

**VENTURA COMPRESSOR MODERNIZATION PROJECT**  
**(A.23-08-019)**  
**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY (SOCALGAS)**  
**CPUC - CEQA AND ENERGY PERMITTING**  
**(DR-001)**  
**DATE REQUESTED: January 21, 2025**  
**RESPONSE DUE: February 19, 2025**

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The following questions pertain to the three site alternatives to the Proposed Project considered in the PEA Section 6, Comparison of Alternatives.

The three site alternatives identified by SoCalGas are as follows:

- Avocado Site
- Devil's Canyon Road Site
- Ventura Steel Site

The CPUC staff requires the following information to evaluate the environmental conditions of the alternative sites to support our comparative analysis of effects. The following information is required for the site alternatives.

[CPUC] understand[s] that the timeframe for assembling the data requested for each of the issues defined above will be different. Please respond to this request within two weeks with a proposed approach and provide a copy to our CEQA consultant, Brewster Birdsall ([BBirdsall@aspeneg.com](mailto:BBirdsall@aspeneg.com)).

**SoCalGas' General Approach:**

SoCalGas' proposed approach will include the following steps to respond to this data request and perform the required preliminary engineering design and environmental assessment,

- Utilizing publicly available information from city, county, and state records.
- Using geographic and information system software to generate data reports that may include information such as potential utility conflicts, geotechnical records, constructability, and pipeline routing options to and from each alternative site.
- Conducting aerial survey.
- Using engineering data from previous Front End Engineering Design (FEED), which is not anticipated to change in the three site alternatives and includes compressor building, office and warehouse building and perimeter fencing security features.
- Using the preliminary engineering design, SoCalGas will strive to provide the information requested on the environmental conditions to support the comparative analysis of effects for each alternative.

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**QUESTION 1.1: General Information about Site Alternatives:**

Please provide PEA-level information for each of the three site alternatives.

For each of the site alternatives, please provide additional details and maps identifying the necessary site features and off-site infrastructure, as follows:

- a) Permanent and temporary disturbance area boundaries, and any extra work areas (e.g., staging or parking areas), identified with GIS data and maps, consistent with PEA Checklist requirements.

**Response 1.1a:**

Using the general approach and after the necessary preliminary engineering is completed, SoCalGas will generate GIS data and maps to show the approximate permanent and temporary disturbance area boundaries and any extra work areas.

- b) Electric interconnections and modifications to existing electric distribution facilities.

**Response 1.1b:**

SoCalGas will provide maps and additional details on the proposed modifications for each alternative site.

- c) Natural gas transmission system pipeline modifications

**Response 1.1c:**

SoCalGas will work to generate maps and preliminary plans to show potential transmission system pipeline modifications for each alternative site.

- d) Other utilities, such as water and wastewater

**Response 1.1d:**

Using the general approach described above and after the necessary preliminary engineering is completed, SoCalGas will work to generate preliminary plan drawings for fresh water, sewer, and wastewater for each alternative site.

- e) Access road improvements, including paving.

**Response 1.1e:**

SCG will work to generate maps and preliminary access road drawings, grading and paving plans for each alternative site.

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For each of the site alternatives, please confirm whether the following proposed “site improvements” would need to be included:

- f) Power Distribution Center (PDC) Building (1,500 square feet)
- g) Office building and warehouse
- h) Standby generator with enclosure
- i) New storage tanks
- j) Perimeter fencing, gate, and security features
- k) Site paving

**Response 1.1f to 1.1k:**

SoCalGas has initially evaluated that all “site improvements” stated above (PDC, office building and warehouse, standby generator with enclosure, new storage tanks, perimeter fencing and security features; and paving) will be required in the three site alternatives and will be shown on each facility plot plan.

Please confirm where construction details for the site alternatives would be likely to differ from the Proposed Project, for example:

- l) Please provide a list of anticipated construction equipment required for each site alternative (including type and quantity) and number of hours to be operated.

**Response 1.1l:**

SoCalGas will work to generate the information being requested.

- m) Please identify where the equipment type, quantity, hours to be operated, and/or construction phasing may differ for site alternatives when compared with the Proposed Project. Include a construction schedule for each site alternative.

**Response 1.1m:**

SoCalGas will generate the information to inform this response and present it in a comparative fashion.

- n) Please provide approximate quantities of material imports and exports at each alternative site.

**Response 1.1n:**

SoCalGas will generate an estimate of approximate quantities on import and export of soil materials needed at each alternative site.

