## Natural Gas Transmission Rate Increase

# Low-Income Gas Discount Rate Increase

City Council | November 17, 2020



#### How Are LB Gas Transmission Rates Established?

### **Long Beach City Charter**

#### ARTICLE XV. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

#### Sec. 1502. UTILITY RATES\*

The rates to be charged users for any services or commodities supplied by any public utility owned and operated by the City shall be based upon the prevailing rates for similar services and commodities supplied or sold by other like utilities whether public or private, operating in the Southern California area.

\* Sec. 1502. Utility Rates - adopted in 1980 with 67.3% majority vote from Long Beach voters



### What is the Natural Gas Transmission (Usage)

#### Rate? Average LB Residential Winter Gas Bill

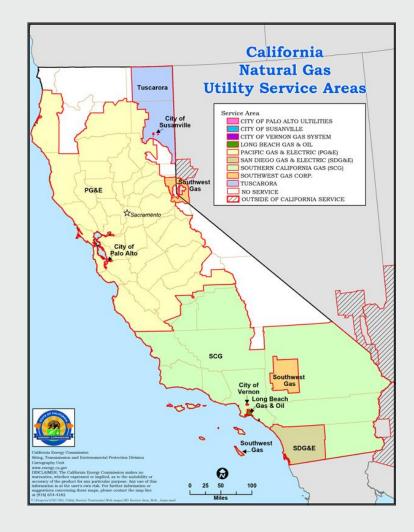
#### Commodity \$ 0.4009 21 Ś 8.42 (\$)/th Non Commodity: \$ 4.93 \$ 0.1644 Gas Service per day 30 \$ 12.56 Transmission (Usage) - Tier I (\$/th) \$ 0.5979 21 Ś -Transmission (Usage) - Tier II \$ 0.8579 0 (\$/th) Total Non Commodity \$ 17.49 Taxes & Fees AB 32 Fee \$ 0.0550 21 \$ 1.16 **UUT 5%** Ś 1.35 **Total Taxes & Fees** \$ 2.51 **Total Bill** \$ 28.42

Average LB Residential Winter Bill Components 4.1% 4.8% 29.6% 44.2% 17.4% AB 32 UUT

- <u>Commodity</u> Cost of natural gas from producers and marketers based on a 30-day forecast of natural gas market prices. By law, these costs cannot be marked up and are passed directly through to our customers.
- <u>Gas Service</u> This is a customer charge based on the number of days of service provided.
- <u>Transmission (Usage) Charge</u> Based on customer's actual usage and is the cost to deliver natural gas. These costs include pipeline, meter, regulator and service line maintenance.
  - Tier I Baseline allowance determined by CPUC (Summer @ 0.473 th/day; Winter @ 1.691 th/day) to be the amount of natural gas needed to meet the minimum basic needs of the average home while at the same time encouraging the efficient use of natural gas. Usage below baseline allowance is billed at the lowest rate.
  - Tier II All usage above the baseline allowance and billed at a higher rate.
- <u>AB 32 Fee</u> State mandated charge with all proceeds used to fund programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions at State and local levels.
- <u>UUT</u> City tax applied to gas utility charges. Does not apply to low-income senior citizens (> 62 yrs.) or disabled low-income individuals that apply and are approved for UUT exemption.

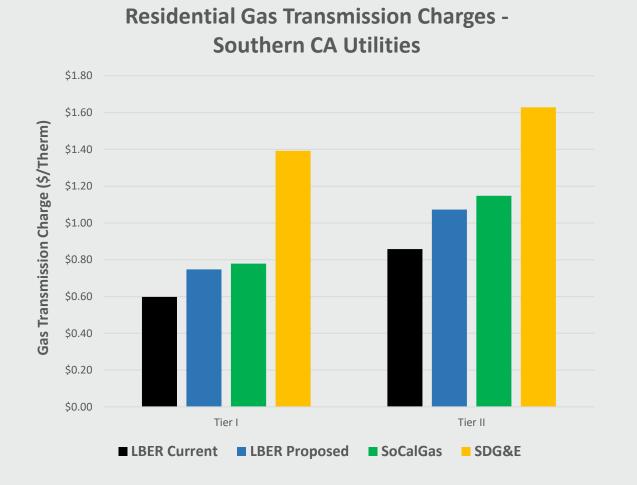


#### Who Are The "Like" Utilities in the Southern CA?



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#### **Southern CA Gas Transmission Utility Rates**



- Last gas transmission rate increase for Long Beach Energy Resources (LBER) residents & businesses occurred on October 1, 2016.
- LBER residential gas transmission rates are currently 32% <u>below</u> SoCalGas residential gas transmission rates.
- Proposed 25% increase to ER's residential gas transmission rate is still 7% <u>below</u> SoCalGas residential gas transmission rate.

