# SALT RIVER PROJECT AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT AND POWER DISTRICT MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

### **POWER COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, June 24, 2025, 9:30 AM

### SRP Administration Building 1500 N. Mill Avenue, Tempe, AZ 85288

Committee Members: Jack White Jr., Chair; and Leslie C. Williams, Vice Chair; and Casey Clowes, Randy Miller, Kathy Mohr-Almeida, Mark Pace, and Paul Rovey

Call to Order Roll Call

1.	<b>CONSENT AGENDA:</b> The following agenda item(s) will be considered as a group by the Committee and will be enacted with one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these item(s) unless a Committee Member requests, in which event the agenda item(s) will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered as a separate item
	<ul> <li>Request for approval of the minutes for the meeting of May 22, 2025.</li> </ul>
2.	Permitting Challenges for Renewable Projects in Arizona BUCHANAN DAVIS and GRANT SMEDLEY
	Informational presentation regarding the permitting challenges faced by renewable energy development projects and how SRP collaborates with developers, elected officials, and stakeholders to support necessary approvals.
3.	Coronado Generating Station (CGS) Coal-to-Gas Conversion GRANT SMEDLEY
	Request for approval to convert the existing boilers at CGS from coal to gas.
4.	Closed Session, Pursuant to A.R.S. §30-805(B), for the Committee to Consider Matters Relating to Competitive Activity, Including Trade Secrets or Privileged or Confidential Commercial or Financial Information, with Respect to a Request for Approval for the District to Enter into a Proposed Natural Gas Transportation Capacity AgreementJOE GIACALONE
5.	Report on Current Events by the General Manager and Chief Executive Officer and DesigneesJIM PRATT
6.	Future Agenda Topics

The Committee may vote during the meeting to go into Executive Session, pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03 (A)(3), for the purpose of discussion or consultation for legal advice with legal counsel to the Committee on any of the matters listed on the agenda.

The Committee may go into Closed Session, pursuant to A.R.S. §30-805(B), for records and proceedings relating to competitive activity, including trade secrets or privileged or confidential commercial or financial information.

Visitors: The public has the option to attend in-person or observe via Zoom and may receive teleconference information by contacting the Corporate Secretary's Office at (602) 236-4398. If attending in-person, all property in your possession, including purses, briefcases, packages, or containers, will be subject to inspection.



# MINUTES POWER COMMITTEE MEETING

DRAFT

May 22, 2025

A meeting of the Power Committee of the Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District (the District) convened at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 22, 2025, from the Hoopes Board Conference Room at the SRP Administration Building, 1500 North Mill Avenue, Tempe, Arizona. This meeting was conducted in-person and via teleconference in compliance with open meeting law guidelines. The District and Salt River Valley Water Users' Association (the Association) are collectively known as SRP.

Committee Members present at roll call were J.M. White Jr., Chair; L.C. Williams, Vice Chair; and R.J. Miller, K.L. Mohr-Almeida, M.V. Pace, and P.E. Rovey.

Committee Member absent at roll call was C. Clowes.

Also present were Vice President C.J. Dobson; Board Members R.C. Arnett, N.R. Brown, M.J. Herrera, K.J. Johnson, S.D. Kennedy, L.D. Rovey, and S.H. Williams; Council Chair J.R. Shelton; Council Vice Chair B.E. Paceley; Council Liaison G.E. Geiger; Council Members E.L. Gorsegner, M.R. Mulligan, and C. Resch-Geretti; I.R. Avalos, A.N. Bond-Simpson, M.J. Burger, A.P. Chabrier, J.D. Coggins, J.M. Felty, J.V. Giacalone, L.F. Hobaica, J.W. Hubbard, B.J. Koch, C. Larson, K.J. Lee, D.B. Mitchell, B.A. Olsen, D.D. Patterson, J.M. Pratt, C.M. Sifuentes-Kohlbeck, G.M. Smedley, P.L. Syrjala, R.R. Taylor, and M.D. Weber of SRP; and Cathy Kim of Copia Power.

In compliance with A.R.S. §38-431.02, Andrew Davis of the Corporate Secretary's Office had posted a notice and agenda of the Power Committee meeting at the SRP Administration Building, 1500 North Mill Avenue, Tempe, Arizona, at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 20, 2025.

