

Application of SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC
COMPANY (U 902 E) For Authority To
Update Electric Rate Design Effective on January
1, 2015

Application 14-01-027
Exhibit No.: (SDG&E- _____)

PREPARED REBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF
CHRIS YUNKER
CHAPTER 1
ON BEHALF OF SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

December 12, 2014



TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. OVERVIEW 1

II. PROPER PURPOSE OF TOU PERIODS 3

III. SDG&E’S HIGH COST PERIODS, AS ESTABLISHED IN THE BASE TOU PERIODS, NEEDS TO BE UPDATED TODAY TO ACCURATELY REFLECT COSTS AND CAPTURE POTENTIAL CUSTOMER-SIDED BENEFITS, AND CAN BE USED TO INFORM ALTERNATIVE AND OPTIONAL TOU RATES IN CURRENT OR FUTURE RATE DESIGN PROCEEDINGS..... 4

A. SDG&E’s On-peak period is Determined by the Periods of High Cost for SDG&E 4

B. Super Off-Peak Period Encourages Shifting Consumption to Low Load Periods, Increasing Capacity Utilization, and Providing Market Opportunity for New DERs..... 6

IV. THE TIME TO ADDRESS SDG&E’S TOU PERIODS IS NOW 7

A. Waiting for the Next GRC Phase 2 Could Lead to a Long and Unnecessary Delay 7

B. New Periods Must Be in Place for the Introduction of New Optional Residential TOU rates and 2 TOU pilots..... 8

V. GRANDFATHERING CONFOUNDS THE ABILITY TO ACHIEVE STATE POLICY OUTLINED IN SB 17 AND PERPETUATES THE NEED TO GRANDFATHER CUSTOMERS’ FUTURE INVESTMENTS THAT WERE GUIDED BY OPENLY ACKNOWLEDGED INACCURATE PRICES 9

A. Grandfathering is Addressed in the NEM Grandfathering Decision 9

B. Grandfathering is Inconsistent with the Commission’s Rate Design Principles and Lead to Perpetual Grandfathering if Parties Arguments are Accepted 11

VI. WITH ANY CHANGE TO RATE DESIGN CREATING POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE BILL IMPACTS, THE APPROPRIATE PERSPECTIVE WITH WHICH TO CONSIDER BILL IMPACTS IS ON THE IMPACTS TO ALL CUSTOMERS 14

VII. CONCLUSION 15

- 1 ▪ Testimony of Laura Norin on behalf of the California Farm Bureau
- 2 Federation (“Farm Bureau”)
- 3 ▪ Testimony of Lee-Whei Tan on behalf the Office of Ratepayer
- 4 Advocates (“ORA”)
- 5 ▪ Testimony of David R. Croyle on behalf of UCAN

6 In addition, my testimony addresses parties’ representations of bill impacts to select groups of
7 customers. With any rate design change there will be bill impacts, however, those bill impacts need
8 to be considered in the context of all customers as well as individual customers.

9 My testimony is organized as follows:

- 10 • Section II – Proper Purpose of TOU Periods
- 11 • Section III – SDG&E’s High Cost Periods, as Established in the Base TOU Periods,
12 Needs to be Updated Today to Accurately Reflect Costs and Capture Potential
13 Customer-Sided Benefits, and Can be Used to Inform Alternative and Optional TOU
14 Rates in Current or Future Rate Design Proceedings
- 15 • Section IV – The Time to Address SDG&E’S TOU Periods is Now
- 16 • Section V – Grandfathering Customers Confounds the Ability to Achieve State
17 Policy Outlined in SB17 and Perpetuates the Need to Grandfather Customers’ Future
18 Investments that were Guided by Openly Acknowledged Inaccurate Prices
- 19 • Section VI – With Any Change to Rate Design Creating Positive and Negative Bill
20 Impacts, the Appropriate Perspective with which to Consider Bill Impacts is on the
21 Impacts to All Customers and on Customers’ Total Bills
- 22 • Section VII – Conclusion

