Company: San Diego Gas & Electric Company (U902M)

Proceeding: 2019 General Rate Case Application: A.17-10-007/008 (cons.)

Exhibit: SDG&E-230

SDG&E

REBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF TASHONDA TAYLOR

(HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, SAFETY, WORKERS' COMPENSATION & LONG-TERM DISABILITY)

JUNE 18, 2018

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA



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SDG&E REBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF TASHONDA TAYLOR (HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, SAFETY, WORKERS' COMPENSATION & LONG-TERM DISABILITY)

I. SUMMARY OF DIFFERENCES

Table TT-1

Comparison of SDG&E and Intervenors TY 2019 Estimated

Total Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Expenses

| TOTAL O&N | I - Constant 2016 (\$00 | 0) | |
|-----------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|---------|
| | Base Year | Test Year | Change |
| | 2016 | 2019 | |
| SDG&E | \$17,000 | \$19,164 ¹ | \$2,164 |
| ORA | \$17,000 | \$18,776 | \$1,776 |
| TURN | \$17,000 | \$18,553 | \$553 |

II. INTRODUCTION

This rebuttal testimony regarding SDG&E's funding request for the Human Resources Department, Safety, Workers' Compensation & Long-Term Disability addresses the following testimony from other parties:

- Office of Safety Advocate (OSA) as submitted by Ms. Carolina Contreras (Exhibit OSA-1), dated May 14, 2018.
- The Office of Ratepayer Advocates (ORA) as submitted by Ms. Stacey Hunter (Exhibit ORA-23), dated April 13, 2018.
- The Utility Reform Network (TURN), as submitted by Mr. William Marcus (Exhibit TURN-03) and Mr. Garrick Jones & Mr. William Marcus (Exhibit TURN-05), dated May 14, 2018.

As a preliminary matter, the absence of a response to any particular issue in this rebuttal testimony does not imply or constitute agreement by SDG&E with the proposal or contention

¹ While compiling information for TURN-SEU-DR-011, Question 5, the utilities discovered an error in the workers' compensation (WC) and long-term disability (LTD) TY 2019 costs, whereby the medical reserves were inadvertently included in the calculation. Medical reserves (a credit) should not have offset WC and LTD costs. This resulted in SDG&E understating the WC and LTD amount by over \$629,000. See Appendix A for more information.

made by these or other parties. The forecasts contained in SDG&E's direct testimony, performed at the project level, are based on sound estimates of its revenue requirements at the time of testimony preparation.

This rebuttal testimony further supports the main themes proposed in the direct testimony of Tashonda Taylor (Ex. SDG&E-30), including RAMP-related activities within the SDG&E-3 Employee, Contactor, Customer, and Public Safety and SDG&E-17 Workforce Planning respective RAMP chapters. Moreover, this testimony supports SDG&E's proposed medical escalation rate for Workers' Compensation-related medical costs.

The following is a brief overview of the points raised by OSA, ORA, and TURN that will be addressed in SDG&E's rebuttal testimony:

A. OSA

The Office of Safety Advocate (OSA) submitted testimony on May 14, 2018.² The following is a summary of OSA's position(s):

- The safety culture assessment should (1) take a more comprehensive approach, (2) incorporate contractors and others affected by safety culture, (3) incorporate questions that reveal process safety perceptions, (4) evaluate the effectiveness of improvement strategies and follow best practices from industry safety culture experts.³
- OSA did not dispute forecasts, allocations, or methodologies for any nonshared or shared services costs.⁴

² May 14, 2018, Prepared Direct Testimony of Carolina Contreras Addressing SDG&E/SoCalGas Safety Policy and Management of Safety, on behalf of The Office of Safety Advocate [OSA], Exhibit OSA-1, Chapter 2 (Contreras).

³ *Id.* at 2-2 to 2-3.

⁴ See id.

B. ORA

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ORA issued its report on Human Resources Department, Safety, Workers' Compensation & Long-Term Disability and also Compensation & Benefits; Pension & Postretirement Benefits Other Than Pension on April 13, 2018.⁵ The following is a summary of ORA's position(s):

- Proposes a reduced Workers' Compensation medical premium escalation rate of 4.25% in TY 2019.⁶
- RAMP-related training expenses in Organizational Effectiveness should be proposed at the alternate funding level of \$132,000.⁷
- Non-Shared Service forecasts and methodologies for Chief HR and CAO, Safety, Wellness, and Employee Care Services, Long-Term Disability, Diversity and Workforce Management, Employee Communications, HR Diversity, and Offices of the President and Chief Operating Officer should be adopted.⁸
- All Shared-Service forecasts and allocation methodologies should be adopted.⁹

C. TURN

The Utility Reform Network (TURN) submitted testimony on May 14, 2018. 10 The following is a summary of TURN's position(s):

⁵ April 13, 2018, ORA Report on Human Resources Department, Safety, Workers' Compensation, & Long-Term Disability, Exhibit ORA-23 (Stacey Hunter); April 13, 2018, ORA Report on Compensation & Benefits; Pension & Postretirement Benefits Other Than Pension, Exhibit ORA-22 (Stacey Hunter).

⁶ Ex. ORA-23 (Hunter) at 1.

⁷ *Id.* at 11.

⁸ *Id.* at 6-8, 13.

⁹ *Id.* at 1.

¹⁰ May 14, 2018, Prepared Direct Testimony of William Marcus Addressing the Various Results of Operational Issues in SoCalGas and SDG&E's 2016 Test Year General Rate Cases, on behalf of The Utility Reform Network [TURN], Exhibit TURN-03 (Marcus); May 14, 2018 Prepared Testimony of Garrick F. Jones and William P. Marcus Addressing the Proposals of SDG&E and SoCalGas in Their Test Year 2019 General Rate Case, on behalf of TURN, Exhibit TURN-05 (Jones).

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- Edison Electric Institute (EEI) membership dues should be 100% share-holder funded; alternatively, no more than 50% of the base year gross cost should be funded by ratepayers.¹¹
- Proposes a reduced Workers' Compensation medical premium escalation rate of 6% in TY 2019.¹²
- TURN did not dispute forecasts, allocations, or methodologies for any shared services costs.

