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Hydrogen-Related Activity at the CPUC

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Sasha Cole

Senior Analyst, CPUC Energy Division

alexander.cole@cpuc.ca.gov



California Public
Utilities Commission

CPUC's Hydrogen Projects

SoCalGas and the Angeles Link Project:

- **Application (A.) 22-02-007** (Phase 1 Studies)
 - Decision (D.) 22-12-055 allowed SoCalGas to record up to ~\$30 million in a memorandum account to:
 - Conduct 16 feasibility studies into a southern California hydrogen pipeline study
 - Required extensive stakeholder engagement and community outreach.
- **A.25-06-011** (Phase 1 Cost Recovery)
 - Requests ~\$24 million in cost recovery for Phase 1 studies.
 - This proceeding has just begun and has not been scoped.
- **A.24-12-011** (Phase 2 Studies)
 - Requests ~\$266 million to move Angeles Link project from the feasibility concept to a more detailed, well-defined design, including front-end engineering studies.
 - This proceeding has just begun and has not yet been scoped.

CPUC's Hydrogen Projects continued

Hydrogen Blending Demonstration Pilots **(A.22-09-006)**

- In March 2024, the State's four large gas IOUs (SDG&E, SoCalGas, PG&E, and Southwest Gas) filled an amended application requesting ~\$206 million to conduct 5 pilot programs to test hydrogen blends of up to 20% in the gas pipeline and distribution system.
- Pilots will build on *Hydrogen Blending Impacts Study* and *Hydrogen Blending Compendium*, which were prepared for the CPUC by U.C. Riverside and would be used to develop a statewide hydrogen injection standard.

CPUC and the SB 1075 Report

- CPUC's has clear and unambiguous authority over hydrogen blending in the natural gas pipeline system, but its authority to regulate a pure hydrogen pipeline (such as the proposed Angeles link) has not been clearly established either by law or regulatory decision.
- The CPUC is required to ensure that any requests for ratepayer funding are "just and reasonable".
 - To do this effectively, we need objective data and projections from non-interested sources such as the IEPR and SB 1075 Report. The CPUC was assigned a consultative role on the SB 1075 report.
- When considering actual hydrogen projects, it becomes paramount to consider the uncertainty surrounding investments in hydrogen production, transportation, and adoption as a fuel source and the attenuating risks.
 - Because the value of investments in production, transportation, and adoption are interdependent, the uncertainty and resulting risk are *compounding*.
- Take away: To the extent possible, the IEPR and SB 1075 should
 - provide clear and realistic assessments of the uncertainty surrounding hydrogen technologies and their compounding nature, so that
 - policymakers are aware of the financial risks involved in committing public resources and can prudently balance these against the urgent need for decarbonization.

Discussion/ Questions





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