

# Pipeline Safety Enhancement Plan

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



The safety of our customers, employees and the communities we serve is our top priority. This includes the 14,000 miles of natural gas pipeline that we manage. Reflecting that commitment to safety, we construct, operate, and maintain our pipeline system to meet or exceed applicable federal and state regulations and all requirements. SDG&E® routinely performs various pipeline safety and maintenance tasks, including patrolling, inspecting, testing, repairing and replacing pipelines.

### Pipeline 1600 safety projects

Pipeline 1600 is an existing 16-inch diameter natural gas transmission pipeline that starts at the Riverside/San Diego County line and interconnects with other parts of the San Diego natural gas system in Mission Valley. The 50-mile pipeline serves as the primary or sole supply of natural gas for approximately 150,000 customers in eastern Fallbrook, Valley Center, Escondido, Rancho Bernardo, Rancho Penasquitos, Poway, Scripps Ranch, Kearny Mesa and Serra Mesa.

SDG&E will be upgrading this pipeline over the next several years to enhance the safety and reliability of the natural gas transmission system and meet new state laws and regulations.

### Why is this upgrade necessary?

Following the 2010 pipeline rupture in San Bruno in Northern California, legislation was adopted in 2011 that directed all natural gas operators in California to develop plans to enhance the safety of the natural gas transmission system. SDG&E supports this added measure of pipeline safety ordered by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and submitted a Pipeline Safety Enhancement Plan (PSEP) to implement the directives of the Commission. The PSEP, which was approved by the CPUC in 2014, identifies various pipeline sections throughout our system that have not been strength tested, or for which there is no record of a strength test, and slates



these pipeline sections to be strength tested or replaced. As part of PSEP, we've upgraded and modernized more than 23 miles of natural gas pipelines in San Diego County.

Pipeline 1600 was constructed in 1949 with materials and construction practices that aren't considered state-of-the-art by today's safety standards. Pipeline 1600 wasn't strength tested prior to being placed into service, as this practice wasn't mandated nor the industry norm prior to 1955.

Because Pipeline 1600 provides a critical source of energy to customers in the region, extra review was taken to determine the best way to satisfy California pipeline safety requirements, while maintaining reliable service to our customers. In January 2019, the CPUC approved SDG&E's plan to upgrade Pipeline 1600 and further enhance the safety of our pipeline system.

### How will Pipeline 1600 be upgraded?

Safety is our top priority. These 19 separate safety enhancement projects will take place in the cities of San Diego, Escondido and Poway, as well as the County of San Diego.

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Through these projects, SDG&E will replace approximately 37 miles of existing pipe in more populated areas and strength test approximately 13 miles of existing pipe in more rural areas.

These pipeline safety projects will be completed between 2020-2024:

- **County of San Diego:** 11.2 miles replacement/ 10.2 miles strength test
- **Escondido:** 5.4 miles replacement/ 2.7 miles strength test
- **Poway:** 5.2 miles replacement
- **City of San Diego:** 20.8 miles replacement

The replacement pipeline will incorporate new safety features such as improved and thicker steel, a warning mesh placed above the pipeline to minimize accidental excavations, automated shut-off valves and new fiber optic technology to detect ground disturbances that could impact pipeline integrity.

### What to expect during construction

Because the safety enhancements will be achieved through the completion of 19 independent projects, construction activities are anticipated to only impact a community for a short amount of time. The majority of the projects are approximately three miles or less. Actual construction time is projected to take approximately six weeks per mile for each project. Traffic flow will be maintained at all times.

Most areas near existing Pipeline 1600 are heavily developed so most of the replacement pipeline will be installed in large, nearby streets. This is done to avoid construction impacts on private property and allows our work to continue without interrupting the flow of natural gas through the original pipeline. Before each new pipeline segment is placed into service, we conduct a strength test to verify the integrity of the new section.

We believe that all customers will benefit from the added testing and safety validation of our natural gas transmission system. SDG&E will continue to work with communities and notify customers and the public when strength testing or replacement activity is coming to their neighborhood.



### How will this project impact energy bills?

The estimated \$619 million cost of the 19 projects will be shared by both SDG&E and SoCalGas customers since this is a backbone transmission project which benefits all customers. A typical SDG&E residential gas customer who uses the system-wide average of 23 therms per month would see an average monthly increase of approximately 0.6 percent or 25 cents on a typical bill, from the current \$41.76 per month to \$42.01 per month. Business customers would see an average monthly increase of about 1.0 percent. The CPUC will determine the final authorized project costs through a separate regulatory process once all projects are placed into service by 2024.

### For more information

Natural gas is a primary source of energy in San Diego County. Upgrading Pipeline 1600 will enhance the safety and reliability of the pipeline and our entire system so that we may continue to meet or exceed all federal and state regulations and requirements and provide safe and reliable service to our customers.

For more information on the Line 1600 pipeline safety projects, please visit our website at [sdge.com/psep](https://sdge.com/psep). If you have any questions or concerns, please call us at **1-866-382-0886**.