

**Ventura Modernization Project
Public Forum Report Summary
April 14, 2022**

Overview

SoCalGas’s Ventura Compressor Station (VCS) is located on the west side of the City of Ventura and is a critical component of 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.

Due to reduced functionality and reliability of the existing 40-year-old equipment, coupled with changes in system operations related to decreasing local supply and the need to support storage of natural gas, SoCalGas developed plans to modernize the Ventura Compressor Station. At the request of the CPUC, SoCalGas also prepared a feasibility study that evaluated potential alternatives to the planned Ventura Compressor Modernization Project,¹ including alternative site locations and equipment configurations. To inform the community about the findings of the feasibility study, SoCalGas convened a series of public forum meetings hosted in English with Spanish interpretation, including both in-person and virtual sessions, on March 29, 31 and April 2, 2022, to engage with the greater Ventura area community.

The virtual and in-person meetings had similar formats, where SoCalGas showed a video that provided an overview of the feasibility study process. The video was presented in English with Spanish subtitles. For the virtual sessions, the video was followed by a presentation about the project and the evaluation process, and then a question-and-answer period was held. For the in-person sessions, participants viewed the video followed by one-on-one interaction with subject matter experts at stations focused on certain topics in an “open-house” format. A translator was made available at all sessions, which provided attendees the option to hear the presentation and questions and answers in English or Spanish.

Purpose & Objective

Consistent with the Commission’s August 5, 2021 letter, during the public forum SoCalGas presented: (1) a full analysis of all options considered for the compressor station upgrade, (2) the basis for rejecting alternatives, including but not limited to electric compressors for all or part of the project, (3) all alternative sites that were considered and SoCalGas’s reasons for rejecting them, and (4) an explanation of how this project factors into both local and statewide safe and reliable service and the state’s decarbonization efforts.

Stakeholder Outreach & Engagement

SoCalGas performed robust bilingual community outreach through a variety of channels to encourage participation in the public forums. These efforts are described in greater detail in Table 1: Stakeholder Outreach and Engagement. As communicated in the Community Outreach Plan submitted to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) on March 3, 2022, SoCalGas engaged with regulatory

¹ The planned Ventura Compressor Station Modernization Project (planned project) would replace three existing natural gas compressors with four new natural gas compressors, construct a new compressor building and other associated improvements at the current compressor station site.

agencies, community leaders, elected officials and staff, community organizations, and businesses to provide project updates. Additionally, SoCalGas sought their cooperation to help distribute project information to their networks. SoCalGas shared the Ventura Compressor Station biweekly newsletters and information about the public forums with the various agencies and organizations, including but not limited to, the City of Ventura, Ventura Unified School District, Ventura Chamber of Commerce, Ventura County Air Pollution Control District, and California Department of Toxic Substance Control, and requested that the information be shared with their stakeholders. Also, earlier this year, SoCalGas hosted and provided a tour of the Ventura Compressor station to community leaders and elected officials and held a briefing with the Ventura Unified School District and local elected officials regarding the findings of the feasibility study.

Table 1: Stakeholder Outreach and Engagement	
Outreach Channel	Summary of Results
Public Forum Invitations Mailed	- 4,803 addresses in the City of Ventura were mailed invitations and received it twice
Bill Insert	- 5,283 customers in the City of Ventura received the Public Forum meeting information as a bill insert with their SoCalGas bill by March 25, 2022
Neighborhood Canvassing	- During the week of March 14, 2022, a team of SoCalGas outreach employees canvassed the neighborhood within a 2-mile radius around the Ventura Compressor Station - The team visited approximately 1,250 homes on this day and left the invitation on the door/gate of residents who were not home
Newspaper ads	- VC Reporter 3/17/2022 through 3/24/2022 editions - Ventura Breeze 3/23/2022 edition - VC Star 3/19/2022 through 3/27/2022 editions - VIDA (Spanish-language) 3/17/2022 through 3/24/2022 editions
Radio ads	- K-LOVE (Spanish language) 3/14 through 3/27/2022 - VTLA 3/14 through 3/27/2022
Social Media Posts	- SoCalGas ran targeted ads inviting residents to our Public Forums on Facebook and Twitter (in English and Spanish) from 3/19 to 3/28/2022
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 4,803 homes and businesses in the City of Ventura the week of 2/28, 3/14 and 3/28

Summary of Participants

Please refer to Attachment 1: List of Participants and Table 2: Ventura Public Forum Participant Summary, for a summary of participants.

