# 2016 Third Quarter Earnings Conference Call November 9, 2016













## Safe Harbor Statement

This presentation includes "forward-looking statements" as defined by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). We make these forward-looking statements in reliance on the safe harbor protections provided under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. All statements, other than statements of historical facts, included in this presentation that address activities, events or developments that we expect, believe or anticipate will or may occur in the future are forward-looking statements. These include, without limitation, our 2016 expectations for our construction services and natural gas operations segments.

Forward-looking statements are based on assumptions which we believe are reasonable, based on current expectations and projections about future events and industry conditions and trends affecting our business. However, whether actual results and developments will conform to our expectations and predictions is subject to a number of risks and uncertainties that, among other things, could cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in the forward-looking statements, including without limitation, the risk factors described in Part I, Item 1A "Risk Factors," and Part II, Item 7 and Item 7A "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," and "Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosure about Market Risk" of our 2015 Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC, and other reports that we file with the SEC from time to time, and the following:

- The timing and amount of rate relief;
- Changes in operating expenses;
- Changes in rate design;
- Customer growth rates;
- Conditions in housing markets;
- The effects of regulation/deregulation;
- The impacts of construction activity at our construction services segment;
- The impacts of stock market volatility; and
- Other factors discussed from time to time in our filings with the SEC.

New factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those described in forward-looking statements emerge from time to time, and it is not possible for us to predict all such factors, or the extent to which any such factor or combination of factors may cause actual results to differ from those contained in any forward-looking statement. The statements in this presentation are made as of the date hereof, even if subsequently made available on our Web site or otherwise. We do not assume any obligation to update the forward-looking statements provided to reflect events that occur or circumstances that exist after the date on which they were made.



## 2016 Recent Highlights

#### **Consolidated**

- Full year projections refined, but little changed with overall expectations
- ➤ Holding Company reorganization remains on schedule to become effective January 2017

#### **Natural Gas Operations**

- > Added 29,000 net new customers over the last twelve months
- ➤ The PUCN approved \$57.3 million of replacement work for projects to be completed in 2017 under the GIR mechanism
- ➤ Paiute Pipeline announced a \$17 million expansion project expected to be completed by the end of 2018

#### **Construction Services**

- Contributed record quarterly net income of \$14.9 million
- Projecting \$1.1 billion in revenue for 2016









## Call Outline

- I. Consolidated earnings September 30, 2016
- II. Natural gas segment
- III. Centuri Construction Group
- IV. Regulation
- V. Customer growth
- VI. Capital expenditures
- VII. 2016 outlook update









## **Summary Operating Results**

(In thousands, except per share amounts)

	THREE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,			TWELVE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,				
		2016		2015		2016		2015
Results of Consolidated Operations								
Gas operations income (loss)	\$	(12,405)	\$	(18,939)	\$	119,836	\$	113,252
Construction services income		14,877		14,205		33,144		17,692
Net income (loss)	\$	2,472	\$	(4,734)	\$	152,980	\$	130,944
Basic earnings (loss) per share	\$	0.05	\$	(0.10)	\$	3.22	\$	2.80
Diluted earnings (loss) per share	\$	0.05	\$	(0.10)	\$	3.20	\$	2.77
Average shares outstanding		47,481		47,102		47,442		46,777
Average shares outstanding (assuming dilution)		47,830		-		47,787		47,194







## **Summary Operating Results**

(In thousands)

	THREE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,				
	2016			2015	
Results of Natural Gas Operations					
Gas operating revenues	\$	200,179	\$	219,420	
Net cost of gas sold		39,056		64,268	
Operating margin		161,123		155,152	
Operations and maintenance expense		102,438		100,102	
Depreciation and amortization		56,436		52,672	
Taxes other than income taxes		12,480		11,652	
Operating income (loss)		(10,231)		(9,274)	
Other income (deductions)		2,521		(3,525)	
Net interest deductions		16,364		16,259	
Income (loss) before income taxes		(24,074)		(29,058)	
Income tax expense (benefit)		(11,669)		(10,119)	
Contribution to net income (loss)	\$	(12,405)	\$	(18,939)	









## Three Months Ended September 30, 2016

Increase in Operating Margin Natural Gas Operations (In millions)

Rate relief (CA, Paiute)	\$ 2
Conservation and energy efficiency (NV)	2
Customer growth	1
Other	1
Increase	\$ 6







