

Company: San Diego Gas & Electric Company (U 902 M)
Proceeding: 2024 General Rate Case
Application: A.22-05-_____
Exhibit: SDG&E-24

PREPARED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF
BRITTANY APPLESTEIN SYZ
(ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES)
and
(SAN ONOFRE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION (SONGS))

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA



May 2022

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SUMMARY

Environmental Services (in 2021\$)			
O&M	2021 Adjusted- Recorded (\$000)	Estimated TY 2024 (\$000)	Change (\$000)
Non-Shared-Environmental Services	\$7,289	\$8,436	\$1,147
Non-Shared-SONGS	\$1,216	\$1,540	\$324
Total O&M	\$8,505	\$9,976	\$1,471

Summary of Requests

1. SDG&E's Environmental Services and SONGS Departments are requesting adoption of the 2024 Test Year (TY) forecast of \$9,976,000 for operations and maintenance (O&M) expenses. This represents an increase of \$1,471,000 from adjusted recorded base year costs of \$8,505,000.
2. This request includes authorization to continue the New Environmental Regulatory Balancing Account (NERBA). Providing an estimate of \$39,000 in decreased costs for TY 2024 compared to base year costs.
3. This request also includes continued funding of SONGS marine mitigation and worker's compensation costs based upon existing methodology approved by the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission or CPUC). Providing an estimate of \$1,540,000 in costs for TY 2024.

**PREPARED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF
BRITTANY APPLESTEIN SYZ
(ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES and SONGS)**

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Summary of Environmental Services and SONGS Costs and Activities

My testimony supports the TY 2024 forecasts of O&M costs for non-shared services for the forecast years 2022, 2023 and 2024, associated with the Environmental Services and SONGS areas for San Diego Gas and Electric Company (SDG&E). SONGS costs that were previously requested in SDG&E’s Electric Generation Chapter in the TY 2019 General Rate Case (GRC) are now being requested in this chapter because the SONGS and Environmental Services departments are in the same organizational division whereas in the prior GRC they were organized in separate divisions; additionally, since SONGS is in decommissioning, it should no longer be placed in the Electric Generation Chapter. I do not include any capital costs in my testimony; however, I do provide support for the capital costs of an Environmental Management System that the IT (Information Technology) organization is developing as requested in the testimony of Mr. William J. Exon, Information Technology (Capital) witness (Exhibit (Ex.) SCG-21, Ch. 2). Table BS-1 summarizes my sponsored O&M costs.

**TABLE BS-1
Test Year 2024 Summary of Total Costs**

SUMMARY

Environmental Services (in 2021\$)			
O&M	2021 Adjusted- Recorded (\$000)	Estimated TY 2024 (\$000)	Change (\$000)
Non-Shared-Environmental Services	\$7,289	\$8,436	\$1,147
Non-Shared-SONGS	\$1,216	\$1,540	\$324
Total O&M	\$8,505	\$9,976	\$1,471

In addition to this testimony, please refer to my work papers for further information on the activities described herein.

Environmental Services oversees SDG&E’s compliance with federal, state, regional, and local environmental statutes, rules, and regulations, including laws protecting air quality, water quality, hazardous materials, hazardous waste, cultural resources, natural (biological) resources,

1 and environmental permitting. Key components of SDG&E's environmental compliance
2 management program include internal assessments and trainings to help support and ensure
3 compliance; development of compliance policies, procedures, and tools, including quality
4 control procedures; and implementation of rigorous environmental contract terms and conditions
5 for SDG&E's environmental consultants and vendors. Additionally, specialists within
6 Environmental Services analyze the potential impacts of proposed and final regulations and rules
7 as well as provide early planning for compliance with new regulations.

8 Environmental Services also manages field-based environmental representatives (FERs)
9 that are located at various SDG&E sites to support day-to-day compliance operations, including
10 generation facilities, substations, and Construction & Operations (C&O) facilities. These FERS
11 manage the Environmental Safety Compliance Management Program (ESCMP) for the
12 Company. Environmental Services also partners with operations management and crews to
13 focus on compliance requirements during project work as well as providing on-call
14 environmental specialists to assist field operations. Environmental Services' other
15 responsibilities include screening planned infrastructure projects for environmental compliance
16 and efforts to avoid and/or minimize project environmental impacts, soils contamination
17 considerations and permitting needs; providing compliance oversight to project work; and
18 developing and obtaining environmental permits and plans.

19 Environmental Services also manages a California certified environmental laboratory,
20 two SDG&E treatment, storage, and disposal facilities (TSDFs), the remediation of contaminated
21 soils at current and former utility sites, emergency hazardous waste release events, and a
22 hazardous waste vendor audit program.

23 This department also develops and supports SDG&E's Sustainability Strategy and policy
24 as described in Sustainability Policy testimony of Estela de Llanos (Ex. SDG&E-02)
25 (Sustainability) to address climate issues and move the state toward achieving the aggressive
26 greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction goals that it has through adaptation, mitigation, and
27 transformation.

28 There are numerous acronyms for the various programs, agencies, and requirements
29 encountered by Environmental Services and described in this testimony. In addition to
30 describing each acronym in this text, I have included a Glossary of Terms in an appendix as a
31 reference.

1 My testimony will also include requests for recovery of costs related to reasonably
2 incurred SONGS-related O&M costs. SDG&E traditionally submits intervenor testimony in
3 Southern California Edison Company's (SCE) GRC and seeks to establish and recover its 20%
4 portion of certain SONGS costs in rates. In accordance with this Commission approved practice,
5 SDG&E intervened in SCE's TY 2021 and submitted intervenor testimony requesting recovery
6 of these costs.

7 My testimony also includes a request for NERBA. SDG&E is requesting that the
8 existing structure of the NERBA balancing account be authorized to continue during this GRC
9 cycle.

10 **B. Support to and From Other Witnesses**

11 In addition to sponsoring the Environmental Services and SONGS organization's costs, I
12 also provide business or policy justification for the following other witnesses who sponsor
13 operational costs driven by regulation or pressures:

- 14 • Mr. William J. Exon, the Information Technology (Capital) witness (Ex. SCG-21,
15 Chapter (Ch.) 2), supporting capital costs for a new Environmental Management
16 System (EMS) to maintain environmental compliance related information and
17 sustainability data in a centralized database so the data is secure and available to
18 multiple stakeholders. The EMS is to be part of the existing Environmental &
19 Safety Value Stream Initiative managed by the IT group.
- 20 • Mr. Arthur Alvarez, witness for Fleet Services (Ex. SDG&E-22), supporting costs
21 for the California Air Resources Board's (CARB's) Portable Engine Airborne
22 Toxic Control Measure (ATCM) fleet emission standards, which went into effect
23 in 2013 and became progressively more stringent in 2017 and 2020. SDG&E's
24 Fleet Services will adjust (*e.g.*, retire older units, reclassify to "low-use," and/or
25 replace with Tier 4 Final equivalent) the portable engine fleet to meet the engine
26 tier phase-out schedule. Mr. Alvarez's testimony and work papers, (Ex. SDG&E-
27 22), sponsor such costs.
- 28 • Mr. Tyson Swetek, witness for Electric Distribution O&M (Ex. SDG&E-12),
29 supporting sulfur hexafluoride (SF6) reduction compliance costs. Refer to
30 supplemental work paper 1EV000.001 in EX. SDG&E-24-WP.