Table 2: Ventura Public Forum Participant Summary	
Date & Time	Number of Participants[†]
March 29, 2022 at 10 am (Virtual)	15
March 29, 2022 at 6 pm (Virtual)	7
March 31, 2022 at 10 am (In-person)	17
March 31, 2022 at 6 pm (In-person)	31
April 2, 2022 at 11 am (In-person)	4
April 2, 2022 at 3 pm (Virtual)	4
Total	78
[†] <i>Excludes SoCalGas and SoCalGas contractor personnel.</i>	

Summary of Questions and Key Themes

Questions from the community were encouraged and collected throughout the meetings. At the in-person public forums, participants were given the opportunity to meet individually with project team members to ask questions about the facility, the planned project, and the feasibility study. During the virtual sessions, participants were encouraged to provide their questions in the chat function. We will soon add responses to frequently asked questions from the public forums to the socialgas.com/ventura webpage. Additionally, the community was informed that they may submit questions and feedback regarding the feasibility study and preferred alternative, via the email shared on the socialgas.com/ventura webpage (project@socialgas.com) and phone. To date, no additional feedback has been received via these avenues.

The overall breakdown of comments and topics raised by attendees is presented in Table 3: Summary of Questions and Key Themes Raised During Public Forum Sessions, and reflects questions and comments raised in the chat function during the virtual sessions, and verbal comments expressed during the in-person sessions:

Table 3: Summary of Questions and Key Themes Raised During Public Forum Sessions[†]		
Issue/Theme	Number of Comments	Percentage of Overall Comments
Project/Station Safety & Health	38	22%
Project/Station Operations	30	17%
General Environmental	28	16%
Preferred Alternative Location Concerns & Advocacy for an Alternative Site	26	15%
Feasibility Study Process & EIR	24	14%
Community Outreach	16	10%
Renewable Infrastructure	11	6%
Total	173	
[†] Reflects count of comments and questions raised during the public forum sessions.		

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

- I. **Project/Station Safety & Health**
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 a natural gas facility.
- II. **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. Questions were raised whether fence line monitoring data would be made public.
- III. **Project Station Operations**
Questions were raised regarding the role of compressors, how they service the Ventura County area, and how they are funded and whether there were anticipated rate impacts related to the planned project.
- IV. **Renewable Infrastructure**
Questions were raised regarding the possibility of all-electric compressors, as well as the need of the compressor station amid increasing expectations of reliance on renewable energy.
- V. **Feasibility Study Process and EIR**
There were requests to have a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) environmental impact report (EIR) prepared. There were questions regarding the analysis process of potential alternate locations and about the potential of installing fewer compressors, or all

electric compressors. Some attendees voiced concerns that the analysis was biased because it was completed by SoCalGas.

VI. Community Outreach

In-person attendees expressed concern over the open house format of the public forum meetings. They wanted all attendees to hear the questions being asked rather than having 1x1 conversations with the project team. There were questions about how SoCalGas plans to keep the community informed about the project. A planned protest took place outside of the meeting venue during the Thursday, 3/31 6:00 pm meeting. Additionally, a group of attendees began chanting inside of the venue during the question-and-answer period.