1 **II. PROPER PURPOSE OF TOU PERIODS**

2 TOU periods need to be established based on SDG&E’s periods of high costs in order to
3 provide accurate information to customers, and should not be based on a desire to provide or retain
4 subsidies hidden in rates as proposed by CALSEIA and others. In addition, while optional and
5 alternative tariffs can be considered, as contemplated in SDG&E’s Residential Rate OIR proposal in
6 Resolution (“R.”)12-06-013, the foundational TOU periods should be established based on cost
7 causation principles so that customer decisions for load management or DER adoption¹ which
8 results in lowering a customer’s bill also create the benefit of reduced system capacity and energy
9 costs. This approach helps ensure that cost shifts between customers are mitigated. As we advance
10 the State’s policy for the adoption of low carbon DERs, we need to protect customers who either
11 cannot or choose not to participate in the adoption of low carbon technology. Direct subsidies and
12 incentives with accurate prices, rather than subsidies buried in rates, provide a mechanism to
13 promote such policy, while ensuring that such customers are protected.

14 Direct incentives or subsidies are more efficient than subsidies hidden in rates. This is
15 because a direct incentive can be sized efficiently to achieve the desired policy goal (e.g., solar
16 adoption) while providing customers with accurate information on their energy service so that they
17 can make economically efficient decisions. Burying subsidies in rates results in distorted price
18 signals that do not promote economically efficient decisions and cannot be readily changed to adjust
19 for market conditions, such as solar panel or system costs.

20 Further, the impact on a customer’s payback with regard to solar investment has already
21 been taken into account in the NEM grandfathering decisions for customers up to the cap and is
22 being considered in the NEM 2.0 proceeding for customers who install solar after the cap is

¹ As contemplated by Senate Bill (“SB”) 17, pp. 1-4, and subject of the investor-owned-utilities (“IOUs”) demand response programs (“DRPs”) per Assembly Bill (“AB”) 327, pp. 4, 15 and 28.

1 reached.² Parties' arguments to provide additional grandfathering subsidies for NEM customers by
2 locking in inaccurate and outdated TOU periods complicates customers' decisions for future
3 investments and will create an incentive that works against the State's policy in favor of
4 economically efficient adoption of DERs. Grandfathering these customers' TOU periods will only
5 create an economic incentive to manage their energy and lower their bills in such a way that will
6 increase system costs and increase cost shifts to other customers.

7 In sum, proper TOU periods will more accurately reflect costs and create meaningful
8 opportunities for customers to better understand the cost of service associated with their electricity
9 use. They will also empower customers to make economically efficient decisions that lower both
10 their bill and system costs. For example, solar customers will have an economic incentive to orient
11 solar systems to the west, which could help meet afternoon and early evening capacity needs. If
12 SDG&E shifts TOU periods now, any customer response in managing their energy use profile can
13 be captured in the load forecast sooner, which can help avoid future infrastructure requirements.

14 **III. SDG&E'S HIGH COST PERIODS, AS ESTABLISHED IN THE BASE TOU**
15 **PERIODS, NEEDS TO BE UPDATED TODAY TO ACCURATELY REFLECT**
16 **COSTS AND CAPTURE POTENTIAL CUSTOMER-SIDED BENEFITS, AND CAN**
17 **BE USED TO INFORM ALTERNATIVE AND OPTIONAL TOU RATES IN**
18 **CURRENT OR FUTURE RATE DESIGN PROCEEDINGS**

19 As shown below, TOU periods should be based on the periods of high and low energy costs.
20 Only by following cost causation can a comprehensive plan to achieve policy objectives be realized.

21 **A. SDG&E's On-peak period is Determined by the Periods of High Cost for**
22 **SDG&E**

23 Per the testimony of witness D. Barker, SDG&E has presented a case that is based on setting
24 on-peak periods consistent with SDG&E's periods of high system cost. ORA proposed optional

² NEM 2.0 questions set forth in Attachment A to the September 5, 2014 Ruling of ALJ Simon; modeling evaluation measures in question B.3.c. *Renewable DG value proposition (e.g., IRR \$, payback period (years))*.

1 rates with shorter on-peak periods for small commercial and residential customers.³ In this
2 application, SDG&E proposes to establish time periods that best reflect cost of service. While
3 SDG&E is not opposed to optional alternative TOU structures, they would need to be studied in
4 order to determine if they provide an overall benefit consistent with the reduction in high cost
5 energy and capacity hours that have been identified in the base TOU periods proposed herein.