- 1 • Ms. Oliva Reyes, witness for Electric Distribution Capital (Ex. SDG&E-11),
2 supporting the SF6 switch replacement project costs. Refer to supplemental work
3 paper 1EV000.001 in Ex. SDG&E-24-WP.
- 4 • Mr. Jason Kupfersmid, witness for Regulatory Accounts (Ex. SDG&E-43),
5 requesting that the existing structure of the NERBA balancing account be
6 authorized to continue during this GRC cycle.
- 7 • Mr. Kupfersmid, witness for Regulatory Accounts (Ex. SDG&E-43), informing
8 that the existing structure of the SONGS Balancing account (SONGSBA) and
9 Marine Mitigation Memorandum Account (MMMA) will continue during this
10 GRC cycle.

11 **C. Testimony Organization**

12 My testimony is organized as follows:

- 13 • Introduction
- 14 • Summary of Environmental Services and SONGS Costs and Activities
- 15 • Support to and From Other Witnesses
- 16 • Sustainability and Safety Culture
- 17 • Non-Shared Costs and Activities, Forecast Method, and Cost Driver
- 18 • Environmental Services Director
- 19 • Environmental Field Operations
- 20 • Hazardous Materials /Waste Management and Site Mitigation
- 21 • Environmental Lab
- 22 • Environmental Programs
- 23 • Natural Resources and Post Construction
- 24 • Environmental Permitting & Project Management
- 25 • Sustainability Program and Strategies
- 26 • NERBA
- 27 • SONGS
- 28 • Conclusion
- 29 • Witness Qualification
- 30 • Appendix A - Glossary

1 **II. SUSTAINABILITY AND SAFETY CULTURE**

2 **A. Sustainability**

3 Sustainability, safety, and reliability are the cornerstones of SDG&E’s core business
4 operations and are central to SDG&E’s GRC presentation. SDG&E is committed to not only
5 deliver clean, safe, and reliable electric and natural gas service, but to do so in a manner that
6 supports California’s climate policy, adaptation, and mitigation efforts. In support of the legal
7 and regulatory framework set by the state, SDG&E has set a goal to reach Net Zero GHG
8 emissions by 2045. SDG&E adopted a Sustainability Strategy to facilitate the integration of
9 GHG emission reduction strategies into SDG&E’s day-to-day operations and long-term planning
10 and published an economy-wide GHG Study that recommends a diverse approach for California
11 leveraging clean electricity, clean fuels, and carbon removal to achieve these 2045 goals through
12 the lens of reliability, affordability, and equity. The Sustainability Strategy serves as SDG&E’s
13 guide to enable a more just and equitable energy future in SDG&E’s service territory and
14 beyond. As a “living” strategy, SDG&E will continue to update the goals and objectives as
15 technologies, policies, and stakeholder preferences evolve. See the Sustainability Policy
16 testimony of Estela de Llanos (Ex. SDG&E-02).

17 In this GRC, SDG&E focuses on three major categories that underpin the Sustainability
18 Strategy: mitigating climate change, adapting to climate change, and transforming the grid to be
19 the reliable and resilient conduit for clean energy. SDG&E's goal is to contribute to the
20 decarbonization of the economy by way of diversifying energy resources, collaborating with
21 regional partners, and providing customer choice that enables an affordable, flexible, and
22 resilient grid.

23 Many of the activities described in further detail in this testimony advance the state’s
24 climate goals and align with SDG&E’s Sustainability Strategy. Environmental Services’
25 commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainability encompasses habitat conservation,
26 careful project planning to avoid or minimize impacts, fuels management, tree planting, and
27 employee volunteerism. Over the past 25 years, Environmental Services has operated under a
28 habitat conservation plan that SDG&E voluntarily developed with state and federal wildlife
29 agencies (Natural Community Conservation Plan). SDG&E’s plan was designed to avoid or
30 minimize any impacts from its activities and help preserve the region’s ecosystems. The
31 environmental stewardship and conservation that Environmental Services practices to minimize

1 SDG&E’s impact on sensitive habitat and restoration or expansion of carbon sinks that sequester
2 GHG emissions will drive progress in the area(s) of Climate Adaptation and Climate Mitigation
3 and/or Grid Transformation. This group also tracks and report emissions to ensure transparency
4 and provide a basis for reducing such emissions. Environmental Services continues to tackle
5 business challenges with a holistic approach to SDG&E’s environmental work and climate
6 equity.

7 **B. Safety Culture**

8 Safety is a core value and SDG&E is committed to providing safe and reliable service to
9 all its stakeholders. This safety-first culture is embedded in every aspect of the Company’s
10 work. In 2020, SDG&E commenced development and deployment of a Safety Management
11 System (SMS), which better aligns and integrates safety, risk, asset, and emergency management
12 across the entire organization. The SMS takes a holistic and pro-active approach to safety and
13 expands beyond “traditional” occupational safety principles to include asset safety, system
14 safety, cyber safety, and psychological safety for improved safety performance and culture.
15 SDG&E’s SMS is a systematic, enterprise-wide framework that utilizes data to collectively
16 manage and reduce risk and promote continuous learning and improvement in safety
17 performance through deliberate, routine, and intentional processes.

18 Environmental Services contributes to the SMS through active engagement with its
19 employees and through the execution of the following programs:

- 20 • Environmental Services has a Safety Committee that facilitates engagement with
21 its employees through participation in an annual Safety Standdown for the entire
22 Vice President’s division, participation in the annual Safety Congress, attendance
23 at the safety meetings of its business partners and recognition for employees who
24 contribute to improved safety performance.
- 25 • Pre-screening of gas and electric capital and O&M projects is conducted to avoid
26 environmental impacts and safety concerns in its operations. Early proactive
27 involvement in the planning and design phases identify safety and environmental
28 risks at a time when they can be avoided.
- 29 • Environmental Services and Safety conduct an annual internal certification of
30 compliance programs and identifies opportunities for process improvement. Key
31 components of its environmental compliance management program include

1 internal assessments to help support and ensure compliance; a hazardous waste
2 vendor audit program; and rigorous environmental and safety contract terms and
3 conditions for its consultants and vendors. Environmental Services collaborates
4 with the Safety organization and other internal stakeholders to develop a library of
5 standards, fact sheets, and company-specific employee training. For example, the
6 Environmental Services hazardous material crew receives training on the
7 appropriate standards, fact sheets, and specific safety related training for
8 packaging, managing, and responding to hazardous material release events. (i.e.,
9 release of transformer oil due to a car-pole contact).

- 10 • Field-based environmental representatives are located at various SDG&E sites to
11 support day-to-day operations. They manage programs, permits, and emergency
12 response plans to protect its employees, customers, and the public.
- 13 • On-call environmental specialists are available to assist field operations and
14 activate an Environmental Services Emergency Command Center (ECC) to
15 support the SDG&E Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Environmental
16 Services review near miss reports, safety incidents, emergency incidents and ECC
17 and EOC activations as an opportunity to learn and improve.
- 18 • Environmental Services also manages a California certified environmental
19 laboratory to support environmental services and safety, two SDG&E treatment,
20 storage, and disposal facilities (TSDFs), the remediation of contaminated soils at
21 current and former utility sites.

