

ORA DATA REQUEST
ORA-SDGE-156-TCR
SDG&E 2019 GRC – A.17-10-007
SDG&E RESPONSE
DATE RECEIVED: MARCH 12, 2018
DATE RESPONDED: APRIL 2, 2018

Exhibit Reference: SDG&E-14

SDG&E Witness: Alan F. Colton

Subject: Undergrounding Surcharge

1. The March 12, 2018 issue of the San Francisco Chronicle includes an article titled “Wine Country fires: PG&E often diverts money for undergrounding power lines” by David R. Baker, which can be found at:
<https://www.sfchronicle.com/business/article/Wine-Country-fires-PG-E-often-divertsmoney-for-12742239.php>.

This article states “In contrast, San Diego and the electric utility that serves it — San Diego Gas & Electric Co. — have made placing lines underground a high priority. In 2003, for reasons including reliability and aesthetics, city officials adopted a special surcharge on residents that helps fund the work. As a result, almost 65 percent of SDG&E’s electric distribution lines, in both the city and the countryside, run underground.” Regarding this statement:

- a. Is the 65% figure accurate? If not, please provide an accurate figure.
- b. Please provide SDG&E’s name for the surcharge.
- c. Please provide the decision or ruling number that authorized the surcharge.
- d. Please provide a narrative describing of the programs funded by the surcharge.
- e. If collections from this surcharge fund any programs other than BC 210, conversion from OH to UG Rule 20A, list the program names and budget codes.

SDG&E Response 01:

- 1.a Within SDG&E’s service territory, approximately 62% of the electric distribution lines are underground. SDG&E began converting overhead to underground distribution lines in 1967 pursuant to the Rule 20 program authorized by the CPUC in the Docket numbered “Case 8209”. Overhead-to-underground conversions have continued (under CPUC-approved Tariff Rules 20A, 20B, and 20C), but in addition new distribution lines are typically constructed underground. Thus, the total percentage of underground distribution has increased over time since the late 1960s. The City of San Diego adopted a special surcharge within San Diego city limits (not the entire service territory) which provides additional funds to convert overhead facilities to underground. So, while in San Diego County and Orange County, lines are undergrounded through a variety of programs/budget codes, the percent of underground electric distribution lines are not entirely attributable to the specific budget code (BC 213) associated with special surcharges on the residents of the City of San Diego.
- 1.b Budget Code 213 - City of San Diego Surcharge Program (20SD). This applies only to residents within the city limits of the City of San Diego.

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SDG&E Response 01:-Continued

- 1.c The surcharge program is authorized by Commission Resolution E-3788 issued December 19, 2002. Please see the detail on this link:

http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/PUBLISHED/FINAL_RESOLUTION/22277.htm

- 1.d Please see the testimony for Budget Code 213 and associated workpapers.
- 1.e Budget code 210 is not funded by the collections from the surcharge fund captured in budget code 213. Budget code 210 is a CPUC mandated program defined in case 8209 dated September 27, 1967. Please see the testimony and workpapers for budget code 210.