

## **1. INTRODUCTION/OVERVIEW**

On April 8, 2009, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), prepared and distributed for public review the Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the Sacramento Natural Gas Storage, LLC's (SNGS, LLC's) proposed Sacramento Natural Gas Storage Project (Proposed Project). If approved, the project would use a depleted natural gas reservoir (Florin Gas Field), located within the City of Sacramento and partially within and adjacent to an unincorporated area of the County of Sacramento, to store up to 7.5 billion cubic feet (bcf) of natural gas. The Proposed Project includes the existing underground natural gas storage reservoir, a wellhead site, a compressor station, a buried 16-inch interconnection pipeline between the wellhead and compressor site, and a buried 16-inch interconnection pipeline between the compressor site and Sacramento Municipal Utilities District (SMUD) Line 700. According to SNGS, LLC, the objectives of the Proposed Project are threefold: (1) provide strategically located natural gas storage in California; (2) provide a secure and reliable gas supply for the Sacramento metropolitan area in the event of a disruption of service from the main supply pipeline that serviced the area; and (3) satisfy SMUD's natural gas storage needs to specifically provide a fuel supply to power their electrical generating plants. The total volumetric capacity available to SMUD under its Storage Service Agreement with SNGS, LLC, is 4.0 bcf, which yields approximately a 30-day supply.

### **1.1 Purpose of Response to Comments Document**

This document, in conjunction with Volume 2, Revisions to the Sacramento Natural Gas Storage Project Draft EIR (April 2009), constitutes the Final EIR for the Proposed Project. The Final EIR has been prepared pursuant to CEQA Section 21000 et seq., California Public Resources Code, and in accordance with the Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA Section 15000 et seq., California Code of Regulations, Title 14. The Final EIR will be used by the CPUC as part of its Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) approval process, which includes selecting project alternatives, adopting mitigation measures, and reviewing project costs.

This volume of the Final EIR contains all comments on the Draft EIR and responses thereto. The focus of the responses to comments is on the disposition of significant environmental issues as raised in the comments, as specified by Section 15088(b) of the CEQA Guidelines. Detailed responses are not provided to comments on the merits of the Proposed Project. However, when a comment is not directed to significant environmental issues, the responses indicate that the comment has been noted and that no further response is necessary.

## 1.2 List of Commenters and Responses

This section provides responses to comments received during the Draft EIR public review period, which began on April 8, 2009, and ended on June 22, 2009, providing 75 days for public review. Detailed responses are provided to individual comments in Sections A through E, which provide copies of comments submitted on the Draft EIR, as well as comments provided during the public participation meeting held on April 28, 2009.

Comment letters are presented chronologically and are in the following categories:

- A. Public agencies and officials
- B. Community groups, non-profit organizations, and private organizations
- C. Individuals
- D. The applicant
- E. Public participation hearing testimony.

The following table provides an index to all respondents and their designated response numbers. Numbered responses correspond to the numbered comments.

### Index to Responses to Comments

Comment Set No.	Agency/Respondent and Date of Letter	Response No.
<b>A</b>	<b><i>Public Agencies and Officials</i></b>	
A1	Central Valley Flood Protection Board – April 8, 2009	A1-1 and A1-2
A2	Sacramento–Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District – May 6, 2009	A2-1
A3	Sacramento Area Sewer District – May 14, 2009	A3-1 through A3-4
A4	Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District – May 21, 2009	A4-1 through A4-4
A5	Department of the Army, U.S. Army Engineer District, Sacramento Corps of Engineers – May 26, 2009	A5-1 through A5-4
A6	State of California Department of Transportation, District 3 – June 18, 2009	A6-1 through A6-9
A7	Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources – June 19, 2009	A7-1 through A7-39
A8	U.S. Army – June 22, 2009	A8-1 through A8-5
A9	California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region – June 22, 2009	A9-1 through A9-6
A10	City of Sacramento – June 22, 2009	A10-1 through A10-35
A11	Senator Darrell Steinberg – June 22, 2009	A11-1 through A11-28
A12	State Clearinghouse – June 22, 2009	A12-1 through A12-2
A13	State Clearinghouse – June 23, 2009	A13-1 through A13-2

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<b>Comment Set No.</b>	<b>Agency/Respondent and Date of Letter</b>	<b>Response No.</b>
<b>B</b>	<b><i>Community Groups, Non-Profit Organizations, and Private Organizations</i></b>	
B1	Environmental Council of Sacramento – April 27, 2009	B1-1 through B1-4
B2	Our Neighborhood Partnership – June 5, 2009	B2-1 through B2-2
B3	Pacific Gas and Electric Company – June 18, 2009	B3-1 through B3-4
B4	Tallac Village Neighborhood Association – June 18, 2009	B4-1 through B4-4
B5	Remy, Thomas, Moose, and Manley, LLP on behalf of AGENA – June 22, 2009	
B6	Save the Foothills – No date	B6-1 through B6-2
B7	Remy, Thomas, Moose, and Manley, LLP on behalf of AGENA – June 23, 2009	B7-1
<b>C</b>	<b><i>Individuals</i></b>	
C1	Brenda Holloway – April 28, 2009	C1-1 through C1-4
C2	Ruth Kahle – April 28, 2009	C2-1 through C2-2
C3	Carol Kuzma – April 28, 2009	C3-1
C4	Gloria Peters – April 28, 2009	C4-1 through C4-4
C5	Keith and Sylvia Roberts – April 28, 2009	C5-1 through C5-2
C6	Larry Stamm – April 28, 2009	C6-1 through C6-4
C7	Marcie Stamm – April 28, 2009	C7-1 through C7-3
C8	Russell Williams – April 28, 2009	C8-1
C9	Russell Williams – April 28, 2009	C9-1
C10	Phil and Karen Shipley – June 18, 2009	C10-1 through C10-3
<b>D</b>	<b><i>The Applicant</i></b>	
D1	Sacramento Natural Gas Storage, LLC – April 16, 2009	D1-1 through D1-6
D2	Sacramento Natural Gas Storage, LLC – June 19, 2009	D2-1 through D2-299
D3	Sacramento Natural Gas Storage, LLC – December 9, 2009	D3-1 through D3-25
<b>E</b>	<b><i>Public Participation Hearing Testimony</i></b>	
E1	Public participation hearing, testimony from individuals – April 28, 2009	E1-1 through E1-39
E2	Public participation hearing, testimony from individuals – October 27, 2009	E2-1 through E2-49

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