017
	Well Remediation Requirements		X	1/18/2017
Well Site Security Requirements		X	1/18/2017	

²⁶ Battery of tests included: Temperature Log, Noise Log, Casing Inspection Log, Cement Bond Log, Multi-Arm Caliper Inspection, and Pressure Test.

²⁷ These were specific testing requirements for all wells at Aliso Canyon.

Regulation	Description of Regulatory Requirement	New Requirements	Expanded Requirements	Effective Date
DOGGR California Underground Storage Regulations, 14 CCR §1726	Risk Management Plan		X	10/1/2018
	Emergency Response Plan	X		10/1/2018
	Data and Records Management		X	10/1/2018
	Well Construction Requirements	X		10/1/2018
	Mechanical Integrity Testing for Wells		X	10/1/2018
	Well Monitoring Requirements		X	10/1/2018
	Inspection, Testing and Maintenance of Wellheads and Valves		X	10/1/2018
	Well Leak Reporting	X		10/1/2018

1
2 Organizational, a dedicated Storage Risk Management department was created within
3 SoCalGas to be responsible for the expanded management and oversight of the overall SIMP
4 development, implementation, and continuous improvement of the program’s framework (costs
5 generally associated with “Program Management and Support” and “Regulatory Compliance”).
6 Additionally, the organizational structure included dedicated management teams to support
7 SIMP for aboveground storage (majority of costs generally associated with “Regulatory
8 Compliance” activities) and SIMP for underground storage (costs generally associated with
9 “Well Inspection and Mitigation” and “Regulatory Compliance”) activities.

10 Positions and staffing were created in 2016 and continued to be filled throughout the
11 SIMP GRC cycle with internal and external hiring as activities and requirements increased.

12 **A. Program Management and Support**

13 Program Management and Support costs (see Table AK-3) include the salaries and non-
14 labor costs associated with developing and scaling the SIMP framework and implementing risk
15 management and data management. Program Management and Support costs include the
16 following activities:

- Developing program policy and managing program budgets;
- Development of new and modifying existing standard operating procedures and program policies (SIMP Written Plan and Storage Risk Management Plan);²⁸
- Implementation of training materials and courses to train Company personnel and contractors to comply with new and modified policies and procedures;
- Implementation of threat identification and risk assessment;
- Identification and development of preventative and mitigative measures; and
- Enhanced data collection, data management activities, acceleration of data governance and maintenance of associated records.

TABLE AK-3
SIMP - Program Management & Support Costs (2016-2018)

SIMP – Program Management & Support					
Direct + V&S Recorded (\$000)		2016	2017	2018²⁹	Total
O&M	Risk Management	\$49	\$2,690	\$4,650	\$7,389
	Data Management	\$982	\$657	\$26	\$1,665
	SIMP PMO/G&A	\$13	\$84	\$78	\$174
	Total	\$1,043	\$3,430	\$4,754	\$9,228

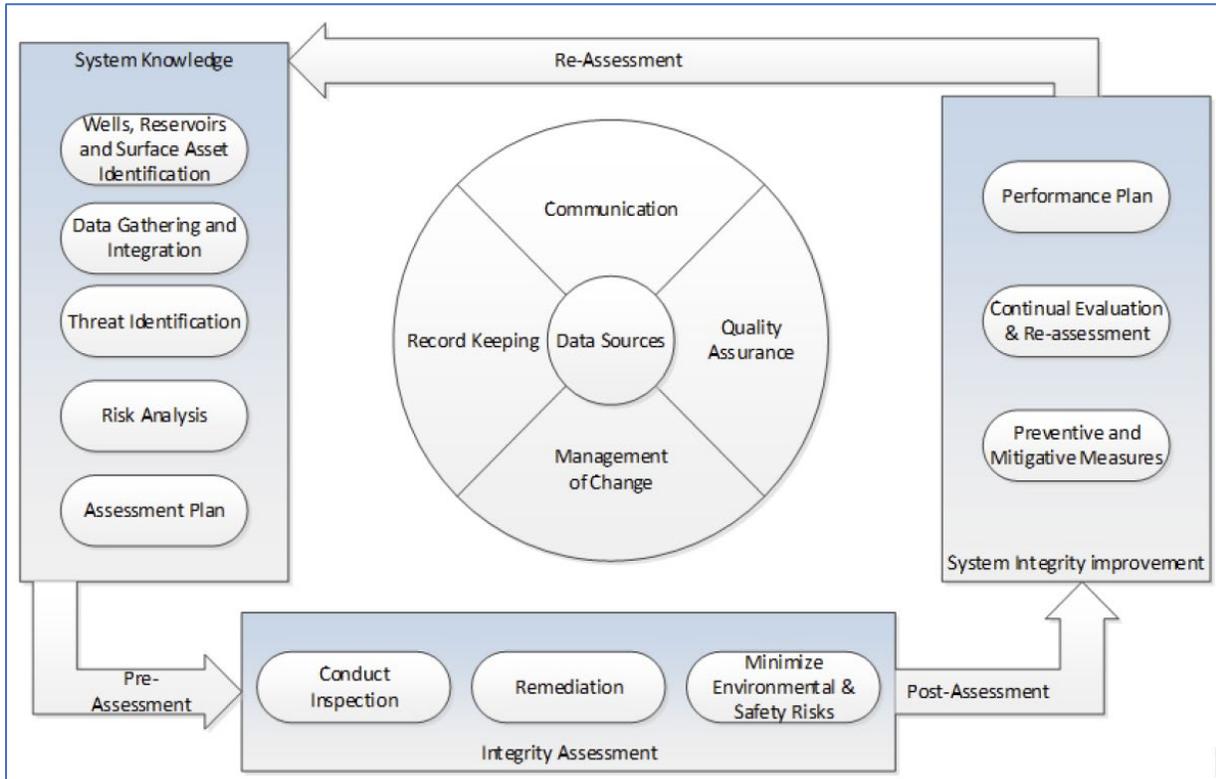
²⁸ The SIMP Written Plan is submitted as part of the Storage Risk Management Plan which is provided to DOGGR pursuant to DOGGR UGS Regulations 14 CCR §1726.3. The SIMP Written Plan identifies potential threats and hazards to well and reservoir integrity; assesses risks based on potential severity and estimated likelihood of occurrence of each threat; identifies the preventive and monitoring processes employed to mitigate the risk associated with each threat; and specifies a process for periodic review and reassessment of the risk assessment and prevention protocols. The SIMP Written Plan is a dynamic document periodically reviewed by SoCalGas and updated in response to changing conditions or new regulatory requirements.