## Three Months Ended September 30, 2016

#### **Operating Expenses**

#### **Natural Gas Operations**

#### Operating expenses increased \$6.9 million

- O&M expense increased 2%
  - General cost increases
  - Higher expenses for pipeline integrity management and damage prevention programs
  - Increases were partially offset by lower pension costs
- Depreciation, amortization, and general taxes increased \$4.6 million, or 7%
  - Average gas plant in service increased \$366 million or 6%









### Other Income and Deductions

Natural Gas Operations (In thousands)

Change in COLI policies
Miscellaneous income and (expense)
Total other income (deductions)

THREE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,					
	2016		2015		
\$	2,300 221	\$	(3,900) 375		
\$	2,521	\$	(3,525)		









## **Summary Operating Results**

#### **Natural Gas Operations**

(In thousands)

	TWELVE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,			EPTEMBER 30,
		2016		2015
Results of Natural Gas Operations				
Gas operating revenues	\$	1,376,388	\$	1,457,266
Net cost of gas sold		460,836		570,052
Operating margin		915,552		887,214
Operations and maintenance expense		400,222		385,271
Depreciation and amortization		228,609		210,863
Taxes other than income taxes		51,810		50,059
Operating income		234,911		241,021
Other income (deductions)		9,615		1,652
Net interest deductions		65,146		64,958
Income before income taxes		179,380		177,715
Income tax expense		59,544		64,463
Contribution to net income	\$	119,836	\$	113,252







## Twelve Months Ended September 30, 2016

Increase in Operating Margin Natural Gas Operations

(In millions)

Customer growth	\$ 8
Rate relief (CA, Paiute)	8
Conservation and energy efficiency (NV)	8
Other	4
Increase	\$ 28



## Twelve Months Ended September 30, 2016

#### Natural Gas Operations

- Operations and maintenance expense increased \$15 million between periods
  - General cost increases
  - Pipeline integrity management and damage prevention programs increased
     \$4 million
- ➤ Depreciation, amortization, and general taxes increased \$19.5 million, or 7%, between periods
  - Average gas plant in service increased \$320 million
  - Amortization related to the recovery of regulatory assets increased \$6.3 million







TWELVE MONTHS ENDED SEDTEMBED 30



### Other Income and Deductions

Natural Gas Operations (In thousands)

	INVELVE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBE				
	2016		2015		
	_		_		
Change in COLI policies	\$	7,500	\$	(200)	
Miscellaneous income and (expense)		2,115		1,852	
Total other income (deductions)	\$	9,615	\$	1,652	









## **Summary Operating Results**

#### **Construction Services**

(In thousands)

	THREE MONTHS ENDED SEP 30,			TWE	TWELVE MONTHS ENDED SEP 30,			
	2016		2015		2016		2015	
Results of Construction Services  Construction revenues	\$	339,790	\$	285,976	\$	1,127,982	\$	948,637
Operating expenses:  Construction expenses  Depreciation and amortization		300,611 13,409		246,755 13,804		1,009,188 58,368		850,591 55,948
Operating income		25,770		25,417		60,426		42,098
Other income (deductions)  Net interest deductions  Income tax expense		44 1,794 8,708		(135) 2,142 8,411		1,246 6,738 20,711		(686) 8,961 14,074
Noncontrolling interests		435		524		1,079		685
Contribution to net income	\$	14,877	\$	14,205	\$	33,144	\$	17,692



## Three Months Ended September 30, 2016

#### **Construction Services**

- > Revenues increased \$54 million
  - Additional pipe replacement work
  - Newly acquired ETTI provided \$4.8 million in revenue
- Construction expenses increased \$54 million
  - Additional pipe replacement work, as noted above
  - Includes incremental \$1 million related to management realignment activities
  - Profit margins, while still strong, declined modestly due mainly to mix of work with existing customers
- > Depreciation & amortization decreased \$395,000
  - Includes \$2 million reduction due to change in estimated lives of certain depreciable equipment
  - Substantially offset by depreciation on new equipment purchased to support the growing volume of work