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- o) Please specify the number of construction phase employees, water truck delivery trips, and haul trips that may differ for each alternative site when compared with the Proposed Project.

**Response 1.1o:**

SoCalGas will generate the information being requested on each alternative and compare this with the Proposed Project.

- p) Please provide a description of any anticipated earthwork at the site, construction staging yards, and for associated infrastructure such as access roads, gas supply pipelines, and other utilities such as electrical or water, including (but not limited to): acres of grading with anticipated volumes of cut and fill for the site and construction staging yard; grading for access roads; and excavation widths and depths for poles, utilities, and foundations. For the Devil's Canyon Road Site alternative provide anticipated excavation boundaries and depths for locations where existing active wells may need to be decommissioned.

**Response 1.1p:**

SoCalGas will work to draft a narrative of the anticipated earthwork for each alternative. SoCalGas intends to also include preliminary information on anticipated excavation boundaries for the existing oil wells (whether active, idle or plugged) that could be decommissioned in both Devils' Canyon and Ventura Steel site alternatives.

Please confirm that general information for each of the three site alternatives includes the following information for each alternative site, access roads, electrical supply, and pipeline routes:

- q) Site photos
- r) Topographic maps
- s) Site conditions description (e.g., existing exposed soil, pavement)
- t) Details about unique activities necessary to develop each site (e.g., regarding drainage, paving, cut/fill grading, etc.)

**Response 1.1q to 1.1t:**

SoCalGas will include general information for each of the three site alternatives including off-site infrastructure which will be inclusive of site photos, topographic maps, existing site conditions and on-site and off-site infrastructure (such as stormwater drainage system, paving, and cut/fill grading information).

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**Q.** If the areas for alternative site features, off-site infrastructure for alternative sites, or any extra work areas (e.g., staging or parking areas) are different from those considered since the mailing list was compiled by SoCalGas for the 2023 PEA, please provide the necessary changes to the comprehensive mailing list, consistent with the PEA Checklist requirements.

**Response:** If there are changes to the areas for the alternative site features including additional staging or parking areas that would be required, SoCalGas will provide an updated mailing list.

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**QUESTION 1.2: Aesthetics:**

For each of the three site alternatives, please provide visual simulations from appropriate viewpoints depicting existing conditions and conditions with the features and land changes associated development of each alternative site.

**RESPONSE 1.2:**

SoCalGas intends to generate visual simulations as requested.

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**QUESTION 1.3: Air Quality, Greenhouse Gases, and Energy:**

For each of the three site alternatives, please include the following information:

- a) Please provide emissions calculations to quantify the changes in air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions stemming from construction of the site alternatives, as they may differ from those of the Proposed Project (e.g., due to additional site preparation or grading).

**Response 1.3a:**

SoCalGas anticipates generating a summary report with construction emissions calculations for each alternative site compared to the Proposed Project.

- b) Would the capacity and specifications for the proposed natural gas standby generator at site alternatives be the same as with the Proposed Project?

**Response 1.3b:**

SoCalGas does not anticipate a change to the capacity and specifications for the proposed natural gas standby generator that would be used for the three site alternatives.

- c) Will any existing emission sources remain over the long-term at the original project site if an alternative site is used?

**Response 1.3c:**

If an alternative site is used, it is anticipated that some emission sources may remain over the long-term at the original project site. These sources will be identified, and foreseeable estimated emissions will be calculated.

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**QUESTION 1.4: Biological Resources:**

Please provide a Biological Resources Technical Report (BRTR) for each of the three site alternatives, consistent with the information provided for the Proposed Project in the PEA and with the BRTR standards identified in Attachment 2 of the PEA Checklist.

Please also provide the biological resources GIS data for the Proposed Project and alternative sites, including any vegetation mapping, special-status species locations and critical habitat, and jurisdictional wetlands and waters.

**RESPONSE 1.4:**

SoCalGas will work to generate a Biological Resources Technical Report (BRTR) for each of the three alternatives.

SoCalGas will work to provide biological resources GIS data for the Proposed Project and alternatives that includes vegetation mapping, special-status species locations and critical habitat, and jurisdictional wetlands and waters.



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**QUESTION 1.5: Cultural Resources:**

Please provide a Cultural Resources Inventory Report and a Tribal Consultation Report for each of the three site alternatives, consistent with the information provided for the Proposed Project in the PEA and with Cultural Resource Technical Report standards identified in Attachment 3 of the PEA Checklist.