²⁹ The 2018 amounts reflect an accounting adjustment made in 2019 to reverse a \$0.171 million overcharge in 2018, which is comprised of \$0.018 related to Regulatory & Compliance O&M for leak surveys, valve inspections, gas sampling, etc. (in Table AK-4) and \$0.153 million for Program Management and Support Costs related to Risk Management (in Table AK-3).

1 The SIMP's Program Management & Support activities comprise of developing a
2 framework and subsequently managing, and continuously improving a storage integrity
3 management program. The program executes on various projects, engineering, assessment,
4 remediation, and planning efforts. The continuous feedback elements of the SIMP are illustrated
5 by Diagram AK-A.

1 **DIAGRAM AK-A**

2 **SIMP Process Overview**



3
4 From January 2016 through December 2018, the Program Management Support activities
5 included the development and publishing of the SIMP Written Plan, which is comprised of 14
6 new SIMP governance chapters (“SIMP Chapters”) and reference to 32 new or revised standard
7 operating procedures (“Gas Standards”) covering processes and procedures for mitigation
8 measures, periodic assessments and reassessments, emergency plans, data requirements, and
9 monitoring and reporting requirements. A list of the specific SIMP Chapters and Gas Standards
10 are attached (Attachments A and B) describing the functional purpose of each chapter.

11 The SIMP Written Plan, associated Gas Standards and local system instructions are
12 utilized in the execution of the integrity management program to provide for consistency in
13 SoCalGas’s approach to gathering system knowledge, assessing integrity, and making system

1 integrity improvements, as dictated in the cyclical integrity management framework (Diagram
2 AK-A). The SIMP is focused on storage well, reservoir, and fluid management for functional
3 integrity in design, construction, operation, monitoring, maintenance, and documentation
4 practices, and was developed and continued to be supplemented or updated to conform with:

- 5 • API RP 1171,
- 6 • PHMSA Underground Natural Storage IFR regulations,
- 7 • DOGGR Emergency Underground Storage Regulations,³⁰
- 8 • DOGGR Order 1109; and
- 9 • DOGGR California Underground Gas Storage regulations.³¹

10 **1. Risk Management**

11 A Risk Management team was dedicated to developing and implementing the processes
12 and procedures consistent with the SIMP Written Plan as well as comprehensively develop a
13 Storage Risk Management Plan (“SRMP”) to comply with regulatory requirements. The
14 DOGGR Emergency UGS Regulations outline specific requirements to “*identify potential*
15 *threats and hazards to well and reservoir integrity; assess risks based on potential severity and*
16 *estimated likelihood of occurrence of each threat; identify the preventative and monitoring*
17 *processes employed to mitigate the risk associated with each threat; and specify a process for*
18 *periodic review and reassessment of the risk assessment and prevention protocols.*”³² The
19 DOGGR Emergency UGS Regulations also further mandated additional compliance plans which
20 include:

³⁰ Requirements for Underground Gas Storage Projects, 14 CCR §1724.9 (DOGGR Emergency UGS Regulations).