## Twelve Months Ended September 30, 2016

#### **Construction Services**

- > Revenues increased \$179 million
  - Additional pipe replacement work
  - Favorable weather conditions provided extended construction season for certain parts of U.S. and Canada
- Construction expenses increased \$159 million
  - Additional pipe replacement work
- ➤ Depreciation expense increased \$2.4 million
  - Additional equipment purchased to support growth and volume of work being performed
  - Partially offset by \$2 million decline resulting from change in estimated useful lives of certain equipment
- Operating income between periods benefitted from activity related to a previously completed Canadian project
  - Current period reflects \$4 million change order revenue
  - Prior period included \$7.7 million pretax loss reserve







## Regulation Key Highlights

#### **Natural Gas Operations**

- > Rate Relief
  - Arizona general rate case
- Infrastructure Replacement Programs
  - Arizona COYL program
  - Nevada GIR program
- Expansion Projects
  - LNG facility in Arizona
  - 2018 expansion project Paiute Pipeline Company (FERC)
- Holding Company Reorganization





## Regulation – General Rate Cases

Arizona General Rate Case Natural Gas Operations

End of rate case moratorium: Filed May 2016

	Southwest Gas Requested
Rate Relief	\$32 Million
Depreciation study	(\$42 Million)
Rate Base	\$1.3 Billion
ROE	10.25%
Capital Structure - Equity	52%
Rate Design	Continuation of Decoupling Mechanism Gas Infrastructure Modernization Mechanism Property Tax Tracker
<b>Estimated Effective Date</b>	May 2017







## Regulation – General Rate Cases

#### Arizona General Rate Case Natural Gas Operations

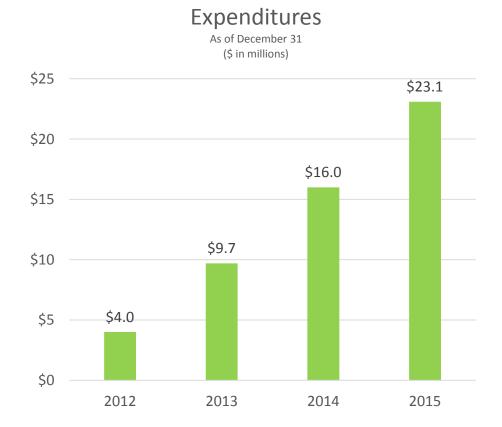
Date	Procedural Schedule - Docket No. G-01551A-16-0107
May 2	Application Filed
Nov 30	Direct Testimony (Staff & Intervenors non rate design)
Dec 14	Direct Testimony (Staff & Intervenors rate design)
Dec 15	Settlement Discussions Scheduled
Dec 30	Rebuttal Testimony (Southwest Gas)
Jan 20	Surrebuttal Testimony (Staff & Intervenors)
Jan 30	Rejoinder Testimony (Southwest Gas)
Feb 6	Hearings
May 2017	New Rates (date pending)
	May 2 Nov 30 Dec 14 Dec 15 Dec 30  Jan 20 Jan 30 Feb 6



## Regulation-Infrastructure Recovery Mechanisms

Arizona Customer Owned Yard Line (COYL) program approved as part of last rate case decision

**Cumulative COYL Capital** 



#### Annual COYL Surcharge As of June 1 (\$ in millions) \$4 \$3.7 \$3 \$2.5 \$2 \$1.5 \$1 \$0.6 \$0

2014

2015

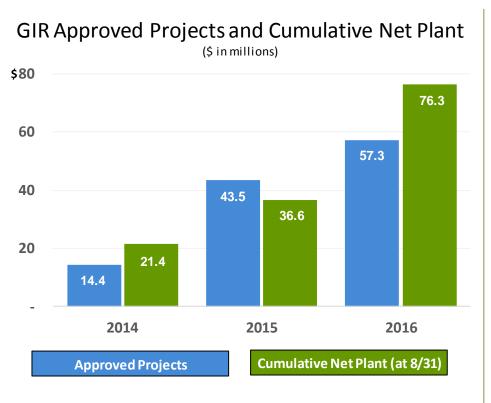
2013

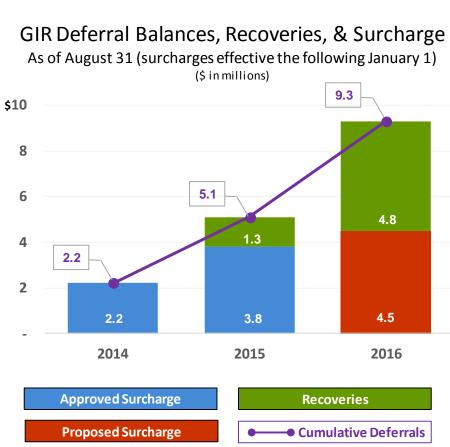
2016



## Regulation-Infrastructure Recovery Mechanisms

Nevada Gas Infrastructure Replacement (GIR) Mechanism regulations approved in January 2014