22 SDG&E remains focused on identifying and implementing the most cost-effective
23 solutions with the potential to make the greatest impact on reducing GHG emissions, while
24 maintaining a safe and reliable energy system. SDG&E believes that safety, reliability, and
25 sustainability are inextricably linked and fundamental to the Company's ability to continue to
26 successfully operate. Please see the Sustainability Policy testimony of Estela de Llanos (Ex.
27 SDG&E-02) for additional detail on SDG&E's Sustainability Strategy and the Safety, Risk and
28 Asset Management Systems testimony of Kenneth J. Deremer (Ex. SDG&E-31) for additional
29 detail of SDG&E's safety policy.

1 **III. NON-SHARED COSTS**

2 “Non-Shared Services” are activities that are performed by a utility solely for its own
3 benefit. SDG&E’s parent company, Sempra Energy Corporate Center provides certain services to
4 the utilities and to other subsidiaries. For purposes of this GRC, SDG&E treats costs for services
5 received from the Sempra Energy Corporate Center as Non-Shared Services costs, consistent
6 with any other outside vendor costs incurred by the utility. Table BS-2 summarizes the total non-
7 shared O&M forecasts for the listed cost categories.

8 **TABLE BS-2**
9 **Non-Shared O&M Summary of ENVIRONMENTAL AND SONGS Costs**

ENVIRONMENTAL (In 2021\$)	2021 Adjusted-Recorded (000s)	TY 2024 Estimated (000s)	Change (000s)
Environmental Services	\$5,847	\$7,033	\$1,186
NERBA - Electric	\$313	\$419	\$106
NERBA – Gas	\$1,129	\$984	(\$145)
SONGS	\$1,216	\$1,540	\$324
Total Non-Shared Services	\$8,505	\$9,976	\$1,471

10 **A. Non-Shared O&M Categories for Environmental Services and SONGS**

11 **1. Description of Costs and Activities**

12 The costs included in this cost category include employee labor costs and non-labor costs
13 that are described in more detail within the individual categories of management in the table
14 below.

15 **2. Forecast Method**

16 The base year forecast methodology was utilized to best represent the financial structure
17 of the organization, while accounting for the incremental mandatory and compliance driven
18 programs supported by the department moving forward. Historical averaging or trending of
19 costs would not accurately reflect the future needs for the department given the evolving and
20 expanding nature of the activities supported by the department. In summary, a base year forecast
21 method is used because the most recent year of recorded costs is the most representative of the

1 current departmental activity and structure. This method, which was used in SDG&E’s TY 2016
 2 and TY 2019 GRCs, is again the most appropriate in this GRC.

3 **3. Cost Drivers**

4 There are specific new environmental regulatory and program-related requirements and
 5 related costs that will impact the company during the TY 2024 GRC forecast period, which are
 6 incremental to historically incurred costs. The cost drivers are described for each activity below.
 7 Table BS-3 summarizes the total non-shared O&M forecasts for the listed cost categories based
 8 upon activity.

9 **TABLE BS-3**
 10 **Non-Shared O&M Categories and Costs for ENVIRONMENTAL and SONGS**

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES & SONGS			
Categories of Management	2021 Adjusted- Recorded (000s)	TY 2024 Estimated (000s)	Change (000s)
B. Environmental Services Director	\$186	\$186	\$0
C. Environmental Field Operations	\$1,237	\$1,398	\$161
D. Hazardous Materials & Waste Management	\$1,728	\$1,874	\$146
Site Assessment & Mitigation	\$108	\$108	\$0
E. Environmental Lab	\$730	\$852	\$122
F. Environmental Programs	\$636	\$900	\$264
G. Natural Resources and Post Construction	\$531	\$802	\$271
H. Environmental Permitting & Project Mgmt.	\$256	\$328	\$72
I. Sustainability Program and Strategies	\$436	\$586	\$150
Subtotal Unbalanced O&M	\$5,847	\$7,033	\$1,186
J. NERBA	\$1,442	\$1,403	(\$39)

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES & SONGS			
K. SONGS	\$1,216	\$1,540	\$324
TOTAL O&M	\$8,505	\$9,976	\$1,471

B. Environmental Services Director

1. Description of Costs and Activities

The Director provides leadership and strategic direction to Environmental Services at SDG&E.

2. Forecast Method

A base year forecast methodology was used to determine cost requirements. This methodology is most appropriate because it identifies specific cost drivers that are applicable to the oversight, leadership, and strategy of the overall Environmental Services department. The specific cost drivers and incremental costs are best applied to a base year spending level instead of using historical averages or trending that may not be reflective of recent spending patterns. The base year represents the most accurate manner of forecasting costs since it is the most recent and reliable indicator of specific cost drivers for the department for TY 2024.

3. Cost Drivers

The primary cost drivers are straight time labor, employee non-labor costs, consulting fees, and costs related to department wide functions. There are three employees including a Director, Business Planning Manager and Administrative Assistant. There are no upward or downward pressures associated with this activity in the TY 2024 GRC forecast period as the base year funding appears to be sufficient to fund estimated expenses for TY 2024.

C. Environmental Field Operations

1. Description of Costs and Activities

The compliance activities in this O&M cost category are associated with managing and maintaining environmental compliance for the company’s approximately 200 facilities (Administration Offices, Construction and Operations (C&O) Centers, substations, and telecom sites) with environmental risk and regulatory oversight. Additionally, this group manages the environmental portion of the company-wide Environmental & Safety Compliance Management Program (ESCMP) which includes facilitating regulatory inspections (approximately 150 per

1 year), facilitating corporate audits, and conducting internal self-assessments (approximately 100
2 per year), developing, and facilitating mandatory training (over 5,000 employee completions per
3 year), and annually certifying compliance metrics. Non-labor expenditures include facility-based
4 regulatory fees and assessments, permits, and consultant-supported employee training
5 development.

6 **2. Forecast Method**

7 A base year forecast methodology was used to determine cost requirements. This method
8 is most appropriate because it identifies specific environmental regulatory changes and their
9 related costs impacting the company in TY 2024TY 2024 . The specific cost drivers are best
10 applied to a conservative base year level instead of using historical averages or trending that may
11 not be reflective of recent spending patterns. The base year represents the most accurate manner
12 of forecasting costs because it is the most representative of the current departmental activity and
13 structure.

14 **3. Cost Drivers**

15 The primary cost drivers for this activity are employee labor charges and non-labor
16 charges for permits and associated fees. The net upward pressure from base year costs is
17 \$161,000 related to increased labor costs. SDG&E is also requesting \$10,000 in additional non-
18 labor funding for consultant costs to support compliance activities related to site inspections.

19 **a. Labor:** SDG&E is requesting \$105,000 to hire one additional full-
20 time employee that will serve as a Field Operations Representative beginning in 2022. The
21 position will support compliance requirements including facility inspections, self-assessments,
22 and metrics. This position will also support the emergency response plans and permit tracking
23 processes. Additionally, SDG&E is requesting \$56,000 for the labor annualization effect for off
24 cycle pay increases that were granted during the third quarter of 2021. The off cycle pay
25 increases were granted to align employee compensation with established corporate pay-bands
26 and promote compensation equity within the workplace. Refer to work paper group 1EV000.000
27 in Ex. SDG&E-24-WP.

