



# Getting the Facts on Renewable Natural Gas

Making California's future **renewable**

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual AGA-EPA Natural Gas STAR/Methane Challenge

Renewable Natural Gas Workshop & Exhibit

Presented by Deanna Haines, Director of Energy & Environmental Policy  
SoCalGas/SDG&E

Ft. Worth Omni Hotel | October 23, 2018

# PREVIEW

- » **WHO WE ARE**
- » **CONTEXT**
- » **RNG BASICS**
- » **THE CASE FOR RNG**
- » **PROJECTS**

# WHO WE ARE...

## SoCalGas & SDG&E Territory



**Both Utilities** in service for over **135 years**

### SoCalGas

- » **Largest natural gas distribution** utility in the US
- » Serve **12 counties** (over 500 communities) and more than **21 million** people
- » Over **5.8** million gas meters

### SDG&E

- » Provides **electricity** and **natural gas** to **3.4 million** people from Orange County to the Mexican border.

**Context**

**RNG Basics**

**The Case  
for RNG**

# California leads the nation in setting climate goals and policy

## Governing Law – SB100

By 2030, obtain

# 60%

of electricity from renewable sources

## Governing Law – SB1383

By 2030, reduce methane emissions

# 40%

below 2013 levels

## Executive Order B-55-18

By 2045, economy-wide, become

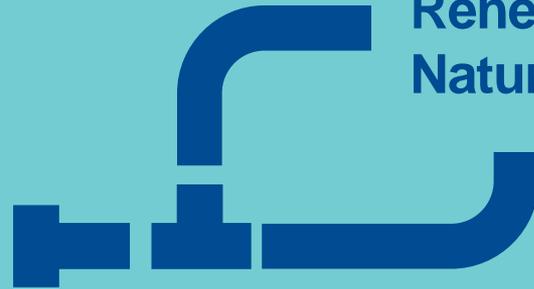
# Carbon Neutral

# We need scalable, affordable solutions to solve these issues

Solar, wind and  
hydro alone are  
not enough.