III. OSA SAFETY CULTURE

In its testimony, OSA made several recommendations regarding select aspects of SDG&E's safety culture enhancements, approach to managing safety and related improvements, potential safety gaps, and means to help the Commission hold SDG&E accountable for its safety. ¹³

OSA summarizes its goal as follows:

"This testimony recommends improvements to the Utilities' approach to managing safety in order to achieve greater effectiveness of existing and proposed safety programs and investments, enhance their commitment to safety, and mitigate potential pitfalls that could compromise the success of important safety initiatives in the long-term, such as the implementation of safety management systems." ¹⁴

SDG&E will address certain OSA recommendations individually, as follows: OSA Recommendation 1:

"The Utilities should adopt a more comprehensive multi-method approach to assessing their safety culture by ideally incorporating the five methods listed in Table 1, but at minimum, by at least incorporating one for each information type. If the latter, the

¹¹ Ex. TURN-03 (Marcus) at 73-74.

¹² Ex. TURN-05 (Jones) at 105.

¹³ Ex. OSA-1, Chapter 1 (Contreras) at 1-1 to 1-2.

¹⁴ *Id.* at 1-2. Throughout my rebuttal I italicize quoted language from OSA for ease in reading. The italics are not in the original testimony submitted by OSA.

Utilities should strive to incorporate an ideal comprehensive approach to their assessments based on the needs of each utility as their assessment efforts mature."¹⁵

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SDG&E agrees with OSA that a multi-method framework, like the one identified in Table 1¹⁶ of OSA's testimony, should be utilized to comprehensively assess safety culture. When SDG&E began its journey in 2013 to begin formally assessing its safety culture, it did consider these tools and methodologies. Good change management, however, must be done methodically and in steps. As stated the NorthStar report, Assessment Of Pacific Gas And Electric Corporation And Pacific Gas And Electric Company's Safety Culture Prepared For California Public Utilities Commission, ¹⁷ PG&E has repeatedly stated its intention to change its safety culture, has allocated significant resources to a variety of safety programs, and has made some fragmented progress in developing a safety culture. Nevertheless, the Report also finds that PG&E's overall progress is uneven across its gas and electric lines of business, and that while there are many programs underway, they do not yet add up to a consistent, robust, and accountable corporate-wide safety program. ¹⁸ As such, SDG&E chose its approach to avoid overwhelming employees, as implementing all methodologies at once could overwhelm employees and lead to employee resistance. SDG&E initiated a nationally recognized survey instrument to gather employee perception and gradually and methodically worked with employees to define, measure, assess, and improve its safety culture on an ongoing and sustainable basis.

SDG&E selected the National Safety Council (NSC) Barometer Survey for a variety of reasons. NSC is an independent, non-profit organization having conducted employee perception surveys for more than two decades, covering a cross section of businesses and millions of employees. In addition, the survey offers a unique benchmarking opportunity against participating organizations in the NSC Database to produce comparative percentile scores. The

¹⁵ *Id.* at 2-3.

¹⁶ *Id.* at 2-14.

¹⁷ Assessment Of Pacific Gas And Electric Corporation And Pacific Gas And Electric Company's Safety Culture Prepared For California Public Utilities Commission (Apr. 21, 2017).

¹⁸ Scoping Memo and Ruling of Assigned Commissioner, Investigation (I.) 15-08-019 (Aug. 27, 2015) at 2 (discussing the NorthStar report).

added benefit is the survey polls the entire workforce seeking anonymous confidential input from employees on safety culture. Conducting the survey bi-annually ensures consistency and is a reasonable and appropriate way to continue SDG&E's safety culture journey. SDG&E agrees with OSA's long-term goal and plans to formally integrate additional components of the framework over time to continually, but gradually, expand the scope and allow employees to understand, appreciate, and own the process and outcome.

The direct testimony of Tashonda Taylor (Ex. SDG&E-30) at pages TT-6 to TT-11 identifies numerous elements of SDG&E's safety culture that relate to the multi-method framework identified in Exhibit OSA-1, Table 1.¹⁹ Prime examples are:

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- o NSC Safety Barometer safety culture assessment survey
- o Employee Engagement survey

Interviews

- Direct feedback received by SDG&E executives from frontline employees and supervisors at Executive Safety Council meetings
- Over 60 field and office safety committees, including electric and gas safety subcommittees, providing leadership in creating and maintaining a healthy and incident-free workplace

Focus Groups

- Executive Safety Council meetings, conducted at company locations throughout the service territory, to discuss employee safety and the things the Council can do to support employees and improve safety
- o Behavior Based Safety (BBS) Steering Team meetings
- o Grassroots Culture Change program team meetings
- Just Culture, a proactive human performance improvement initiative, which is a
 methodology for managing organizational risks and building a safe and high
 accountability culture. Just Culture provides a consistent approach to
 accountability that evaluates quality of choice (human error, at risk behavior, or

¹⁹ Ex. OSA-1, Chapter 2 (Contreras) at 2-14.

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- reckless behavior) as it relates to work processes, established rules, procedures and values.
- Safety Congress, an annual event designed to provide safety training, share best practices, and promote leadership and employee engagement
- Safety Awards, presented annually at the Safety Congress, recognize individual and team safety standouts who embrace SDG&E's strong safety culture and demonstrate safety leadership
- Quarterly contractor safety meetings, including an annual Contractor Safety
 Summit, aimed at sharing best practices, incidents, results of incident investigations, success stories, and more

Observation

- BBS Program, intended to reduce the occurrence of at-risk behaviors by modifying an individual's actions and/or behaviors through observation, feedback, and positive interventions aimed at developing safe work habits
- Grassroots Culture Change program empowers employees through employee-led teams that train and work with front-line employees to advance a positive safety culture in their work groups by addressing behaviors and norms to take safety beyond compliance
- Close Call/Near-Miss Program, whereby employees report close calls in tailgates, safety meetings, and through an online process