Attachment 1: List of Participants

Table A-1: List of Public Forum Participants			
	Session attended	Participant Name	Affiliation
03/29/22 - 10:00 AM			
1	03/29/22 - 10:00 AM	Ali Ghasemi	Ventura County Air Pollution Control District, Division Operations Manager
2	03/29/22 - 10:00 AM	Dr. Roger Rice	Ventura Unified School District, Superintendent,
3	03/29/22 - 10:00 AM	Eduardo [REDACTED]	Unknown
4	03/29/22 - 10:00 AM	Haley [REDACTED]	Climate First: Replacing Oil & Gas (CFROG), Program Manager
5	03/29/22 - 10:00 AM	Isaac [REDACTED]	Quantum Fuel Systems LLC, Warehouse Team Member
6	03/29/22 - 10:00 AM	Helen [REDACTED]	Westside Community Council, Board of Directors
7	03/29/22 - 10:00 AM	John (Guest)	Unknown
8	03/29/22 - 10:00 AM	John Devils Canyon (Guest)	Unknown
9	03/29/22 - 10:00 AM	Kathy (Guest)	Unknown
10	03/29/22 - 10:00 AM	Katie [REDACTED] (Guest)	Sierra Club-Los Padres Chapter, Chair
11	03/29/22 - 10:00 AM	Marsha [REDACTED]	Unknown
12	03/29/22 - 10:00 AM	Nicole Collazo	Ventura County Air Pollution Control District, AQ Specialist
13	03/29/22 - 10:00 AM	Rachel Peterson	CPUC, Executive Director
14	03/29/22 - 10:00 AM	Rob Corley	California Department of Education-School Facilities, Field Representative
15	03/29/22 - 10:00 AM	Wesley Wood II	VC Star, West County Reporter
03/29/22 - 6:00 PM			
1	03/29/22 - 6:00 PM	Geneva Monteleone	Office of U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, Field Representative

Table A-1: List of Public Forum Participants			
	Session attended	Participant Name	Affiliation
2	03/29/22 - 6:00 PM	Margaux [REDACTED]	Unknown
3	03/29/22 - 6:00 PM	Brandon [REDACTED]	Unknown
4	03/29/22 - 6:00 PM	Chloe [REDACTED]	Unknown
5	03/29/22 - 6:00 PM	Russell [REDACTED]	Unknown
6	03/29/22 - 6:00 PM	Jonathan [REDACTED]	Sierra Club-Los Padres Chapter, Chapter Director
7	03/29/22 - 6:00 PM	Sabrena [REDACTED]	Ventura Unified School District, Board Member
03/31/22 - 10:00 AM			
1	03/31/22 - 10:00 AM	Maruja [REDACTED]	Office of Ventura County Supervisor Matt LaVere, Field Representative
2	03/31/22 - 10:00 AM	Tomas [REDACTED]	Food and Water Watch, Central Coast Organizing Manager
3	03/31/22 - 10:00 AM	Lucia [REDACTED]	Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE), Policy Advocate
4	03/31/22 - 10:00 AM	Rob Corley	California Dept. of Education, Field Representative
5	03/31/22 - 10:00 AM	Chris Moore	CPUC, Local Gov and Community Liaison
6	03/31/22 - 10:00 AM	Michelle Sevilla	California State Senate Assembly member Steve Bennett, Field Representative
7	03/31/22 - 10:00 AM	Spencer [REDACTED]	Rancho Ventura, Community Ambassador
8	03/31/22 - 10:00 AM	Margot [REDACTED]	Environmental Advocate and Ventura Resident
9	03/31/22 - 10:00 AM	Joe Schroeder	City of Ventura, Deputy Mayor
10	03/31/22 - 10:00 AM	Jose [REDACTED]	Unknown
11	03/31/22 - 10:00 AM	Lori [REDACTED]	Food for Thought, Executive Director
12	03/31/22 - 10:00 AM	Frances [REDACTED]	Unknown
13	03/31/22 - 10:00 AM	Christa [REDACTED]	Unknown
14	03/31/22 - 10:00 AM	Pete [REDACTED]	Law Office of Pete C. Freeman, Owner
15	03/31/22 - 10:00 AM	Jillian [REDACTED]	Food and Water Watch, Central Coast Organizing Associate
16	03/31/22 - 10:00 AM	Leslie [REDACTED]	Unknown
17	03/31/22 - 10:00 AM	Helga [REDACTED]	Creative Endeavor, Sub Teacher
03/31/22 - 6:00 PM			
1	03/31/22 - 6:00 PM	Jack [REDACTED]	Unknown
2	03/31/22 - 6:00 PM	Tomas [REDACTED]	Food and Water Watch, Central Coast Organizing Manager
3	03/31/22 - 6:00 PM	Wanda [REDACTED]	Westside Community Council, Board of Directors
4	03/31/22 - 6:00 PM	Tim [REDACTED]	Sojourners, Author/Photographer
5	03/31/22 - 6:00 PM	Donald [REDACTED]	Unknown
6	03/31/22 - 6:00 PM	John [REDACTED]	CFROG, Board of Directors
7	03/31/22 - 6:00 PM	Vicky [REDACTED]	Unknown
8	03/31/22 - 6:00 PM	Brian [REDACTED]	Unknown

