

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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March 30, 2021

California Court of Appeal
Second Appellate District, Division One
Ronald Reagan State Building
300 S. Spring Street, 2nd Floor, North Tower
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Subject: *Southern California Gas Company v. California Public Utilities Commission, California Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District, Division One (Case No. B310811)*

To the Honorable Justices of the California Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District, Division One:

Respondent California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) respectfully writes to clarify two matters raised in Petitioner Southern California Gas Company's (SoCalGas) March 26, 2021 filing with this Court (Application for Leave to File Reply in Support of Application for Leave to File Under Seal).

At pages 15-16 of its March 26 filing, SoCalGas proposes to limit the length of the Commission's answer in response to its petition for writ of review. There is no basis or need for such limitation. Without citation to any Rule of Court, SoCalGas suggests that the Commission and the Public Advocates Office of the Commission (Cal Advocates) should be limited to a combined total of 14,000 words in any answers filed with this Court in response to SoCalGas' writ petition. Rule 8.204(c)(1) of the California Rules of Court provides that briefs filed in appeals shall not exceed 14,000 words. However, as the Court is aware, the instant proceeding involves a petition for writ of review filed by SoCalGas, not an appeal. The 14,000-word limit of Rule 8.204(c)(1) is therefore inapplicable.

The Commission would also like to clarify the status of Cal Advocates, both in terms of its function within the Commission and its status in this litigation. Public Utilities Code section 309.5(a) states: “There is within the commission an independent Public Advocate’s Office of the Public Utilities Commission to represent and advocate on behalf of the interests of public utility customers and subscribers within the jurisdiction of the commission. The goal of the office shall be to obtain the lowest possible rate for service consistent with reliable and safe service levels.” Per the language of section 309.5(a), Cal Advocates is an office of the Commission, operating within the jurisdiction of the Commission. As an office of the Commission, Cal Advocates is represented in this litigation by the Commission’s counsel of record. The Commission notes its objection to the argument that Cal Advocates has standing in this litigation separate from the standing of the Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

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