



County of Santa Barbara Planning and Development

Glenn S. Russell, Ph.D., Director

Dianne Black, Director of Development Services

Derek Johnson, Director of Long Range Planning

SCOPING MEETING FOR THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY LA GOLETA STORAGE FIELD ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

DATE: Thursday, March 18, 2010
TIME: 6:00 PM
LOCATION: Goleta City Hall, Council Chambers
130 Cremona Drive, Suite B, Goleta, CA 93117

Planning & Development has begun environmental review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the Southern California Gas Company La Goleta Storage Field Enhancement Project located at 1171 More Ranch Road, Goleta CA 93111.

Southern California Gas Company has proposed to drill for and withdraw native gas from an on-shore gas field at the existing La Goleta Storage Field located in the unincorporated area of Santa Barbara County, near the City of Goleta. The withdrawal of native gas would enhance the existing storage field operations by expanding the total reservoir storage capacity at the facility.

P&D invites you and other interested persons and organizations to comment on our preliminary assessment of the environmental issues to be evaluated as we proceed with environmental review of the project. The scoping meeting discussion will be limited to environmental concerns, the focus of the project environmental document, feasible ways in which project impacts may be minimized to insignificant levels (mitigation measures) and potential alternatives to the project. The Initial Study summary (attached) provides a list of potential project environmental impacts identified by P&D staff and will be used as a starting point for discussion during the meeting. Any other environmental concerns may be raised by the public at the meeting. P&D staff encourages your participation in this process; please pass on this information to others you feel would be interested in attending this meeting.

We look forward to your participation on March 18 at 6:00 PM at Goleta City Hall, Council Chambers.

Please contact John Day at (805) 568-2045 for additional information.

Enclosures: Initial Study Summary
Project location map

Development Review
Building & Safety
Energy, Administration
123 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Phone: (805) 568-2000
FAX: (805) 568-2030

Long Range Planning
30 E. Figueroa St, 2nd Floor
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Phone: (805) 568-3380
FAX: (805) 568-2076

Development Review
Building & Safety
Agricultural Planning
624 W. Foster Road
Santa Maria, CA 93455
Phone: (805) 934-6250
FAX: (805) 934-6258

Southern California Gas Company La Goleta Storage Field Enhancement Project Initial Study Summary

Project Description

Southern California Gas Company has applied for a Coastal Development Permit to drill for and withdraw native gas from an on-shore gas field at the existing La Goleta Storage Field located in the unincorporated area of Santa Barbara County, near the City of Goleta. The withdrawal of native gas would enhance the existing storage field operations by expanding the total reservoir storage capacity at the facility.

There are currently nineteen injection wells and two observation wells within the facility. The existing storage facility includes a number of natural gas compressors, a dehydration unit, ancillary units, and a large underground natural gas storage reservoir where natural gas is injected and stored for future use. During heavy demand periods, the gas is withdrawn from the reservoir, separated from any entrained sand and moisture, dehydrated, odorized, and then routed to pipelines within SoCal Gas' service territory. The existing facility has a permitted throughput rate of 680 million standard cubic feet per day and a permitted venting rate of 10 million standard cubic feet per year. This existing permitted throughput rate would not be affected by the proposed new wells. The existing loading station would remain with a permitted throughput of 125,000 gallons per year.

The project involves drilling four new wells (two development/exploratory wells identified as Todd 1 and 2 and two exploratory wells identified as Chase and Bryce 3 and More 6), installation of approximately 2,800 linear feet of six-inch diameter underground piping, and construction of an additional gas dehydration unit and other appurtenant facilities at the La Goleta Storage Field. The two exploratory wells would be converted into development wells if native gas production is determined feasible. Native gas from the development/exploratory wells would be routed through the new underground pipeline to the new dehydration unit prior to connecting to existing gas transmission and distribution pipelines for local distribution. SoCal Gas estimates that there are three to five billion cubic feet of recoverable gas reserves in the target reservoir, and production of these reserves would take approximately three to five years. The proposed new facilities would be converted to storage uses after sufficient depletion of the native gas reserves has been achieved.

The project would be conducted in two phases. Phase I consists of well pad construction, drilling, well completion and installation of lateral piping for wells Todd 1&2 (estimated to take 145 days), followed by installation and startup of the gas transportation and conditioning equipment, including the dehydration plant (estimated to take an additional 145 days), provided that the wells are successfully completed. Phase II would occur approximately one year later and would last approximately 104 days. Phase II would include construction of exploratory wells Chase and Bryce 3 and More 6.

The proposed natural gas exploration and production activities are not currently allowed in the PU zone district, in which the facility is located. The proposed project includes amendments to the Coastal Zoning Ordinance to allow natural gas exploration and production on the subject parcel.

Potential Environmental Impacts

The Initial Study identifies and discusses the potential environmental impacts of the project, mitigation measures, and residual impacts. Based on this preliminary assessment, a significant, unmitigable environmental impact (*Class I Impact*) is anticipated to **Aesthetic/Visual Resources**, due to the presence of a 133-foot tall drilling rig on the site for approximately 89 days during the first project phase and approximately 68 days during the second phase. In addition, potentially significant environmental impacts that can be reduced to less than significant by implementation of mitigation measures (*Class II Impacts*) are anticipated in the following issue areas: **Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Fire Protection, Geologic Processes, Noise, Public Facilities, Transportation/Circulation, and Water Resources/Flooding**. No significant, cumulative impacts are anticipated.

Additional Information

The Initial Study or “Scoping Document” is posted at the Planning & Development, Energy Division website at: <http://www.countyofsb.org/energy/projects/SoCalGasStorage.asp>. You may obtain a paper copy by contacting John Day at (805) 568-2045 (jday@co.santa-barbara.ca.us).

Project Location Map