1 **D. Hazardous Materials & Waste Management and Site Assessment &**
2 **Mitigation**

3 **1. Description of Costs and Activities**

4 The Hazardous Materials and Waste section manages and oversees the hazardous
5 materials/waste operations of SDG&E, and Site Assessment and Mitigation work, which include:
6 the operation of two Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facilities (TSDF), conducting and
7 managing cleanup activities from gas operations, electrical equipment, and company operations,
8 and managing the receipt, storage, and shipment of hazardous materials and waste, including
9 asbestos. These activities are performed by company employees and contracted vendors.

10 **2. Forecast Method**

11 A base year forecast methodology was used to determine cost requirements. This method
12 is most appropriate because it identifies specific environmental regulatory changes and their
13 related costs impacting the company during the TY 2024 GRC period. The specific cost drivers
14 are best applied to a conservative base year level instead of using historical averages or trending
15 that may not be reflective of recent spending patterns. The base year represents the most
16 accurate manner of forecasting costs because it is the most representative of the current
17 departmental activity and structure.

18 **3. Cost Drivers**

19 The primary upward cost pressure drivers for Hazardous Materials/Waste Management
20 include employee labor charges and non-labor charges related to contracted services with outside
21 vendors, permitting fees, and disposal costs to transport hazardous waste shown below. SDG&E
22 is not forecasting any upward or downward pressures for the Site Assessment & Mitigation work
23 activities during the forecast period, only the Hazardous Materials/Waste Management
24 operations.

25 **a. Labor:** SDG&E is requesting \$120,000 for estimated O&M labor
26 charges related to onboarding two full-time employees (a Hazardous Materials Handler and a
27 Hazardous Substance Specialist) to support SDG&E's hazardous waste programs. Refer to work
28 paper group 1EV000.000 in Ex. SDGE-24-WP.

29 **b. Non-Labor:** SDG&E requests \$26,000 to fund costs associated
30 with the permit renewal for the Kearny Treatment Storage and Disposal Facility (TSDF).
31 SDG&E is renewing this permit to comply with regulations for the storage of federally regulated

1 PCB equipment and waste streams that are generated throughout its service territory. SDG&E's
2 Corporate Accounting organization has approved prorating the cost of this permit over its useful
3 life of 10 years from 2022 to 2032. The total permit renewal cost is \$260,000. The annual
4 prorated cost is \$26,000. SDG&E is requesting \$26,000 for TY 2024. Refer to supplemental
5 work paper 1EV000.002 in Ex. SDGE-24-WP.

6 **E. Environmental Lab**

7 **1. Description of Costs and Activities**

8 The compliance activities in this non-shared O&M cost category include operation of
9 SDG&E's California State Certified Environmental Analysis Laboratory (The Lab). This
10 functional area performs a broad spectrum of environmental and chemical sampling, testing and
11 analysis for operational maintenance and regulatory compliance.

12 **2. Forecast Method**

13 A base year forecast methodology was used to determine cost requirements. This method
14 is most appropriate because it identifies specific environmental regulatory changes and their
15 related costs impacting the company during the TY 2024 GRC period. The specific cost drivers
16 are best applied to a conservative base year level instead of using historical averages or trending
17 that may not be reflective of recent spending patterns. The base year represents the most
18 accurate manner of forecasting costs because it is the most representative of the current
19 departmental activity and structure.

20 **3. Cost Drivers**

21 The cost drivers in this section are primarily employee labor charges, outsourced vendor
22 costs and lab supplies.

23 **a. Labor:** SDG&E is requesting \$85,000 for estimated O&M labor
24 expense related to adding one additional full time Chemist to support additional responsibilities
25 in metal testing, soil for export, and disposal of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB). The Chemist
26 position will also contribute to project support, equipment coding, profiling, and quality control
27 to expand the lab's service capabilities and ensure high service levels. Refer to work paper group
28 1EV000.000 in Ex. SDG&E-24-WP.

29 **b. Non-Labor:** Upward pressures include non-labor costs for various
30 programs listed below:

1 • **Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program**
2 **(ELAP) Certification:** SDG&E is forecasting to spend \$27,000 annually for the years 2022-
3 2024 to fund Lab equipment service contracts for metal testing equipment that is part of the
4 ELAP Certification which requires annual performance sampling. Therefore, SDG&E is
5 requesting \$27,000 for TY 2024. Refer to work paper group 1EV000.000 in Ex. SDG&E-24-
6 WP.

7 • **The NELAC Institute (TNI) Standards:** SDG&E seeks
8 consultant support to conduct a third-party assessment of the SDG&E Environmental Lab for the
9 ELAP. The assessment will be performed every 3 years against the requirements of the current
10 California ELAP Regulations, 2016 TNI requirements and the International Accreditation
11 Service (IAS) for testing laboratories. SDG&E requests the estimated cost for TNI standards of
12 \$10,000 in TY 2024. Refer to work paper group 1EV000.000 in Ex. SDG&E-24-WP.

13 **F. Environmental Programs**

14 **1. Description of Costs and Activities**

15 The compliance activities in this non-shared O&M cost category include specialists who
16 provide guidance in and track air quality/GHG emissions, aquatic/water quality and cultural
17 resources. These specialists conduct project screening for potential environmental impacts,
18 obtain environmental permits, review proposed regulations, report on emissions, and provide
19 compliance guidance and oversight.

20 **2. Forecast Method**

21 A base year forecast methodology was used to determine cost requirements. This method
22 is most appropriate because it identifies specific environmental regulatory changes and their
23 related costs impacting the company during the TY 2024 GRC period. The specific cost drivers
24 are best applied to a conservative base year level instead of using historical averages or trending
25 that may not be reflective of recent spending patterns. The base year represents the most
26 accurate manner of forecasting costs because it is the most representative of the current
27 departmental activity and structure.

28 **3. Cost Drivers**

29 The cost drivers in Environmental Programs are primarily employee labor in addition to
30 non-labor charges for consultants, permits, and employee related expenses.

1 **a. Labor:** SDG&E is requesting \$120,000 for estimated O&M labor
2 charges for adding two additional full-time employees as described below.

3 Refer to work paper group 1EV000.000 in Ex. SDG&E-24-WP.

4 • One additional full-time employee to be added in 2023
5 within the Air/GHG group to support SDG&E’s air emission reporting and inventory strategies.
6 The total annual compensation for this position is \$112,500 which is allocated 80% O&M and
7 20% capital. The estimated annual O&M cost of this position is \$90,000 beginning in 2023,
8 therefore SDG&E is requesting \$90,000 in TY 2024.

9 • One full time employee to be added in 2023 within the
10 Cultural Resources group to develop and manage tribal agreements so that tribal escorts and
11 monitors are available during the planning and construction phases of SDG&E capital and O&M
12 projects. The total annual compensation for this position of \$112,500 is allocated 27% O&M
13 and 73% capital. The estimated annual O&M cost of this position is \$30,000 beginning in 2023,
14 therefore SDG&E is requesting \$30,000 in TY 2024.

