

## ATTACHMENT B - NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

2018 MAR 28 AM 8:05

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA  
CLERK OF THE  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**TO:** Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Kathryn Lehr, Planning & Development

The project or activity identified below is determined to be exempt from further environmental review requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as defined in the State and County Guidelines for the implementation of CEQA.

**APNs:** 005-050-011, 005-050-015, 005-100-023, 005-310-012, 005-310-021, 005-310-025, 001-030-027, 005-280-015, 005-430-060, 001-060-053, 001-080-011, 001-080-032 and 005-010-024

**Case No.:** 18EMP-00000-00003

**Location:** Toro Canyon Creek, Arroyo Paredon, Carpinteria Creek and associated unnamed tributaries in the unincorporated areas of Toro Canyon and Carpinteria

**Project Title:** SoCal Gas Emergency Inspection and Repair

**Project Applicant:** James Chuang, Southern California Gas Company

### Project Description:

On December 7th, 2017, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. issued an emergency proclamation for Santa Barbara County due to the effects of the Thomas Fire. An executive order was subsequently issued by Governor Brown on January 12th, 2018, to further assist recovery efforts in Southern California related to the Thomas Fire and subsequent debris flow. As a direct result of the Thomas Fire and subsequent debris flow, Southern California Gas Company (SoCal Gas) must now investigate potential scouring and loss of integrity of SoCal Gas Lines 1005, 1003, 1004, and 245, high pressure gas transmission pipelines which were impacted by the disaster.

The request is for an Emergency Permit to allow for the inspection, excavation and potential repair of portions of four existing high pressure natural gas lines. As identified in the table below, a total of 12 sites were identified within ten Regions of Interest (ROIs) on lines L1003, L1005, L1004, and L245 within the unincorporated area of Montecito and Toro Canyon. These lines were subjected to scour and potential damage from boulders during the debris flow caused by heavy rains on January 9, 2018.

Region of Interest (ROI) Site Number	APNs
10.5, 11.5, 11, 12, 13	005-050-011,-015; 005-100-023
14	005-310-012, 021, -025
17	001-030-027, 001-030-027
19	005-280-015, 005-430-060
22	001-060-053, 001-080-011, -032
24; 25; 26	005-010-024

### **Phase I: Inspection and Evaluation**

Impacts to the pipelines are unknown at this time and require excavation and inspection to determine the extent of damage, if any. The project scope currently involves the excavation of one to four test pits, approximately 24 inches in diameter and up to five feet deep, upstream and downstream of the pipeline at each ROI (except ROIs 11 and 12) for up to eight test pits per site. Visual inspections of the soil within the test pit areas will be conducted to determine if scour has occurred. If pipeline damage is observed, additional excavation will be required, followed by a site-specific pipeline repair involving one or more of the following: re-coating, repair band installation, replacement of damaged pipe section, installation of new pipe section at deeper location and/or installation of protective slab above pipeline. It is unknown at this time if any pipeline repairs will be required.

ROIs 11 and 12 will be excavated the entire length of the pipeline within the creek for approximately 30-feet long, 2-feet wide, and 4-feet deep to conduct visual inspections of pipeline coating, blast/abate coating to inspect bare pipe, and install fiber optics. If pipeline damage is observed, one or more of the following will occur: re-coating, repair band installation, replacement of damaged pipe section, installation of protective slab above pipeline.

For ROIs 10.5 and 11.5, a total of 8 test pits will be dug along the edges of the existing concrete slab (2 test pits on west edge, 2 test pits on east edge, 2 test pits on north edge, and 2 test pits on south edge). The concrete slab will be inspected for cracks, and if any are observed, the existing concrete slab will be removed and the entire length of pipe will be excavated for further inspection (30 feet long, 2 feet wide, 4 feet deep). Once exposed, the pipeline coating will be visually inspected for damage. The coating will then be blasted/abated to allow for the bare pipe to be inspected and to allow for the installation of fiber optics. If pipeline damage is observed, one or more of the following will occur: re-coating, repair band installation, replacement of damaged pipe section, install new protective slab above pipeline.