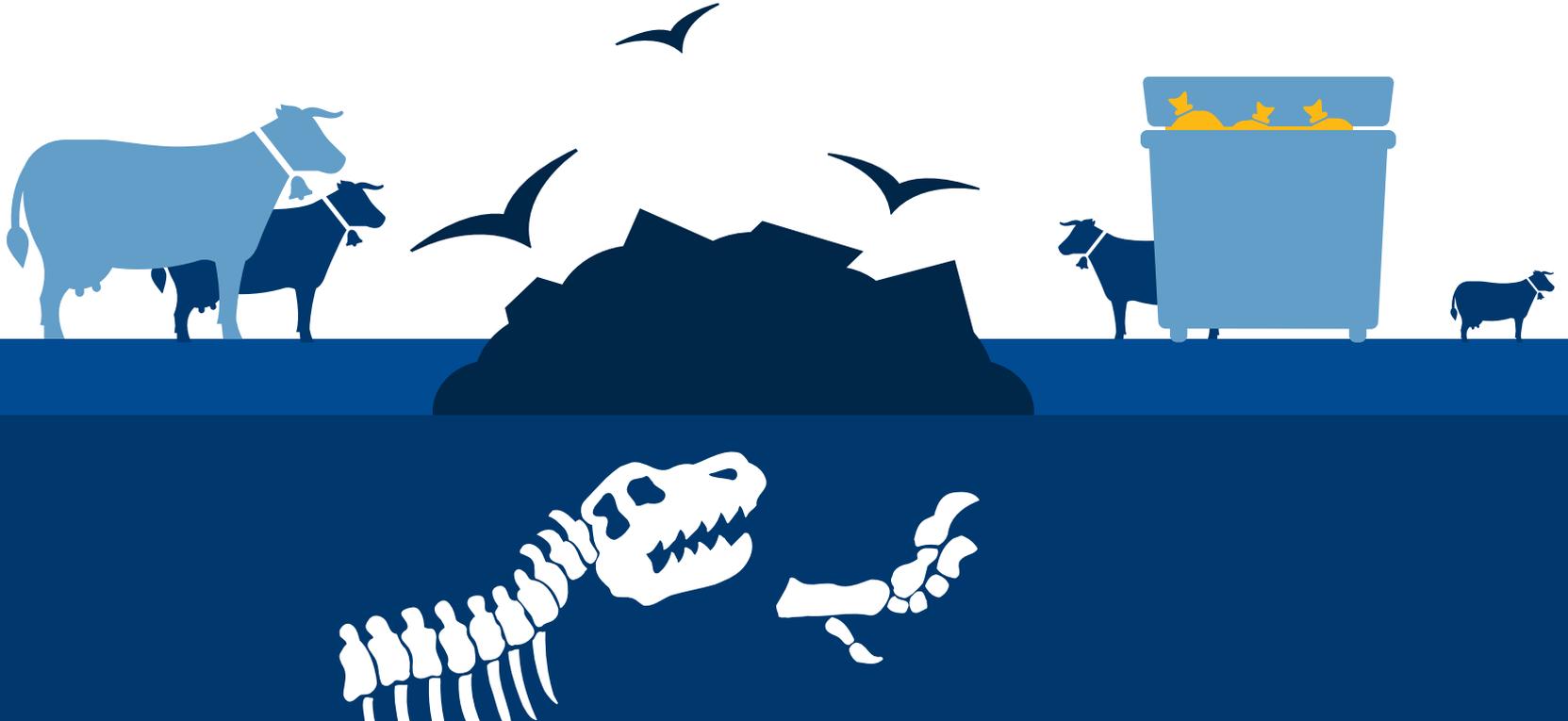


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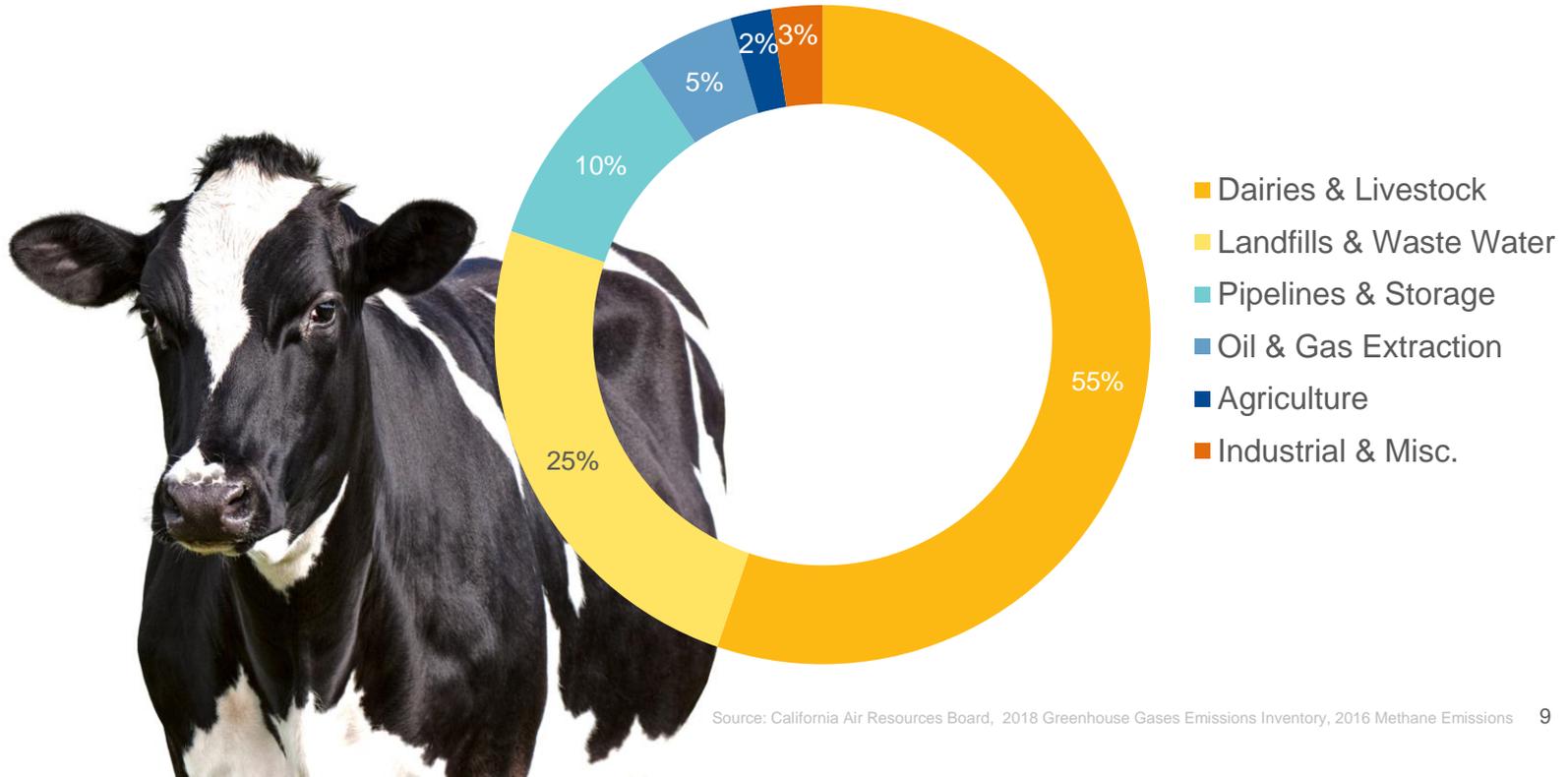
We need to use  
ALL the tools in our  
toolbox – including  
**Renewable  
Natural Gas.**

Like electricity, natural gas can come  
from renewable sources

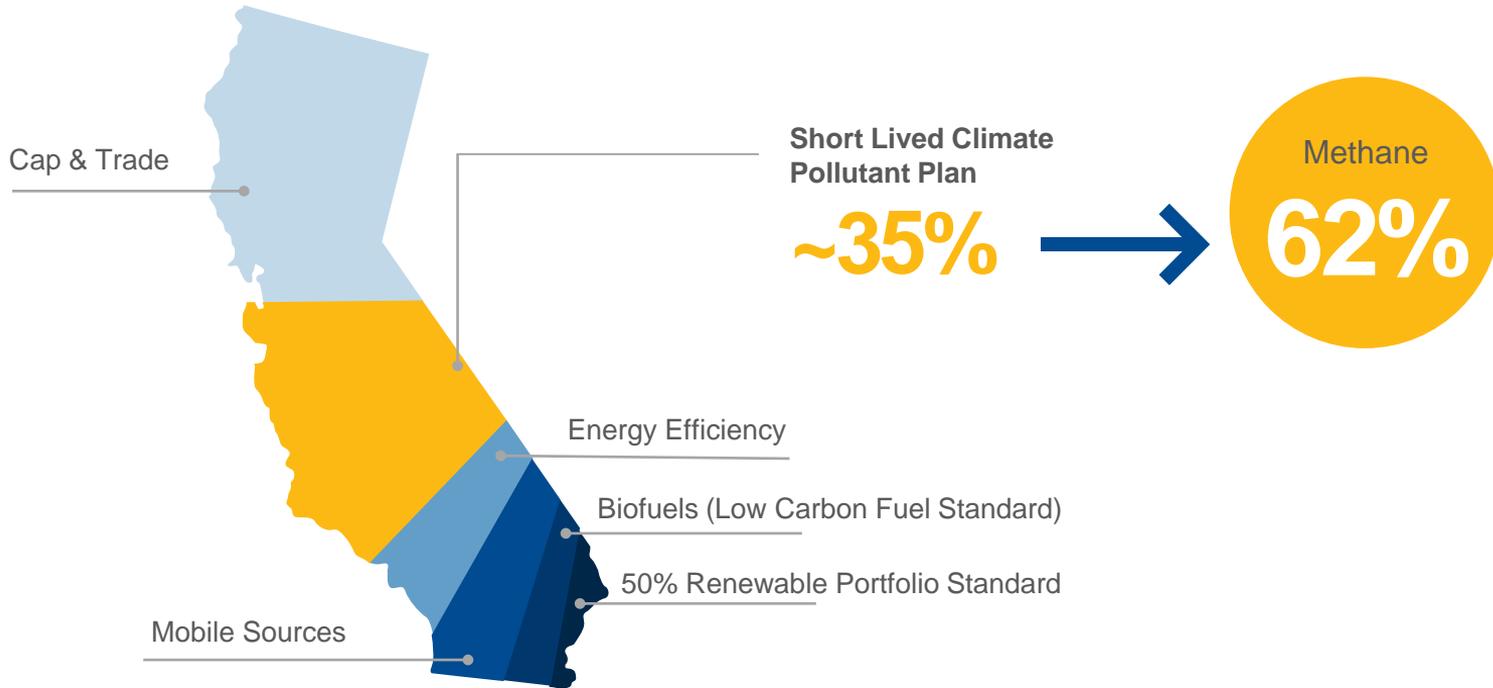


**Why is this  
important?**

# CA's biggest sources of methane come from our waste streams



# RNG is critical to California's overarching GHG reduction plan



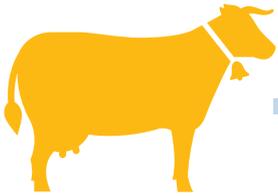
**Context**

**RNG Basics**

**The Case  
for RNG**

**Let's take a  
closer look.**

# The basics of Renewable Natural Gas



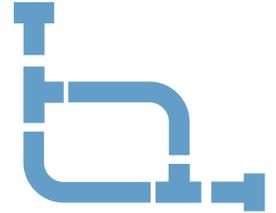
Capture waste from dairies, farms and landfills



Convert into biogas using anaerobic digestion



Process the biogas to make it pipeline-ready (biomethane)



Inject the biomethane into the pipeline for future use

# Key terms

## defined

### Renewable Natural Gas

methane produced from renewable sources like digested organic waste and gasified biomass

### Renewable Gas

can be renewable natural gas or hydrogen gas produced from Power-to-Gas.

### Biogas

a biofuel that is naturally produced from the decomposition of organic waste during anaerobic digestion. Until biogas is processed to state pipeline standards, it is not considered renewable gas.