15 **b. Non-Labor:** Upward pressures include non-labor costs for various
16 programs listed below. SDG&E is requesting \$141,400 in TY 2024. Refer to work paper group
17 1EV000.000 in Ex. SDG&E-24-WP for the following.

18 • **Greenhouse Gas Reporting (GHG):** SDG&E continues to
19 conduct mandatory compliance reporting of its GHG inventory. To support the increasing scope
20 of emission reporting and verification to include Scope 3 emissions (defined as emissions
21 resulting from gas/electricity supplied to customers from its business activity). Consultant
22 support is used to compile, review, and verify GHG reports and would be expanded to include
23 Scope 3 emissions. SDG&E estimates the consultant cost to be \$6,400 annually for the years
24 2022-2024, therefore SDG&E requests \$6,400 for TY 2024. Refer to work paper group
25 1EV000.000 in Ex. SDG&E-24-WP.

26 • **Natural Gas Pipeline Discharge Programmatic Permit:**
27 To facilitate permitting for groundwater or wastewater discharges during natural gas pipeline
28 operation and maintenance (O&M) and construction activities and to obtain uniform permit
29 requirements throughout the state, SDG&E, in partnership with Southern California Gas
30 Company (SoCalGas) and Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), completed
31 implementation of a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) programmatic

1 permit. Consultant support is needed to update the initial Annual Reporting Template. Estimated
2 costs are \$5,000 annually for the years 2022-2024, therefore SDG&E requests \$5,000 for TY
3 2024. Refer to work paper group 1EV000.000 in Ex. SDG&E-24-WP.

4 • **Vault De-Watering Permit:** On October 21, 2014, the
5 California SWRCB adopted the new Utility Vault De-Watering General Permit Order 2014-
6 0174-DWQ. The Vault De-Watering Permit expired in June 2020. Permit coverage is extended
7 until a new permit is adopted and becomes effective. This permit is a National Pollutant
8 Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit pursuant to the Clean Water Act¹ that regulates
9 short-term intermittent discharges from utility vaults and underground structures to surface
10 waters. Consultant support will be needed to update the Pollution Prevention Plan, develop, and
11 implement new Best Management Practices (BMPs) and training. Estimated consultant costs are
12 \$20,000 in 2023 and \$10,000 in TY 2024. Refer to work paper group 1EV000.000 in Ex.
13 SDG&E-24-WP.

14 • **Environmental Management System (EMS):** SDG&E is
15 requesting approval of costs to develop an electronic system to maintain compliance related
16 documentation and sustainability data in a centralized database so that compliance
17 documentation is secure and accessible to stakeholders. The system would integrate multiple
18 hard copy retention practices currently in place into in a uniform and consistent record keeping
19 methodology so that data analysis may be conducted and emergency response plans, permits, and
20 monitoring data would be readily available. SDG&E's capital costs for this system are
21 sponsored by the IT organization. See Mr. Exon's Information Technology (Capital) testimony
22 (Ex. SCG-21, Ch. 2). The estimated O&M costs for the EMS system are \$132,000 in 2022,
23 \$120,000 in 2023 and \$120,000 in TY 2024. Refer to supplemental work paper 1EV000.003 in
24 Ex. SDG&E-24-WP.

25 **G. Natural Resources and Post Construction Compliance**

26 **1. Description of Costs and Activities**

27 This non-shared O&M cost category includes ancillary costs related to employees who
28 work on capital and O&M project licensing and permitting activities. These teams also provide

¹ 33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq. (1972).

1 compliance guidance for natural resources and habitat restoration, as well as post construction
2 compliance obligations.

3 **2. Forecast Method**

4 A base year forecast methodology was used to determine cost requirements. This method
5 is most appropriate because it identifies specific environmental regulatory changes and their
6 related costs impacting the company during the TY 2024 GRC period. The specific cost drivers
7 are best applied to a conservative base year level and would not be captured by traditional
8 averaging or trending. The base year represents the most accurate manner of forecasting costs
9 because it is the most representative of the current departmental activity and structure.

10 **3. Cost Drivers**

11 The O&M costs for the Natural Resources and Post Construction teams are primarily
12 employee labor and non-labor charges associated with licensing, permitting, construction and/or
13 post-construction environmental compliance for capital and O&M projects.

14 **a. Labor:** SDG&E is requesting \$100,000 for labor annualization
15 costs related to partial year compensation for four new employees onboarded during the base
16 year 2021. Refer to work paper group 1EV000.000 in Ex. SDG&E-24-WP.

17 **b. Non-Labor:** Upward pressures include non-labor costs for various
18 programs listed below.

19 **• Enhancement Program Implementation Support,**
20 **Training Materials.** This initiative assures that all post construction site restoration activities
21 have support to obtain the necessary customer and landowner approvals and awareness of
22 SDG&E restoration activities on their property. SDG&E is forecasting to spend \$58,000
23 annually for the years 2022-2024 to support this initiative; therefore, SDG&E is requesting
24 \$58,000 for TY 2024. The support activities include but are not limited to coordinating site
25 access, compiling and communicating schedules to customers and landowners and tracking
26 customer and landowner contacts for these post construction restoration activities. Refer to work
27 paper group 1EV000.000 in Ex. SDG&E-24-WP.

28 **• Cleveland National Forest (CNF) and Bureau of Land**
29 **Management (BLM) O&M Plans:** Environmental Services has identified upward cost
30 pressures to implement the CNF and BLM O&M Plans. In 2018, Congress amended the Federal
31 Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) to add Section 512, which establishes requirements

1 for the development and approval of operating plans and agreements for powerline facility
2 maintenance and vegetation management on National Forest Services (NFS) lands to remove or
3 prune hazard trees. The Act established a more consistent and streamlined process for
4 development, approval, and implementation of vegetation management, facility inspection, and
5 O&M plans for electric utilities operating in rights-of-way on NFS and BLM lands, including
6 timelines and benchmarks for approvals of plans and modifications. The rule became effective
7 on August 10, 2020. The implementation of the rule will promote the reliability of the electric
8 grid and will reduce the threat of damage to powerline facilities, natural resources, and nearby
9 communities by streamlining approval for routine and emergency vegetation management on
10 NFS lands. It's possible that the BLM O&M Plan (signed in December 2021) will benefit future
11 O&M and capital projects due to a consistent and streamlined approval process. The CNF and
12 BLM O&M Plan costs are outlined below.

13 (1) **CNF Master Special Use Permit (MSUP) O&M Cost Recovery Agreement:**

14 The annual estimate is based upon the total project cost of \$900,440 allocated
15 over 5 years or \$180,088 per year beginning in 2022. The O&M portion of the
16 total project cost is estimated to be 40%, therefore, SDG&E requests \$72,000 in
17 TY 2024. Refer to work paper group 1EV000.000 in Ex. SDG&E-24-WP.

18 (2) **BLM O&M Plan Implementation:** An Environmental Consultant will be

19 needed to support the implementation activities. The consultant cost estimate for
20 implementation of the Plan is \$325,000 of which \$227,000 represents O&M.

21 SDG&E anticipates that the O&M plan will be developed and implemented
22 during the two-year period ending 2024 and it expects the timing of the O&M
23 expense to be \$113,500 in 2023 and \$113,500 in 2024, therefore SDG&E requests
24 \$113,500 in 2024. Refer to work paper group 1EV000.000 in Ex. SDG&E-24-
25 WP.