Table A-1: List of Public Forum Participants			
	Session attended	Participant Name	Affiliation
9	03/31/22 - 6:00 PM	Abigail [REDACTED]	Patagonia, Environmental Employee Engagement
10	03/31/22 - 6:00 PM	Andrew [REDACTED]	Rivian, Senior Manager
11	03/31/22 - 6:00 PM	Helen [REDACTED]	CFROG, Board of Directors
12	03/31/22 - 6:00 PM	JJ [REDACTED]	Patagonia, Public Relations Communications Analyst
13	03/31/22 - 6:00 PM	Mike [REDACTED]	Unknown
14	03/31/22 - 6:00 PM	Sam [REDACTED]	Unknown
15	03/31/22 - 6:00 PM	Richard Lieberman	VC Breeze
16	03/31/22 - 6:00 PM	Wes Woods	VC Star
17	03/31/22 - 6:00 PM	Burt [REDACTED]	Unknown
18	03/31/22 - 6:00 PM	Geoffrey [REDACTED]	Unknown
19	03/31/22 - 6:00 PM	Kristofer [REDACTED]	Chiropractor
20	03/31/22 - 6:00 PM	Carlos [REDACTED]	Unknown
21	03/31/22 - 6:00 PM	Lynn [REDACTED]	Unknown
22	03/31/22 - 6:00 PM	Tom [REDACTED]	Unknown
23	03/31/22 - 6:00 PM	Carolyn [REDACTED] r	Unknown
24	03/31/22 - 6:00 PM	Rosemary [REDACTED]	SoCal Edison, Retired
25	03/31/22 - 6:00 PM	Charlotte [REDACTED]	Unknown
26	03/31/22 - 6:00 PM	Kathleen [REDACTED]	Ventura Climate Coalition, Member
27	03/31/22 - 6:00 PM	Katy [REDACTED]	Unknown
28	03/31/22 - 6:00 PM	Leaf [REDACTED]	Unknown
29	03/31/22 - 6:00 PM	Pepe [REDACTED]	Unknown
30	03/31/22 - 6:00 PM	Carson [REDACTED]	Unknown
31	03/31/22 - 6:00 PM	Clive [REDACTED]	Unknown
04/02/22 - 10:00 AM			
1	04/02/22 - 10:00 AM	James [REDACTED]	Unknown
2	04/02/22 - 10:00 AM	Cherie [REDACTED]	Unknown
3	04/02/22 - 10:00 AM	Benjamin [REDACTED]	Unknown
4	04/02/22 - 10:00 AM	Richard [REDACTED]	Unknown
04/02/22 - 3:00 PM			
1	04/02/22 - 3:00 PM	Eileen Hlavka	CPUC, Senior Analyst
2	04/02/22 - 3:00 PM	Reece	Unknown
3	04/02/22 - 3:00 PM	Lily	Unknown
4	04/02/22 - 3:00 PM	V. [REDACTED]	Unknown