### Biomethane

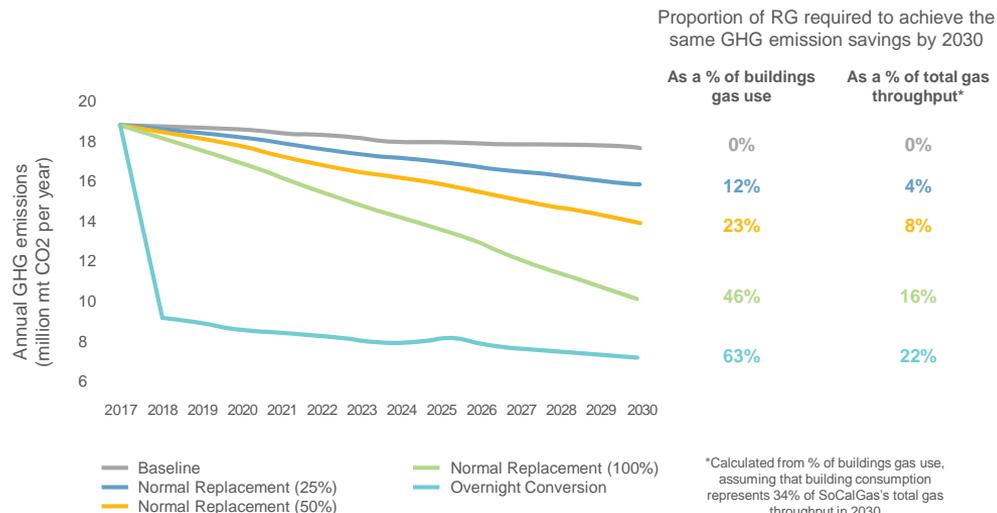
biogas that has been cleaned to state standards and converted to biomethane, which is renewable gas.

**Context**

**RNG Basics**

**The Case  
for RNG**

# Renewable Natural Gas beats building electrification



➤ Achieve 30% emissions reductions in the building sector by switching to

**~5% RNG**

➤ Achieve the same GHG reductions as overhauling 100% of CA's buildings to all electricity with

**~16% RNG**

➤ When used as a transportation fuel, RNG from food and Green waste has a

**negative** carbon intensity



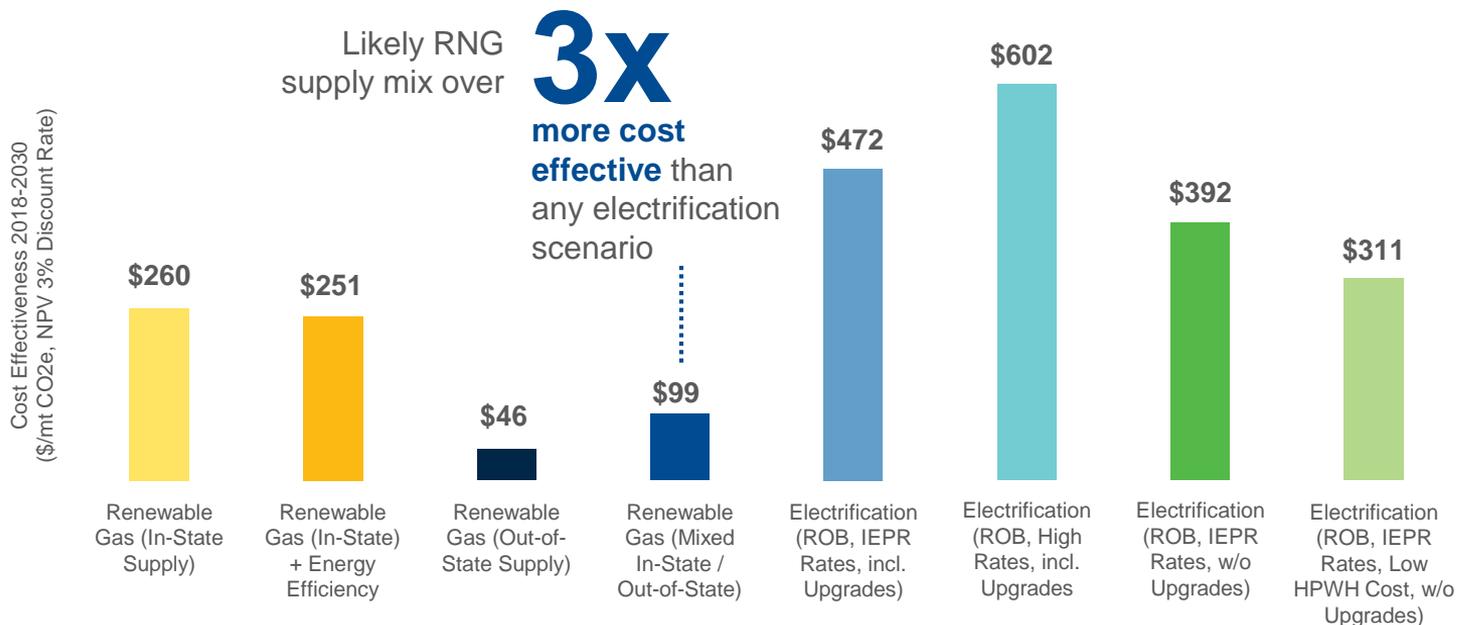
Increasing renewable energy  
in any form will increase  
costs, but it is a

**worthwhile investment**

We all agree on that.

**Now what  
we need is a  
practical plan.**

# Renewable Natural Gas is also more cost effective



# With RNG, we can achieve our goals with **less disruption**

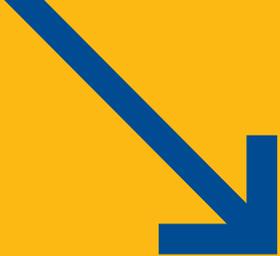
In addition to unnecessary costs, electrification would put a heavy burden on consumers.

## It would mean:

- Switching out appliances
- Upgrading electric panels
- Rewiring home electric systems

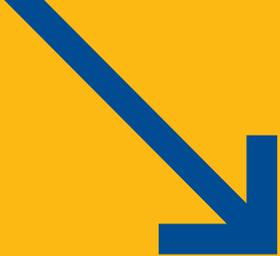


**What a mess!**



## True or False?

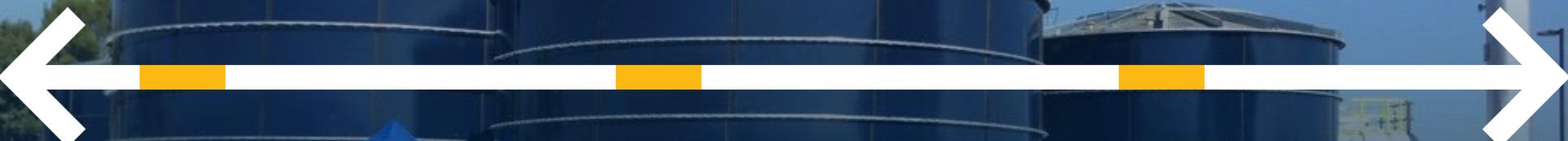
There is enough RNG  
available to meet CA's  
2030 goals.



# True

There is a growing supply  
of RNG in California and  
the broader U.S.

