Decision No. 51397

## ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY for an order exempting from the competitive bidding rule in Decision No. 38614, as amended by Decision No. 49941, the proposed issuance and sale of \$40,000,000 First Mortgage Bonds, Series B.

Application No. 36729

T. J. Reynolds and L. T. Rice, by <u>L. T. Rice</u>, for applicant; <u>John Francis Neylan</u>, for Halsey, Stuart & Co., Inc., protestant; <u>Luther H. Gulick</u>, for the Commission staff.

## OPINION AND ORDER

In this proceeding, filed on February 9, 1955, Southern California Gas Company seeks an order from the Commission exempting from competitive bidding a proposed issue of \$40,000,000 of first mortgage bonds.

Public hearings were held before Commissioner Mitchell and Examiner Coleman in San Francisco on April 11 and April 12, 1955. The matter has been taken under submission and now is ready for decision. The granting of the exemption was protested by Halsey, Stuart & Co., Inc.

There is of record in the proceeding the testimony of a witness called by applicant and of a witness called by the protestant, together with a series of 22 exhibits. We have carefully reviewed the evidence and have weighed the allegations made by the parties to the proceeding. Upon a full consideration of the matter we are of the opinion, and hereby find, that the evidence

before us does not warrant an order exempting the proposed issue of bonds from competitive bidding, therefore,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Application No. 36729 of Southern California Gas Company be, and it hereby is, denied.

day of April, 1955.

California, this 26th

President

Austra J. Calcular

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Commissioners