Chair J.M. White Jr. called the meeting to order.

### Consent Agenda

Chair J.M. White Jr. requested a motion for Committee approval of the Consent Agenda, in its entirety.

On a motion duly made by Board Member M.V. Pace and seconded by Vice Chair L.C. Williams, the Committee unanimously approved and adopted the following item on the Consent Agenda:

Minutes of the Power Committee meeting on April 24, 2025, as presented.

Corporate Secretary J.M. Felty polled the Committee Members on Board Member M.V. Pace's motion to approve the Consent Agenda, in its entirety. The vote was recorded as follows:

YES: Board Members J.M. White Jr., Chair; L.C. Williams, Vice (6)

Chair; and R.J. Miller, K.L. Mohr-Almeida, M.V. Pace, and

P.E. Rovey

NO: None (0)
ABSTAINED: None (0)
ABSENT: Board Member C. Clowes (1)

# Coronado Generating Station (CGS) Coal-to-Gas Conversion Opportunity

Using a PowerPoint presentation, Grant M. Smedley, SRP Director of Resource Planning, Acquisition, and Development, stated that the purpose of the presentation was to provide information responding to questions related to the opportunity to convert CGS from coal to gas.

G.M. Smedley presented a chart of remaining summer capacity needs from Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) through FY35. They explained that SRP has a significant need for capacity, especially in the early 2030s due to continued projected load growth and coal generation retiring during that timeframe. They presented a chart showing the Financial Plan 2026 (FP26) resource plan and explained that the plan includes a diverse mix of resource additions, including both firm capacity and carbon-free energy, and more than doubles the capacity of SRP's generation portfolio by FY35, consistent with the findings of the Integrated System Plan (ISP).

G.M. Smedley discussed the alternatives for replacing CGS capacity, and associated strategies, benefits, and challenges. They also outlined the capital cost, operating cost, total cost, and total carbon reduction through 2045 for converting the capacity at CGS to natural gas.

G.M. Smedley provided a timeline for coal-to-gas conversation by 2030. They concluded with a discussion regarding key takeaways.

Copies of the PowerPoint slides used in this presentation are on file in the Corporate Secretary's Office and, by reference, made a part of these minutes.

President D. Rousseau; Board Member K.H. O'Brien; L. Arthanari, S.M. Glover, V.P. Kisicki, L.A. Meyers, P.B. Sigl, and E. Steingard of SRP; Murphy Bannerman of Western Resource Advocates (WRA); and Donald Erpendeck of Stantec Inc. entered the meeting during the presentation. A.N. Bond-Simpson, G.V. Giacalone, C. Larson, G.M. Smedley, and P.L. Syrjala of SRP left the meeting.

# <u>Executive Session: Western Electricity</u> Coordinating Council (WECC) Audit of SRP

Chair J.M. White Jr. requested a motion to enter into executive session, pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(9) for discussions or consultations with designated representatives of SRP with respect to the results of the WECC audit of SRP.

On a motion duly made by Board Member M.V. Pace, seconded by Vice Chair L.C. Williams and carried, the Power Committee convened into executive session at 10:02 a.m.

Corporate Secretary J.M. Felty polled the Committee on Board Member M.V. Pace's motion to enter into executive session. The vote was recorded as follows:

YES: Board Members J.M. White Jr., Chair; L.C. Williams, Vice (6)

Chair; and R.J. Miller, K.L. Mohr-Almeida, M.V. Pace, and

P.E. Rovey

NO: None (0) ABSTAINED: None (0)

ABSENT: Board Member C. Clowes (1)

D.B. Mitchell and E. Steingard of SRP; Murphy Bannerman of WRA; Cathy Kim of Copia Power; and Donald Erpendeck of Stantec Inc. left the meeting.

