REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

DATE: OCTOBER 8, 2014

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: GREG RAMIREZ, CITY MANAGER

BY: MIKE KAMINO, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION ON SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY DATA COLLECTION UNIT PROJECT IN CITY RIGHTS-OF-WAY

The purpose of this item is to receive direction from the City Council on the manner of issuing encroachment permits for Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) antenna project in the City rights-of-way.

SoCalGas has applied for authorization from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to develop and deploy gas-only advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) system. The CPUC has granted authorization allowing the gas company to upgrade approximately 6 million existing natural gas meters with a communication device, which will transmit gas metering information to Data Collection Units (DCUs). It is our understanding the DCUs will re-transmit that information to central SoCalGas locations. DCUs consist of antennas, solar or electric power, and a pole mounted antenna box (see attached information from SoCalGas). SoCalGas intends to install DCUs on new or existing poles in rights-of-way throughout their service area, and has already begun that process with other cities.

SoCalGas is requesting encroachment permits, pursuant to its gas franchise with the City of Agoura Hills, to install 9 DCUs in the rights-of-way on either existing poles or new poles in Agoura Hills. The City currently has no ordinance in place that specifically regulates the utility company meter antennas and associated equipment.

Most cities have issued encroachment permits, with no discretionary review for SoCalGas's DCUs, pursuant to their gas franchise agreements with SoCalGas. For example, both the cities of Simi Valley and Calabasas required only encroachment permits, while having their staff work closely with SoCalGas to find locations that worked best for those cities. Likewise, SoCalGas has worked closely with our Planning and Public Works staff in proposing locations along arterial and collector streets rather than on local streets. As currently proposed, SoCalGas and City staff have successfully identified locations that would be limited to arterial and collector streets.

If so directed by Council, DCUs for SoCalGas will be subject to the issuance of encroachment permits by the City's Public Works Department. City staff would require SoCalGas to continue to work closely with the City to restrict DCUs to locations in arterial and collector streets. In the event that SoCalGas must locate a DCU in a street other than an arterial or collector street, City staff would also require that SoCalGas submit proof that alternative locations are technologically infeasible. This process would only apply to gas and electric utility customer meter data. Meter antennas require less equipment, and the risk of proliferation of meter antennas is small, as there are only three utility companies operating in the City that may require such meter antennas.

Alternative Option

Another option to accommodate the SoCalGas's request to install the DCUs in the City's right-of-way areas is to adopt an ordinance specifically regulating meter antenna and related equipment for utility companies. The ordinance would provide a specific encroachment permit process for utility company antenna facilities. The proposed ordinance can also include similar locational criteria as in the wireless telecommunications ordinance. A mechanism can also be put in place within the amended ordinance to allow such utility meter antenna facilities upon a finding that it is infeasible to locate only within the allowed areas specified in the ordinance. Lastly, the ordinance amendment would also amend the Zoning Ordinance to clarify that the wireless telecommunications ordinance does not apply to utility meter antenna facilities used exclusively for the collection and/or transmission of gas and electric utility customer meter data. The utility meter antenna facilities ordinance would apply only to gas and electric utility customer meter data and would not apply to cell phone companies. Cell phone companies must continue to comply with the City's wireless telecommunications ordinance. Again, utility meter antennas require less equipment, and the risk of proliferation of meter antennas is small, as there are only three utility companies operating in the City that may require such meter antennas.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that City Council direct staff to proceed with the issuance of encroachment permits for Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) antenna project in the City rights-of-way.

Attachment: Information from SoCalGas

Southern California Gas Company

A Sempra Energy utility

ADVANCEDmeter

COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK INSTALLATION FACT SHEET

UPGRADING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

In 2010, the California Public Utilities Commission approved Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas®) to upgrade its metering system by adding a communications device to natural gas meters. This technology will automatically read and securely transmit your gas usage information to our customer service and billing center.

ADVANCING THE WAY WE SERVE YOU

With this upgrade, you will have access to more frequent and detailed information about your gas consumption at **socalgas.com**, enabling you with better control of your energy usage and the potential to save money.

LEARN MORE

SoCalGas has been delivering clean, safe and reliable natural gas to customers for more than 140 years. To learn more, visit **socalgas.com** (search *"ADVANCED"*) or call:

Residential Customers:

English	1-800-427-2200
Español	1-800-342-4545
國語	1-800-427-1429
粵語	1-800-427-1420
한국어	1-800-427-0471
Tiếng Việt	1-800-427-0478
For other languages	1-888-427-1345
Hearing Impaired (TDD)	1-800-252-0259

Business Customers:

English	1-800-427-2000

FIRST PHASE: INSTALLING THE ADVANCED METER COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

Data collectors have been positioned on poles throughout our service area, enabling the advanced meter communications device to provide information back to SoCalGas.

- **Working With Your City** – We are collaborating with your city and other entities to find the best location for installation of our data collectors. In some instances, SoCalGas will need to install new poles to attach the data collectors.