³¹ Requirements for California Underground Gas Storage Projects, 14 CCR §1726 (DOGGR UGS Regulations 14 CCR §1726)

³² DOGGR Final Text of Emergency Regulations (effective February 5, 2016), 14 CCR §1724.9(g).

- 1 • Inspection Leak Detection Protocol
- 2 • Geo-mechanical Plan
- 3 • Storage Monitoring Plan

4 SoCalGas developed and filed its first version of a SRMP with DOGGR on July 29, 2016.³³
5 Regulations then continued to evolve, with federal PHMSA issuing Underground Natural Gas
6 Storage IFR regulations, which incorporated API RP 1171: Functional Integrity of Natural Gas
7 in Depleted Hydrocarbon Reservoirs and Aquifer Reservoirs requirements in December 2016,
8 and DOGGR commencing formal rulemaking for California UGS regulations in May 2017,
9 finalizing in June 2018 and becoming effective on October 1, 2018.³⁴

10 The final DOGGR UGS regulations (14 CCR §1726) further established, among other
11 things, new requirements for operators to expand to project-specific (field-specific) SRMPs and
12 project-specific Emergency Response Plans, necessitating further expansion and additional
13 revisions to the SIMP Written Plan (SIMP Chapters and Gas Standards), as well as the
14 accompanying execution of the SIMP Written Plan for, among other things, threat identification
15 and risk assessment, evaluation of integrity assessment and remediation data, supporting
16 management of change, procedures and training, and communication plans. While the DOGGR
17 UGS regulations required SRMP submittals due by April 1, 2019, much of the team’s revised
18 SRMP development work began over the course of the 2016 through 2018 period.

19 Additionally, throughout 2016-2018, the Risk Management team worked jointly with
20 internal integrity/risk engineering experts and external worldwide industry experts to further
21 define and advance risk assessment methodologies for underground storage. This included a

³³ DOGGR UGS Emergency Regulations 14 CCR §1724.9(g) Within six months of the effective date of this section, the operator of an underground gas storage project shall submit a Risk Management Plan to the Division for review and approval.

³⁴ DOGGR UGS Regulations 14 CCR §1726.

1 pilot project to develop and demonstrate the viability of a quantitative risk assessment for gas
2 storage wells.

3 These activities support compliance with DOGGR Emergency Regulations (14 CCR
4 §1724.9) (and later, DOGGR UGS regulations) as well as the PHMSA Advisory Bulletin and
5 IFR, feeding into a SRMP which identifies potential threats and hazards to well and reservoir
6 integrity; assess risks based on potential severity and estimated likelihood of occurrence of each
7 threat, identifies the preventative and monitoring processes employed to mitigate the risk
8 associated with each threat, and specifies a process for periodic review and reassessment of the
9 risk assessment and prevention protocols.

10 Risk management for the SIMP continues to evolve towards an industry leading, data-
11 driven,³⁵ and well-specific quantitative approach to assessing risk and maintaining well integrity.
12 These activities also included the development of a storage Corrosion Control Manual,
13 partnering with industry groups on two California Energy Commission (“CEC”) funded risk
14 management projects, and additional analysis and updates to geologic and reservoir maps and
15 reports to validate the integrity of SoCalGas’s storage facilities.

16 The Risk Management team also worked closely with worldwide engineering firms
17 Kiefner & Associates and Integral Engineering to develop a process for determining risk-based,
18 well specific integrity assessment frequencies for wells utilizing an API 579 Level II assessment
19 of metal loss (i.e., bi-axial load calculation) as an input to an equation calculating well casing
20 remaining life.

³⁵ SoCalGas is developing a quantitative risk assessment approach that utilizes a variety of data, including that collected from state-of-the-art inspection and assessment tools.

2. Data Management

SoCalGas began piloting an initial scope of activities to support the development and implementation of SIMP well assessments prior to SIMP implementation in 2016. These pilot activities included testing of inspection logs and laying out a data management plan in preparation for the planned volume of new data generated (as proposed in the 2016 TY GRC).

However, beginning in 2016, new and emerging PHMSA and DOGGR storage regulations accelerated the scope and volume of SIMP well assessments, and associated data management activities similarly expanded beyond 2016 TY GRC forecasted volume to keep pace. To support the volume of data management activities, the UGS Data Management group was formed under the Storage Risk Management department. The UGS Data Management group developed and oversaw the implementation and maintenance of the Data Collection and Management and Records Management Plan SIMP Chapters of the SIMP Written Plan.