# The RNG supply is available: in-state estimates



**94** BCF

UC Davis/ARB Study:  
based on current  
federal and LCFS  
incentives

**100-200** BCF

ICF Assessment:  
CA with current  
regulation / incentives;  
100 BCF conservative  
estimate

**300** BCF

UC Davis/CEC Study

# The RNG supply is available: out-of -state resources

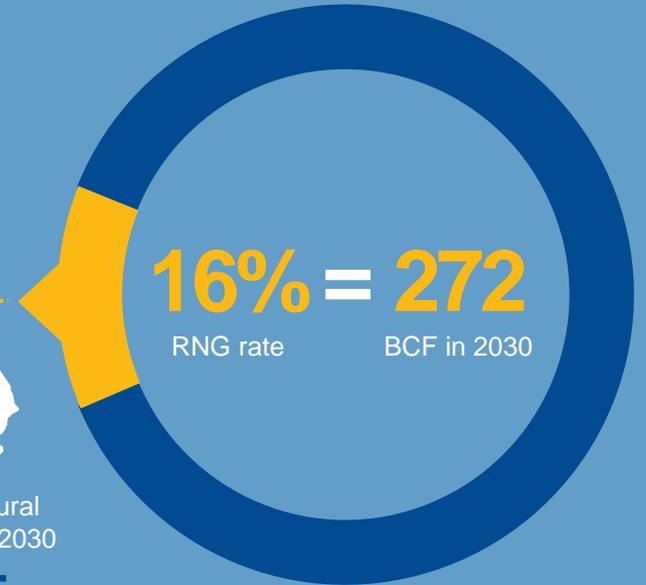


Available in the US today  
(and growing)



Projected CA natural  
gas throughput by 2030

1.7 TCF



**But is it  
feasible?**

# SoCalGas Biogas Upgrading Demonstration Project at the Hale Avenue Resource Recovery Facility (HARRF)

## HARRF Information

Wastewater treatment facility located in Escondido, CA

Average Daily Flow ~ 15.6 MGD

Biogas was being flared prior to start of demonstration project

Biogas Production ~ 95 million cubic feet per year

Biogas contains enough energy to supply ~1,200 homes



Source of photo: [www.escondido.org/water-treatment-plant.aspx](http://www.escondido.org/water-treatment-plant.aspx)

# Biofuels Point Loma Renewable Natural Gas Project Overview

- Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant treats approximately 175 million gallons of wastewater per day generated by ~2.2 million area residents
- Prior to the project, the plant was flaring more than 1.3 million cubic feet per day of digester gas
- The plant partnered with BioFuels Energy, LLC, to condition/upgrade wastewater digester gas and feed it into the natural gas pipeline system
- Since 2012, the RNG is injected into the utility pipeline and used to power a 2.8 MW fuel cell at UC San Diego and a 1.4 MW fuel cell at South Bay Water Reclamation Plant in San Diego
- Total project cost of \$45 million, 75% was subsidized through incentives and tax credits

#### Data and Photo Sources

<https://www.socalgas.com/smart-energy/success-stories/point-loma>  
<https://www.socalgas.com/1443740098116/Biogas-to-RNG-at-Point-Loma-Wastewater-Treatment-Facility.pdf>

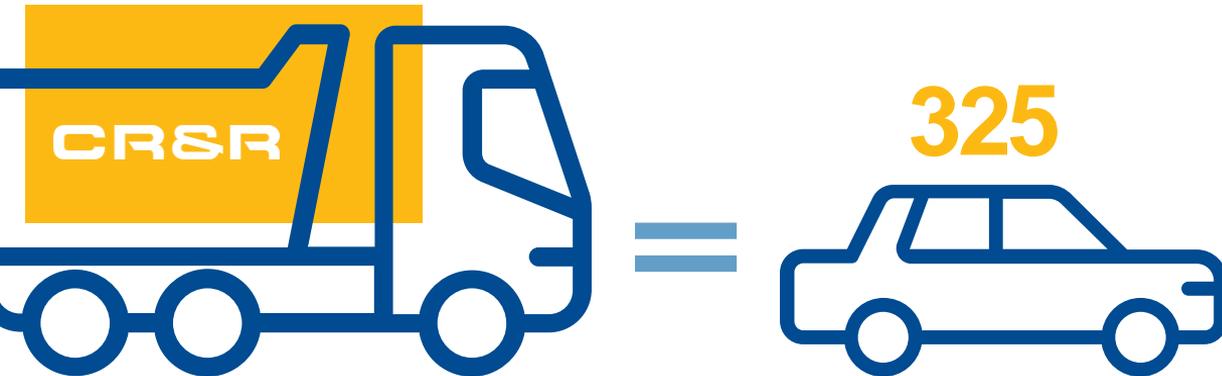


# CR&R Renewable Gas Project Overview



\* Source of picture - <http://www.jrma.com/projectsdetails/cr-r-environmental-center-ad-facility>

# CR&R is turning GHG-laden organic waste into Carbon-neutral renewable natural gas



Near-zero natural gas engines reduce NOx emissions up to 90% and GHG emissions up to 80%.

CR&R's RNG is fueling 400 waste trucks. That's the equivalent of taking 130,000 cars off the road.

# We're developing a renewable natural gas market to capture emissions and meet CA climate goals

Up to \$110 million in grants from the California Department of Food and Agriculture to support new dairy biogas projects.



# Thinking globally, we can have a greater impact



In California, agriculture is responsible for **9%** of our GHG emissions.

However, agriculture accounts for **24%** of **global** GHG emissions.



There's a bigger opportunity globally.

**How we  
innovate  
matters.**

# If RNG is so great what is standing in our way?



## **Underestimating supply.**

California has the potential to replace all residential natural gas with RNG.



## **Short-term thinking.**

Research and development is expensive, but the sooner we get going the sooner we see the returns.



## **Misunderstanding infrastructure.**

Investments in the pipeline are necessary if we are serious about capturing methane emissions from waste streams.

