

Ventura Modernization Project
Community Town Hall Report Summary
Version 2
Updated December 16, 2021

Overview

SoCalGas's Ventura Compressor Station (VCS) is located on the westside of the City of Ventura and is critical energy infrastructure that delivers affordable and reliable energy to more than 250,000 homes and critical facilities like schools, hospitals and local industry in California's Central Coast region.

As part of SoCalGas's effort to engage with, and respond to the greater Ventura area community's concerns, allow for feedback and answer questions, SoCalGas convened seven town hall meetings, in-person and virtually, over a week's time in October 2021. Four of the sessions were held in person at the Museum of Ventura County and three were held virtually on the Microsoft Teams platform. The virtual town halls consisted of presentations from subject matter experts (SMEs) about the planned project and the feasibility study process, followed by questions and answers and the collection of community concerns, suggestions, and feedback. The in-person sessions were conducted in an "open-house" format allowing for smaller group interaction with SMEs. All sessions provided the presentations and questions and answers in both English and Spanish.

This updated report summary reflects the additional feedback received after the community town halls through November 15, 2021, which was the close of the comment period. Additions are noted in blue, but please note that some non-substantive deletions and edits have been made in this updated report summary compared to the version provided on October 29, 2021.

Purpose & Objective

As noted in SoCalGas's Community Outreach Plan provided on September 16, 2021, and consistent with the Commission's August 5, 2021 letter, the purpose of the town halls was to solicit community feedback and answer questions about planned improvements at the VCS. The objective is to take the feedback we received to develop a more detailed feasibility analysis of potential alternative sites and equipment configurations, which will be presented during a subsequent public forum, anticipated to be held in the first quarter of 2022.

Stakeholder Outreach & Engagement

SoCalGas performed robust community outreach in a variety of channels to encourage participation in the community town halls. These efforts are described in greater detail in Table 1: Stakeholder Outreach and Engagement. SoCalGas engaged with agencies, community leaders, elected officials and staff, community organizations, and businesses with project updates and sought their collaboration to help distribute project information to their networks, as communicated in the Community Outreach Plan submitted to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) on September 16, 2021. SoCalGas shared the Ventura Compressor Station biweekly newsletters and information about the community town halls with the City of Ventura, Ventura Unified School District, Ventura Chamber of Commerce, Ventura County Air Pollution Control District, Department of Toxic Substance Control and other organizations, and requested the information be shared with their stakeholders.

Table 1: Stakeholder Outreach and Engagement	
Outreach Channel	Summary of Results
Community Town Hall Invitations Mailed	- 4,845 addresses in the City of Ventura were mailed the invitations and received it twice
Bill Insert	- 5,426 customers in the City of Ventura received the Community Town Hall meeting information as a bill insert with their SoCalGas bill by October 13, 2021
Neighborhood Canvassing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On October 2, 2021, a team of SoCalGas outreach employees canvassed the neighborhood within a 2-mile radius around the Ventura Compressor Station - The team visited approximately 1,000 homes on this day and left the invitation on the door/gate of residents who were not home
Newspaper ads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - VC Reporter 9/30/2021 and 10/7/2021 editions - Ventura Breeze 9/22/2021 and 10/6/2021 editions - VC Star 10/6/2021 and 10/7/2021 editions - VIDA (Spanish-language) 9/30/2021 and 10/7/2021 editions
Radio ads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - K-LOVE (Spanish language) 9/27-10/10/2021 - VTLA 9/27-10/10/2021
Social Media Posts	- SoCalGas ran targeted ads inviting residents to our Community Town Halls on Facebook and Twitter (in English and Spanish) from 9/17-9/21/2021, 10/4-10/10/2021 and 10/11-10/15/2021
Ventura Compressor Station Bi-weekly Newsletters	- Newsletters containing meeting information were shared on social media, posted to the socialgas.com/ventura web page and mailed to approximately 2,600 homes and businesses in the City of Ventura the week of 9/17/2021 and 10/1/2021

Summary of Attendees

Please refer to Attachment 1: List of Participants and Table 2: Ventura Town Halls Participant Summary, for a summary of the total number of participants.