The Committee reconvened into open session at 10:15 a.m., with the following members and other present President D. Rousseau; Vice President C.J. Dobson; Board Members R.C. Arnett, N.R. Brown, M.J. Herrera, K.J. Johnson, S.D. Kennedy, R.J. Miller, K.L. Mohr-Almeida, K.H. O'Brien, M.V. Pace, L.D. Rovey, P.E. Rovey, J.M. White Jr., L.C. Williams, and S.H. Williams; Council Chair J.R. Shelton; Council Vice Chair B.E. Paceley; Council Liaison G.E. Geiger; Council Members E.L. Gorsegner, J.W. Lines, M.R. Mulligan, C. Resch-Geretti, and R.W. Swier; and L. Arthanari, I.R. Avalos, M.J. Burger, A.P. Chabrier, J.D. Coggins, J.M. Felty, S.M. Glover, L.F. Hobaica, J.W. Hubbard, V.P. Kisicki, B.J. Koch, K.J. Lee, L.A. Meyers, M.L. O'Connor, B.A. Olsen, D.D. Patterson, J.M. Pratt, C.M. Sifuentes-Kohlbeck, P.B. Sigl, R.R. Taylor, and M.D. Weber of SRP.

J.M. Baran, S.C. Farag, Z.J. Heim, A.C. McAnally, and G.M. Smedley of SRP entered the meeting. D.D. Patterson and M.D. Weber of SRP left the meeting.

<u>Closed Session: Purchase of 100 Megawatts</u> (MW) from a 300 MW Solar Generating Facility

Chair J.M. White Jr., called for a closed session of the Power Committee at 10:16 a.m., pursuant to A.R.S. §30-805(B), for the Committee to consider matters relating to competitive activity, including trade secrets or privileged or confidential commercial or financial information, with respect to a request for approval to enter into a transaction

with Southwest Public Power Agency, Inc. for the District's purchase of 100 MW from a 300 MW solar generating facility.

The Committee reconvened into open session at 10:26 a.m. with the following Members and others present: President D. Rousseau; Vice President C.J. Dobson; Board Members R.C. Arnett, N.R. Brown, M.J. Herrera, K.J. Johnson, S.D. Kennedy, R.J. Miller, K.L. Mohr-Almeida, K.H. O'Brien, M.V. Pace, L.D. Rovey, P.E. Rovey, J.M. White Jr., L.C. Williams, and S.H. Williams; Council Chair J.R. Shelton; Council Vice Chair B.E. Paceley; Council Liaison G.E. Geiger; Council Members E.L. Gorsegner, J.W. Lines, M.R. Mulligan, C. Resch-Geretti, and R.W. Swier; and L. Arthanari, I.R. Avalos, J.M. Baran, M.J. Burger, A.P. Chabrier, J.D. Coggins, S.C. Farag, J.M. Felty, S.M. Glover, Z.J. Heim, L.F. Hobaica, J.W. Hubbard, V.P. Kisicki, B.J. Koch, K.J. Lee, A.C. McAnally, L.A. Meyers, M.L. O'Connor, B.A. Olsen, J.M. Pratt, C.M. Sifuentes-Kohlbeck, P.B. Sigl, G.M. Smedley, and R.R. Taylor of SRP.

J.J. Kerby, M.M. Martinez, and P.L. Syrjala of SRP; and Samantha Salton of Strata Clean Energy entered the meeting.

### 2025 SRP Summer Preparedness

Using a PowerPoint presentation, Pam L. Syrjala, SRP Senior Director of Supply and Trading, stated that the purpose of the presentation was to provide information regarding SRP's activities to prepare for meeting forecasted load in summer 2025.

- P.L. Syrjala provided a map of SRP's water service area, power service area, and eastern mining district. They also provided a map highlighting SRP's following generation resources for calendar year 2025 (CY25): coal, hydro, natural gas, nuclear, renewable (solar, storage, wind, geothermal, and biomass), and standalone batteries.
- P.L. Syrjala presented a MW peak hour retail load forecast for 2025 and compared it to actual peak hour retail for 2023 and 2024. They said that the 2025 forecasted need, including reserves and firm sales, is 9,577 MW and that SRP has 9,819 MW of planned capabilities.
- P.L. Syrjala provided the status of SRP's fuel, including nuclear and coal, and natural gas supply. They introduced Melissa M. Martinez, SRP Director of Transmission and Generation Operations.

Continuing, M.M. Martinez explained that the readiness for SRP's generation, transmission and distribution includes the following actions: asset management, situational awareness, and emergency preparations. They presented a diagram of the power system asset management.