## Regulation – Other Regulatory Proceedings

#### **Natural Gas Operations**

#### **Expansion Projects**

#### > Arizona LNG Facility

- In December 2014 ACC authorized preapproval to construct and operate an LNG facility and to defer costs up to \$50 million
- Southwest Gas made a filing in October 2016 to modify the previous decision granting preapproval to reflect a new not to exceed amount of \$80 million, reflective of current market pricing to construct the proposed 233,000 dekatherm LNG facility
  - □ A decision on the modification request is anticipated prior to year end

#### 2018 Paiute Expansion Project

- Proposed project consists of approximately 8.4 miles of additional pipeline infrastructure and the estimated project cost is \$17 million
- In October 2016 Paiute initiated a pre-filing review process with the FERC for the expansion project and expects to file a formal certificate application by mid-2017
- If all proceeds as planned, the new facilities could be in place by the end of 2018



## Regulation – Other Regulatory Proceedings

#### **Natural Gas Operations**

#### **Holding Company Reorganization**

- ➤ In October 2015, filed regulatory applications with the three state commissions (ACC, CPUC, and PUCN) for approval to reorganize as a holding company
  - Received approval from the CPUC in January 2016, PUCN in March 2016, and the ACC in May 2016
- ➤ A number of due diligence items, including various third party consents, have been furthered over the past several months and are anticipated to be completed prior to year end
- Expected to become effective in January 2017

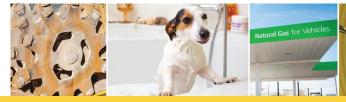


## **Customer Growth Breakdown**

Natural Gas Operations (In thousands)

TMTD	Septem	nber 30,
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	2014	2015	2016
Beginning period	1,883	1,912	1,938
New meter sets	20	22	26
Meter turn-on/turn-offs	9	4	3
Ending period	1,912	1,938	1,967







#### **Economic Overview**

#### Service Area

#### **Natural Gas Operations**

	<u>Unemploy</u>	ment Rate	<u>Employme</u>	ent Growth
	September 2015	September 2016	September 2015	September 2016
Southern California <sup>1</sup>	6.1%	6.2%	2.8%	2.3%
Southern Nevada <sup>2</sup>	6.8%	5.6%	2.3%	0.9%
Northern Nevada <sup>3</sup>	6.4%	5.2%	-1.1%	-0.1%
Southern Arizona <sup>4</sup>	5.7%	5.2%	1.4%	2.1%
Central Arizona <sup>4</sup>	5.5%	4.8%	2.5%	2.5%

<sup>1 [</sup>Source: State of California Employment Development Department, California Labor Market Review, <a href="http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov">http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> [Source: Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR), Economy In Brief, <a href="http://nevadaworkforce.com">http://nevadaworkforce.com</a>

<sup>3 [</sup>Source: Nevada DETR, Data Search: Total Employment (Carson City, Churchill, Douglas, Elko, Humbolt, Lyon, and Pershing Counties, <a href="http://nevadaworkforce.com">http://nevadaworkforce.com</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> [Source: Arizona Office of Employment & Population Statistics, Employment Report, <a href="https://laborstats.az.gov/">https://laborstats.az.gov/</a>







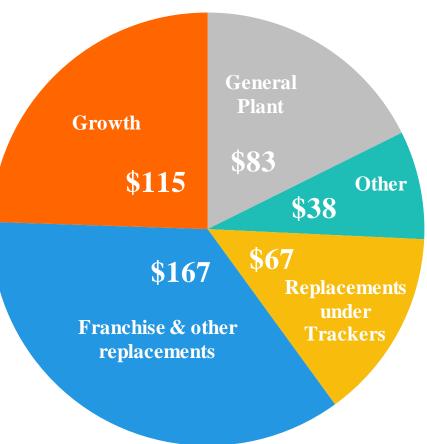


## 2016 Capital Expenditures

Natural Gas Operations (In millions)