Date & Time	Number of Participants[†]
October 12, 2021 at 11 am (Virtual)	11
October 12, 2021 at 6 pm (Virtual)	8
October 14, 2021 at 11 am (In-person)	6
October 14, 2021 at 4 pm (In-person)	6
October 14, 2021 at 6 pm (In-person)	8
October 16, 2021 at 11 am (In-person)	0
October 16, 2021 at 1 pm (Virtual)	5
Total	44
[†] Excludes SoCalGas and SoCalGas contractor personnel. The total in this updated summary report was reduced by one (1), compared to the previous version, as there were two SoCalGas affiliated individuals included previously and an inadvertent omission of CPUC personnel. Attachment 1 has been updated accordingly.	

Summary of Comments and Key Themes

Community feedback was solicited and collected throughout the meetings. Upon arrival at the in-person town halls, participants were given the opportunity to submit written comments at each station; in addition, designated note-takers were on-hand to document questions asked by attendees. During the virtual sessions, participants were encouraged to provide their feedback in the chat function. Additionally, the community was informed that they may submit comments and feedback regarding the planned project through November 15, 2021, via the email shared on the socalgas.com/ventura webpage (project@socalgas.com) and phone.

The overall breakdown of comments and topics raised by attendees is presented in Table 3: Summary of Comments and Key Themes, and reflects questions and comments raised in the chat function during the virtual sessions, and in the comment cards and verbal comments expressed during the in-person sessions:

Issue/Theme	Number of Comments	Percentage of Overall Comments
General SoCalGas Questions	15	10%
General Station Details	17	11%
Compressor Modernization Project	7	5%
Soil Remediation Project	28	19%
Project/Station Safety	13	9%

Table 3: Summary of Comments and Key Themes Raised During Town Hall Sessions[†]		
Issue/Theme	Number of Comments	Percentage of Overall Comments
Project/Station Location	17	11%
Feasibility Study Process	15	10%
General Environmental	27	18%
Community Outreach & Engagement	9	6%
Total	148	
[†] Reflects count of comments and questions raised during the town hall sessions.		

Additional details regarding the key themes that emerged from the comments are described below:

- I. General SoCalGas Questions**
 Questions on role of gas and the SoCalGas’s pipeline system were raised.

- II. General Station Details**
 Questions were raised regarding the role of compressors, how it services the Ventura County area and how it is funded or anticipated rate impacts.

- III. Compressor Modernization Project**
 A desire to have a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) environmental impact report (EIR) prepared was expressed. [Additionally, comments raised in support of the planned project expressed a continued desire and need for access to safe, reliable, and affordable natural gas.](#)

- IV. Soil Remediation Project**
 Participants expressed interest in the soil remediation work, its purpose, and the potential to contaminate water or air during remediation work.

- V. Project/Station Safety**
 There was an expressed concern about safety of the facility and its impact on the community, the impact of planned and unplanned venting, and generally the health risks associated with living near natural gas combustion.

- VI. Project/Station Location**
 Questions were raised regarding the proximity of the compressor station to a school and neighborhood, and there were two suggestions to relocate the compressor station to the west of State Route 33 in the foothills, either on existing agricultural land or Aera Energy land.

- VII. Feasibility Study Process**
 There were questions regarding the analysis process of potential alternate locations, the timing of reviews and decision making, and the impact of public comments.

VIII. General Environmental

There was a general interest in air quality and emissions, clean energy and the transition to new technology, and SoCalGas’s role in California’s energy future.

IX. Community Outreach & Engagement

There were varied viewpoints on SoCalGas’s community engagement, some appreciating the town halls, structure of the sessions, and outreach; however, others criticized the lack of transparency and engagement and expressed a perception that SoCalGas did not make sufficient efforts to engage the community considering the demographics of the neighborhood.

