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Independent Audit of San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) Gas and Electric Franchise

Franchise Compliance
Review Committee

July 2, 2025



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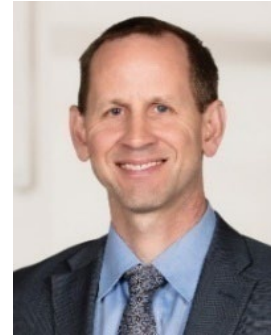
Committee Questions

Introductions



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Audit Scope

- Independent Audit of San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E), Gas and Electric Franchise Agreements, for the two-year period of:
 - Start date of each of the agreements through July 7, 2023¹ (first phase)
 - July 8, 2023 to July 7, 2025 (second phase).
- The audit covered SDG&E performance in complying with the following:
 - Franchise Agreements
 - Administrative MOU²
 - Utility Undergrounding MOU
 - Energy Cooperation Agreement³ associated with the Franchises.



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¹ The start dates were as follows: Gas and Electric Franchises on July 8, 2021; Administrative MOU on November 1, 2021; Undergrounding MOU on April 6, 2022; and Energy Cooperative Agreement on May 25, 2021.

² Administrative MOU updated in November 2023.

³ ECA started on May 25, 2022. The new ECA is out of scope for Phase 2.

Audit Procedures (Phase 1)

- Conducted interviews of SDG&E and City staff
 - SDG&E staff including finance, operational, and oversight personnel
 - City - Development Services Department
 - City - Engineering and Capital Projects
 - City - Utilities Undergrounding Program
 - City - Information Technology
 - City – Transportation Department
 - City – Management
- Reviewed and documented requirements of each agreement.
- Submitted multiple data requests to SDG&E and the City
 - Data requests were requested for all relevant requirements for each agreement.
- Franchise Fees
 - Obtained and reviewed SDG&E annual franchise fee calculation documents, quarterly franchise fee statements, process documentation (including how accounts coded to City), controls information, A/R aging reports, bad debt expense support and collection procedures, documentation of payments made to City.
- Phase 2 will be similar

Audit Procedures *(continued)*

- Administrative MOU
 - Selected a sample of thirteen projects to audit project specific requirements (i.e., permitting, inspections or collaboration)
 - Reviewed supporting documentation for non-project specific requirements (i.e., information sharing protocols, communication)
- Utility Undergrounding MOU
 - Selected a sample of three in process projects to audit requirements that are project specific (i.e., permitting, inspections or collaboration)
 - Reviewed supporting documentation for non-project specific requirements (i.e., information sharing protocols, communication)
- Energy Cooperation Agreement
 - Reviewed supporting documentation for each requirement.
 - Tested source of funding for requirements that are shareholder funded.



Phase 1 Audit Report Conclusion

The results of our tests indicated that SDG&E met the four (4) Audit Objectives in all significant respects for the period of the start date of each of the agreements to July 7, 2023. We included four (4) findings that were deemed not to be significant to the Audit Objectives but warranted inclusion in the report.

Phase 1 Report Findings

Finding Number	Finding Description	Classification	Audit Objective Impacted
1	Inconsistent Undergrounding Project Cost Estimates	<i>Noncompliance and Deficiency</i>	3
2	Limited Collaboration with the City on SDG&E Undergrounding Construction Project Master Services Agreement (MSA) Evaluation Criteria	<i>Noncompliance</i>	3
3	SDG&E Did Not Comply with Section 6 a) of the Administrative MOU	<i>Noncompliance</i>	2
4	The City and SDG&E Did Not Comply with Section 2 of the Energy Cooperation Agreement	<i>Noncompliance</i>	4

Phase 1 Report Findings

Finding Number	Finding Description	Finding Specifics
1	Inconsistent Undergrounding Project Cost Estimates	<p>SDG&E's undergrounding project cost estimates increased substantially between April 2023 and December 2023 because SDG&E did not include overhead costs in its initial April 2023 project cost estimates.</p> <p>In the examples in the report, these overhead costs were 81% to 83% of SDG&E direct costs.</p>
2	Limited Collaboration with the City on SDG&E Undergrounding Construction Project Master Services Agreement (MSA) Evaluation Criteria	<p>SDG&E did not collaborate with the City to incorporate City input, provided on March 21, 2024, on the evaluation matrix that SDG&E used in scoring respondents to the MSA Request for Proposal (RFP) for Construction.</p> <p>SDG&E made this determination in isolation and did not fully collaborate with the City prior to arriving at this decision.</p>
3	SDG&E Did Not Comply with Section 6 a) of the Administrative MOU	<p>SDG&E did not establish an effective online Work Portal ("Portal") that describes all Category 1 Projects taking place in the ROW and was unable to share this information timely with the City.</p>
4	The City and SDG&E Did Not Comply with Section 2 of the Energy Cooperation Agreement	<p>The City and SDG&E did not meet the 90-day deadline for developing an implementation plan as required under Section 2 of the Energy Cooperation Agreement (ECA).</p>

Phase 1 Report Recommendations

Finding Number	Finding Description	Recommendation
1	Inconsistent Undergrounding Project Cost Estimates	SDG&E should develop accurate undergrounding project cost estimates so that the City can accurately forecast cash flow balances and schedule projects. SDG&E should strengthen the quality control/quality assurance processes it uses for developing undergrounding project cost estimates.
2	Limited Collaboration with the City on SDG&E Undergrounding Construction Project Master Services Agreement (MSA) Evaluation Criteria	Going forward, SDG&E should carefully consider and fully discuss with the City its input on the MSA evaluation criteria before arriving at the final evaluation criteria and weightings. SDG&E also should provide the City with the MSA RFP package it intends to send to bidders so that the City has a more complete view of SDG&E's competitive MSA procurement process and can provide more informed feedback related to the evaluation categories and weightings
3	SDG&E Did Not Comply with Section 6 a) of the Administrative MOU	The City and SDG&E identified an alternative approach to the online Work Portal which is currently operating effectively according to City and SDG&E personnel.
4	The City and SDG&E Did Not Comply with Section 2 of the Energy Cooperation Agreement	The City and SDG&E implemented the necessary actions. The City and SDG&E initiated work on the ECA Implementation Plan in November 2021 and it was presented to the City Council's Environment Committee 284 days later, on March 18, 2022.



Committee Questions

- Audit Cooperation
 - SDG&E was cooperative and engaged in the phase 1 audit
 - SDG&E provided documentation timely even with a truncated schedule to complete the audit
 - Key personnel were made available to Crowe
 - Phase 1 was constrained by a truncated timeline and limited completion of projects to assess compliance
 - Phase 2 started early to allow for more time to collect and review documentation
- Franchise Success
 - Measurable initiatives
 - Increased collaboration between SDG&E and the City
 - Stakeholder buy-in



Committee Questions

- Benchmarks
 - SDG&E Franchise and other MOUs are similar to other utilities that we have audited
 - However, there are more compliance elements compared to other franchise agreements
- Risk Areas
 - Escalating costs for undergrounding
 - The volume of compliance elements and initiatives makes it challenging to monitor



Questions?