The Data Management team was responsible for data governance; streamlining and optimizing information management processes in order to reduce risks associated with data quality, eliminating duplication of data, increasing data accessibility and transparency by embracing state of the art technology. Not only was this team tasked with managing the influx of new well assessment data generated by the accelerated pace of SIMP well assessments, this group is also responsible for developing the infrastructure and process to enhance historical well records by: 1) data digitization of historical (physical/paper) well data, 2) data reconciliation, 3) implementing an enhanced records management process.

Further initiatives that the Data Management team was responsible for implementing include: enhancing data collection standards to improve data input efficiencies to support the quantitative risk analysis of wells, enhancing records management practices in compliance with

1 DOGGR UGS Regulations and PHMSA IFR (API RP 1171) regulations, and responding to data
2 requests and new reporting requirements.

3 From 2016-2018, the Data Management team digitized between 200 to 235 well casing
4 diagrams to comply with new DOGGR requirements for data format (completing two storage
5 fields' data digitization efforts instead of the planned for one field storage field), and enhanced
6 the use of data technology solutions such as:

- 7 • Wellview and RigView applications to gather and reconcile data and improve data
8 governance with quality assurance review.
- 9 • Conceptualized implementation of a K2 workflow management tool to track noise
10 and temperature well surveys.
- 11 • Development of a PowerBi dashboard and integration of data to increase data
12 accessibility and transparency. In addition, this effort resulted in better quality
13 management of certain data points.
- 14 • Open Text as a transparent, electronic, searchable records data management system.
15 Created over 36,000 folders and migrated about 96,000 records into this platform.

16 To further accelerate and enhance records management, the Data Management team
17 developed and implemented data collection standards, training, and database enhancements,
18 organized and stored its records to facilitate data integration and continued to enhance data
19 management to facilitate queries across various systems and deploy and manage a well health
20 monitoring dashboard.

1 **B. Regulatory and Compliance**

2 The Storage Risk Management department in conjunction with the Aboveground Storage
3 and Underground Storage groups was also responsible for the coordination and governance of
4 field implementation for new regulatory compliance requirements, which includes:

- 5 • The installment and operation of a real-time well pressure monitoring system
- 6 • Enhanced field surveys and valve inspections for leaks
- 7 • Incremental noise and temperature surveys
- 8 • Emergency response planning and enhanced site security.

9 These activities comply with new regulatory compliance requirements and include expenditures
10 (see Table AK-4) associated with SoCalGas’s activities undertaken or accelerated to validate the
11 integrity of SoCalGas’s storage facilities, enhance safety, and support compliance with state
12 legislation SB 887 (Pavley), DOGGR Emergency UGS regulations and DOGGR Order 1109.³⁶

13 DOGGR Emergency UGS regulations 14 CCR §1724.9 (c), (g)(1), (g)(4) drove increased
14 noise and temperature survey requirements.

15 DOGGR Emergency UGS regulations 14 CCR §1724.9 (c) stipulated well pressure
16 monitoring: *“In addition to the mechanical integrity testing requirements under 1724.10(j), the*
17 *operator shall monitor the tubing-casing annulus...for presence of annular gas by measuring*
18 *and recording the annular pressure and annular gas flow,”* and DOGGR Order 1109 further
19 required *“...all wells to be employed in the gas storage injection project with real-time pressure*
20 *monitors...”*

³⁶ Such as PHMSA Underground Storage IFR, DOGGR Emergency UGS Regulations 14 CCR § 1724.9, SB 887 (Pavley).

1 DOGGR Emergency UGS regulations 14 CCR §1724.9 (d) and (e) mandated valve
 2 inspections: “...the operator...shall function test all surface and subsurface safety valve systems
 3 within three months of the effective date of this section, and every six months after that.”

4 DOGGR Emergency UGS regulations 14 CCR §1724.9(e) mandated an inspection and
 5 leak detection protocol “...the operator...shall submit an inspection and leak detection
 6 protocol....shall provide for inspection at least once a day, employing effective gas leak
 7 detection technology such as infrared imaging...”

8 Additionally, the federal PHMSA IFR Site Security requirements drove additional field
 9 security costs at all four storage fields.

10 **TABLE AK-4**
 11 **SIMP - Regulatory Compliance Costs (2016-2018)**
 12

SIMP – Regulatory Compliance Costs					
Direct + V&S Recorded (\$000)		2016	2017	2018³⁷	Total
O&M	Noise and Temperature Surveys	\$1,178	\$1,198	\$952	\$3,328
	Well pressure monitoring	\$259	\$234	\$500	\$993
	Leak surveys, valve inspections, gas sampling, etc.	\$3,220	\$3,632	\$2,347	\$9,198
	Field security	\$0	\$0	\$877	\$887
Total O&M		\$4,656	\$5,064	\$4,676	\$14,396
Total Capital		\$892	\$68	\$0	\$960

13
 14 At the time of the 2016 GRC, SoCalGas’s SIMP contemplated integrity management and
 15 safety enhancement activities, which were subsequently modified and expanded to incorporate
 16 prescriptive new regulatory requirements. To comply with emergent regulations, Regulatory and
 17 Compliance activities also included costs associated with development of materials and courses

³⁷ The 2018 amounts reflect an accounting adjustment made in 2019 to reverse a \$0.171 million overcharge in 2018, which is comprised of \$0.018 related to Regulatory & Compliance O&M for leak surveys, valve inspections, gas sampling, etc. (in Table AK-4) and \$0.153 million for Program Management and Support Costs related to Risk Management (in Table AK-3).