M.M. Martinez explained that asset management focuses on the following operations: 1) risk and data-based approach to equipment replacements; 2) condition and

inspection-based proactive and corrective maintenance; and 3) other preventive maintenance. They provided images of transmission system inspections, infrared inspections, and highlighted the significant reduction in transmission pole failure since 1996.

M.M. Martinez said that situational awareness consists of the following communications: 1) daily operational briefings – two times daily during stressed conditions; 2) inter-utility coordination and support; and 3) outage coordination within SRP. They concluded with the following emergency preparations practices: 1) storm, load shed and heat training drills; 2) pre-storm equipment staging and staffing; and 3) outage restrictions and notifications.

M.M. Martinez and P.L. Syrjala responded to questions from the Committee.

Copies of the PowerPoint slides used in this presentation are on file in the Corporate Secretary's Office and, by reference, made a part of these minutes.

Vice President C.J. Dobson; Board Member M.V. Pace; S.C. Farag and A.C. McAnally of SRP; and Samantha Salton of Strata Clean Energy left the meeting during the presentation. Donald Erpendeck of Stantec Inc.; and Emily Abbott of Invenergy entered the meeting during the presentation.

### 2025 Summer Preparedness Wildfire Mitigation Update

- Jace J. Kerby SRP Director of Transmission Line Design, Construction, and Maintenance, stated that the purpose of the presentation was to provide information regarding SRP's Wildfire Mitigation Plan for summer 2025.
- J.J. Kerby said that since 2000, almost 3.5 million acres of watershed fires have burned. They said that from 2015 through 2025, over 15,000 wildfires have occurred; 60% are human activities causes; 30% are lightning causes; 7% are power utility causes, and 3% are other causes.
- J.J. Kerby presented a map of SRP's and Arizona Public Service's (APS) power service areas. They reviewed SRP's Wildfire Mitigation Plan and discussed fire impacts to SRP and preventing fires caused by SRP.
- J.J. Kerby explained that the Wildfire Mitigation team is a liaison between first responders and operations; the grid incident command system; and engagement with the community and government. They provided details on the wildfire tracking dashboard, situational awareness, the SmokeD an artificial intelligence smoke detection, and the wildfire spread modeling.
- J.J. Kerby reviewed the following methods SRP is implementing to prevent fires caused by SRP: 1) bi-annually, spring and fall inspections for 500 kilovolts (kV), 230 kV, and 115 kV lines; 2) annual inspections for 69 kV, 22 kV, and 12 kV lines; 3) hardening

standard poles for resiliency; 4) clearing vegetation for defensible space around poles (DSAP); and 5) installment of emerging technology – the ELF Fuse. They concluded with an overview of SRP's operational measures, including public safety power shutoff and SRP's no-reclose policy.

J.J. Kerby responded to questions from the Committee.

Copies of the PowerPoint slides used in this presentation are on file in the Corporate Secretary's Office and, by reference, made a part of these minutes.

L. Arthanari of SRP; Emily Abott of Invenergy left the meeting during the presentation. B.G. Patchett of SRP; and Murphy Bannerman of WRA entered the meeting during the presentation.

Report on Current Events by the General Manager and Chief Executive Officer or Designees

There was no report on current events by Jim M. Pratt, SRP General Manager and Chief Executive Officer.

### Future Agenda Topics

Chair J.M. White Jr. asked the Committee if there were any future agenda topics. None were requested.

There being no further business to come before the Power Committee, the meeting adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

John M. Felty Corporate Secretary

# Renewable Development in Arizona

**Buchanan Davis, Grant Smedley | June 24, 2025** 

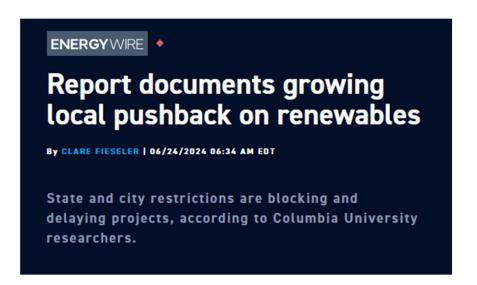
### National View: Not Just an Arizona Problem

**Local News** 

Wind energy brings money to landowners and rural communities, but pushback remains

KOSU | By Anna Pope





# County by county, solar panels face pushback

Some conservationists and local governments have fought off large-scale solar farms, leaving the industry to look for new places for panels.