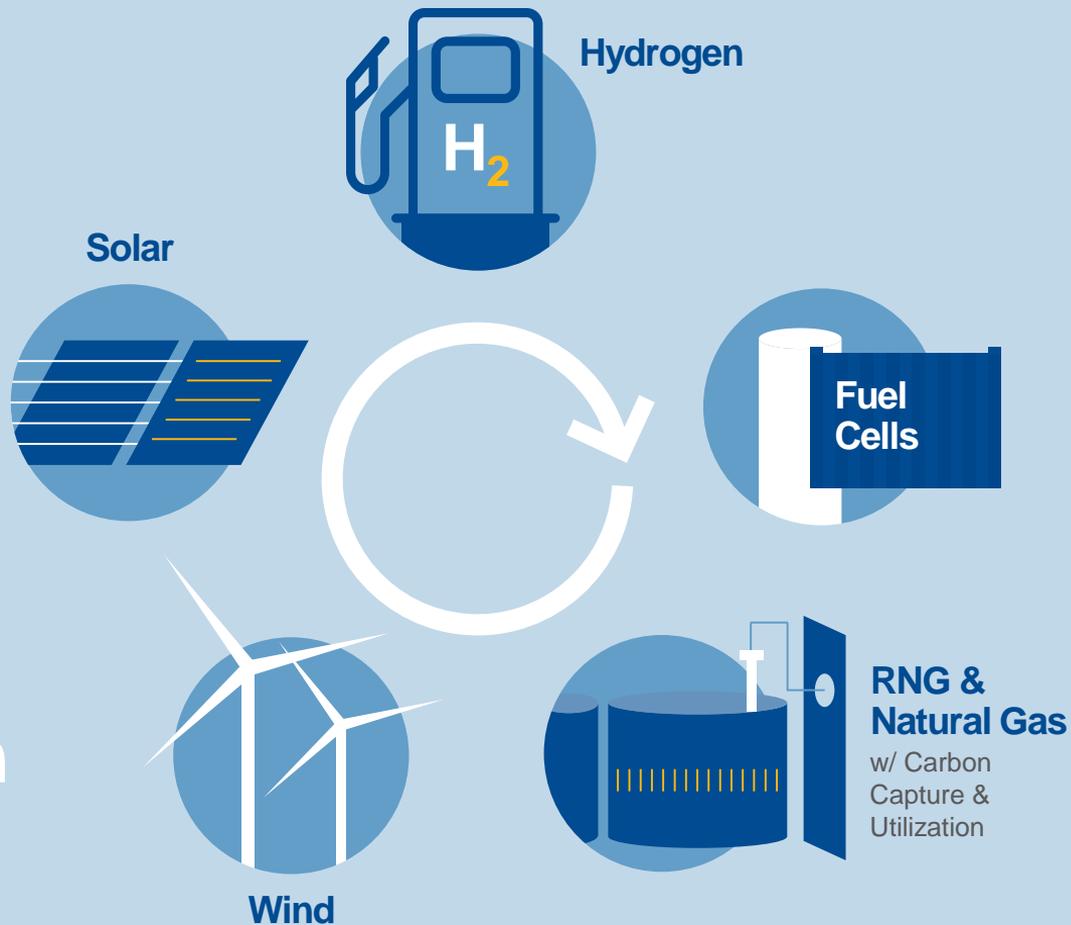


## **Lack of perspective.**

A narrow focus on combustion leaves out the greater fact that RNG has a net-positive environmental impact.

# With a integrated approach

we can achieve our  
goals and preserve  
choice, while  
minimizing disruption  
and cost



# To reach our climate goals we need renewable natural gas



Support initiatives  
for capturing  
methane emissions  
from waste  
streams



Set procurement  
standards to  
increase the use  
of RNG by public  
utilities



Develop the market  
for renewable  
natural gas



**Thank  
You**

# Appendix

# Interconnection Tools and Process Improvements

# Interconnection Tools and Process Improvements

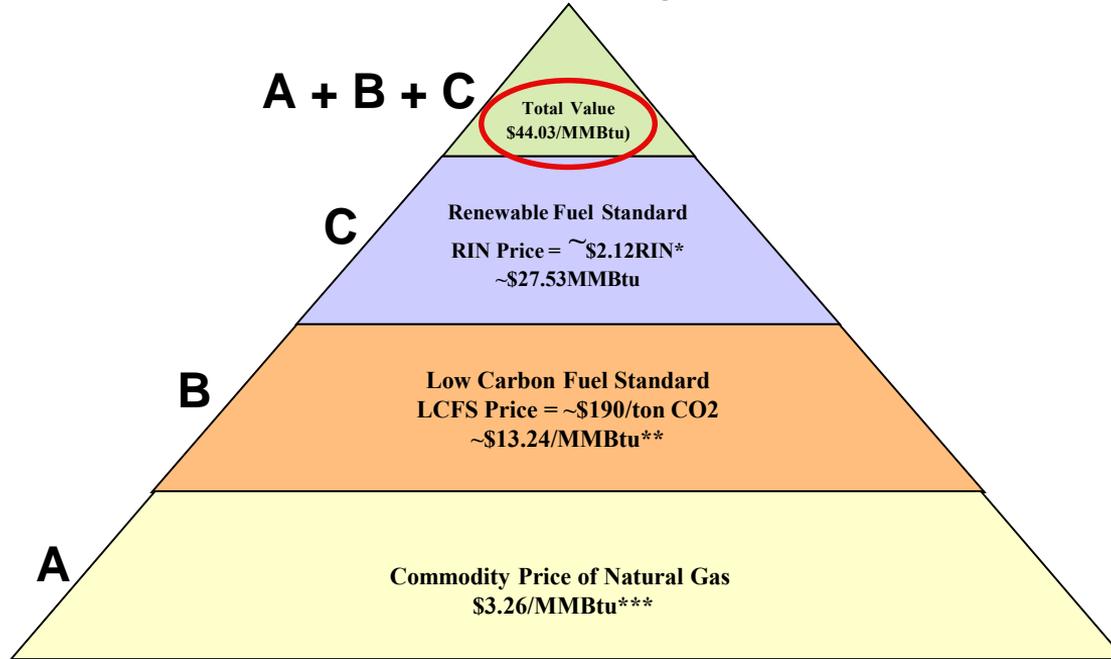
- 1. Modify the Existing Rule 30 Gas Quality Deviation Process**
  - Approval of Advice Letter 5128 effective on 5/28/17 allows interconnectors to request a gas quality deviation during the Capacity Study (previously only available starting with the Preliminary Engineering Study)
- 2. Gas Quality Outreach and Education**
  - Developed **Information Sheets** to educate the industry on gas quality standards and monitoring
    - Example:** We frequently hear siloxanes are continuously monitored at our interconnection facilities. Fact is siloxanes are monitored and tested by taking periodic gas samples and sent to a laboratory for testing
- 3. Created a Renewable Gas (RG) Section on [socalgas.com](https://socalgas.com)**
  - Provides information on a variety of RNG topics. *Additional Information and Resources* page provides links to useful reports and websites
- 4. Developed a downloadable **RNG Toolkit****
  - Available on [socalgas.com](https://socalgas.com) and topics include: overview of biogas and RNG, interconnection procedure, gas quality standards, interconnection monetary incentive program, and tools/tips for biogas to pipeline projects
- 5. Streamline the Interconnection Process**
  - Reviewed the existing interconnection process to improve/enhance the experience for the interconnector and company personnel



# What are the Market Drivers to Produce RNG?

(Estimated Total Value of RNG When Used as a Transportation Fuel in CA)

For WWTP Biogas



Prices as of 10/05/18

\* 2018 Vintage D3 RIN's

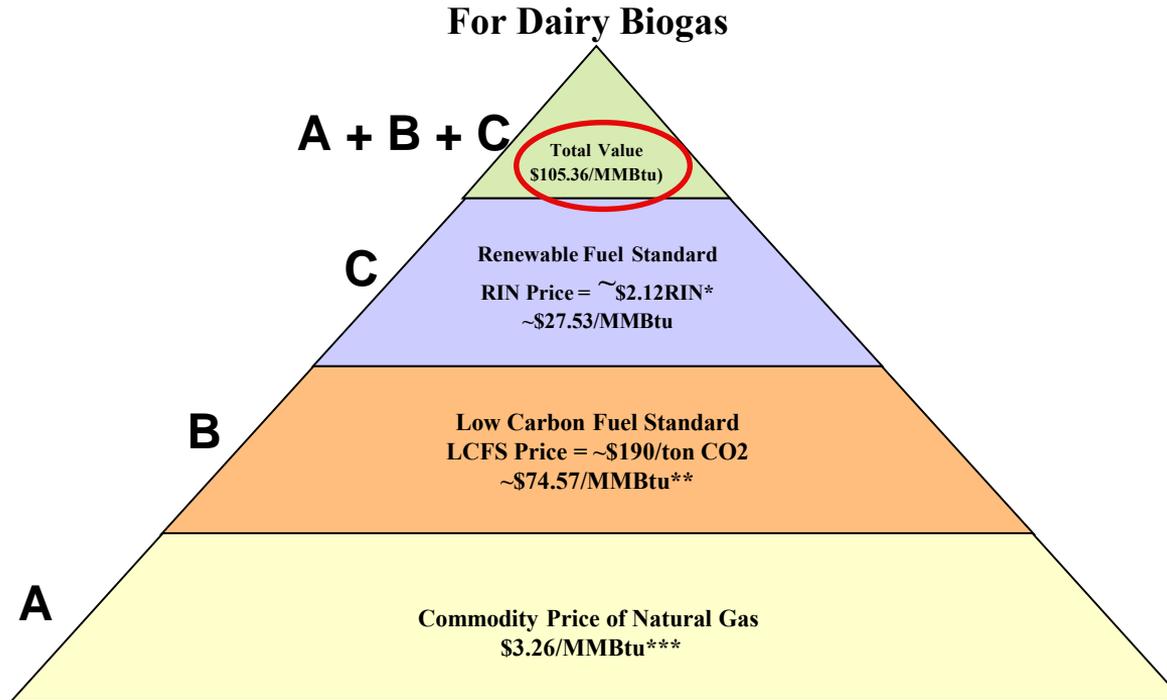
\*\* Assumes carbon intensity for WWTP of 30 gCO<sub>2</sub>/MJ<sub>3</sub>