1 to train company personnel and contractors to comply with these new policies and procedures.

2 Well Inspection and Mitigation Costs

3 **TABLE AK-5**
4 **SIMP – Well Inspection and Mitigation Costs (2016-2018)**
5

SIMP – Well Inspection and Mitigation Costs				
Direct + V&S Recorded (\$000)	2016	2017	2018	Total
O&M	\$6,115	\$7,909	\$4,257	\$18,281
Capital Additions	\$33,425	\$49,079	\$30,695	\$113,198

6
7 Well Inspection and Mitigation costs (see Table AK-5) comprise of safety enhancement
8 and well integrity management activities at SoCalGas’s storage fields executed by the
9 Underground Storage SIMP field group. As proposed in the 2016 TY GRC, SIMP baseline
10 assessments were planned to be conducted over a period of six years, and instead, to correspond
11 with DOGGR Emergency UGS regulations and DOGGR Order 1109, SoCalGas accelerated
12 SIMP baseline assessments to be completed over a period of approximately four years.

13 DOGGR Order 1109 directed SoCalGas to undertake safety enhancements and integrity
14 assessments for all its gas storage wells at its Aliso Canyon storage field that have not been
15 plugged and abandoned with “reasonable haste” and required all wells to have completed at a
16 minimum Phase I testing in order to resume gas injection at the storage field. SoCalGas worked
17 expeditiously to meet the requirements of DOGGR Order 1109 in order to enhance the safety of
18 the storage field and to promptly restore the availability of the storage field for use to prevent
19 energy shortages in Southern California. After sixteen months from when Order 1109 was
20 enacted, DOGGR confirmed SoCalGas had completed what experts called “the most rigorous

1 monitoring, inspection and safety requirements in the nation,”³⁸ creating multiple layers of safety
2 at Aliso Canyon and on July 19, 2017, SoCalGas was given approval to resume gas injections at
3 the field.³⁹

4 Under SoCalGas’s accelerated plan to conduct comprehensive baseline assessments of
5 each well, all wells were subjected to an enhanced suite of integrity assessments (noise and
6 temperature surveys, cement bond log, multi-arm caliper (“MAC”) inspection, ultrasonic
7 inspection (“UT”), magnetic flux leakage (“MFL”), and pressure tests) and subsequently either
8 returned-to-service or isolated from the storage zone in preparation for abandonment, or
9 permanently plugged and abandoned. The enhanced baseline well assessments allow SoCalGas
10 to collect additional data inputs to better inform the Risk Assessment Methodology and
11 evaluation of a well’s fitness-for-service. SoCalGas’s development of a Risk Assessment
12 Methodology, proposes establishing a risk-based reassessment frequency instead of a regulatory
13 defined, prescriptive 24-month reassessment frequency, prudently minimizing overall risk by
14 considering the benefits of inspection activity and the added risk of well entry activities. This
15 methodology would determine an independent reassessment interval for wells underpinned by

³⁸ Statement made by State Oil and Gas Supervisor Ken Harris in the Joint Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources and California Public Utilities Commission News Release “State Inspections Confirm Safety of Aliso Canyon Natural Gas Storage Facility”, dated July 19, 2017. *Available at* https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/uploadedFiles/CPUC_Public_Website/Content/News_Room/News_and_Updates/ReleaseStateInspectionsConfirmSafetyofAlisoCanyon.pdf

³⁹ Joint Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources and California Public Utilities Commission Open Letter, SB 380 Findings and Concurrence Regarding the Safety of the Aliso Canyon Gas Storage Facility, dated July 19, 2017, at 3. *Available at* https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/uploadedFiles/CPUC_Public_Website/Content/News_Room/News_and_Updates/7-19-17_CPUC_LtrtoR.Schweckere.Reliability.pdf.

1 historical inspection data, with a goal of optimizing reassessment intervals for safety and
2 integrity.⁴⁰

3 Wells returned-to-service underwent a process of well inspection, well workover, and an
4 expansive suite of mitigation measures, with costs attributed to the following activities: well
5 mechanical integrity testing, installation of new steel tubing, conversion of well to tubing flow
6 (dual-barrier), preparation of validation inspection logs following mitigation as part of the SIMP
7 SRMP.