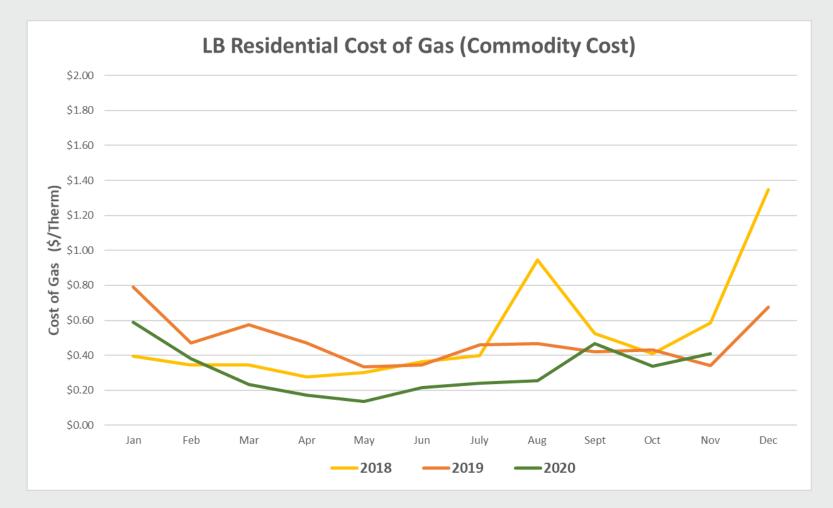


#### Impact to LBER Residential Customers

LBER Rate Increase Impact* - Residential Customers (142,740 Meters)									
	Avg User (78% - 111,306 Meters)			Large User (20% - 28,548 Meters)			Super User (2% - 2,886 Meters)		
Month	Winter: 1- 50 Thms <b>(21 Thms)</b>			Winter: 51- 100 Thms <b>(67 Thms)</b>			Winter: 101+ Thms (159 Thms)		
	Summer: 1-20 Thms (10 Thms)			Summer: 21-40 Thms (27 Thms)			Summer: 41+ Thms <b>(70 Thms)</b>		
	Current	Proposed		Current	Proposed		Current	Proposed	
Jan	\$ 28.42	\$ 31.71		\$ 83.68	\$ 95.29		\$ 210.60	\$ 242.93	
Feb	\$ 28.42	\$ 31.71		\$ 83.68	\$ 95.29		\$ 210.60	\$ 242.93	
Mar	\$ 28.42	\$ 31.71		\$ 83.68	\$ 95.29		\$ 210.60	\$ 242.93	
Apr	\$ 28.42	\$ 31.71		\$ 83.68	\$ 95.29		\$ 210.60	\$ 242.93	
May	\$ 16.34	\$ 17.90		\$ 38.58	\$ 43.63		\$ 98.29	\$ 113.03	
Jun	\$ 16.34	\$ 17.90		\$ 38.58	\$ 43.63		\$ 98.29	\$ 113.03	
Jul	\$ 16.34	\$ 17.90		\$ 38.58	\$ 43.63		\$ 98.29	\$ 113.03	
Aug	\$ 16.34	\$ 17.90		\$ 38.58	\$ 43.63		\$ 98.29	\$ 113.03	
Sept	\$ 16.34	\$ 17.90		\$ 38.58	\$ 43.63		\$ 98.29	\$ 113.03	
Oct	\$ 16.34	\$ 17.90		\$ 38.58	\$ 43.63		\$ 98.29	\$ 113.03	
Nov	\$ 28.42	\$ 31.71		\$ 83.68	\$ 95.29		\$ 210.60	\$ 242.93	
Dec	\$ 28.42	\$ 31.71		\$ 83.68	\$ 95.29		\$ 210.60	\$ 242.93	
Yr Totals =	\$ 268.56	\$ 296.66		\$ 733.56	\$ 833.52		\$ 1,853.34	\$ 2,135.76	
Δ Mo Bill =	\$ 22.38	\$ 24.72		\$ 61.13	\$ 69.46		\$ 154.45	\$ 177.98	
\$ Inc/mo =		\$ 2.34			\$ 8.33			\$ 23.54	
% Inc =		10.5%			13.6%			15.2%	
	- Winter Useage Allowances								
	- Summer Useage Allowances								
*	- Assumes Previous Years Natural Gas Pricing								

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#### Historical Natural Gas Costs



 2020 YTD gas commodity prices have averaged
32.5% <u>below</u> 2019 gas commodity prices.



#### Low-Income Gas Discount Program

- Customers who qualify currently receive a 5% discount on their gas bills at their primary residence or non-profit group home. Eligible customers include:
  - Low-Income Residents Households that meet certain qualifications and income requirements
  - Low-Income Senior Citizen/Disabled Residents Households that meet certain qualifications and income requirements are <u>also</u> eligible for UUT exemption.
  - Non-Profit Group Living Facilities Includes nonprofit group living facilities and non-licensed facilities such as homeless shelters, women's shelters, and group homes. Each resident must meet income requirements for a one-person household.
- Approximately 7,000 residents currently participating in program.
- ER is seeking Council approval to increase the Low-Income Gas Discount from its current 5% discount to a 20% discount.



#### Low-Income Gas Discount Program

- Applications available at:
  - Long Beach City Hall, Lobby Level
  - Main Library and Branches
  - Neighborhood Resource Center, 425 Atlantic Avenue
  - Energy Resources, 2400 East Spring Street
  - Call (562) 570-2068
- Apply online at: <u>https://forms.longbeach.gov/Forms/GasDiscount</u>



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