Section 5.20:

Natural Gas

SECTION 5.20
NATURAL GAS

5.20.1 PURPOSE

This section identifies the natural gas service provider and facilities serving the City of Fullerton and evaluates potential impacts to natural gas services associated with implementation of The Fullerton Plan.

5.20.2 EXISTING REGULATORY SETTING

FEDERAL REGULATIONS

State and Federal governments extensively regulate corporate utilities. The Federal government has almost no power to regulate municipal utilities, except as they are parties to certain contracts that must be filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

STATE

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) regulates privately owned electric, natural gas, telecommunications, water, railroad, rail transit, and passenger transportation companies. Assembly Bill 1890, enacted in 1996, deregulated the power generation industry, allowing customers to purchase electricity on the open market.
The Energy Efficiency Standards for Residential and Nonresidential Buildings were established in 1978 in response to a legislative mandate to reduce California's energy consumption. The standards are updated periodically to allow consideration and possible incorporation of new energy efficiency technologies and methods.

LOCAL

Natural gas supply and distribution to the City of Fullerton is furnished by Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas), a subsidiary of Sempra Energy. Natural gas services must be provided in accordance with SoCalGas policies and extension rules on file with the CPUC at the time contractual agreements are made.

5.20.3 EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

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SoCalGas is the nation's largest natural gas distribution utility, serving 20.9 million consumers in more than 500 communities that encompass approximately 20,000 square miles.[1]
SoCalGas provides the City with customer and distribution services. The City does not have any natural gas storage facilities. Natural gas is brought to the City through an existing network of gas transmission pipelines. Natural gas is distributed through existing mains located under

[1] Southern California Gas Company, official website, Company Profile, http://www.socalgas.com/about-us/company-info.shtml, accessed July 19, 2011.

City streets which can be extended to serve new projects. When new gas supply lines are required, SoCalGas obtains encroachment permits from the City in advance of construction.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

SoCalGas participates in the Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP). The SGIP provides financial incentives for the installation of new, qualifying self-generation equipment installed to meet all or a portion of the electric energy needs of a facility and is administered by Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), Southern California Edison (SCE), SoCalGas and California Center for Sustainable Energy (CCSE). The SGIP was originally designed to complement the California Energy Commissions (CEC's) Emerging Renewables Program (ERP) by providing incentive funding to larger renewable and non-renewable self-generation units up to the first 1.0 megawatts (MW) in capacity. The April 24, 2008 CPUC Decision 08-04-049 increased the incentive cap to 3.0 MW on a pilot basis contingent on available carry over budget. On December 17, 2009, CPUC Decision 09-12-047 eliminated the requirement for available carry over funding. All projects regardless of proposed capacity are funded from the current program year budget.

5.20.4 SIGNIFICANCE THRESHOLDS AND CRITERIA

Appendix G of the *CEQA Guidelines* contains the Initial Study Environmental Checklist, which was included with the Notice of Preparation to show the areas being analyzed within the EIR; refer to Appendix A of this EIR. The Initial Study includes questions relating to natural gas. The issues presented in the Initial Study Checklist have been utilized as thresholds of significance in this Section. Accordingly, a project would typically have a significant impact on natural gas supply and infrastructure if the project would result in the following:

- The project would create demands on natural gas supply and/or infrastructure which exceed the capacity of the utility serving the project area.

5.20.5 PROJECT IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

NATURAL GAS

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FULLERTON PLAN COULD RESULT IN INCREASED DEMAND FOR NATURAL GAS SUPPLY.

Impact Analysis: Implementation of The Fullerton Plan would result in increased demand for natural gas. As indicated in Table 5.20-1, *Net Increase in Natural Gas Demand*, The Fullerton Plan would result in increased natural gas demand of approximately 1,185,629,113 cf/year over existing usage.

Table 5.20-1
Net Increase In Natural Gas Demand

Land Use	Development Potential	Consumption Factor	Natural Gas Demand (cf/month)
Residential	10,183	6,665 cf/DU/month	67,869,695
Non-Residential[1]	10,666,459	2.9 cf/SF/month	30,932,731
		Total	**98,802,423 or 1,185,629,113 cf/year**

Source: Consumption factors obtained from South Coast Air Quality Management District CEQA Air Quality Handbook, April 1993, Table A9-12-A.

cf = cubic feet; kcf = thousand cubic feet; DU = dwelling unit; SF = square feet
1 = office generation factor

It is anticipated that SoCalGas would be able to serve the projected buildout resulting from implementation of The Fullerton Plan. Although the City is primarily urbanized and currently served by infrastructure providing natural gas to existing uses, the location of SoCalGas facilities may create the need for transmission and/or service infrastructure to be relocated prior to project-specific site excavation and construction. SoCalGas would update existing facilities or add new facilities in the City based upon specific requests for service from end users. Financial responsibility for any updates or additional facilities would be in accordance with SoCalGas rules and tariffs. All new development that requires new natural gas lines to be installed would be required to pay applicable fees assessed by SoCalGas to extend lines to serve the specific project site. Each project would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis in order to ensure that adequate natural gas sources and infrastructure are available to serve the specific development project. Thus, a less than significant impact is anticipated in this regard.

Proposed General Plan Update Policies and Actions: There are no proposed General Plan Update Policies or Actions pertaining to natural gas services and infrastructure.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

Level of Significance After Mitigation: Not applicable.

5.20.6 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

- **FUTURE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATED WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FULLERTON PLAN AND OTHER CUMULATIVE DEVELOPMENT COULD RESULT IN CUMULATIVELY CONSIDERABLE IMPACTS TO NATURAL GAS SUPPLY AND INFRASTRUCTURE.**

Impact Analysis:

For this topic, the cumulative impacts are analyzed in terms of impacts associated with implementation of The Fullerton Plan and related cumulative projects served by the same natural gas provider (i.e., SoCalGas).

Future development resulting from the implementation of The Fullerton Plan, in combination with other future development within SoCalGas service area would result in the long-term and continued use of natural gas resources. Potential natural gas impacts associated with new developments would be evaluated on a project-by-project basis. All new development that would be served by SoCalGas would be required to pay applicable fees assessed by SoCalGas necessary to provide service to the specific project. SoCalGas would not provide service to new developments if there were not adequate natural gas supplies and infrastructure to maintain existing service levels and meet the anticipated demands of the specific development requesting service. Therefore, The Fullerton Plan would not result in cumulatively considerable impacts to natural gas service and infrastructure.

Proposed General Plan Update Policies and Actions: There are no proposed General Plan Update Policies or Actions pertaining to natural gas services and infrastructure.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

Level of Significance After Mitigation: Not applicable.

5.20.7 SIGNIFICANT UNAVOIDABLE IMPACTS

Natural gas impacts associated with implementation of The Fullerton Plan would be less than significant with compliance with and/or adherence to Federal, State and local regulations. Therefore, no significant unavoidable natural gas impacts would occur as a result of The Fullerton Plan.

5.20.8 SOURCES CITED

South Coast Air Quality Management District, *CEQA Air Quality Handbook*, April 1993.

Southern California Gas Company, official website, Company Profile, http://www.socalgas.com/about-us/company-info.shtml, accessed July 19, 2011.

RBF Consulting, *The Fullerton Plan Draft*, August 2011.