> 2016 total estimate

\$470 million



2016-2018 estimate: \$1.4 billion to \$1.6 billion



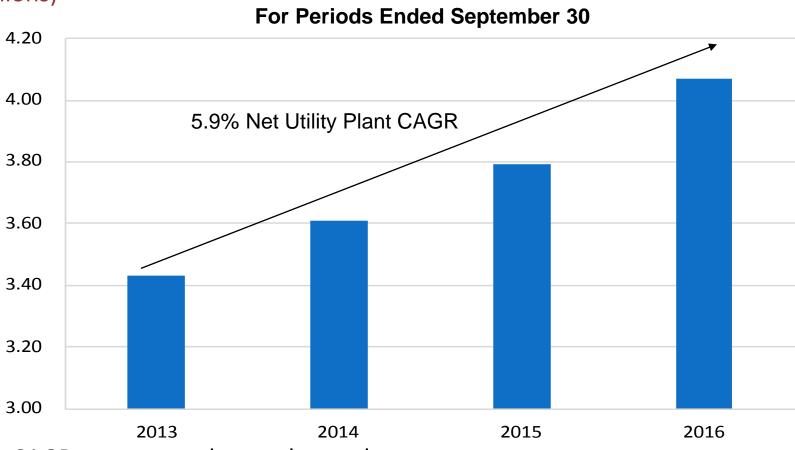




## Net Utility Plant – Growth

#### **Natural Gas Operations**

(In billions)



CAGR = compound annual growth rate











## 2016 Outlook Update

#### **Natural Gas Operations**

- Operating margin increase of approximately 3%
  - Additionally, new rates related to recovery of NV conservation programs to increase margin by nearly \$11 million, offset by similar amortization expense increase
- O&M expense expected to increase modestly
  - Higher general & incremental costs partially offset by pension cost decrease
- ➤ Depreciation & general taxes increase consistent with gas plant growth of 5% 6%, plus impact of NV conservation programs noted above
- $\triangleright$  Operating income to increase by 2% 3% (previously 3% 4%)
- ➤ Average normal annual COLI returns of \$3 \$5 million
  - Continue to be subject to volatility, evidenced by swing over last two years
- ➤ Net interest deductions increase for 2016 expected to be \$2 \$3 million (previously \$2 \$4 million) due to capital expenditure financing needs
  - Includes the impact of \$300 million senior notes issued late September 2016









## 2016 Outlook Update

#### **Construction Services**

- > Revenues are anticipated to approximate \$1.1 billion
  - Primarily driven by strong base of large utility clients, many with multi-year pipe replacement programs, positioned to sustain and grow business
- ➤ Operating income approximating 5% (previously 5% 5.5%) of revenues
- ➤ Net interest deductions between \$6.5 \$7.5 million
  - Based on current interest rate environment
- Collective expectations exclude consideration of earnings attributable to noncontrolling interests
- Changes in foreign exchange rates could influence outcomes



## **APPENDIX**









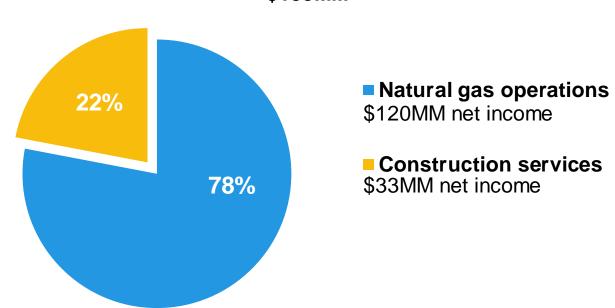


## Two Business Segments

#### Southwest Gas consists of two business segments

- ➤ Natural gas operations
- ➤ Construction services (Centuri)







