



"Citrus Capital of the World"

# City of Santa Paula

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March 23, 2023

Alice Busching Reynolds  
President  
California Public Utilities Commission  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Subject: **Letter of Opposition for the SoCalGas 2024 General Rate Case Application (A.22-05-015)**

Dear Ms. Busching Reynolds:

On May 16, 2022, SoCalGas submitted its 2024 General Rate Case application (A.22-05-015) requesting CPUC approval to increase revenues for 2024-2027 in order to recover costs associated with operating and maintaining its system. SoCalGas is requesting to increase revenues by \$738 million, a 20.2 percent increase over 2023 expected revenues in 2024. On top of this increase, the application also includes an additional increase of 6.7 percent in 2025, 5.6 percent in 2026, and 7.7 percent in 2027.

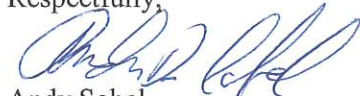
These rate increases would put a tremendous burden on many Santa Paula residents where the median household income is \$67,697 and roughly 17.1% of our community lives in poverty. The recent gas price increases over the past months were a painful shock to many SoCalGas customers in our City. While prices have decreased in February and March, many residents are still trying to recover from the January gas prices which severely affected them financially.

The City Council is concerned that SoCalGas' request to increase service costs in 2024 will undoubtedly remain a burden for many in our community, especially those on a fixed income. While we understand that many factors that caused the high prices might be outside of SoCalGas's control, any price increases in subsequent years must be justified and not just the result of requests to increase revenues.

Furthermore, City Council's current Legislative Platform under Section 4.C. Telecommunications and Utilities, Item #8 supports legislation that would result in lower energy rates for residents and businesses, not increase them.

For these reasons and more, the City of Santa Paula opposes the SoCalGas 2024 General Rate Case application and asks the California Public Utilities Commission NOT to approve the proposed rate increases.

Respectfully,

  
Andy Sobel  
Mayor  
City of Santa Paula

Cc: City Council  
City Manager