• Document Analysis

- Action plans developed by departments as a direct result of the Safety Barometer surveys
- Environmental & Safety Compliance Management Program (ESCMP), an environmental, health, and safety management system that helps to plan, set priorities, inspect, educate, train, and monitor the effectiveness of environmental, health, and safety activities
- SDG&E and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local
 465 established the Overhead Safety Partnership to conduct a thorough
 examination of both industry and OSHA Best Practices to ensure that SDG&E's

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- work practices are aligned with industry best practices, and to recommend improvements to enhance line worker safety.
- Results from BBS Program observations are shared with employees at Steering Team meetings.
- o Projects and initiatives resulting from the Grassroots Culture Change program
- Contractor Safety Program that:
 - Evaluates and verifies the safety records of contractors before they are hired for high and medium risk work
 - Enhances contractor safety standard contract requirements
 - Provides for review by qualified SDG&E personnel of contractor safety plans
 - Establishes business unit contractor oversight procedures
 - Establishes post-project safety evaluations of work performed by contractors and capturing/sharing of lessons learned
- A variety of other means, including minutes from safety meetings, risk assessments procedures, incident investigations, internal and external audit results, safety suggestions, and training records.

OSA Recommendation 2:

"The Utilities should work to incorporate contractors and any others involved in a work process or at a work site who are the responsibility of the operator or who could affect or be affected by safety culture." ²⁰

SDG&E agrees with OSA's fundamental premise that contractors play an important safety role and should be included in the assessment of the overall safety culture. However, OSA's rebuttal statement fails to account for SDG&E's very robust contractor safety program, which in many ways achieves OSA's stated goal of incorporating contractors in the Company's overall assessment and includes continuous enhancements to better align with industry best practices and improve safety culture.

As mentioned in Tashonda Taylor's direct testimony (Ex. SDG&E-30) on page TT-10 beginning on line 4, some of the components of SDG&E's program that demonstrate its commitment to contractor safety include: 1) evaluation and verification of the safety records of

²⁰ Ex. OSA-1, Chapter 2 (Contreras) at 2-15 (emphasis in the original).

contractors before they are hired for high and medium risk work; 2) enhanced contractor safety standard contract requirements; 3) review by qualified company personnel of contractor safety plans; 4) established business unit contractor oversight procedures; and 5) post-project safety evaluations of work performed by contractors and capturing/sharing of lessons learned.

While SDG&E does not survey the employees of contractors to avoid issues of coemployment, SDG&E does focus, as it should, on closely working with contractors on their own safety culture program. SDG&E ensures that contractors' safety culture aligns with SDG&E's through initiatives such as, the Gold Shovel Standard (GSS), a nonprofit organization committed to public safety by driving consistent contractor participation in preventing excavation dig-ins.²¹ The GSS employs industry best practices to certify that contractors have demonstrated the highest level of safety performance in the field.

SDG&E conducts quarterly meetings with contractors to share best practices, ensure consistent and continuous communications, discuss areas of opportunity for improvement, and celebrate successes. This includes the SDG&E's Annual Contractor Safety Summit, which includes hundreds of participants, representatives from other California utilities, and the Safety Enforcement Division (SED) of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC).²²

As previously mentioned, SDG&E utilizes an independent third-party administrator, ISNetworld. ISNetworld helps improve workplace safety around the globe through its tools and resources, system capabilities, implementation support and measurable, data-driven safety and compliance results.²³ These are all critical components to SDG&E's safety-first ideology.

Additionally, SDG&E currently has two facilities certified under the OSHA Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) and is pursuing additional sites. ²⁴ VPP is a means to organize and validate safety practices and programs into a systematic process that fosters continual improvement in workplace safety with the goal to be best in class. One of the elements of VPP

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²¹ Oct. 6, 2017, Direct Testimony of Tashonda Taylor on Human Resources Department, Safety, Workers' Compensation & Long-Term Disability, Exhibit SDG&E-30 (Taylor) at TT-10. http://goldshovelstandard.org/

²² *Id*.

²³ *Id.* at TT-14.

²⁴ *Id.* at TT-16.

is the Contractor Safety Program.²⁵ In addition to the requirements the program be written and thorough, the program is evaluated to ensure contractors are adequately pre-qualified (i.e., trained, written safety programs in place, low safety incident rate, etc.), observed during the job (to ensure safe work practices and behaviors) and evaluated post-job. Incident reporting, investigation and corrective action implementation, quick response to potential hazards, and job site inspections are additional requirements of the Contractor Safety Program that can contribute to or determine the overall contractor safety culture.²⁶

Lastly, SDG&E's membership in the Campbell Institute, part of the National Safety Council, contains a Contractor Management workgroup, in which SDG&E participates.²⁷ The Campbell Institute is a respected global thought leader for world-class knowledge on keeping people safe and stewarding the earth's valuable resources. The Campbell Institute empowers all enterprises to become world-class organizations in environment, health, and safety through membership engagement and knowledge sharing. By gathering and disseminating the best practices and lessons learned from members, the institute inspires all organizations to attain and maintain the highest environmental, health, and safety (EHS) standards.

SDG&E continually looks for other effective ways, such as interviews, focus groups, observations, and document analysis to integrate contractors into the formal safety culture assessment process.

OSA Recommendation 3a:

"The Utilities, especially SDG&E, must:

- Evaluate the effectiveness of the improvement strategies that resulted from the safety culture assessment. This involves monitoring the implementation of the improvement actions and the impact of the outcomes.
- Follow best practices for effective safety culture assessments, such as those promulgated by safety culture experts or equivalent documents from other industries."²⁸

²⁵ *Id.* at TT-5.

²⁶ *Id.* at TT-14 to TT-15.

²⁷ https://www.thecampbellinstitute.org/participants

²⁸ Ex. OSA-1, Chapter 2 (Contreras) at 2-17.

²⁹ *Id.* at 2-15 to 2-16.