6 In the Residential Rate OIR (R.12-06-013), SDG&E proposed a pilot which would look at
7 the combination of two shorter on-peak periods (i.e., 2 pm to 6 pm and 5 pm to 9 pm) relative to
8 one longer on-peak period (i.e., 2 pm to 9 pm). A critical component of the pilot would be to study
9 whether more, less, or the same amount of load reduction was achieved between with the
10 combination of customers on the two shorter periods compared to the customers on the longer TOU
11 period. In this way, SDG&E looks to better understand how offering such optional TOU rates with
12 shorter periods can be done while achieving the objective of reducing energy use during what has
13 been identified as the high cost period (i.e., 2 pm to 9 pm).

14 If alternatives are to be considered and analyzed, SDG&E would do so in another
15 proceeding with a specific proposal for those rates, such as was done in the Residential Rate OIR, or
16 in a future rate design proceeding, such as the GRC Phase 2. SDG&E's proposal in this proceeding
17 is to establish the high cost periods for SDG&E's existing TOU rates.

18 With regard to the winter on-peak period, the Farm Bureau⁴ has argued against extending
19 the winter on-peak to 9:00 p.m. such that it would be consistent with the end of the summer on-peak
20 period. In the testimony of SDG&E witness D. Barker, SDG&E has shown that the 9:00 hour is
21 reasonably justified to be within the on-peak period. SDG&E does note that arguments could also
22 be made to include the 8 to 9 o'clock hour in the semi-peak period. However, given that there is a

³ Testimony of Robert M. Fagan and Patrick Luckow on behalf of ORA, pp. 3-4.

⁴ Testimony of Laura Norin on behalf of the Farm Bureau,, p. 16, lines 16-17 and p. 35, lines 11-12.

1 reasonable cost basis for the hour to be in the on-peak period, consideration was given to the benefit
2 of having consistency between summer and winter for simplicity in customer education and
3 outreach. As such, SDG&E’s proposal includes the 8 to 9 o’clock hour in the winter on-peak
4 period.

5 **B. Super Off-Peak Period Encourages Shifting Consumption to Low Load Periods,**
6 **Increasing Capacity Utilization, and Providing Market Opportunity for New**
7 **DERs**

8 As noted above, SDG&E’s proposal is consistent with the Rate Design Principles introduced
9 in the Residential Rate OIR (R.12-06-013), State policy promoting the efficient adoption of DERs,
10 as outlined in Senate Bill (“SB”) 17⁵, and the subject of the Investor Owned Utilities’ (“IOUs”)’
11 Distributed Resource Plans to be filed in compliance with Assembly Bill (“AB”) 327.⁶ ORA’s
12 proposal for a two period TOU structure for small commercial and residential customers⁷ hinders
13 the implementation of the State’s policy to efficiently adopt DERs in such a way as to increase their
14 potential value.

15 As noted in the testimony of SDG&E witness D. Barker, the super off-peak period is one of
16 both low system energy costs and low circuit capacity load. More efficient utilization of the grid
17 can be achieved by shifting load to the super off-peak period and providing additional headroom
18 with which to absorb load growth with existing grid capacity. By providing the price signals that
19 acknowledge this benefit, the DER market is incentivized to develop and market technologies that
20 can help customers shift their load. Accurate pricing such as the introduction of the super off-peak
21 period to all TOU rates will advance the economically efficient adoption of DERs in a way that can
22 benefit the grid.

23
⁵ SB 17, p. 2.

⁶ AB 327, pp. 4, 15 and 28.

⁷ Testimony of Lee-Whei Tan on behalf of ORA, p. 1, lines 17-18.

1 **IV. THE TIME TO ADDRESS SDG&E’S TOU PERIODS IS NOW**

2 In order to provide customers with the opportunity to make economically efficient decisions,
3 and to ease their transition to rates which support State policy, accurate pricing needs to be provided
4 now. Moving on TOU periods now will provide greater opportunity for new DER technologies to
5 be adopted in such a way as to maximize their potential benefit.