OC leaders, residents push back against proposed battery storage facility

By CNS staff | Published May 29, 2025 8:17pm PDT | Orange County | City News Service |

# **Approval Process: A Developer's Burden**

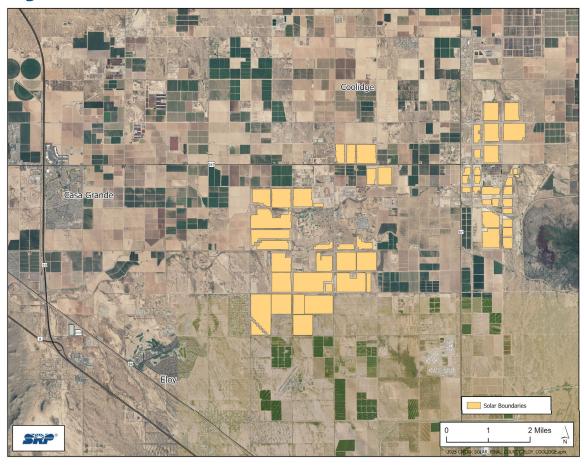
- When it comes to getting renewable energy projects off the ground, developers carry the bulk of the responsibility—especially when it comes to securing local approvals.
- Navigate a maze of local zoning laws and secure conditional use permits.
- Conduct thorough environmental and community impact assessments, which require time, expertise, and often, third-party consultants.
- Engage with the public through hearings and stakeholder outreach, which can be unpredictable and emotionally charged.
- Combat misinformation and ideological resistance, which can derail projects even when all technical and legal boxes are checked.

# **Emerging Challenges Across the State**

**Mohave County:** early signs of opposition emerged, with growing public scrutiny of large-scale projects. After lifting a temporary moratorium in 2024, new limitations were implemented, making it even more difficult for renewable energy development.

- •Chino Valley: in a unanimous vote, the Town Council banned all utility-scale, solar, wind and battery storage projects highlighting the power of organized opposition.
- •Yavapai County: Adopted a highly restrictive ordinance, limiting viable land for development to less than 1% of the county.
- •Coolidge/Eloy Area: This area is experiencing increasing opposition to new energy projects due to community fatigue and perceived oversaturation. This trend is impacting several developments, all of which are tied to SRP's procurement plans.

# Coolidge/Eloy



# Ideological Opposition to Renewable Energy

- •As renewable energy grows, pushback increases.
- Not just NIMBYism but often stems from deeply held beliefs and values.
- •Political and cultural divide, some see renewables as part of a political agenda with no societal benefit.
- •Arguments that fossil fuels are more reliable and better for the economy, and that opposing renewables is a way to protect traditional energy jobs and local values.
- •Other concerns include land use conflicts and perceived loss of local control over development decision.
- •Seeing formalized groups mobilize against renewables, primarily wind in Northern AZ and Solar in Pinal County.

# **SRP Collaborative Approach: Industry Partnerships**

- Despite some setbacks, SRP is more engaged than ever.
- SRP is coordinating with renewable developer partners earlier in the process.
- SRP is partnering with other utilities, both on message and projects themselves.
- SRP is working closely with developers, advocacy groups, and regional economic groups to shape balanced policies and dispel myths.
- SRP Local Affairs and Resource Planning have participated in panels discussions and other educational forums to educate the public and decision makers.

# SRP Collaborative Approach: Local Government Advocacy

### Yavapai County

- Successfully advocated to raise the acreage cap from 8,000 to 12,000; later adjusted to 10,000 acres due to public pushback
- Extended decommissioning timelines and protected utility infrastructure from unintended ordinance impacts

### Navajo County

- Engaged in 3 public listening sessions with strong SRP participation
- Met with each developer, who was not aware of the listening sessions, and encouraged them to participate
  as well.
- Ongoing outreach with County officials, has helped position 3 projects SRP is planned off-taker to receive approval once the ordinance is finalized.

### Pinal County

- Facilitated data-sharing agreements to support a potential solar overlay map.
- Consistent direct engagement with County Supervisors to align on future development
- Partnered with Pinal Partnership to educate the Public and decision makers on myth-busting campaigns.