- evaluating effectiveness of the improvements implemented;
- follow-through and communication with employees; and/or
- commitment from leadership to make the improvements necessary."[29]

SDG&E agrees with OSA's emphasis on the importance of prompt and diligent follow up with employees on the survey results, which is why SDG&E does promptly follow-up with employees regarding survey results. SDG&E does not agree that a score decline from the results of the initial 2013 survey signifies there is a follow-up or communication problem. The score decline may be due to many reasons other than those inferred by OSA.³⁰ For example, SDG&E rolled out the 2013 survey in a larger way, emphasizing the importance and value of participation, promoting the survey more regularly, sending more reminders to employees to complete the survey, giving a longer completion period, and the survey's timing along with other enterprise events. If SDG&E is correct in these assumptions, the Company can ramp up participation in the next survey by simply increasing its promotion efforts akin to 2013. The document, "A Regulator's Guide to Safety Culture and Leadership,"³¹ cited by OSA, notes that "There is a danger that companies will use questionnaire results as a performance measure on the assumption that a high score equals a better safety culture. This approach is likely to result in managers focusing on how to improve their score (e.g., by incentivizing positive responses) rather than improving the safety culture."

In this regard, it is unreasonable to place too much emphasis on a decline in the survey score. SDG&E welcomed the candid feedback received from employees and viewed the results of the 2016 survey as an opportunity to seek improvement. Specifically, SDG&E addressed the 8-point decline in overall score by:

OSA also notes that SDG&E had a lower overall score and lower employee participation in the 2016 survey compared to the 2013 survey and suggests it could be due to: "a lack of:

³⁰ OSA suggested the score decline was due to "evaluating effectiveness of the improvements implemented; follow-through and communication with employees; and/or commitment from leadership to make the improvements necessary." *Id.* at 2-16 (emphasis in the original).

³¹ "A Regulator's Guide to Safety Culture and Leadership," Technical Report prepared by Mark Fleming, PhD and Natasha Scott, PhD, Saint Mary's University at 52.

- Increasing the number of departments with action plans.
- Creating a repository for departments to update their plans and review plans of other
- Ensuring items within the action plans are addressed and communicated and routinely

Additionally, SDG&E continued to examine its safety culture efforts and adopted or incorporated additional safety elements into its culture. As described above, SDG&E

- Strengthened the Contractor Safety Program using ISNetworld in its Overhead Safety
- Engaged the Code of Excellence, the platform for formalizing the partnership between SDG&E and IBEW Local 465, with Safety Focus as one of its six tenets,
- Developed a collaboration between the separate BBS program processes to share best practices and achieve consistency,
- Plans to implement *Just Culture*, a proactive human performance improvement
- Established a team to create a more comprehensive incident investigation standard
- Enhanced its collaboration between the joint union and management Electric Safety Subcommittee and the Gas Safety Subcommittee,
- Joined the Gold Shovel Standard (GSS), and
- Acquired several National Safety Council (NSC) Defensive Driver Training modules, available to all SDG&E employees, to augment the existing Smith System® Defensive Driving training program Five Keys to Space Cushion Driving.

"For future surveys, the Utilities should consider incorporating questions that reveal process safety perceptions, and proactively work to ensure that its workforce is well aware of process safety, its importance, and the differences with occupational safety."32

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Strengthening the action planning efforts by working more closely with departments.

³² Ex. OSA-1, Chapter 2 (Contreras) at 2-18.

SDG&E agrees fundamentally with OSA that safety culture results can be influenced depending on employees' understanding of the term "safety." This is one reason SDG&E consistently communicates with its employees that safety focuses on three primary areas: employee safety, customer safety, and public safety.

The NSC survey utilized by SDG&E consists of 50 standardized safety program questions that represent six fundamental safety program categories.³³ The safety program category topics that are covered include:

- Management Participation
- Safety Support Activities
- Supervisor Participation
- Safety Support Climate
- Employee Participation
- Organizational Climate

When employees take the survey, the instructions encourage employees to provide feedback about their organization's safety management system, including its components and the way it is being operated. Employees have an opportunity to express opinions and make observations that will improve the safety management system. The instructions do not limit employee responses to employee safety, system safety, or public safety. Thus, the survey itself uses a broad and inclusive definition of safety. A handful of survey questions specifically address employee safety, but the overwhelming majority of the questions address safety in general without being tied to employee, process, system, customer, or public safety.

SDG&E contends that employee actions, behaviors, and decisions impact safety in every category, whether it is employee safety, process safety, system safety, or customer/public safety. The NSC employee perception survey is broad and fundamental enough to capture employees' opinions about how safety in general is managed within the company at different levels.

SDG&E agrees there is opportunity to improve the survey by adding questions that may not be adequately addressed in the NSC's list of 50 standard questions. For example, SDG&E

³³ https://www.nsc.org/work-safety/services/surveys/survey-faqs#Q4

- added to the 2016 survey the following two agree/disagree questions to NSC's list of 50 standard questions that pertain to Stop-the-Job authority and Close Call/Near Miss reporting:³⁴
 - My supervisor will support me if I "stop the job" when I believe conditions are unsafe.
 - I feel comfortable reporting near-miss/close-call incidents.

Both questions capture employees' comfort with reporting unsafe conditions or incidents whether they are related to employee safety or system safety. Based on feedback from employees through the NSC survey, SDG&E is making continual improvements in these areas. SDG&E employees have been reporting near misses and stop the job events covering all types of safety conditions/behaviors. Because these two questions are not part of NSC's list of 50 standard questions, benchmarking comparison are unavailable.

SDG&E's next NSC survey is planned for the second half of 2018 and SDG&E is once again looking at adding a few questions pertaining to process/system safety that are of importance to continue to improve the NSC survey tool. Also, as part of the survey process and on an ongoing basis, SDG&E continues to work proactively with its employees to ensure they are well aware of the broader context of safety, to include system safety, process safety, customer safety, public safety, contractor safety, and occupational safety.