## Southwest Gas is a Regional Leader in Natural Gas Distribution

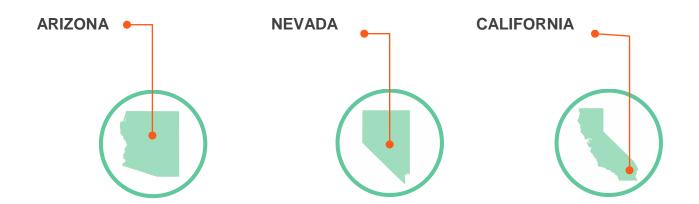
Headquartered in Las Vegas

Largest distributor of natural gas in Arizona and Nevada

Distributes and transports natural gas in parts of California

**1,967,000** customers in service territory at 9/30/2016

Over 99% of customers are residential and small commercial





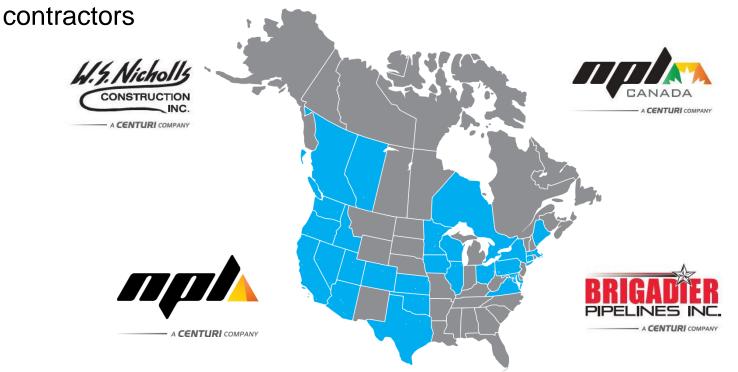


### Centuri Construction Group

#### **Construction Services - Markets**

- Headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona
- Operates in 22 markets across U.S. and Canada

One of North America's largest full-service underground pipeline











## Centuri Construction Group

#### **Construction Services - Customers**











































































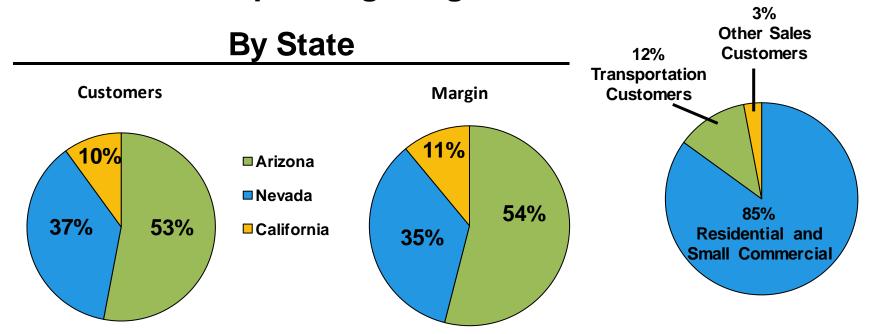




#### Stable Customer Base

**Natural Gas Operations** 

## TMTD September 30, 2016 Customer & Operating Margin Distribution



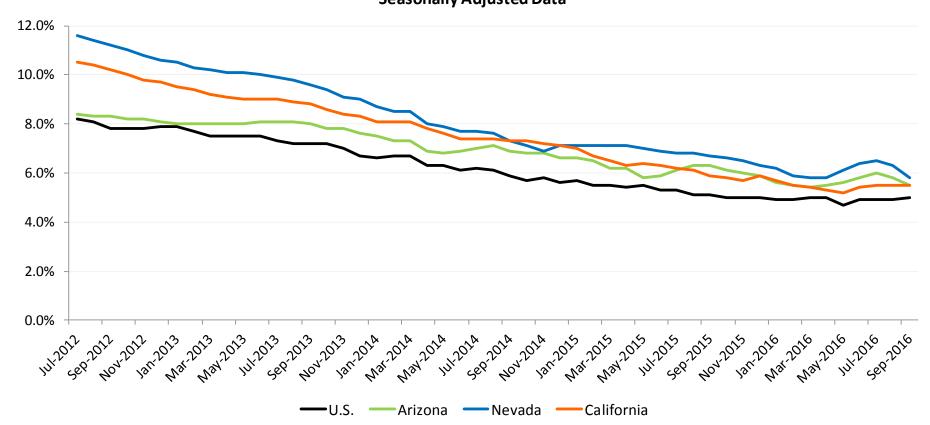
Consistent trends year over year



## Economic Overview – Service Area Natural Gas Operations

#### **Unemployment Rate**

Seasonally Adjusted Data





## Regulation

#### California Annual Attrition and Implementation Plan Natural Gas Operations

- > 2016 attrition increase of \$2.5 million
- Natural Gas Transmission Pipeline Comprehensive Pressure Testing Implementation Plan (Implementation Plan)
  - Involved replacement of 7.1 miles of transmission pipeline and installation of remote control shut-off valve
  - CPUC approved adjustment to recover costs which is expected to result in a \$1.7 million margin increase for 2016