8 Certain preventative and mitigation measures such as conversion of wells to tubing flow
9 and enhanced suite of integrity assessments at all four of SoCalGas's storage fields were in
10 advance of new regulation (DOGGR UGS Regulations) and were prudently implemented by
11 SoCalGas as early, voluntary efforts to exercise risk mitigation consistency by applying DOGGR
12 Order 1109 standards equally across its fields to enhance safety, improve asset knowledge, and
13 accelerate integrity management. Furthermore, SoCalGas's prospective implementation of
14 converting wells at all its storage fields to tubing flow only (and achieving well construction and
15 design requirements ahead of regulatory requirement deadlines) were reasonable actions as it:
16 (1) enhanced safety with a physical, secondary barrier of protection against potential leaks (the
17 production casing); (2) exercised risk mitigation consistency for all of its gas storage fields;
18 (3) optimized the use of workover rigs by aligning well rework activities with well assessment
19 activities, reducing the number of separate, discrete well-entry activities and total days a well
20 may be rendered out-of-service along with incremental costs associated with those activities; and

⁴⁰ DOGGR UGS Regulations 14 CCR §1726.6 (3) mandate 24-month reassessment intervals, however the Division may approve a less frequent inspection interval if the operator demonstrates that the well's corrosion rate is low enough or the Division approves the operators Risk Management Plan which may quantify an alternative pressure testing frequency.

1 (4) accelerates safety and mitigation measures of storage wells, reduces impact to gas system
2 reliability gas deliverability, and realizes cost efficiencies.

3 SoCalGas's accelerated schedule for baseline well assessments (from six years to four
4 years) was a prudent, reasonable and necessary investment for SoCalGas to identify and mitigate
5 potential threats, validate well integrity expeditiously, collect foundational inspection data to
6 drive risk-based and data-driven well integrity assessments, enhance safety by reducing the risk
7 profile of SoCalGas's storage facilities, and support mitigating long-term costs of unnecessarily
8 frequent inspections to ratepayers. These activities and associated costs are subject to variability
9 in costs resulting from accelerated pace, compliance with new regulatory requirements, changes
10 of conditions during well workovers and costs to mitigate, or the permanent plug-and-
11 abandonment of a well. Costs were also driven by the need for industry-expertise, specialized
12 equipment, and specific practices that may have limited availability. These activities are further
13 described in the Prepared Direct Testimony of Thomas D. McMahon (Chapter II).

14 **V. SIMP COST MANAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT MEASURES**

15 SoCalGas's SIMP cost management and oversight measures are overseen by a dedicated
16 financial planning team. The financial planning team provides oversight and management of
17 capital and O&M costs, communicating and reporting to management and teams responsible for
18 project costs. The SIMP activities are tracked via internal accounting guidelines. SIMP activities
19 are functionally represented in the cost groupings of (Program Management and Support; Well
20 Inspection and Mitigation, Regulatory Compliance shown in Table AK-1) depending on the type
21 of work. The following describes the SIMP financial oversight process:

- 22 • A dedicated financial planning team is assigned to SIMP to ensure accurate cost
23 accounting.

- 1 • Dedicated internal orders for each activity are developed and implemented to track and
2 allocate costs and to allow for prudent review of charges.
- 3 • Management personnel reviews each invoice on an ongoing basis, and cost reports are
4 established and reviewed monthly to determine which cost center to charge.
- 5 • A separate manager frequently reviews all charges (e.g. at a minimum, multiple times per
6 week) to ensure expenditures were appropriately incurred and recorded.
- 7 • The project team assists with the coding and accounting for costs as incurred, as well as
8 reviewing posted transactions for validity and proper inclusion in the balancing account.
- 9 • Additionally, quarterly confirmations are provided to the Company's Regulatory
10 Accounting group attesting to the material accuracy of the balancing account
11 transactions.

12 **VI. SIMPBA COST EXCLUSIONS**

13 Wells determined to be plugged and abandoned as a result of SIMP assessment results, or
14 costs associated with the retirement and permanent removal of tubing (or other well materials for
15 replacement) during well remediation represent a significant portion of SIMP capital
16 expenditures. Plug and abandonment activities, or permanent removal of materials are costs
17 attributed to retirement of an asset (i.e. cost of removal) and are a part of SoCalGas's Gas Plant
18 depreciation mechanism; therefore, SoCalGas has excluded these costs from this SIMPBA cost
19 recovery application (which seeks recovery of capital plant additions).

20 Capital work in progress ("CWIP") is also excluded from this SIMPBA cost recovery
21 application. However, CWIP and cost of removal activities such as plug and abandonment of
22 wells may be mentioned throughout the testimony to fully explain the resultant preventative and
23 mitigative actions on specific wells as a result of SIMP well assessment activities.