IV. REBUTTAL TO PARTIES' O&M PROPOSALS

A. Non-Shared Services O&M

Table TT-2 Comparison of SDG&E and Intervenors TY 2019 Estimated Total Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Expenses

| NON-SHARED (|)&M - Constant 2016 | 6 (\$000) | |
|--------------|--------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| | Base Year | Test Year | Change |
| | 2016 | 2019 | |
| SDG&E | \$17,000 | \$19,164 | \$2,164 |
| ORA | \$17,000 | \$18,776 | \$1,776 |
| TURN | \$17,000 | \$18,553 | \$553 |

³⁴ https://www.nsc.org/work-safety/services/surveys/survey-faqs#Q4

1. Workers' Compensation Medical Escalation

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ORA

ORA takes issue with the Test Year O&M forecast for Workers' Compensation medical premium escalation rate of 6.5% used in the SDG&E's forecast calculation.

ORA proposes an alternative medical premium escalation:

"The 2017 Employer Health Benefits Survey, prepared by the Kaiser Family Foundation, found that the average family premium increase for employers is expected to average 3%. Price Waterhouse Coopers' Health Research Institute projects 2018's medical cost trend to be 6.5% - the first uptick in growth in three years. ORA used an average of these two rates to develop ORA's recommended medical escalation rate of 4.25% for 2018 and 2019." 35

b. TURN

TURN also takes issue with the Test Year O&M forecast for Workers' Compensation medical premium escalation. TURN proposes its own medical premium escalation rate of 6% in TY 2019 stating that SDG&E's forecasted 6.5% was applied to conform to the medical benefit forecast and "unreasonably high." ³⁶

SDG&E disagrees with ORA and TURN's application of alternative medical premium escalation rates. SDG&E's medical escalation forecast, which was prepared by Willis Towers Watson, is more appropriate because it takes into account demographic factors specific to SDG&E. These demographic factors – location, workforce demographics, and medical plan design – are key drivers of medical plan costs. A more detailed rebuttal is provided in witness Ms. Debbie Robinson's rebuttal testimony (Exhibit SCG-230/SDG&E-228).

Furthermore, the medical premium escalation rate is only one component of the total Worker's Compensation forecast calculation. When comparing TY 2016 GRC total Workers' Compensation forecasts for $2014 - 2016^{37}$ with actuals shown on the corrected Supplemental Workpaper in Appendix A, SDG&E's forecast was underestimated in 2014 by more than

³⁵ Ex. ORA-22 (Hunter) at 17-18 (internal citation omitted).

³⁶ Ex. TURN-05 (Jones) at 105.

³⁷ See Appendix B.

\$267,000 and \$550,000 in 2016; 2015 was over forecast by approximately \$384,000. This analysis validates SDG&E's use of the medical premium escalation rate prepared by Willis Towers Watson³⁸ and dispels TURN's presumption of SDG&E conforming its forecasts for the medical benefit. SDG&E contends its use of a three-year average and non-standard escalation for the five Workers' Compensation components methodology is fair and reasonable. The Commission should adopt SDG&E's forecast as reasonable.

2. RAMP-Related Training Expenses

a. ORA

ORA takes issue with the TY 2019 O&M forecast for Organizational Effectiveness, specifically with the cost estimates associated with RAMP-related training programs, proposing an alternate funding level.

ORA states the following:

"The RAMP-related cost estimates include various levels of funding. The RAMP forecasts in this section total \$330,000, which is significantly higher than the alternate funding level of \$132,000. Until SDG&E has more years of recorded expenses, ORA recommends a more conservative estimate to protect ratepayers from overpaying for a new program. ORA recommends that RAMP projects be funded at the alternate funding level of \$132,000. This results in an adjustment of \$198,000 in non-labor, for an ORA recommended expense of \$1.980 million for Diversity and Workforce Management expenses for 2019." ³⁹

As described in Ex. SDG&E-30 on page TT-24 beginning on line 3, SDG&E is requesting funds for RAMP-related training programs. First and foremost, it should be noted that ORA has not argued that the programs should not be funded at all. Second, since all programs are in development or were implemented in late 2017 and are ongoing, SDG&E maintains its position on needing the full resources to continue the programs and disagrees with ORA's position that fully funding the programs would cause ratepayers to overpay. The costs are not speculative because these programs are not new.

³⁸ Ex. SCG-30/SDG&E-28 (Robinson) at DSR-30.

³⁹ Ex. ORA-23 (Hunter) at 11 (internal citation omitted).

Furthermore, the alternate funding level that was proposed by ORA was based on the lower end of the range proposed in the initial RAMP filing. The project assumptions and estimated costs put forth in the RAMP Report were superseded by the requests made in supporting testimony in the TY 2019 GRC. GRC workpapers include a range of estimated costs for RAMP mitigation activities. The range reflected in the TY 2019 workpapers may not always align with the range put forth in the RAMP Report which was developed in 2015. Also, SDG&E agrees with ORA when, as stated in Ex. ORA-3 on RAMP-to-GRC Integration, "ORA recommends that the data produced by the RAMP and integrated into this GRC be used to inform funding decisions, but not to dictate these decisions or bypass a traditional review of proposals and their alternatives." ⁴⁰

The Supervisor Effectiveness, Working Foremen Leadership, and Human Performance programs focus on enterprise-wide leadership and behavior development programs and services that translate business needs into specific team and individual learning needs. These programs are aimed at increasing involvement in field operations and leadership levels where program quality and accuracy are needed for success.

- Supervisor Effectiveness enhances supervisor knowledge, leadership skills, safety awareness, and policy knowledge. ⁴¹ The program aims to minimize knowledge loss attributed to retirement and natural attrition. Supervisor Effectiveness is comprised of two trainings: Selection and Essentials. Selection launched in Q4 of 2017 and will continue through all divisions. Essentials launched company-wide in Q3 2017 and will be on going for all new supervisors. In 2017, more than \$48,000 was spent on program development and implementation.
- Field Leadership Development Program (formerly Working Foreman (WF)
 Leadership Training) is intended to enhance SDG&E's safety culture by improving WF leadership skills in the areas of communication, coaching, and feedback. Field Leadership Development Program is currently in development

⁴⁰ April 13, 2018, ORA Report on Risk Management Policy; Enterprise Risk Management Organization; RAMP/GRC Integration; Pipeline Integrity; SoCalGas PSEP, Exhibit ORA-3 (Nils Stannik) at 15.