6 **A. Waiting for the Next GRC Phase 2 Could Lead to a Long and Unnecessary**
7 **Delay**

8 The City argues to postpone the review of TOU periods until the next SDG&E General Rate
9 Case (“GRC”) Phase 2 Application.⁸ The May 15, 2014 Scoping Memo and Ruling of Assigned
10 Commissioner already determined that the examination of SDG&E’s proposed TOU periods is to be
11 addressed in this proceeding. In addition, SDG&E maintains that there is no need to delay updating
12 SDG&E’s TOU periods and that doing so now will allow customers to more quickly move toward
13 better managing their energy use and adopting emerging DER technologies in such a way as to
14 provide the potential to avoid future system capacity needs. Moreover, in light of the length of time
15 required to reach a final decision in a case like the GRC Phase 2 proceeding (which could take
16 upwards of two years), SDG&E must take action now in order to reflect shifts in costs that are
17 occurring today. Moreover, taking a broad view when assessing bill impacts does not mean that
18 decisions need to be further delayed to a future GRC Phase 2, as some parties argue⁹. Any impact
19 which comes from proposals, such as allocations between classes in a future GRC Phase 2 or rate
20 design proceeding, can also take a broad view on the overall bill impacts that the then subject
21 proposal creates.

⁸ Testimony of William A. Monsen on behalf of the City, pp. 4-5 and 14-20.

⁹ Testimony of William A. Monsen on behalf of the City, pp. 4-5 and 14-20.

1 **B. New Periods Must Be in Place for the Introduction of New Optional Residential**
2 **TOU rates and 2 TOU pilots**

3 SDG&E has proposed two residential TOU pilots and optional TOU rates to be implemented
4 in 2015.¹⁰ Given that the TOU period is justified based on the shifting peak in SDG&E's service
5 territory and the policy of the State to efficiently integrate DERs into the grid, it makes little sense
6 to delay the introduction of the new TOU periods. Implementing new accurate periods now will
7 provide greater value from the TOU pilots, eliminate an unnecessary transition for widespread
8 adoption of residential TOU rates, and ease the development of education and outreach material for
9 residential customers. This is consistent with Rate Design Principle 10 (Transitions to the new rate
10 structure should emphasize customer education and outreach that enhances customer understanding
11 and acceptance of new rates, and minimizes and avoids the potential for rate shock).¹¹

12 Introducing the new TOU periods will provide added value to SDG&E's first TOU pilot
13 which is studying how a customer's response to shorter on-peak periods will impact their load
14 shape. By introducing the new periods now, the study will also be able to analyze these shorter
15 periods in the context of the new accurate time periods that will continue to be relevant in the early
16 years of widespread residential TOU adoption. Parties¹² have only argued to delay the assessment
17 of SDG&E's TOU periods and have failed to provide any meaningful analysis to counter SDG&E's
18 assertion that the peak is shifting. Even ORA agrees with the conclusion that SDG&E's peak is
19 shifting to later in the day.¹³

20 With the peak shifting to later in the day, pushing the assessment of the periods to the next
21 GRC Phase 2 simply creates a situation where residential customers who are early adopters of TOU
22 rates will be forced to shift onto new TOU periods after becoming accustomed to the old periods.

¹⁰ February 13, 2014 Assigned Commissioner Ruling Requiring Utilities to Submit Phase 1 Rate Change Proposals in R.12-06-013, Appendix A, pp. 1-2.

¹¹ Administrative Law Judge's Ruling Requesting Residential Rate Design Proposals, issued on March 19, 2013, Attachment A Principles of Rate Design.

¹² Prepared Direct Testimony of Jose Luis Contreras on behalf of the CALSEIA, p. 6, lines 27-31; Testimony of William A. Monsen on behalf of the City, p. 4, lines 15-19.

¹³ Testimony of Lee-Whei Tan on behalf of ORA, p. 1, lines 15-17.

1 This creates a more difficult transition to TOU rates and could discourage customers from adopting
2 TOU rates, as any outreach and education would have to note that the existing periods would be
3 subject to change in the near future. In that instance, it is reasonable to assume that this confusion
4 could give customers pause and could create a wait and see approach by customers in the voluntary
5 adoption of TOU rates.