\*\*\* Approximate Henry Hub Natural Gas Future Price – Nov 2018

[http://progressivefuelslimited.com/Auth\\_RIN/PFL\\_RIN\\_Recap.pdf](http://progressivefuelslimited.com/Auth_RIN/PFL_RIN_Recap.pdf)

# What are the Market Drivers to Produce RNG?

(Estimated Total Value of RNG When Used as a Transportation Fuel in CA)



Prices as of 08/03/18

\* 2018 Vintage D3 RIN's

\*\* Assumes carbon intensity for Dairy Biogas of -276 gCO<sub>2</sub>/MJ<sub>3</sub>

\*\*\* Approximate Henry Hub Natural Gas Future Price – Nov 2018

[http://progressivefuelslimited.com/Auth\\_RIN/PFL\\_RIN\\_Recap.pdf](http://progressivefuelslimited.com/Auth_RIN/PFL_RIN_Recap.pdf)

# What are the Market Drivers to Produce RNG?

- 2) **Utilize for Electric Generation** - RNG can be used as the fuel source to produce renewable energy (utility scale and distributed generation)
- **Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS)** – RNG can be used to help achieve California RPS goals, 50% by 2030
  - **Self Generation Incentive Program (SGIP)** - California Public Utilities Commission mandated program providing incentives to support existing, new and emerging distributed energy resources

<b>SGIP Minimum Renewable Fuel Blending</b>	
<b>Application Year</b>	<b>% Renewable Fuel Required</b>
<b>2016</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>2017</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>2019</b>	<b>50%</b>
<b>2020</b>	<b>100%</b>

# Challenges to Produce RNG

## 1) Market Price of RNG

- **Entities not willing to enter into long term contracts** to purchase LCFS and Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS2) due to future uncertainty of these markets

## 2) Project Scale

- Minimum threshold is **approximately 1.0 to 1.5 million standard cubic feet per day for favorable economics** (including interconnection costs). Higher volumes generally needed for landfills
- Small to medium scale biogas production facilities have historically not been economical. But with biomethane interconnection incentive and high credit prices things are changing

## 3) Incentives/Subsidies - Need **incentive programs specific to RNG projects** to bring down the costs

## Biomethane: Assigned Commissioner Amended Scoping Memo and Ruling (R.13-02-008)

### Overview

- Scoping Memo issued on 7/5/18 by CPUC mostly focused on **gas quality specifications and pipeline injection standards for biomethane**
- In accordance with Section 399.24 and with Executive Order B-48-18 issued on January 26, 2018, it is the CPUC's future intention to consider issues within this, or a successor proceeding, that pertain to **the safe, cost-effective development of other renewable gases, such as renewable hydrogen**
- Scoping Memo states it is important to establish a standardized utility biomethane interconnection tariff and standardized interconnection pro forma forms for the use of biomethane projects across California
  - Directs the utilities to jointly file a proposed standard biomethane interconnection tariff and proposed standard pro forma interconnection form

## SB 1440 (Hueso)

### Overview

- On September 23, 2018, Governor Brown signed SB 1440 which requires the Public Utilities Commission, in consultation with the State Air Resources Board, to consider adopting specific biomethane procurement targets or goals for each California gas corporation.
- At this point in time, it is not clear the process/procedure/steps the CPUC will take to “consider adopting biomethane specific targets or goals”

# RNG Regulatory Proceedings and Legislative Bills

## **SB 1383 (Lara) – Approved by Governor 9/19/16**

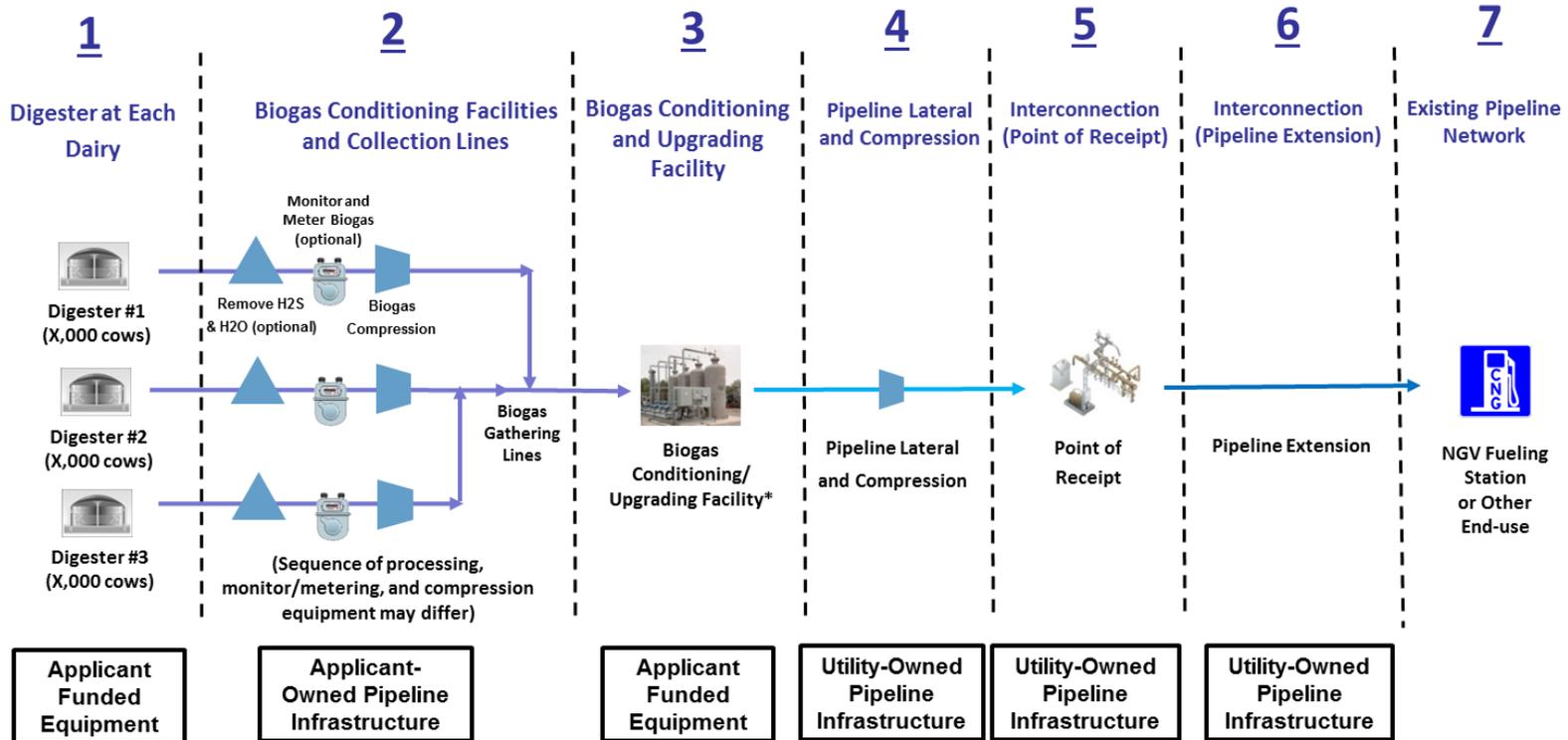
- Directs CARB to implement regulations to reduce emissions of Short Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCPs). By 2030, requires a reduction of the following compared to 2013 levels:
  - **40% reduction in methane**, 40% reduction hydrofluorocarbon (f-gases), 50% reduction in black carbon (such as diesel)