⁴¹ Investigation (I.) 16-10-015, Risk Assessment and Mitigation Phase Report of San Diego Gas & Electric Company and Southern California Gas Company, Chapter SDG&E-17 (Tashonda Taylor) at 19

⁴² Ex. SDG&E-30 (Taylor) at TT-24.

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and scheduled for implementation in Q3 of 2018. In 2017, more than \$120,000 was spent on program development.

• SDG&E benchmarking efforts in human performance illustrate a significant positive impact on safety behaviors. Human performance is a set of techniques and methods to enhance safety preparedness and investigations, creating a unified and consistent approach to safety leadership. 43 Human Performance (currently Just Culture) is in development and scheduled for implementation in Q3 of 2018. In 2017, more than \$85,000 was spent on program development.

As illustrated above, the RAMP-related programs are already implemented or in development and are consistent with SDG&E's forecasts, addressing ORA's concern of ratepayer overpayment. Organizational Effectiveness RAMP-related TY 2019 estimated expenses are necessary for sustaining employee safety awareness, practices, and health. The Commission should adopt SDG&E's forecast as reasonable.

b. TURN

TURN did not take issue with SDG&E's forecast for this cost category/cost center. The Commission should adopt SDG&E's forecast as reasonable.

3. **Edison Electric Institute (EEI) Dues**

ORA a.

ORA did not take issue with SDG&E's forecast for this cost category/cost center. The Commission should adopt SDG&E's forecast as reasonable.

b. **TURN**

TURN reduces the Test Year O&M forecast for EEI dues, recommending membership dues be 100% shareholder funded; or alternatively, that no more than \$300,000 (50% of the base year gross cost) be funded by ratepayers. 44 TURN states that SDG&E did not provide supporting documentation of the increase of dues from \$600,000 to \$800,000 in TY 2019, and failed to meet its burden of proof regarding exclusions for "lobbying", including legislative and regulatory advocacy, public relations, advertising, donations, and club dues.

⁴³ *Id.* at TT-24 to TT-25.

⁴⁴ TURN-03 (Marcus) at 73-75.

В.

SDG&E disagrees with TURN's proposed reductions. The EEI invoices provided in response to TURN Data Request-019⁴⁵ identify the portions of the membership fees that EEI attributes to "lobbying" activities. SDG&E reduced its request according to the information provided on EEI invoices.

EEI brings SDG&E employees together with peers and colleagues from other companies in the industry to perform collective activities that are not regularly performed by the individual companies on a full-time basis, such as benchmarking studies, industry surveys, and sharing best practices. This collaborative approach benefits SDG&E ratepayers by reducing the need for expensive customized research and studies, consultants and experts, database development and maintenance, publication development, and specialized training. The Commission should adopt SDG&E's forecast as reasonable.

Table TT-3 Comparison of SDG&E and Intervenors TY 2019 Estimated Total Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Expenses

| SHARED O&M | - Constant 2016 (\$00 | 0) | |
|------------|-----------------------|-----------|--------|
| | Base Year | Test Year | Change |
| | 2016 | 2019 | |
| SDG&E | \$4,118 | \$4,606 | \$488 |
| ORA | \$4,118 | \$4,606 | \$488 |
| TURN | \$4,118 | \$4,606 | \$488 |

Intervenors ORA and TURN did not take issue with SDG&E's forecasts for shared services O&M cost categories/cost centers. The Commission should adopt SDG&E's forecasts as reasonable.

V. CONCLUSION

SDG&E agrees with OSA's overarching conclusion that adequate conditions that promote improvements in managing and enhancing commitments to safety are necessary to

Shared Services O&M

⁴⁵ TURN-SEU-DR-019, Question 7, attached as Appendix C.

ensure the effectiveness of safety programs and spending.⁴⁶ In Section III of this testimony, SDG&E demonstrates its multi-method, comprehensive approach, describing programs, initiatives, and efforts for each of the five assessment methods recommended by OSA.⁴⁷ SDG&E acknowledges and agrees, in principal, with OSA's overarching conclusion and continues to be steadfast in the ongoing need for improvement.

RAMP-related activities that were proposed in the TY 2019 GRC filing were based on reducing safety risks and enhancing safety outcomes and not necessarily reducing costs. Because RAMP-related activities should be primarily evaluated on their capability of reducing risk (and not just the cost), estimates proposed in the 2015 RAMP filing should not be used in determining TY 2019 forecasts. The RAMP funding request in this GRC filing is better aligned with the activities and resource levels being requested.

SDG&E's medical escalation forecast prepared by Willis Towers Watson is more appropriate than ORA or TURN's proposed escalation rates because it includes demographic factors specific to SDG&E. Moreover, comparisons between SDG&E's 2016 GRC Workers' Compensation forecasts and actuals in the 2019 GRC workpapers further validate SDG&E's calculation and methodology.

This concludes my prepared rebuttal testimony.

⁴⁶ Ex. OSA-1, Chapter 1 (Contreras) at 1-3.

⁴⁷ Ex. OSA-1, Chapter 2 (Contreras) at 2-15.

APPENDIX A Data Request TURN-SEU-DR-011

Appendix A

As noted in the Summary table and corresponding footnote on page TT-1 of this document, errors were found in the methodology used to derive the Workers' Compensation recorded costs. SDG&E determined that Worker's Compensation Reserves should not be included in workpaper totals, so the Total Cost amounts shown on supplemental workpaper pages 37-38 and 42 are incorrect, which also causes the Projected Costs that are included in the SDG&E Revenue Requirement to be understated.

This error was discovered when drafting a response to a TURN data request. A corrected response was provided as part of TURN-SEU-DR-011 Question 5, which also included an attachment describing the error and correct amounts for 2017, 2018, and 2019.