26 **H. Environmental Permitting and Project Management**

27 **1. Description of Costs and Activities**

28 This non-shared O&M cost category includes labor and non-labor ancillary costs for land
29 planners, project managers, and capital project compliance leads who license and permit capital
30 projects. These teams work on electric capital projects under the jurisdiction of the CPUC and/or
31 California Energy Commission, as well as projects that meet existing General Order (GO) 131-D

1 exemptions and are therefore exempt from active CPUC permitting requirements. These teams
2 also work on gas capital projects that are regulated by the CPUC pursuant to GO 112-F.

3 **2. Forecast Method**

4 A base year forecast methodology was used to determine cost requirements. This method
5 is most appropriate because it identifies specific environmental regulatory changes and their
6 related costs impacting the company during the TY 2024 GRC period. The specific cost drivers
7 are best applied to a conservative base year level and would not be captured by traditional
8 averaging or trending that may not be reflective of recent spending patterns. The base year
9 represents the most accurate manner of forecasting costs because it is the most representative of
10 the current departmental activity and structure.

11 **3. Cost Drivers**

12 The O&M costs for the Environmental Project Permitting and Environmental Project
13 Management are primarily employee labor and non-labor charges associated with licensing,
14 permitting, construction and/or post-construction environmental compliance for capital and
15 O&M projects. SDG&E is not forecasting any upward or downward pressures for these teams
16 during the forecast period.

17 **I. Sustainability Program and Strategies**

18 **1. Description of Costs and Activities**

19 The activities in this O&M cost category include development and implementation of a
20 comprehensive sustainability strategic program for SDG&E. This team collaborates with
21 internal and external stakeholders to develop goals, metrics, and operational strategies to track
22 and monitor, among other items, water, fuel, emissions, and energy consumption data. They are
23 responsible for performing data analytics and they produce an annual update on progress to the
24 Sustainability Strategy.

25 **2. Forecast Method**

26 A base year forecast methodology was used to determine cost requirements. This method
27 is most appropriate because it identifies specific cost drivers related to sustainability and strategy
28 that may impact the company during the TY 2024 GRC period. The specific cost drivers are best
29 applied to a conservative base year level and would not be captured by traditional averaging or
30 trending that may not be reflective of recent spending patterns. The base year represents the

1 most accurate manner of forecasting costs because it is the most representative of the current
2 departmental activity and structure.

3 **3. Cost Drivers**

4 The cost drivers associated with this function are primarily labor costs for employees and
5 non-labor charges for consultants, benchmarking fees, and subscription costs. Environmental
6 Services is requesting additional funding for sustainability costs related to education, outreach,
7 and communications.

8 **a. Non-Labor.** Upward pressures include non-labor costs for
9 consultants to develop continuing education and awareness materials (e.g., printed materials,
10 brochures, newsletters, training video) for the Sustainability Program. SDG&E is requesting
11 \$150,000 in 2024. Refer to supplemental work paper 1EV000.004 in Ex. SDG&E-24-WP.

12 **J. NERBA**

13 **1. Description of Costs and Activities**

14 **Background**

15 In the TY 2012 GRC, the Commission approved the NERBA as a two-way balancing
16 account, with multiple subaccounts, to record costs associated with certain new and proposed
17 environmental rules or regulations. The currently authorized NERBA gas and electric
18 subaccounts include (1) Assembly Bill 32; (AB32) Administration Fees; (2) Municipal Separate
19 Stormwater Sewer Systems (MS4); (3) Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) Phase-Out, (4)
20 Subpart W of Part 98 of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations; and (5) Leak Detection
21 Abatement Repair (LDAR). The intent of the NERBA is to record costs meeting the following
22 key criteria: (1) uncertainty as to the scope, magnitude, and mechanics of the compliance
23 requirements associated with new, proposed, or evolving environmental rules or regulations; and
24 (2) potential for incurring significant incremental costs.

25 **Proposal**

26 As mentioned in the Regulatory Accounts testimony of Mr. Kupfersmid (Ex. SDG&E-
27 43), SDG&E is requesting that the existing structure of the NERBA balancing account be
28 authorized to continue during this GRC cycle. SDG&E's proposed NERBA-related costs are
29 shown below in Table BS-4.

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TABLE BS-4
Non-Shared Balanced O&M Summary of Costs for NERBA

NERBA ITEM	2021 Adjusted-Recorded	TY 2024 Estimated	Change	Status
AB32 Administrative Fees	\$1,274	\$1,331	\$57	Continue in 2024 GRC Period
MS4	\$0	\$10	\$10	Continue in 2024 GRC Period
PCB Phase-Out	\$0	\$0	\$0	Continue in 2024 GRC Period
Subpart W	\$2	\$2	\$0	Continue in 2024 GRC Period
LDAR	\$166	\$60	(\$106)	Continue in 2024 GRC Period
TOTAL	\$1,442	\$1,403	(\$39)	

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2. Forecast Method

A base year forecast methodology was used to determine cost requirements for NERBA as a cost category. This method is appropriate because it identifies specific environmental regulatory requirements and their related costs impacting the company during the TY 2024 GRC period. The specific cost drivers are best applied to a conservative base year level and would not be captured by traditional averaging or trending that may not be reflective of recent spending patterns. The base year represents a reliable and accurate manner of forecasting costs since it is the most recent and reliable indicator of specific cost drivers for the department during the forecasting period. Further, as NERBA costs are, generally, not readily predictable given the attributes described earlier, traditional average of historical costs may not be a representative or accurate forecasting methodology.

3. Cost Drivers

The following NERBA subaccounts represent the cost drivers and collectively contribute to a total forecasted amount of \$1,403,000 in TY 2024:

1 • **AB32 Administrative Fees:** SDG&E pays administrative fees as
2 required by the California’s Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, referred to as “Assembly
3 Bill (AB) 32.” These fees allow CARB to recover its costs to implement AB32. AB32 requires
4 public utility gas corporations, such as SDG&E, to pay annual administrative fees for each therm
5 of natural gas they deliver to any end user in California, excluding natural gas delivered to
6 electric generating facilities and to wholesale providers. AB32 requires electric generating
7 facilities located in California, such as SDG&E’s Palomar Power Plant, to pay annual
8 administrative fees for each megawatt per hour (MW-hr) of net power generated by the
9 combustion of natural gas. Due to regulatory uncertainty related to GHG inventory and reporting
10 requirements, the import of electric power from out of state is unpredictable, the production of
11 power plants is subject to California Independent System Operator (ISO) load requirements in
12 California, and market forces are unpredictable in the summer months. SDG&E will continue to
13 track the AB32 Administrative fees in the NERBA for the period covered by the TY 2024 GRC.
14 SDG&E is requesting an increase of \$57,000 for the AB32 Administrative Fees beyond the base
15 year level. Refer to work paper group 1EV001.002 and 1EV002.002 and supplemental work
16 paper 1EV001.002 Ex. SDG&E-24-WP.