## **Customers by State**

#### **Natural Gas Operations**

(In thousands)

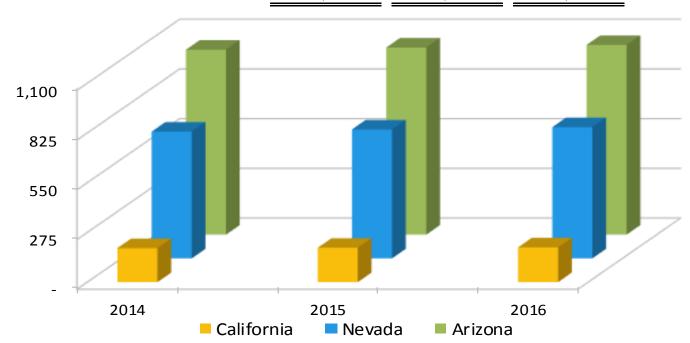
Arizona Nevada

California

Total

As of September 30,

2014	2015	2016
1,023	1,035	1,049
701	713	726
188	190	192
1,912	1,938	1,967











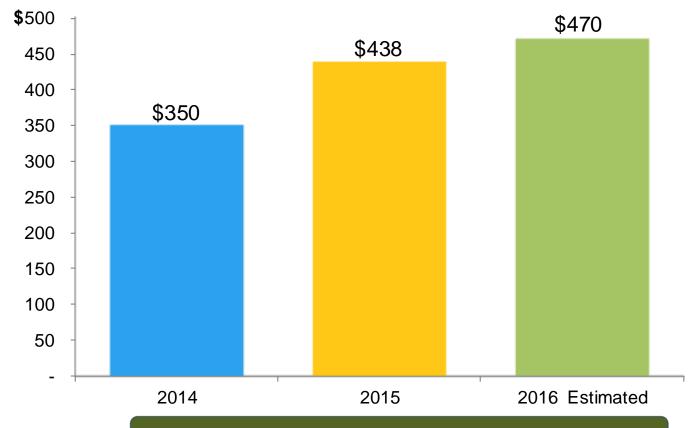




## **Capital Expenditures**

#### **Natural Gas Operations**

(In millions)



2016 - 2018 Estimate: **\$1.4 billion - \$1.6 billion** 







## Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA) Balances

Natural Gas Operations (In millions)

	September 30, 2015		ember 31, 2015	September 30, 2016		
Arizona	\$	(6.0)	\$ (3.5)	\$	(34.4)	
Northern Nevada		(4.3)	(2.3)		(10.3)	
Southern Nevada		(34.4)	(39.8)		(77.4)	
California		0.8	 3.6		(1.3)	
Total Receivable/(Payable)		(43.9)	 (42.0)		(123.4)	









#### Authorized Rate Base and Rates of Return

#### **Natural Gas Operations**

Rate Jurisdiction	Commission	Authorized Rate Base (In thousands)	Authorized Rate of Return	Authorized Return on Common Equity	Decoupled	Authorized Common Equity Ratio
Arizona	ACC	\$ 1,070,117	8.95 %	9.50 %	$\checkmark$	52.30 %
Southern Nevada	PUCN	825,190	6.46	10.00	$\checkmark$	42.74
Northern Nevada	PUCN	115,933	7.88	9.30	$\checkmark$	59.06
Southern California	CPUC	159,277	6.83	10.10	$\checkmark$	55.00
Northern California	CPUC	67,620	8.18	10.10	$\checkmark$	55.00
South Lake Tahoe	CPUC	25,389	8.18	10.10	$\checkmark$	55.00
Paiute Pipeline Company (1)	FERC	87,158	8.46	11.00	$\checkmark$	51.75

(1) Estimated amounts based on rate case settlement.