*Pole type may vary

ABOUT THE NETWORK

- Approximately 4,000 data collectors will be installed throughout SoCalGas' service territory, which encompasses approximately 20,000 square miles throughout Central and Southern California, from Visalia to the Mexican border.
- The network equipment will be pole mounted, 24 feet or higher.
- The data collectors may be A/C or solar powered.

- **Working Efficiently** – You may see a SoCalGas-approved contractor in your neighborhood performing these installations, which may take between one and three days to complete. We will make every effort to minimize disruption to your neighborhood.
- **Safety is a Priority** – The safety of our customers, employees and the communities we serve is our top priority. We will mount all data collectors and their antennas to meet state and local requirements for wind and seismic safety. The data collectors comply with all safety standards set by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), producing radio frequency emissions at levels far below FCC limits.

SECOND PHASE: ADVANCED METER UPGRADE

SoCalGas is scheduled to install the advanced meter communications device on approximately 6 million natural gas meters through 2017. This technology is the next step in providing new and improved service for current and future customers. The advanced meter device is battery-powered and turns on for only a fraction of a second a day, for a total of less than two minutes a year. Only your gas usage reading will be transmitted through the network. No other personally identifiable information will be transmitted.

Printed on recycled paper. N1350036 0313 3.5K

Southern California Gas Company

A Sempra Energy utility

ADVANCEDmeter

INSTALACIÓN DE LA RED DE COMUNICACIONES - HOJA INFORMATIVA

LA ACTUALIZACIÓN DE LA INFRAESTRUCTURA

En 2010, la Comisión de Servicios Públicos de California aprobó que Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas®) actualizara el sistema de medición añadiendo un aparato de comunicaciones a los medidores de gas natural. Esta tecnología automáticamente leerá y transmitirá de manera segura la información de su consumo de gas al nuestro centro de atención y facturación al cliente.

UN AVANCE EN EL SERVICIO QUE LE DAMOS

Con esta mejora, tendrá acceso a información más frecuente y detallada sobre su consumo de gas en **socalgas.com/espanol**, permitiéndole tener un mayor control sobre su consumo de energía y potencialmente ahorrar dinero.

PARA MÁS INFORMACIÓN

SoCalGas ha estado distribuyendo gas natural limpio, seguro y confiable a los clientes por más de 140 años. Para más información, visite **socalgas.com/espanol** (busque la palabra clave "*AVANZADO*") o llame a:

Clientes Residenciales:

English	1-800-427-2200
Español	1-800-342-4545
國語	1-800-427-1429
粵語	1-800-427-1420
한국어	1-800-427-0471
Tiếng Việt	1-800-427-0478
Para otros idiomas	1-888-427-1345
Con problemas auditivos (TDD)	1-800-252-0259

Clientes Comerciales:

Español	1-800-427-6029

PRIMERA FASE: INSTALACIÓN DE LA RED DE COMUNICACIONES DEL ADVANCED METER

Se han colocado recolectores de datos en postes distribuidos en toda nuestra área de servicio; esto permitirá que el advanced meter proporcione información a SoCalGas.

- **Trabajamos conjuntamente con las autoridades locales** - Estamos colaborando con sus autoridades municipales y otras entidades a fin de encontrar la mejor ubicación para la instalación de los recolectores de datos de información. En algunos casos, SoCalGas va a necesitar instalar nuevos postes para fijar los recolectores de datos.

El tipo de poste puede variar

ACERCA DE LA RED

- Se van a instalar aproximadamente 4,000 recolectores de datos en todo el territorio de servicio de SoCalGas, que comprende cerca de 20,000 millas cuadradas en todo el centro y sur de California, desde Visalia hasta la frontera mexicana.
- El equipo de la red estará montado en postes, a 24 pies de altura o más.
- Los recolectores de datos pueden funcionar con corriente alterna o energía solar.

- **Trabajaremos con eficiencia** - Es posible que vea a un contratista aprobado de SoCalGas en su comunidad llevando a cabo estas instalaciones, que pueden tomar entre uno y tres días. Haremos todo lo posible por minimizar la molestia en su comunidad.
- **La seguridad es nuestra máxima prioridad** - La seguridad de los clientes y empleados y las comunidades que atendemos es nuestra máxima prioridad. Montaremos todos los recolectores de datos y sus antenas de modo que cumplan con los requisitos estatales y locales en materia de seguridad eólica y sísmica. Los recolectores de datos cumplen con todas las normas de seguridad establecidas por la Comisión Federal de Comunicaciones (FCC), al producir emisiones de radio frecuencia a niveles muy por debajo de los límites de la FCC.

SEGUNDA FASE: ACTUALIZACIÓN CON EL ADVANCED METERS

SoCalGas tiene programado instalar el advanced meter en aproximadamente 6 millones de medidores de gas natural para terminar en 2017. Esta tecnología es el siguiente paso para ofrecer un nuevo y mejorado servicio a clientes actuales y futuros. El advanced meter funciona con baterías y sólo se enciende una fracción de segundo al día, para un total de menos de dos minutos al año. Únicamente la lectura de su consumo de gas será transmitida a través de la red. Ninguna otra información que pueda identificar personalmente al cliente será transmitida a través del sistema.


15