17 • **Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer System (MS4)**

18 **Permit:** The San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) issued a revised
19 MS4 Permit to owners/operators that include new requirements for cities and municipalities
20 located in San Diego and Orange Counties, the Orange County Flood Control District and the
21 San Diego County Regional Airport Authority.² In addition, municipalities and
22 owners/operators must regulate dischargers within their jurisdiction and commercial facilities
23 must minimize the discharge of pollutants through the implementation of BMPs. The MS4
24 Permit also requires the development and implementation of watershed-based plans (Water
25 Quality Improvement Plans or WQIPs), and the identification and development of strategies for
26 priority water bodies that need further protection and/or restoration. In 2016, San Diego and
27 Orange Counties, the City of San Diego, the Orange County Flood Control District, and the San
28 Diego County Regional Airport Authority issued updated stormwater ordinances, released their

² San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board Order No. R9-2013-0001, as amended by Order Nos. R9-2015-0001 and R9-2015-0100.

1 new jurisdictional plans and BMP requirements³. Due to the uncertainty of additional cities and
2 municipalities that may become more stringent during BMP implementation and may impose
3 further compliance requirements during an inspection at its facilities in the future, SDG&E is
4 including \$10,000 in TY 2024 costs associated with MS4 Permit requirements subject to two-
5 way balancing account treatment in the NERBA. Refer to work paper group 1EV001.003 and
6 1EV002.004 in Ex. SDG&E-24-WP.

7 • **PCB Phase-Out Costs:** Although no costs are currently forecasted
8 for the PCB Phaseout subaccount, unforeseen regulatory requirements may present themselves
9 within this TY 2024 GRC period that may require incremental costs to comply and, thus, should
10 qualify as appropriate for inclusion within this existing NERBA two-way balancing account.

11 • **Subpart W Costs:** This applies to leaks and fugitive emissions
12 from SDG&E’s natural gas distribution system. In order to come up with an accurate emission
13 factor SDG&E has to test a subset of its Transmission-Distribution (TD) gate stations annually.
14 The forecasted costs are not significant for the Subpart W subaccount; \$2,000 annually for 2022,
15 2023 and 2024, due to unforeseen regulatory requirements that may present themselves within
16 the TY 2024 GRC period and may require incremental costs to comply. Thus, they should
17 qualify as appropriate for inclusion within this existing NERBA two-way balancing account.
18 Refer to work paper group 1EV002.001 in Ex. SDG&E-24-WP.

19 • **Leak Detection Abatement Repair (LDAR) Costs:** Due to
20 LDAR regulatory requirements not associated with SB1371, SDG&E anticipates impacts to its
21 gas facilities and operations. The initial protocols for testing, monitoring, and repair of leaks in
22 compressor engines, pneumatic controllers, and piping under the CARB Oil and Gas Rule have
23 been completed, therefore costs going forward will be less than the base year. Environmental
24 Services is forecasting to spend \$60,000 on an annual basis towards the LDAR program for the
25 years 2022 – 2024. Therefore, SDG&E is requesting \$60,000 in 2024, due to unforeseen
26 regulatory requirements that may present themselves within the TY 2024 GRC period and may
27 require incremental costs to comply and, thus, should qualify as appropriate for inclusion within
28 this existing NERBA two-way balancing account. Refer to work paper group EV002.003 in Ex.
29 SDG&E-24-WP.

1 **K. SONGS**

2 **1. Description of Costs and Activities**

3 **Background**

4 After the June 2013 closure of SONGS, most SONGS costs are appropriately considered
5 to be decommissioning costs, and thus will be recovered through mechanisms other than the
6 GRC. The remaining non-decommissioning costs are related to Marine Mitigation and Worker’s
7 Compensation. As the majority owner and licensee of SONGS, SCE sponsors these specific
8 costs in its GRC filings, and in turn, the Commission has addressed SONGS-related expenses
9 that SCE bills to SDG&E in SCE’s GRC. In turn, SDG&E has filed intervenor testimony in
10 SCE’s TY 2021 GRC SDG&E seeking to establish and recover its 20% ownership interest in
11 SONGS costs. The Commission has approved this methodology in order to maintain consistent
12 treatment of SONGS billed costs and to avoid litigating SONGS costs and expenditures in more
13 than one proceeding. This approach ensures there is no mismatch in treatment due to differentials
14 in the timing of SCE’s and SDG&E’s GRCs and prevents any risk of overcollection from
15 ratepayers.

16 **Proposal**

17 Requesting continued funding of SDG&E’s 20% share of SONGS marine mitigation and
18 worker’s compensation costs based upon the existing methodology approved by the
19 Commission.

20 **2. Forecast Method**

21 A zero-base forecast methodology is used to determine cost requirements for SONGS as
22 these costs represent a pass-through of SCE’s recoverable amounts that are billed to SDG&E
23 based upon its 20% ownership interest in SONGS.

24 **3. Cost Drivers**

25 SDG&E’s TY 2024 request presented in this testimony and shown in Table BS-5 below
26 presents the portion of SONGS-related direct O&M costs established in SCE’s TY 2021.
27 SDG&E’s methodology for calculating its 20% share of SONGS related costs and the resulting
28 2021 forecast SONGS revenue requirement of \$1,517,000 was established in SCE’s TY 2021

1 GRC.³ The total cost includes \$1,285,000 for approved Marine Mitigation costs, \$177,000 for
 2 Worker’s Compensation costs and Franchise Fees and Uncollectibles (FF&U) of \$55,000. The
 3 2021 forecast approved as part of SCE’s TY 2021 GRC is escalated annually to arrive at the
 4 2024 estimate of \$1,540,000 in Table BS-5 below. Refer to supplemental work paper
 5 1EV003.000 in Ex. SDG&E-24-WP.

6 **TABLE BS-5**
 7 **Test Year 2024 Summary of SONGS O&M**

CATEGORIES OF COSTS	2021 Adjusted-Recorded	TY 2024 Estimated	Change
A. Marine Mitigation	\$1,066	\$1,354	\$288
B. Worker’s Compensation	\$150	\$186	\$36
TOTAL	\$1,216	\$1,540	\$324

8 **a. Marine Mitigation Costs**

9 SDG&E incurs its 20% share of SONGS Marine Mitigation costs that are derived from
 10 values determined in SCE’s TY2021 GRC. These costs represent labor and non-labor expenses
 11 associated with the monitoring and maintenance of the San Dieguito Wetlands and the Wheeler
 12 North Reef and are designed to mitigate the turbidity effects caused by the movement of ocean
 13 water used to cool SONGS when it was operational. SCE provides its 78.21% of Marine
 14 Mitigation expense forecast for SONGS in its TY 2021 GRC. SCE will bill SDG&E for its 20%
 15 share of these expenses at the 100% level, including contractual overheads.⁴

16 The Marine Mitigation costs provided in SCE’s forecast of Marine Mitigation direct costs
 17 are determined by SCE’s project managers incorporating the assessments and directions of the
 18 California Coastal Commission’s technical advisors and include the California Coastal
 19 Commission monitoring efforts. When billed to SDG&E, these costs are loaded with SCE’s
 20 contractual overheads (SCE’s labor and non-labor Administrative and General (A&G)
 21 overheads, and SCE’s Pension and Benefits overhead, SCE’s payroll taxes). Table BS-5

³ See D.21-08-036 at 553-554.

⁴ See Application (A.) 19-08-013, SCE’s 2021 GRC, Ex. SDG&E-01, detailing SDG&E’s 20% share of the Marine Mitigation forecast at 100% for SONGS in SCE’s TY 2021 GRC.