TURN DATA REQUEST-011 SDG&E-SOCALGAS 2019 GRC – A.17-11-007/8 SDG&E_SOCALGAS RESPONSE DATE RECEIVED: FEBRUARY 6, 2018 DATE RESPONDED: FEBRUARY 27, 2018

Data Request No: TURN SEU - 011

Exhibit Reference: SDG&E (SDG&E-30) and SCG (SCG-32)

Witnesses: Taylor and Gevorkian Subject: General GRC MDR

5. Regarding p. 42 of the SDG&E-30 workpapers and p. 48 of the SCG-32 workpapers: (Please provide the values in an Excel spreadsheet)

- a. Please identify the recorded values for each of the line items in the Workers' Compensation Projection table for each year, 2008-2013 and 2017.
- b. Please identify the recorded values for the Disability Claims Paid line item in the Long-Term Disability Projection table for each year, 2008-2015 and 2017.

Utility Response 05:

SoCalGas and SDG&E object to this request under Rule 10.1 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure on the grounds that the timeframe encompassed in this request is not relevant to the subject matter involved in the pending proceeding and therefore, the burden, expense and intrusiveness of this request outweighs the likelihood that the information sought will lead to the discovery of relevant and admissible evidence. In particular, this request seeks information prior to 2012 and is thus, outside the scope of the relevant time period used by SoCalGas/SDG&E in developing its forecasts. Subject to and without waiving the foregoing objection, SoCalGas/SDG&E respond as follows answering Question 5a and b with data covering 2012-2016. Please refer to the two Excel file attachments:

- TURN-SEU-011 Q5 Attachment for SDG&E
- TURN-SEU-011 Q5 Attachment for SCG

As noted in both attachments, while responding to this data request, SoCalGas and SDG&E discovered that the historical recorded costs were incorrectly identified. The attachments reflect the correct recorded costs and the impact the errors have on the TY 2019 forecasts, if applicable. The result is an understated forecast, which means that the current revenue requirement is too low.

TURN-SEU-011_Q5 Attachment for SDG&E

A.17-10-007 TY2019 GRC

SDG&E

Workers' Compensation

| | Corre | ected Historic | al Cost Detail | (Nominal Dolla | rs) | | | Corre | cted Project | ed |
|---|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Type of Cost | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | Corrected Basis for Projection (3YA) | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
| Medical | \$ 1,748,242 | \$ 1,631,814 | \$ 2,087,263 | \$ 1,772,368 \$ | 1,953,802 | | \$ 1,937,811 | \$ 2,092,836 \$ | 2,260,263 | \$ 2,418,481 |
| Expense (Litigation, etc.) | 518,261 | 522,913 | 492,854 | 451,338 | 555,053 | 2017 cost | 499,748 | 507,484 | 515,893 | 525,777 |
| Indemnity (TD & PD) | 2,143,940 | 1,131,824 | 1,406,008 | 1,116,043 | 2,779,493 | data is not | 1,767,181 | 1,812,868 | 1,867,216 | 1,923,412 |
| Administration | 445,869 | 226,031 | 456,942 | 395,400 | 291,514 | available yet | 381,285 | 387,188 | 393,603 | 401,144 |
| Excess Liability Refunds | (857,903) | (603,838) | (550,668) | (272,573) | (976,864) | | (600,035) | (609,323) | (619,419) | (631,287) |
| Corrected Costs excluding Reserves | 3,998,409 | 2,908,745 | 3,892,400 | 3,462,576 | 4,602,998 | | 3,985,991 | 4,191,053 | 4,417,556 | 4,637,528 |
| Ex. SDG&E-30-WP pgs 38 and 42 Difference | \$3,998,759 (350) | \$2,908,745 (0) | \$3,893,307 (907) | \$3,462,402 174 | \$3,097,257 1,505,741 | | \$3,419,333 566,658 | \$3,615,624 575,429 | \$3,811,663 605,893 | \$4,007,766 629,762 |
| Escalation Factors Labor Escalation Non Labor Escalation Medical Premium Escalation | | | | | | | | 2.59% 1.55% 8.00% | 3.00% 1.66% 8.00% | 3.01% 1.92% 7.00% |

Note 1: While responding to this data request, errors were found in the methodology used to derive the Workers' Compensation recorded costs. We determined that Worker's Compensation Reserves should not be included in workpaper totals, so the Total Cost amounts shown on workpaper pages 38 and 42 are incorrect, which also causes the Projected Costs that are included in the SDG&E Revenue Requirement to be understated. This response provides the corrected amounts.

APPENDIX B SDG&E 2016 GRC - APP

San Diego Gas & Electric Company 2016 GRC - APP

Non-Shared Service Workpapers

2.65% 2.40% 7.80%

2.75% 2.75% 9.60%

2.75% 2.75% 5.70%

SDG&E Workers' Compensation Projection For Years 2014-2016

| | | Actual | | | | | | Projected | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|-------------|------------------------|--------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|--------|
| Type of Cost | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | Average | Basis | Basis for Projection | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | |
| Medical Expense (Litination etc.) | \$1,707,266 \$ | 1,748,242 | \$1,631,814 | \$1,695,774 430.056 | ↔ | 1,695,774 | \$1,792,433 441,882 | \$1,964,507 454 034 | \$2,117,738 464 933 | |
| Indemnity (TD & PD) | 1,847,681 | 2,143,940 | 1,131,824 | 1,707,815 | | 1,707,815 | 1,754,780 | 1,803,037 | 1,850,746 | |
| Administration | 677,723 | 445,869 | 226,031 | 449,874 | | 449,874 | 462,246 | 474,957 | 486,358 | |
| Excess Liability Refunds | (951,962) | (857,903) | (603,838) | (804,567) | | (804,567) | (826,693) | (849,427) | (869,816) | Νc |
| Total Cost | \$3,529,702 \$ 3,998,409 | 3,998,409 | \$2,908,745 | \$3,478,952 | ⇔ | 3,478,952 | \$3,624,649 | 3,624,649 \$3,847,108 \$4,049,95 | \$4,049,959 | on-Sha |

Assumptions

Projection assumes three year average, medical costs are escalated using medical inflation from benefits testimony, indemnity escalated using labor inflation, and remaining costs are escalated using non labor inflation.