1 The SIMPBA undercollection and revenue requirements are sponsored in the Prepared
2 Direct Testimony of Jenny Chhuor (Chapter III).

3 **VII. SIMP HAS BEEN MANAGED REASONABLY AND PRUDENTLY AND COSTS**
4 **SHOULD BE APPROVED BASED ON SOCALGAS'S ACTIONS AND RESULTS**

5 SoCalGas developed and executed the SIMP framework with a full commitment towards
6 gas storage safety and well integrity management, driven by a continuous improvement culture,
7 which spurred the broadening of (scope) and development of the SIMP to correspond with
8 emergent regulations and guide a heightened pace of:

- 9 • Standard operating procedures and program policies development and training of
10 personnel;
- 11 • Threat identification and risk assessment;
- 12 • Well integrity assessment and remediation;
- 13 • Identification and implementation of preventative and mitigative (P&M) measures;
- 14 • Enhanced emergency response planning;
- 15 • Activities developed to minimize environmental and safety risk; and
- 16 • Enhanced data collection, record maintenance and management activities.

17 SoCalGas has worked diligently and expeditiously to meet its objective to enhance
18 storage well integrity and safety. From January 2016 through December 2018, the SIMP has
19 developed, published, and trained storage personnel on 14 new SIMP Chapters and 32 new or
20 revised Gas Standards, to implement processes, procedures, mitigation measures, periodic
21 assessments and reassessments, data requirements, monitoring and reporting requirements
22 (altogether addressed as the "SIMP Written Plan").

1 The SIMP Written Plan was developed and then continued to be supplemented or
2 updated to conform with recommended practices, new or emergent federal regulations, state
3 regulations and regulatory requirements. In conjunction to the SIMP Written Plan, SoCalGas
4 commenced threat identification, the development of a quantitative risk assessment approach to
5 managing well integrity, and determination of well-specific reassessment intervals underpinned
6 by well inspection data and aligning with pipeline integrity regulations and best practices.

7 During the 2016-2018 period, the SIMP also completed an accelerated pace of surveys,
8 gas sampling, pressure tests, and a comprehensive suite of inspections that comprises a well's
9 baseline assessment for 80 of its storage wells at SoCalGas's four (Aliso Canyon, Honor Rancho,
10 La Goleta, and Playa del Rey) storage fields.

11 Additionally, the SIMP implemented preventative and mitigative measures such as real-
12 time pressure monitoring of the well annulus and enhanced well construction activities such as
13 completing wells with all new inner tubing and converting wells to tubing-only-flow ("dual-
14 barrier"), completing 43 standard "SIMP recompletions" of storage wells, performed 37 complex
15 SIMP recompletions (includes steel liner, inner string, and/or inner string/line completion) of
16 storage wells, and the plugging-and-abandoning 5 of wells. These measures represented the
17 most rigorous monitoring, inspection, and safety requirements in the nation,⁴¹ and were described
18 by a scientist at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory as "*...the most stringent rules in the*
19 *country. They touch on many aspects of safety that weren't in the rules before. They're really the*

⁴¹ Statement made by State Oil and Gas Supervisor Ken Harris in the Joint Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources and California Public Utilities Commission News Release "State Inspections Confirm Safety of Aliso Canyon Natural Gas Storage Facility", dated July 19, 2017. Available at https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/uploadedFiles/CPUC_Public_Website/Content/News_Room/News_and_Updates/ReleaseStateInspectionsConfirmSafetyofAlisoCanyon.pdf

1 *gold standard and set a high bar for the national standard.”*⁴² As a result of SoCalGas’s focus
2 on safety and prudence to implement early, voluntary efforts of these requirements at all four of
3 the storage fields, SoCalGas continues to lead the industry and other operators in complying with
4 new DOGGR UGS regulation requirements which were later finalized on October 1, 2018 for
5 field-specific (project-specific) storage risk management plans, well mechanical integrity testing
6 (well assessments) and well construction standards.

7 The robust suite of data generated by these activities were further supported with
8 enhanced data reconciliation and records management and historical data digitization/data entry
9 activities to ease data accessibility, facilitate analytics and standardize reporting. Efforts were
10 dedicated to enhancing data governance, streamlining and optimizing information management
11 processes to improve data accessibility and transparency through integrating technology and
12 workflow management tools.

13 **VIII. CONCLUSION**

14 SoCalGas should be authorized to fully recover the costs presented in this Application.
15 The costs presented for review in this Application were incurred for purposes of completing
16 safety and compliance work; further, these activities were prudently implemented, and SoCalGas
17 acted as reasonable managers in executing the SIMP work.

18 In so doing, SoCalGas has been executing SIMP consistent with its overarching
19 objectives to:

- 20 • Enhance public safety: SIMP activities are forward looking and industry leading to
21 enhancing underground gas storage well safety and integrity.