ACC – Arizona Corporation Commission

PUCN - Public Utilities Commission of Nevada

**CPUC - California Public Utilities Commission** 

FERC - Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

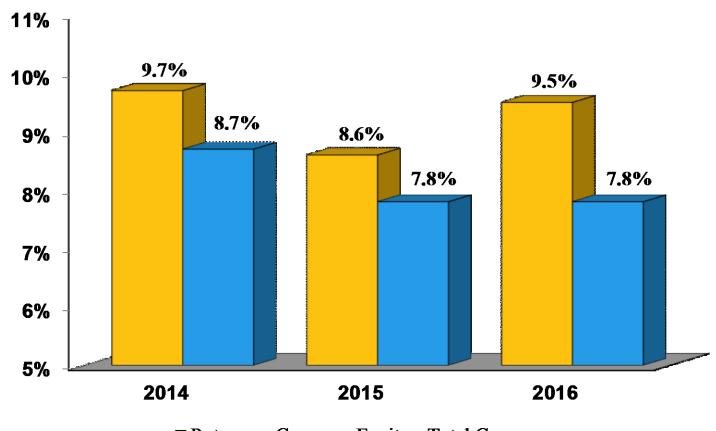






## Return on Common Equity

Twelve months ended September 30,



- Return on Common Equity Total Company
- Return on Common Equity Gas Operations













## **Consolidated Capital Structure**

(\$ in millions)

Capitalization at September 30,		2012	 2013	 2014	 2015	 2016
Equity <sup>1</sup>	\$	1,265	\$ 1,361	\$ 1,452	\$ 1,562	\$ 1,640
Long-Term Debt <sup>2</sup>		1,261	1,291	1,449	1,560	1,643
Total Permanent Capital	\$	2,526	\$ 2,652	\$ 2,901	\$ 3,122	\$ 3,283
Capitalization ratios						
Equity <sup>1</sup>	<del>_</del>	<b>50.1%</b>	51.3%	50.1%	50.0%	50.0%
Long-Term Debt <sup>2</sup>		49.9%	48.7%	 49.9%	 50.0%	50.0%
Total Permanent Capital		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Includes redeemable noncontrolling interest

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Includes current maturities of long-term debt









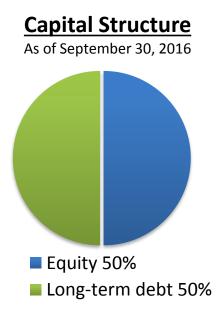
## **Investment Grade Credit Ratings**

## Strong liquidity will support capital expenditure and working capital needs

- Stable operating cash flows
- \$300 million revolving credit facility
- Uncommitted commercial paper program

#### **Strong investment-grade credit ratings**

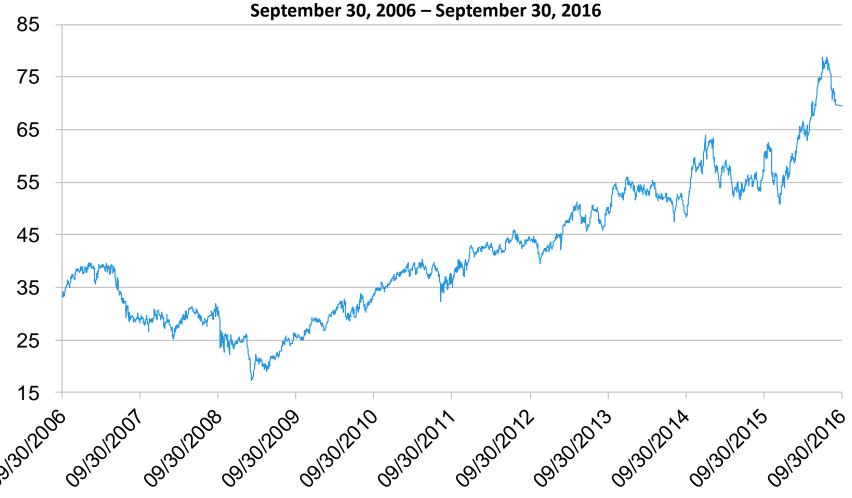
Rating Agency	Rating	Outlook	Reaffirmed
Moody's	А3	Stable	January 2016
S&P	BBB+	Stable	January 2016
Fitch	А	Stable	April 2016





#### Stock Performance











#### **Annualized Dividend Growth**



**CAGR** = compound annual growth rate

February 2016, Board increased annual dividend \$0.18



## **Comparative Total Returns**

#### **Total Returns for Periods Ended September 30, 2016**

	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	10-Year
Southwest Gas	22.96%	14.81%	17.16%	10.85%
S&P 400 MidCap Gas Index	25.46%	13.72%	15.59%	11.09%
Dow Jones Utilities	19.91%	15.54%	13.25%	8.67%
S&P 500 Index	15.35%	11.13%	16.33%	7.22%

Total Return = Price appreciation plus gross dividends reinvested