### Apache County

Ongoing engagement to ensure ordinance reflects both local values and energy needs.

## What Works: Lessons from the Field

- Broad Coalition of Stakeholders
  - Aligning with groups and organizations that don't always share our perspective
  - Many business and other interests that haven't always engaged on this type of policy debate
- Finding Common Ground
  - Listening to local concerns and build trust with officials and community
- Correcting misinformation (e.g., "the power is going to California)
- Emphasizing community benefits beyond just tax revenue
- Highlighting the risk of underutilized transmission infrastructure
- Encouraging Developers to be more present in local communities and responsive to concerns.
- Reinforcing private property rights.
- Benefits of diversified resource portfolio
  - Grid stability
  - Enabling "new" technologies such as Pump Storage and Nuclear.

# **Looking Ahead: A Steeper Climb**

- Even with right approach, more projects are hitting roadblocks.
- Snowball effect, as one jurisdiction implements restrictions, others follow lead.
- Misinformation spreading rapidly.
- NIMBYism and ideological battles heating up.

# **Looking Ahead: Final Thoughts**

- Early and continual engagement is key. Seeking clarity from Counties about where they actually want to see or would potentially consider renewable energy development.
- Success doesn't come from pushing projects through it comes from listening, adjusting, and working with, and not around, the communities.
- Strengthening coalitions of stakeholders and working with local utilities.
- Pushing for smart policies that recognize real-world challenges of energy demand and infrastructure constraints.
- We're not here to add to the noise. We're here to make meaningful progress thoughtfully, respectfully, and collaboratively.

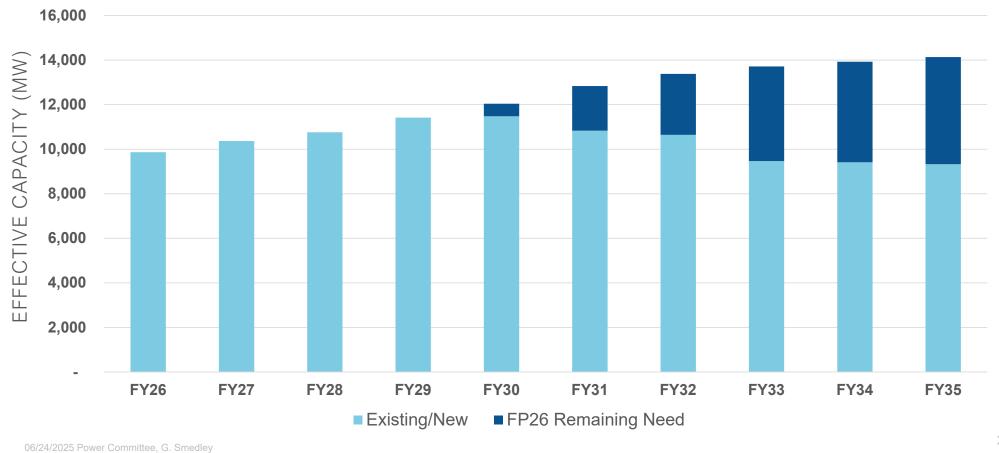
# thank you!