1 identifies the resulting forecast of SDG&E’s expense, which includes escalation from 2021 to
2 2024, for use in this proceeding as \$1,354,000 (TY 2024) for SONGS Marine Mitigation.

3 To ensure that SDG&E’s ratepayers pay no more and no less for SONGS Marine
4 Mitigation than what SCE bills SDG&E, SDG&E has established the Commission-approved
5 Marine Mitigation Memorandum Account (MMMA).⁵ The MMMA is continuing and approved
6 until otherwise directed by the Commission. The regulatory accounting for the SONGSBA and
7 MMMA are addressed by Mr. Kupfersmid (Ex. SDG&E-43).

8 **b. SONGS Worker’s Compensation Costs**

9 SCE continues to bill SDG&E for SCE’s Master Insurance Program (MIP)/Self-Insured
10 Worker’s Compensation expenses resulting from SONGS worker’s compensation related
11 accident and injury claims while SONGS was operating. The MIP program was active from 1972
12 to 1999. It provided insurance coverage for all of SCE, including the owners, contractors, and
13 subcontractors at SONGS, under one insurance program for General Liability and Worker’s
14 Compensation. The program was terminated in 1999, so premiums are no longer paid into the
15 program. However, there are still open claims that are the responsibility of SONGS’ co-owners.

16 For periods after 1999 through June 7, 2013, SCE maintained a self-insured worker’s
17 compensation program under California’s worker’s compensation laws. That program included
18 SCE workers at SONGS while it was operational. Collectively with the MIP, this program is
19 referred to as “Worker’s Compensation.”

20 Current and former SONGS workers can initiate a claim under California’s worker’s
21 compensation laws even after the employment related to the claim has ended. Thus, SONGS-
22 related claims for 1972 through 1999 under MIP continue, as do claims under the Self-Insured
23 Worker’s Compensation from 2000 until June 7, 2013. Both the MIP and Self-Insured Worker’s
24 Compensation will remain open until all claims are closed.

25 The SONGS-related Worker’s Compensation costs are included in SCE’s worker
26 compensation revenue requirement forecast for the entire company. SCE provided SDG&E with
27 a breakout of SONGS related Worker’s Compensation for SCE’s TY 2021 GRC.⁶ Table BS-5

⁵ SDG&E, Preliminary Statement, Marine Mitigation Memorandum Account, *available at:*
https://tariff.sdge.com/tm2/pdf/ELEC_ELEC-PRELIM_MMMA.pdf.

⁶ See A.19-08-013, SCE’s 2021 GRC, Ex. SDG&E-01 (Attachment C).

1 identifies the resulting forecast of SDG&E's expense, which includes escalation from 2021 to
2 2024, for use in this proceeding as \$186,000 (TY 2024) for SONGS Workers Compensation. In
3 Decision (D.) 06-11-026, the Commission authorized SDG&E to establish the SONGS
4 Balancing Account (SONGSBA), which allows SDG&E to recover no more and no less than the
5 non-decommissioning SONGS costs billed by SCE. The SONGSBA is continuing and approved
6 until otherwise directed by the Commission. The regulatory accounting for the SONGSBA is
7 addressed by Mr. Kupfersmid (Ex. SDG&E-43).

8 **c. Future GRC Proceedings**

9 Traditionally SDG&E submits intervenor testimony in SCE's GRCs to seek recovery of
10 its 20% ownership interest in SONGS costs. The Rate Case Plan Decision (D.20-01-002)
11 extended the GRC cycle for each large California investor-owned utility from three to four years.
12 SCE was directed to update its 2021 GRC application to add a third attrition year for
13 2024. SCE's 2024 attrition year is also SDG&E's test year for its 2024 GRC.

14 SDG&E proposes to change the recovery process for its 20% share of SONGS' costs.
15 Starting in 2024, SDG&E proposes to no longer intervene in SCE's GRC cases to determine the
16 forecast for SONGS Marine Mitigation and Workers' Compensation costs. Instead, SDG&E will
17 forecast and seek recovery of the SONGS costs in its own GRC proceedings and will use the
18 approved Post Test Year mechanism from its GRC case for attrition year cost recovery. SDG&E
19 respectfully requests the Commission approve the proposal for the following reasons:

- 20 1) SONGS's Marine Mitigation and Workers' Compensation costs are balanced and
21 tracked in the SONGSBA and MMMA accounts, respectively. Any over or under
22 collection will be refunded to ratepayers.
- 23 2) Since Marine Mitigation and Workers' Compensation costs are relatively flat,
24 SDG&E can accurately forecast the costs using a zero-based methodology by
25 using SCE's adopted SONGS costs from SCE's GRC. Alternatively, SDG&E
26 could use a historical average or trends to forecast the costs.
- 27 3) Seeking recovery of SONGS costs in SDG&E's own GRC will eliminate the
28 administrative burden of intervening in SCE's cases.

1 **IV. CONCLUSION**

2 My testimony and work papers provide support for the costs I sponsor for Environmental
3 Services, and the reasonableness of the methodologies used to derive those costs. The test year
4 forecast represents an increase over base year costs due to increased workload in addition to new
5 compliance requirements and initiatives. I respectfully ask the Commission to fully fund this
6 important work so SDG&E can continue to meet its obligations to applicable regulations and
7 environmental stewardship.

8 This concludes my prepared direct testimony.

1 **V. WITNESS QUALIFICATIONS**

2 My name is Brittany Applestein Syz. My business address is 8335 Century Park Ct., San
3 Diego, California, 92123. My current position is Director of Environmental Services and
4 Sustainability under the Energy Procurement and Sustainability organization. The Environmental
5 Services & Sustainability and SONGS organizations provide services to SDG&E. I joined
6 SDG&E in 2015. I have been in my current position at SDG&E since 2020. I am a licensed
7 attorney in the State of California.

APPENDIX A
GLOSSARY OF TERMS

APPENDIX A – GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Acronyms	Definition
AB	Assembly Bill
ACOE	Army Corps of Engineers
ATCM	Airborne Toxic Control Measures
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMP	Best Management Practice
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CO2	Carbon Dioxide
EA	Environmental Assessment
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FF&U	Franchise Fees & Uncollectibles
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
HSCCA	Hazardous Substance Cleanup Cost Account
IAS	International Accreditation Service
LDAR	Leak Detection Abatement Repair
MMMA	Marine Mitigation Memorandum Account
MS4	Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System
NELAC	National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program
NERBA	New Environmental Regulatory Balancing Account
NOx	Nitrogen Oxides
NPDES	National Pollution Discharge Elimination System
PCB	Polychlorinated biphenyls
PM	Particulate Matter

Acronyms	Definition
RECLAIM	Regional Clean Air Incentives Market
RTC	RECLAIM Trading Credit
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SB	Senate Bill
SCAQMD	South Coast Air Quality Management District
SF6	Sulfur Hexafluoride
SONGS	San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station
SONGSBA	SONGS Balancing Account
SOx	Sulfur Oxides
TNI	The NELAC Institute
TSDF	Treatment Storage and Disposal Facility
WDR	Waste Discharge Requirement
WQC	Water Quality Certification
WQIP	Water Quality Improvement Plan