All sites are located within drainages and where there is flowing water, the sites will be dewatered using coffer dams, a diversion pipe, and pumps to maintain a dry work area, as needed. One to four test pits will be dug upstream of each pipeline segment and one to four test pits will be dug downstream at each site. The test pits will be approximately 24-inches in diameter and 4 to 5 feet deep. The test pits will allow for visual observation of the soil and pipeline to be made. Once observations are documented, the test pits will be backfilled with the native soil. Test pits located within Environmentally Sensitive Habitat (ESH) will be completed by hand. If boulders and debris are found to be obstructing the site, mechanical equipment may be used. Sites which are currently dry will have erosion control measures in place in the event significant rainfall occurs. No permanent fill is anticipated as part of the inspection phase, and excavated soil will be placed back within each test pit and over the pipeline, as needed.

### **Phase II: Excavation and Repair**

Should scour be identified at any of these ROIs, additional site specific information will be compiled and submitted to Planning and Development (P&D) for review prior to the initiation of excavation and repair activities. This information will identify the preferred repair approach for each particular location with the goal of minimizing impacts to creeks and their associated

habitats. Prior to the commencement of additional work, P&D shall give written consent to SoCal Gas personnel on a ROI by ROI basis. Additional work will include the excavation of impacted pipeline segments to allow a bare pipe and coating inspection and to assess if any physical damaged occurred to the pipeline. In order to accommodate excavation work areas are anticipated to be up to 30 feet wide at each ROI and all impacts associated with the excavation and inspection work are expected to be temporary. Upon completion of inspection activities, the site will then be graded to pre-construction contours and erosion control materials will be utilized on the banks of drainages as needed to prevent erosion. Equipment expected to be used include a 308 Track Excavator, 299 Skid Steer, 6-inch and 3-inch pump and hose, three pickup trucks, and two tool trailers. No permanent fill is anticipated as part of the excavation and inspection and excavated soil will be placed back within each test pit and over the pipeline, as needed.

Depending on the extent and severity of the damage, one of the following repair options may occur: repair band installation; segment removal and replacement; reburial of pipe at lower depth; installation of protective slab above and around impacted segment. Repair work will be determined on a case by case basis.

All ROI's can be accessed from public surface streets except ROI 22 which is located on private property. Staging for equipment and materials will take place along roadsides and turnout areas adjacent to each ROI, as feasible. Access to the ROIs within the drainage features will occur at the safest location. No trees will be removed and no new ground disturbance will occur for staging or access routes. Debris on the channel banks that is preventing equipment from accessing the channel will be removed to the minimum amount feasible in order to allow for safe entry into the creek. The proposed inspection and potential repair sites are located on APNs: 005-050-011 (zoned 1-E-1), 005-050-015 (zoned 1-E-1), 005-100-023 (zoned RR-10), 005-310-012 (zoned AG-I-20), 005-310-021 (zoned AG-I-10), 005-310-025 (zoned AG-I-10), 001-030-027 (zoned AG-I-10), 005-280-015 (zoned AG-I-10), 005-430-060 (zoned AG-I-10), 001-060-053 (zoned AG-I-10), 001-080-011 (zoned AG-I-10), 001-080-032 (zoned AG-I-10) and 005-010-024 (zoned TC) in the Toro Canyon and Carpinteria areas, 1<sup>st</sup> Supervisorial District.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Santa Barbara County

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: James Chuang, Southern California Gas Company

Exempt Status: (Check one)

- ☐ Ministerial
- ☒ Statutory Exemption
- ☐ Categorical Exemption
- ☐ Emergency Project
- ☐ Declared Emergency

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section: 15269(c) – Emergency Projects, specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency.

**Reasons to support exemption findings:** This section allows for emergency actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency, in this case, the inspection, excavation and potential repair of 12 segments of four existing, high pressure natural gas pipelines, Lines 1005, 1003, 1004, and 245, located within Toro Canyon Creek, Arroyo Paredon, Carpinteria Creek and associated unnamed tributaries. Emergency work would prevent potential operational failure of the pipelines as a result of damage from debris flow through inspection and repair activities, and minimize risk to nearby residents and the surrounding environment.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Kathryn Lehr, Planner **Phone #:** (805) 568-3560

**Department/Division Representative:** Kathryn Lehr

**Date:** 03/28/18

**Acceptance Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**distribution:** Hearing Support Staff  
Project file

**Date Filed by County Clerk:** \_\_\_\_\_