

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE'S RULING IN THE DISCOVERY DISPUTE  
BETWEEN PUBLIC ADVOCATES OFFICE AND SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
GAS COMPANY, AUGUST 2019 (NOT IN A PROCEEDING)**

This ruling resolves the discovery dispute between Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) and Public Advocates Office of the California Public Utilities Commission (Cal Advocates) by granting Cal Advocates' August 14, 2019 *Motion to Compel Further Responses from Southern California Gas Company to Data Request- CalAdvocates-SC-SCG-2019-04 (DR SC-SCG-2019-04)*. SoCalGas shall, within two businesses days, provide the unredacted information sought in response to Data Request - CalAdvocates-SC-SCG-2019-04 (DR SC-SCG-2019-04).

**1. Background**

SoCalGas is regulated by the Commission. On August 14, 2019, Cal Advocates sent via letter to the Commission's President a *Motion to Compel Further Responses from Southern California Gas Company to Data Request - CalAdvocates-SC-SCG-2019-04 (DR SC-SCG-2019-04)*. The data requests referred to in this Motion to Compel were not issued pursuant to any open Commission proceeding. Therefore, no assigned Commissioner exists for this discovery dispute. In this situation, Pub. Util. Code § 309.5(e) provides that the President of the Commission must decide any discovery objections. On September 5, 2019, the President of the Commission referred this dispute to the Chief Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) for resolution. On September 5, 2019, the Chief ALJ designated an ALJ to review and dispose of the dispute.

## 2. Discussion

The August 14, 2019 Motion to Compel states that SoCalGas responded to Data Request - CalAdvocates-SC-SCG-2019-04 (DR SC-SCG-2019-04) but, regarding Item 1 and 5, redacted information and failed to provide any explanations, declaration, or privilege logs explaining why this information cannot be disclosed to Cal Advocates in unredacted format.<sup>1</sup>

On August 26, 2019, SoCalGas sent to the President of the Commission the *Response of SoCalGas to the August 14, 2019 Motion to Compel Further Responses from Southern California Gas Company to Data Request*. In this Response, SoCalGas objects to the Motion to Compel.

On September 5, 2019, the Chief Administrative Law Judge granted Cal Advocates request to file a Reply. On September 9, 2019, Cal Advocates submitted a Reply to SoCalGas' Responses, *Reply of the Public Advocates Office to Response of SoCalGas to August 14, 2019 Motion to Compel Further Responses From Southern California Gas Company to Data Request-CalAdvocates-SC-SCG-2019-04 (DR SC-SCG-2019-04)*. Cal Advocates states that SoCalGas has provided information in response to Item 5. Therefore, it only seeks to compel a discovery response to Item 1.

After reviewing the Cal Advocates' Motion, SoCalGas' Response, and Cal Advocates' Reply, Cal Advocates' Motion to Compel submitted pursuant to Pub. Util. Code § 309.5(e), § 314, and Rule 11.3 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure is granted.

**IT IS SO RULED** that the August 14, 2019 Motion to Compel submitted by Cal Advocates pursuant to Pub. Util. Code § 309.5(e), § 314, and Rule 11.3 of the

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<sup>1</sup> Prior to filing the Motion to Compel, Cal Advocates and SoCalGas held a meet-and-confer on June 4, 2019. A meet-and-confer was only held on August 12, 2019.

Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure is granted. SoCalGas shall, within two businesses days, provide the unredacted information sought in response to Item 1 of Data Request – CalAdvocates-SC-SCG-2019-04 (DR SC-SCG-2019-04).

Dated September 10, 2019, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ REGINA M. DEANGELIS

Regina M. DeAngelis  
Administrative Law Judge

## INFORMATION REGARDING SERVICE

I have electronically served all persons on the attached.

Administrative Law Judge's Ruling in the Discovery Dispute between  
Public Advocates Office and Southern California Gas Company, August 2019  
(Not in a Proceeding).

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The list I use is current as of today's date.

Dated September 10, 2019, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ REGINA M. DEANGELIS

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Regina DeAngelis