# Coronado Generating Station (CGS) Coal-to-Gas Conversion Request for Approval

**Power Committee** 

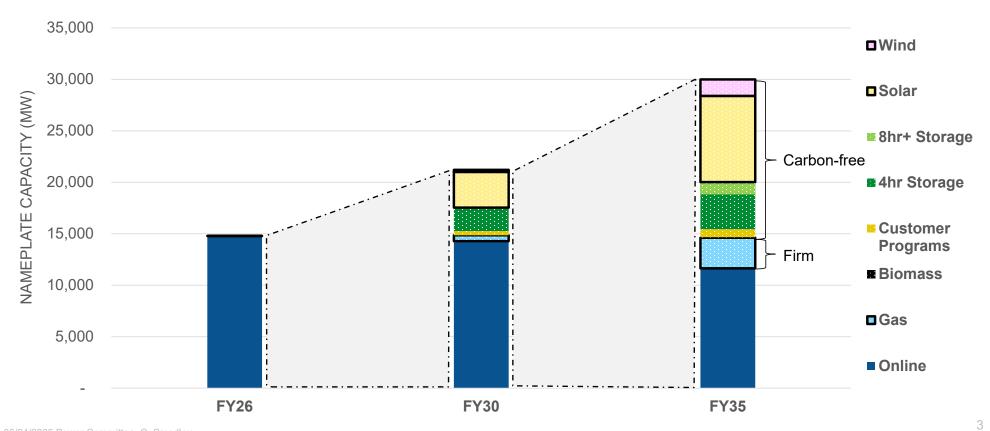
**Grant Smedley | June 24, 2025** 

# **Remaining Summer Capacity Needs**



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# **FP26 Resource Plan**



06/24/2025 Power Committee, G. Smedley

# **Benefits of Converting CGS to Gas**

- Preserves critical capacity and energy at a time of unprecedented need
- Provides firm capacity that supports reliability goals
- Lowest cost alternative, preserving capital and supporting affordability
- Provides a flexible bridge to mid 2040s while other technologies mature
- Supports achievement of SRP's sustainability goals

# **Strategies for Replacing CGS Capacity**

		Capital Cost (\$)	Operating Cost (\$)	Total Cost (\$)	Total CO2 (metric tons) <sup>3</sup>
CGS Capacity	Replacement Strategy		Annual	Net Present Value through 2045	2030-2045
Manage Capital	Convert CGS from coal to gas by end of 2029	\$100M	\$100M <sup>1</sup>	\$1.1B	4M
Increase Firm Flexible Capacity	Replace CGS with new gas generation by end of 2031	\$1.1B	\$45M	\$1.4B	10M
Accelerate Long Duration Batteries	Replace CGS with lithium- ion batteries by end of 2031	Not Applicable <sup>2</sup>	\$250M	\$2.3B	6.5M <sup>4</sup>

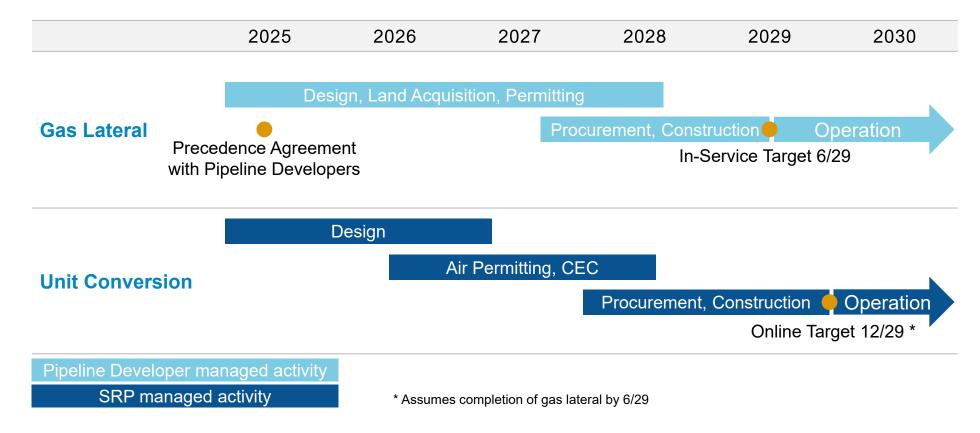
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Includes annual cost for natural gas pipeline lateral capacity

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Assumes batteries are procured through purchased power agreements

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Each alternative enables SRP to meet 2035 carbon intensity goal

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Assumes batteries are charged with zero-carbon resources

### **Coal-to-Gas Conversion Timeline**



# **Key Takeaways**

- Conversion of CGS to natural gas provides multiple benefits, including preserving firm capacity and supporting SRP's reliability, sustainability, and affordability goals
- Given significant capacity need, SRP management recommends proceeding with contracting and permitting as soon as possible
- CGS operation on gas would begin as soon as plant modifications and gas delivery infrastructure is complete

# **Request for Approval**

Management requests that the Committee recommend that the Board authorize the General Manager and Chief Executive Officer or the Associate General Manager and Chief Planning, Strategy and Sustainability Executive to execute the documents, instruments, and agreements, and take or authorize such other action, necessary to implement the conversion of the Coronado Generating Station (CGS) as contemplated herein, and enable the combustion of natural gas at CGS.