## **Some RNG Related Sub-Parts of SB 1383**

- Methane emissions reduction goals shall include the following targets to **reduce the landfill disposal of organics**:
  - A 50-percent reduction in the level of the statewide disposal of organic waste from the 2014 level by 2020
  - A **75-percent reduction** in the level of the statewide disposal of organic waste from the 2014 level by 2025
- Directs CARB to adopt regulations to reduce methane emissions from livestock manure management operations and dairy manure management operations by up to 40 percent below 2013 levels by 2030
  - Approximately 45% of all methane emissions in CA come from dairies, 25% from manure and 20% from enteric fermentation
  - **No later than January 1, 2018, CPUC to direct gas corporations to implement not less than 5 dairy RNG injection pilot projects.** Reasonable **pipeline infrastructure** costs are recoverable in rates
- The state board shall **develop a pilot financial mechanism (PFM)** to reduce the economic uncertainty associated with the value of environmental credits, including credits pursuant to the Low-Carbon Fuel Standard regulations
  - ARB has published a draft SB 1383 Pilot Financial Mechanism concept paper (May 2018)
    - <https://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/dairy/documents/05-23-18/pilot-financial-mechanism-white-paper.pdf>

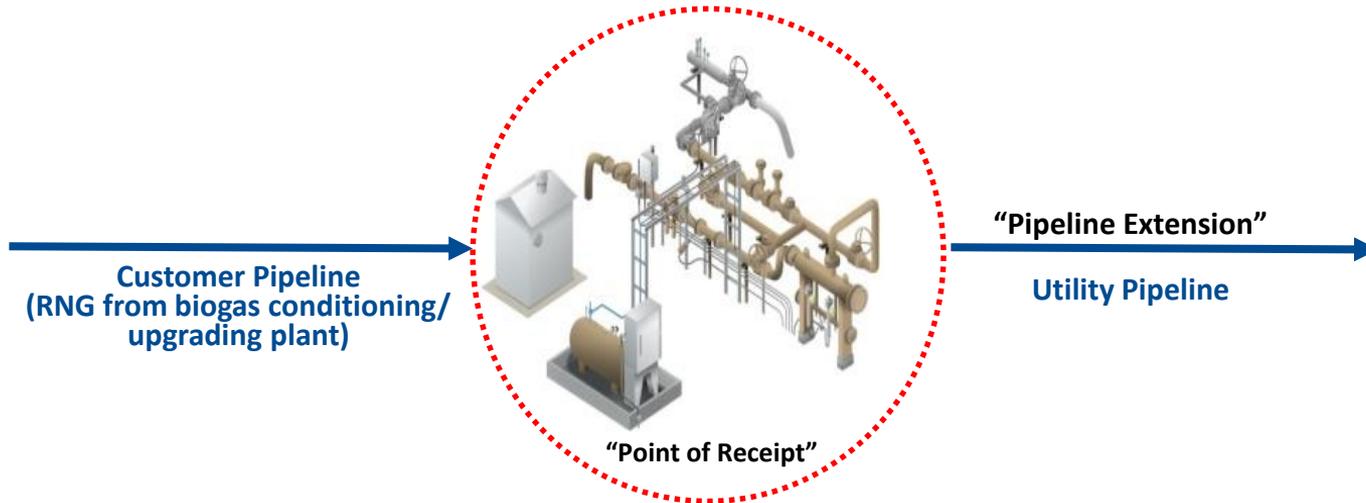
# SB 1383 - Dairy RNG to Pipeline Pilot Project

## Representative model



# Interconnection: Overview of Components

## Two Primary Components of the Term “Interconnection”



**“Interconnection” = “Point of Receipt” + “Pipeline Extension”**

# “Point of Receipt” Component of the Interconnection



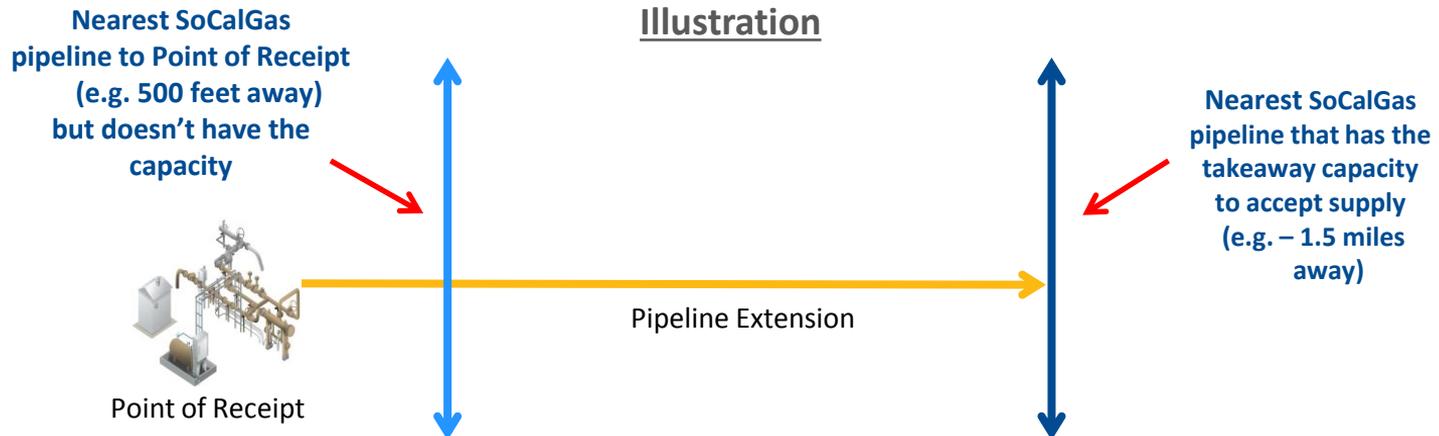
## The Point of Receipt

1. **Monitors gas quality** to ensure it meets SoCalGas Rule 30 Gas Quality Specifications (e.g. CO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>2</sub>, total inerts, heating value, H<sub>2</sub>S)
2. **Prevents non-compliant gas** from entering the utility pipeline network should the monitored Rule 30 parameters not be met
3. **Meters and odorizes** the volume of RNG put into the utility pipeline network