6 **V. GRANDFATHERING CONFOUNDS THE ABILITY TO ACHIEVE STATE**
7 **POLICY OUTLINED IN SB 17 AND PERPETUATES THE NEED TO**
8 **GRANDFATHER CUSTOMERS' FUTURE INVESTMENTS THAT WERE**
9 **GUIDED BY OPENLY ACKNOWLEDGED INACCURATE PRICES**

10 Parties that argue to grandfather customers on outdated TOU periods miss the fundamental
11 reason to update TOU periods in the first place: so that customers who adopt new technologies that
12 are available to some, but not all customers, do so in a way that also lowers system costs to the
13 extent those decisions lower a participating customer's bill. This ensures that both participants and
14 non-participants are protected as customers adopt an increasing variety of low carbon DERs,
15 consistent with State policy.¹⁴

16 **A. Grandfathering is Addressed in the NEM Grandfathering Decision**

17 Parties¹⁵ have argued that the consideration of impacts for solar customers is justification to
18 grandfather NEM customers on outdated and inaccurate TOU periods. However, the Commission
19 has already addressed NEM grandfathering in Decision (“D.”) 14-03-041, which adopted a 20 year
20 transition period for NEM customers, in part, to account for the fact that the underlying tariff upon
21 which the NEM Tariff is applied will change over time and with the understanding that any change
22 to the underlying tariff structure will impact a NEM customer's payback.

¹⁴ SB 17, p. 2.

¹⁵ Prepared Direct Testimony of Jose Luis Contreras on behalf of the CALSEIA, p. 7, lines 1-8; Testimony of William A. Monsen on behalf of the City, pp. 48, lines 12-21; Testimony of Laura Norin on behalf of the Farm Bureau, pp. 31-32; Testimony of Lee-Whei Tan On behalf ORA, pp. 15-16.

1 The NEM tariff is a billing mechanism by which customers receive a full retail credit for the
2 energy that they export back onto the grid.

3 *Under NEM, customer-generators receive a financial credit for power generated by*
4 *their on-site system that is fed back into the power grid for use by other utility*
5 *customers.¹⁶*

6 The grandfathering decision notes that the underlying tariffs will change, which will impact the
7 payback for NEM customers' solar systems and notes that there are any number of reasons that
8 changes in rate structures can occur.

9 *For example, the utility estimates cannot account for future changes to the actual*
10 *electric rates underlying the NEM structure, which the Commission is reviewing in*
11 *Rulemaking (R.) 12-06-013, and will be developed in compliance with AB 327. This*
12 *review is expected to result in significant changes to the residential rate structure,*
13 *which may reduce the monthly savings from NEM. In addition, as noted by CFBF, it*
14 *is not clear whether the utilities' analyses include agricultural customers, and the*
15 *analyses do not appear to include the specific circumstances applicable to*
16 *government agencies, which do not qualify for all of the same tax and depreciation*
17 *benefits as commercial customer generators. In addition, the analyses may not*
18 *account for factors relevant to individual cases, such as reduced generation due to*
19 *weather, shade, or other factors specific to a customer or location.¹⁷*

20 Ultimately the decision takes into account the potential variability in Customers' otherwise
21 applicable tariffs as a reason for the 20 year transition period for customers on the existing NEM
22 tariff. The NEM grandfathering decision then concludes that the 20 year period provides a
23 reasonable period for customers to recoup the cost of their investment.

24 *The timing and rules established in this decision for transitioning to the new tariff*
25 *should ensure that customers who interconnect renewable distributed generation*
26 *systems under the currently applicable net energy metering program have a*
27 *reasonable opportunity to recoup the costs of their investment in those systems. In*
28 *addition, a 20-year transition period is consistent with some estimates of the*
29 *expected useful life of such systems, reflected in many existing power purchase*
30 *agreements and financing arrangements for renewable distributed generation¹⁸.*
31

¹⁶ D.14-03-041, at p.3

¹⁷ D.14-03-041, at pp. 18-19.