⁴² Barry Freifeld, scientist at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. <https://eesa.lbl.gov/puzzle-plugging-worst-natural-gas-release-history/>

- 1 • Comply with the directives of state and federal regulators: SIMP activities have been
2 accelerated or enhanced to meet or exceed new PHMSA and DOGGR regulatory
3 requirements and incorporate new legislative mandates.
- 4 • Minimize customer impacts: Project mitigations included enhancements such as
5 larger inner tubing to preserve well deliverability performance, consolidation of well
6 activities in order to reduce overall number of well outage days and efforts to
7 determine optimal well reassessment interval periods based on inspection data.
- 8 • Maximize the cost-effectiveness of safety investment: SoCalGas reasonably avoided
9 costs, used necessary amounts of internal and external resources, and prudently
10 designed and executed SIMP.

11
12 This concludes my prepared direct testimony.

1 **IX. WITNESS QUALIFICATIONS**

2 My name is Amy C. Kitson. I am employed by SoCalGas as the Director of Integrity
3 Management and Strategic Planning. My business address is 555 West Fifth Street, Los Angeles,
4 California 90013-1011.

5 I graduated from California State University Northridge in 2009 with a Master of Science
6 degree in Engineering Management and from Michigan State University in 2003 with a Bachelor
7 of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering.

8 I joined SoCalGas in 2005 as an engineer in the Gas Operations organization supporting
9 the Transmission Integrity Management Program. Since that time, I have held numerous
10 positions with increasing levels of responsibility including Project Manager, Technical Services
11 Manager, Storage Engineering Manager, Risk Assessment & Controls Manager, and Director of
12 Storage Risk Management within Storage Operations. I currently hold the position of Director
13 of Integrity Management and Strategic Planning. In this position, my responsibilities include
14 overseeing the Storage Integrity Management Program for SoCalGas.

15 Prior to joining SoCalGas, I worked at Consumers Energy in Michigan. There, I held
16 several positions including Mechanical Engineer, Employee Development Coordinator, and
17 Engineering Team Leader.

18 I have previously submitted testimony before the Commission.
19

1
2

Attachment A

SIMP Written Plan – Chapters⁴³

Chapter No.	Title
SIMP.1	Introduction
SIMP.2	Data Collection and Management
SIMP.3	Threat Identification and Risk Assessment
SIMP.4	Integrity Assessment and Remediation
SIMP.5	Preventive and Mitigative Measures
SIMP.6	Management of Change
SIMP.8	Quality Assurance Plan
SIMP.9	Records Management Plan
SIMP.10	Procedures and Training
SIMP.11	Minimizing Environmental and Safety Risks
SIMP.13	Regulatory Interaction
SIMP.14	Communications Plan
SIMP.15	Emergency Response Plan
SIMP.A	Terms, Definitions and Acronyms

3

⁴³ The SIMP Written Plan is submitted as part of the Storage Risk Management Plan which is provided to CalGEM pursuant to 14 CCR §1726.3.

1
2
3
4

Attachment B

SIMP - Associated Gas Standards

Number	Title
186.224	Well Production Casing - Determination and Need for Cathodic Protection
186.225	Design and Application of Cathodic Protection - Well Production Casings
186.226	Determination of Effective Cathodic Protection on Well Production Casings
186.227	Well Production Casing Potential and Polarization Profiles
224.0000	Testing and Inspection of Safety Valves and Wellhead Valves
224.0030	Well Kill and Loading
224.010	Flow Erosion Monitoring and Assessment
224.02	Operation of Underground Storage Wells
224.023	Wireline and Slickline
224.05	Blowout Prevention Equipment
224.055	Well Unload
224.070	Reservoir Integrity and Inventory Assessment
224.101	Storage Well Design
224.102	Drilling Storage Wells
224.103	Well Workover
224.104	Well Isolation
224.105	Coiled Tubing
224.106	Casing and Tubing Inspection Field Procedure
224.107	Blowout Contingency Plan
224.108	Well and Reservoir Record Keeping
224.109	Abnormal Operating Conditions - Underground Storage
224.110	Wellsite Security and Safety
224.111	Training - Storage Wells and Reservoir
224.112	Emergency Preparedness and Response Effectiveness - Storage Wells and Reservoirs
224.113	Gas Sampling - Underground Storage
224.114	Geological and Engineering Design
224.115	Inspection of Third Party Wells
224.116	Nonconformance – Storage Wells and Reservoirs
224.117	Start-Up, Commissioning, and Decommissioning - Storage Wells and Reservoirs
224.118	Plugged Well Inspections
224.119	Pressure Monitoring - Storage Wells and Reservoirs
224.120	Storage Field Interaction with Gas Control

5