# “Pipeline Extension” Component of the Interconnection

- » **Pipeline extension** is the pipe installed from the outlet of the Point of Receipt to the nearest utility pipeline having the capacity to accept the interconnector volume of RNG
- » Majority of the pipelines in streets are **distribution lines with limited takeaway capability to accept interconnector gas** during summer months (particularly in the early a.m. hours)
  - May result in high pipeline extension costs because the nearest pipeline having the capacity is miles away



# Pipeline Extension Cost Considerations

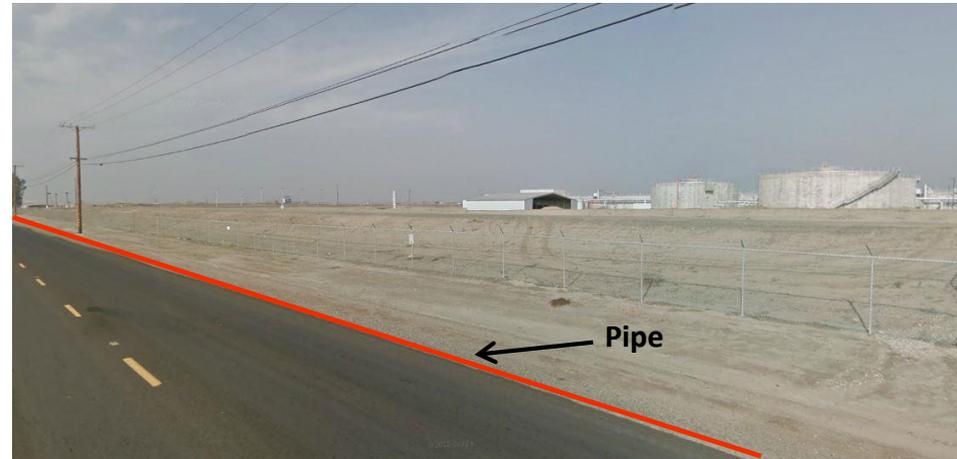


## Illustration 1 (curb and gutter):

- Cost to install pipe is much more expensive when:
  - Asphalt/concrete is cut
  - Traffic control is required
  - Night work is required

## Illustration 2 (no curb and gutter):

- Cost to install pipe is much less expensive when:
  - No need to cut asphalt/concrete
  - Minimal traffic control
  - No work hour restrictions



# Biomethane Interconnection Incentive

**Statewide Program Cap of \$40 million, Ending on 12/31/21**

Interconnection project with 3 or more dairies in close proximity

*Incentive of 50% of eligible costs with*

**\$5 Million Cap**

**Eligible costs include**

Biogas collection lines

Compression equipment for product gas

Utility Point of Receipt

Utility Pipeline Extension

All other interconnection projects (e.g. landfill, wastewater, landfill diverted organics, 1-2 dairies)

*Incentive of 50% of eligible costs with*

**\$3 Million Cap**

**Eligible costs include**

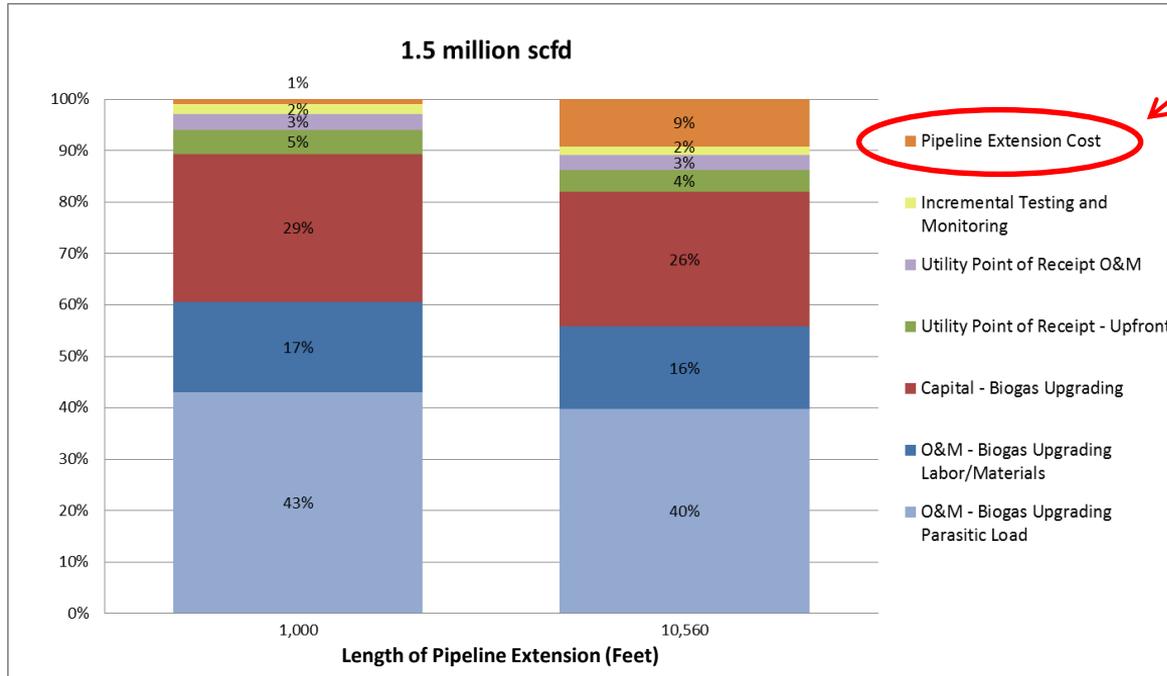
Compression equipment for product gas

Utility Point of Receipt

Utility Pipeline Extension

# Estimated Breakdown of Major Cost Components for Producing and Injecting RNG into the Pipeline

**Estimated Breakdown of Lifecycle Costs to Produce and Inject RNG into the Pipeline**  
 {based on 1.5 million scfd of biogas for 15 years}



- 1) Pipeline Extension costs are based on installing pipeline in roads with curb/gutters.
- 2) Estimated costs assume testing for all 17 biogas constituents and includes the cost of the tests and associated labor.

# Biogas Conditioning and Upgrading Projects

## Nitrogen and Oxygen Levels in Landfill Gas Can Significantly Impact Costs and Project Economics

The removal of nitrogen (N<sub>2</sub>) and oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>) from biogas to meet pipeline quality specifications is expensive

**High levels of nitrogen and oxygen exist in landfill gas** because there has been little need to minimize air intrusion for a landfill gas collection system, as engines/turbines can handle these high levels

Typical Biogas Compositions by Source	Methane (CH <sub>4</sub> )	Carbon Dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> )	Nitrogen (N <sub>2</sub> )	Oxygen (O <sub>2</sub> )
Dairy, wastewater treatment, and landfill diverted food/green waste	~60 to 65%	~30 to 35%	<1 %	<0.2%
Landfill	~35 to 60%	~30 to 40%	~10 to 30%	~1 to 3%

- » In 2015, SoCalGas commissioned Black & Veatch to perform an evaluation of current biogas upgrading technologies. Included in the report is a high-level impact assessment for removing nitrogen and oxygen

Sensitivity	Scenario	Impact
Nitrogen and oxygen removal	Eliminate the need for nitrogen removal equipment	Lowers cost by 20 to 25% for large scale cases
Pipeline Interconnection Costs	Reduce (post Biomethane Interconnection Incentive) interconnection cost by 50%	3 to 10% reduction in biomethane costs. Greater impact on smaller cases