**RESPONSE 1.5:**

SoCalGas will work to provide a Cultural Resources Inventory Report and Tribal Consultation Report for comparison with the Proposed Project.

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**QUESTION 1.6: Geology, Soils, and Paleontological Resources:**

For each of the three site alternatives, please include the following information:

- a) Please identify and describe soil types for each alternative site and provide preliminary geotechnical requirements to identify anticipated geotechnical hazards, seismic hazards, and subsurface conditions at the alternative sites. This information should identify any conditions that would potentially require geotechnical and engineering design measures to reduce impacts.

**Response 1.6a:**

Based on publicly available geotechnical information, SoCalGas anticipates being able to identify soil types for each alternative and provide a geotechnical constraints analysis. SoCalGas will also work to identify any conditions that would require geotechnical and engineering design measures to reduce impacts.

- b) Please provide a Paleontological Resources Inventory Report at similar level of detail as provided for the Proposed Project.

**Response 1.6b:**

SoCalGas will work to generate a Paleontological Resources Inventory Report for each alternative.

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**QUESTION 1.7: Hydrology, Water Quality, and Groundwater:**

Please provide a summary of hydrology drainage plans applicable to each alternative site, including an identification of the stormwater management methods likely to be feasible for each alternative site. This information should provide a qualitative evaluation of drainage impacts for each alternative site relative to the Proposed Project site.

**RESPONSE 1.7:**

Following the requirements of the Ventura County Technical Guidance Manual for Stormwater Quality Measures and SoCalGas Best Management Plan (BMP), SoCalGas will provide a stormwater management design philosophy that is proposed to be implemented for each alternative site including a qualitative evaluation of drainage impacts for each alternative site relative to the Proposed Project site.

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**QUESTION 1.8: Mineral Resources:**

Please provide a quantification of existing wells on the alternative sites. Please identify which wells, and how many would be subject to decommissioning per each alternative.

**RESPONSE 1.8:**

Using publicly available data, SoCalGas will work to detail the locations and status of existing oil wells for Devils' Canyon and Ventura Steel alternatives and to identify which wells could be decommissioned.

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**QUESTION 1.9: Noise:**

For each of the three site alternatives, please include the following information:

- a) Please list and map all sensitive receptors within one mile of each alternative compressor station site and tabulate the distances of noise sensitive areas from the sites.

**Response 1.9a:**

SoCalGas aims to complete this request by using available data and generating a list and map detailing locations of all sensitive receptors within one mile of each alternative.

- b) Please provide a noise study for each alternative site, including measurement or estimation of the existing ambient sound environment based on current land uses and activities, and a quantification of noise levels during operation that could exceed pre-project conditions at the alternative sites.

**Response 1.9b:**

SoCalGas will work to prepare a noise study based on the design of each alternative.

- c) Will any existing noise sources remain over the long-term at the original project site if an alternative site is used? If so, please identify these noise sources and quantify associated noise levels.

**Response 1.9c:**

If an alternative site is used, SoCalGas anticipates that the original project site will continue to house gas transmission pipeline and gas distribution related equipment. Noise sources associated with the remaining equipment will be identified, and estimated noise levels will be evaluated.

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**QUESTION 1.10: Transportation:**

Please provide the following information for each of the site alternative:

- a) Expand the Summary of Baseline (2016) Vehicle Miles Traveled (PEA Table 5.17-1) to include each alternative site.

**Response 1.10a:**

SoCalGas will expand Table 5.17-1 to include each of the three alternatives.

- b) Identify whether construction vehicle trips for each alternative site would be different from those of the Proposed Project in (PEA Table 5.17-3).

**Response 1.10b:**

SoCalGas will review construction vehicle trips and if they differ from each alternative.

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**QUESTION 1.11: Utilities and Service Systems:**

Please provide the following information for each alternative:

- a) Description and quantification of the new gas pipelines/utilities to be installed as part of each alternative. Clarify if any of these would require relocation of existing utility infrastructure.
- b) Quantify the amount of wastewater and solid waste that would be generated at each alternative site for both the construction, and operations and maintenance phases.
- c) Provide a description of existing stormwater infrastructure for each alternative site.

**RESPONSE 1.11a to 1.11c:**

SoCalGas will provide a narrative of the information requested under “Utilities and Service Systems” including the corresponding quantities.

Using publicly available information, SoCalGas will provide a description of the existing stormwater infrastructure for each alternative site.