After the town halls, the community was invited to submit additional feedback by email and phone. Table 4, below, presents a summary of comments submitted after the town halls via email and phone. The majority of communications (76%), constituting of 16 emails expressed support of the planned project. The comments received in support of the planned project expressed a continued need for access to safe, reliable, and affordable natural gas. The primary topics raised in opposition to the planned project received via email and calls (1 call, 4 emails), related to health and safety risks, proximity of the compressor station to a school and neighborhood, and general environmental concerns related to the station.

Table 4: Summary of Comments Submitted Post Town Halls Via Email/Calls†	
Issue/Theme	Number of Comments
Project/Station Safety – safety of the facility and health risks	4 (emails)
Project/Station Location – proximity to school	1 (call)
Compressor Modernization Project – a desire to have a CEQA EIR prepared was expressed Calls in Opposition	
Compressor Modernization Project – support for the planned project expressing a continued desire and need for access to safe, reliable, and affordable natural gas	16 (emails)
Total	21

Attachment 1: List of Participants

	Session	Participant	Affiliation
1	10/12/2021 11:00	Tricia [REDACTED]	Social Justice Fund, Ventura County
2	10/12/2021 11:00	Chand, Sultana	DTSC
3	10/12/2021 11:00	Chinh, Sheow	DTSC
4	10/12/2021 11:00	Kathleen [REDACTED]	Unknown
5	10/12/2021 11:00	Michelle [REDACTED]	Asm. Steven Bennett Staff
6	10/12/2021 11:00	Gordon [REDACTED]	CFROG
7	10/12/2021 11:00	Andy	Unknown
8	10/12/2021 11:00	Chris	Unknown
9	10/12/2021 11:00	Keith [REDACTED]	Compliance Manager
10	10/12/2021 11:00	Ali [REDACTED]	Engineering Division Manager
11	10/12/2021 11:00	Amy [REDACTED]	Aera Energy Regional Public Affairs
12	10/12/2021 18:00	Helen [REDACTED]	Unknown
13	10/12/2021 18:00	O. [REDACTED]	Unknown
14	10/12/2021 18:00	Stephanie Green	CPUC
15	10/12/2021 18:00	Anonymous	Unknown
16	10/12/2021 18:00	Anonymous	Unknown
17	10/12/2021 18:00	Anonymous	Unknown
18	10/12/2021 18:00	Anonymous	Unknown
19	10/12/2021 18:00	Anonymous	Unknown
20	10/14/2021 11:00	Geordie [REDACTED]	Asm. Limon Staffer
21	10/14/2021 11:00	Todd [REDACTED]	President of Ventura County Arts Council
22	10/14/2021 11:00	Keith Macias	VACPD
23	10/14/2021 11:00	Gary [REDACTED]	Unknown
24	10/14/2021 11:00	Eduardo [REDACTED]	CFROG, Outreach Coordinator
25	10/14/2021 11:00	Barbara [REDACTED]	Unknown
26	10/14/2021 16:00	Maria [REDACTED]	Unknown
27	10/14/2021 16:00	Rob [REDACTED]	CA Dept. of Education
28	10/14/2021 16:00	Manuel [REDACTED]	Food & Water Watch
29	10/14/2021 16:00	Wes Woods	VC Star Reporter
30	10/14/2021 16:00	John [REDACTED]	Unknown
31	10/14/2021 16:00	Lisa [REDACTED]	Ventura Museum
32	10/14/2021 18:00	Jeff [REDACTED]	Unknown
33	10/14/2021 18:00	Emma [REDACTED]	Unknown
34	10/14/2021 18:00	John [REDACTED]	CFROG
35	10/14/2021 18:00	Jesus [REDACTED]	Unknown
36	10/14/2021 18:00	Jack [REDACTED]	Unknown
37	10/14/2021 18:00	Joanne [REDACTED]	Unknown
38	10/14/2021 18:00	Matt [REDACTED]	Unknown
39	10/14/2021 18:00	John [REDACTED]	Unknown
40	10/16/2021 13:00	Vicky [REDACTED]	Unknown
41	10/16/2021 13:00	Ben	Unknown
42	10/16/2021 13:00	Pete	Unknown
43	10/16/2021 13:00	PF	Unknown
44	10/16/2021 13:00	Rose [REDACTED]	Unknown