¹⁸ D.14-03-041, at pp. 3

1 **B. Grandfathering is Inconsistent with the Commission’s Rate Design Principles**
2 **and Lead to Perpetual Grandfathering if Parties Arguments are Accepted**

3 SDG&E believes in providing customers with accurate information on their cost of service
4 and, to the extent necessary, providing direct incentives or subsidies to achieve policy objectives.
5 Parties’ arguments to grandfather customers on outdated and inaccurate TOU periods for customer
6 payback considerations are inconsistent with achieving the State’s policy objectives identified in SB
7 17 and the Rate Design Principles the CPUC updated and outlined in Phase 1 of R.12-06-013:

- 8 1. Low-income and medical baseline customers should have access to enough
9 electricity to ensure basic needs (such as health and comfort) are met at an affordable
10 cost;
- 11 2. Rates should be based on marginal cost;
- 12 3. Rates should be based on cost-causation principles
- 13 4. Rates should encourage conservation and energy efficiency;
- 14 5. Rates should encourage reduction of both coincident and non-coincident peak
15 demand;
- 16 6. Rates should provide stability, simplicity and customer choice;
- 17 7. Rates should avoid cross-subsidies, unless the cross-subsidies appropriately
18 support explicit state policy goals;
- 19 8. Rates should encourage economically efficient decision-making;
- 20 9. Incentives should be explicit and transparent; and
- 21 10. Transitions to the new rate structure should emphasize customer education and
22 outreach that enhances customer understanding and acceptance of new rates, and
23 minimizes and avoids the potential for rate shock.

24 Providing customers with misinformation on their cost of service is inconsistent with Rate
25 Design Principle 9 (Incentives should be explicit and transparent). Indeed, the continued use of
26 outdated TOU periods will effectively retain embedded incentives and subsidies for customers who
27 are not shifting their demand from the system peak.

1 Collectively, Rate Design Principle 2 (Rates should be based on marginal cost); 3 (Rates
2 should be based on cost-causation principles); 4 (Rates should encourage conservation and energy
3 efficiency); and 5 (Rates should encourage reduction of both coincident and non-coincident peak
4 demand) require providing customers accurate information on their cost of service. Grandfathering
5 customers on outdated TOU periods is inconsistent with marginal cost and cost causation Principles
6 2 and 3. Grandfathering TOU periods for NEM customers will also run counter to the conservation
7 of infrastructure as grandfathered customers will be sent a reduced price signal in what has been
8 established as SDG&E's new high cost on-peak period (principles 4 and 5).

9 Without accurate information on their cost of service, customers cannot make economically
10 efficient decisions (Principle 8). Customers on grandfathered TOU periods will continue to make
11 decisions and investments to manage the load to lower their overall bill. Additional investments in
12 load management, batteries, and distributed generation will be made to maximize their investments
13 based on an inaccurate on-peak period. Grandfathered customers would also not be able to benefit
14 from a super off-peak period which encourages customers to shift load to the middle of the night.
15 Grandfathering customers on the old TOU periods will encourage customers to make investments
16 that lower their bill yet could increase system costs by providing semi-peak prices in the early
17 evening hours, which is in the new on-peak period. According to the intervenors' grandfathering
18 arguments, those new investments would need to be grandfathered as well so as not to adversely
19 impact their economics, creating a perpetual cycle of grandfathering.

20 If customers continue to manage their load to the old, inaccurate TOU periods, this will
21 increase cost shifts to other customers by encouraging load growth in the new on-peak period,
22 driving increases in system energy and capacity costs. This is counter to Rate Design Principle 7
23 (Rates should avoid cross-subsidies, unless the cross-subsidies appropriately support explicit state
24 policy goals) and 1 (Low-income and medical baseline customers should have access to enough

1 electricity to ensure basic needs [such as health and comfort] are met at an affordable cost).
2 Customers who make inefficient decisions and drive system costs higher because of inaccurate
3 pricing information are creating subsidies that could have been avoided, counter to principle 7.
4 Increasing system costs and shifting those costs to other customers is counter to providing energy
5 services at an affordable cost (Principle 1).