Escalation Factors

Labor Escalation Non Labor Escalation

Medical Premium Escalation

H:\2016 GRC\WC-LTD\SDGE_WC_7-09-2014.xlsx TAB: SDGE-WC

APPENDIX C Data Request TURN-SEU-DR-019

TURN DATA REQUEST-019 SDG&E-SOCALGAS 2019 GRC – A.17-11-007/8 SDG&E_SOCALGAS RESPONSE DATE RECEIVED: FEBRUARY 22, 2018 DATE RESPONDED: MARCH 9, 2018

- 7. Regarding Edison Electric Institute (EEI) dues:
 - a. Please identify total EEI dues and the percentage and dollar amount of EEI dues for which SDG&E seeks recovery from ratepayers and provide supporting documentation including invoices and vouchers for base year 2016 and TY 2019. If any EEI costs are allocated to SDG&E (or SoCalGas) from Corporate Center, please identify them separately. If the answer is greater than zero for TY 2019, answer part (b).
 - b. Provide the latest available documentation from the EEI identifying the amounts spent on lobbying, legislative advocacy, regulatory advocacy, public relations, advertising, donations, club dues, and any other functions identified by EEI.

Utility Response 07:

a) SDG&E does not receive allocated costs from Corporate Center. Below is the information for total EEI dues paid during BY 2016. As stated in the prepared direct testimony of Tashonda Taylor in Exhibit SDG&E-30, page TT-28, lines 21-28, SDG&E is forecasting that the TY 2019 forecast will be \$800,000 less lobbying costs of 13.2% for an incremental increase of \$174,000 over BY 2016.

| | Total Invoice | Portion Lobbying | % | Adjusted |
|-----------|----------------------|------------------|-----|-----------|
| | | Activities | | Request |
| 2016 Dues | \$200,000 | \$26,407 | 13% | \$173,593 |
| 2017 Dues | \$400,000 | \$53,193 | 13% | \$346,807 |
| Total | \$600,000 | \$79,600 | 13% | \$520,400 |

b) Please see the copies of the invoices in the accompanying Excel file: TURN-SEU-DR-019 Q7 Attachment EEI Dues Redacted.

TURN-SEU-DR-019 Q7 Attachment EEI Dues_Redacted



701 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. w. Washington, D.C. 20004-2596 w. Phone (202) 508-5000

Invoice for Membership Dues

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer San Diego Gas & Electric Company 8326 Century Park Ct San Diego, CA 92123-1530

| Date | Invoice Number |
|----------|----------------|
| 7/8/2016 | DUES2016 |

Payment due on or before 8/8/2016

| 2016 EEI Membership Dues ¹ | | \$200,000 |
|---------------------------------------|-------|-----------|
| | Total | \$200,000 |

PLEASE NOTE INFORMATION FOR ELECTRONIC PAYMENT

The following instructions should be used when transferring funds electronically (ACH or wire) to Edison Electric Institute:

Beneficiary's Bank:
Bank's Address:
Bank's ABA Number:
Beneficiary:
Beneficiary's Acct No:
Beneficiary's Address:

Beneficiary Reference:

2016 Membership Dues

Please refer any questions to Terri Oliva, EEI Controller; (202) 508-5541 or memberdues@eei.org

The Utility Producement Policy allows memberships/sponsorships to be paid without

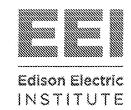
from:

archive/pages

Approved

\$173,593 2100-0001, GL# 6250000, FE9302002100 \$26,407 2100-0001, GL# 7050241, FE9302002100 TURN-SEU-DR-019 Q7 Attachment EEI Dues Redacted

Invoice for Vembership Dues



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC 8330 CENTURY PARK CT SAN DIEGO, CA 92123-1530

| Date | Invoice Number |
|------------|----------------|
| 12/07/2016 | Dues201755 |

Payment due on or before 1/31/2017

| | Total | \$400,000 |
|---|-------|------------------------------|
| 2017 Contribution to The Edison Foundation, which funds IEI 4 | | 15,000 |
| Regular Activities of Edison Electric Institute ¹ Industry Issues ² Restoration, Operations, and Crisis Management Program ³ | | \$343,182 34,318 7,500 |
| 2017 EEI Membership Dues for: | | |
| Description | | Total |

- 1 The portion of 2017 membership dues relating to influencing legislation, which is not deductible for federal income tax purposes, is estimated to be
- 2 The portion of the 2017 industry issues support relating to influencing legislation is estimated to be 25%.
- 3 The Restoration, Operations, and Crisis Management Program is related to improvements to industry—wide responses to major outages (e.g. National Response Event); continuity of industry and business operations; and EEI's all hazards (storms, cyber, etc.) support and coordination of the industry during times of crises. No portion of this assessment is allocable to influencing legislation.
- 4 The Edison Foundation is an IRC 501(c)(3) educational and charitable organization. Contributions are deductible for federal income tax purposes to the extent provided by law. Please consult your tax advisor with respect to your specific situation.

PLEASE NOTE INFORMATION FOR ELECTRONIC PAYMENT

The following instructions should be used when transferring funds electronically (ACH or wire) to Edison Electric Institute:



| | 3 | | |
|----------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| Internal Order | Cost Center | Cost Element | Amount |
| FE9302002100 | 2100-0001 | 6250000 | \$346,806.84 |
| FE9302002100 | 2100-0001 | 7050241 | \$ 53,193.16 |

Approved by

Please refer any questions to Terri Oliva, EEI Controller: (202) 508-5541 or memberdues@eei.org

SDG&E 2019 GRC Testimony Revision Log – June 18, 2018

| | | | Line | |
|----------|-----------|-------|-------------|---|
| Exhibit | Witness | Page | or Table | Revision Detail |
| SDG&E-30 | T. Taylor | TT-13 | | TY 2019 Estimated is understated due to the inadvertent inclusion of medical reserves in the overall calculation. The correct TY 2019 Estimated should be \$4,637,528 |