6 Finally, providing some customers with outdated TOU periods and others with accurate
7 TOU periods creates confusion that is counter to Principles 6 (Rates should provide stability,
8 simplicity and customer choice); and 10 (Transitions to the new rate structure should emphasize
9 customer education and outreach that enhances customer understanding and acceptance of new
10 rates, and minimizes and avoids the potential for rate shock). Special education and outreach would
11 be required so that customer's with grandfathered accounts understood that they are not subject to
12 the same TOU periods as the rest of SDG&E's TOU customers. This adds general confusion and
13 complexity to any broad communication and education efforts by SDG&E, as well as significant
14 confusion for customers with multiple accounts (e.g., those with accounts subject to both the old
15 TOU period and the new TOU periods).

16 The energy industry is one in which competitive alternatives are emerging for some, but not
17 all customers. The customers that Parties have targeted to grandfather are those very customers for
18 whom alternative options have demonstrated to be available. Under the current market conditions,
19 which include emerging distributed competitive alternatives to various services that have been
20 traditionally provided by utilities, a failure to implement utility rates that recover costs in the same
21 manner in which they have been incurred creates opportunities for customers to achieve savings by
22 making investments that allow them to avoid costs that have been incurred on their behalf, shifting
23 those costs to other customers. The result would be a shifting, rather than reduction, in overall
24 costs. At the same time, customers would be deprived of information that could more accurately

1 inform them regarding the actual cost associated with how and when they use electricity, as well as
2 the costs associated with maintaining a utility grid interconnection that would otherwise empower
3 them to engage in economically efficient energy efficiency, demand response, and DERs
4 investments.

5 For these reasons, updated TOU periods should be adopted to address current market
6 conditions in order to meet the needs of an emerging competitive market in a way that empowers
7 customers with accurate information, enables more effective and direct incentives to achieve
8 conservation, and promotes fairness to customers that may not be able to make investments in
9 DERs.

10 **VI. WITH ANY CHANGE TO RATE DESIGN CREATING POSITIVE AND**
11 **NEGATIVE BILL IMPACTS, THE APPROPRIATE PERSPECTIVE WITH WHICH**
12 **TO CONSIDER BILL IMPACTS IS ON THE IMPACTS TO ALL CUSTOMERS**

13 Any rate design proposal is ultimately accompanied by bill impacts which can both increase
14 and decrease customers' bills. It is therefore appropriate to assess bill impacts of a proposal by
15 looking at the impact on all customers.

16 For example, while a later on-peak period could result in lowering the amount of solar
17 generation that occurs during the on-peak period (depending on the system orientation), a customer
18 can still experience an overall reduction in their bill if their overall usage in the on-peak period goes
19 down. Also, the increase in the amount of generation that is now in the middle "semi-peak" period
20 has increased given that, under SDG&E's proposal, weekend solar generation would be in the semi-
21 peak and not in the lowest TOU period of "super off-peak".

22 With regard to bill impacts related to the school parties, SDG&E notes that at the schools
23 election, discussion about a proposed discount ended when the schools indicated that they would

1 prefer to simply participate as intervenors in this proceeding, rather than entertain a proposed
2 discount, as SDG&E had indicated it was willing to do.

3 SDG&E witness Cynthia Fang also notes in her rebuttal testimony that parties such as the
4 water districts have benefited significantly from the adopted Partial Settlements in D.14-01-002
5 issued in SDG&E's 2012 GRC Phase 2, where they were reclassified into the agricultural class with
6 an overall benefit of having a lower overall allocation of costs compared to if they had stayed in the
7 Medium and Large Commercial & Industrial class. In addition, the Valley Center Municipal Water
8 District ("District") noted that updating TOU periods will have an impact on the cost of providing
9 water to their rate payers.¹⁹ In reality, updating TOU periods simply accurately reflects the cost of
10 providing water. Maintaining the old, inaccurate TOU periods would simply hide the cost of
11 providing water to water districts such as the District in the rates of electric customers. By not
12 updating TOU periods to reflect costs, water districts would receive price signals that, if they are an
13 economically rational energy user, would create a perverse incentive to use energy at a time that
14 would increase system costs. Hiding the cost of providing water service in electric rates does not
15 lower the cost of providing water service, it simply shifts who pays for the cost of water service and
16 provides water to customers at below the actual cost.

17 **VII. CONCLUSION**

18 This concludes my prepared rebuttal testimony.

¹⁹ Testimony of Gary Arant on behalf of the District, pp. 3-4.