

3.6 NATURAL GAS

This section defines the existing natural gas service provider for the City of Beverly Hills. Information was obtained from communication with service providers and online resources.

■ Existing Conditions

Southern California Gas Company (SCG) provides Natural Gas service for the City of Beverly Hills.⁶⁰ Natural gas is a “fossil fuel,” indicating that it comes from the ground, similar to other hydrocarbons such as coal or oil. SGC purchases natural gas from several bordering states.

Currently, SCG maintains transmission and distribution lines throughout the City. Most lines operate at a medium pressure of approximately 30 to 60 pounds per square inch (psi). Virtually all streets within the City have a buried pipe that is tied to the SCG network. Distribution lines located in industrial areas generally require higher pressures. Major high-pressure natural gas lines within the City include the following:⁶¹

- 8-inch line in Beverly Drive between Olympic and Pico Boulevards;
- 16-inch line in Robertson Boulevard between Whitworth Drive and Olympic Boulevard;
- 6-inch line in Arnaz Drive between Gregory Way and Wilshire Boulevard;
- 8-inch line in Reeves Drive between Olympic and Wilshire Boulevards; and
- 8-inch line in Canon Drive between Wilshire Boulevard and Carmelita Avenue.

The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) regulates SCG and is the default provider, required by state law, for natural gas delivery to the City. SCG has the capacity and resources to deliver gas except in certain situations that are noted in state law. As development occurs, SCG will continue to extend its service to accommodate development and supply the necessary gas lines.

SGC does not base its service levels on the demands of the Planning Area; rather it makes periodic upgrades to provide service for particular projects and new development. Approximately two months before construction commences on a project, SGC requests that the developer contact them with detailed information about the project’s natural gas requirements. If necessary, SGC customizes pipelines and mains to better serve newly constructed facilities. The cost for such service differs from project to project.⁶² SGC is continuously expanding its network of gas pipelines to meet the needs of new commercial and residential developments in Southern California.

⁶⁰ Southern California Gas Company webpage, <http://www.socalgas.com/>, Accessed May 11, 2005.

⁶¹ Plummer, Earl, Senior Account Executive, Southern California Gas Company. Written Communication, April 26, 2005.

⁶² Plummer, Earl, Senior Account Executive, Southern California Gas Company. Written Communication, April 26, 2005.

■ **Issues**

- Existing natural gas service, which includes transmission and distribution lines, may need to be expanded to accommodate additional growth associated with new or expanded development.

■ **References**

Plummer, Earl, Senior Account Executive, Southern California Gas Company. Written Communication, April 26, 2005.

Southern California Gas Company webpage, <http://www.socalgas.com/>, Accessed May 11, 2005.

3.7 TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

■ Existing Conditions

Current telecommunication services in the City of Beverly Hills include the following:

- Telephone service provided by PacBell
- Digital cable television service provided by Adelphia Communications
- Internet service provided by various providers
- Cellular phone service available through various providers
- Municipal Area Network

Current technology allows residents and businesses to utilize a variety of options for their telecommunication needs. Each service provider offers a selection of services and consumers can choose services to fit individual needs.

Telephone Service

Local telephone service is provided by SBC. Several providers, including SBC, provide long distance phone service to Beverly Hills and also provide internet access via DSL, cable modem, and dial-up features.

Cable Television Service

The Director of Information Technology, with staff and legal counsel is responsible for administering general franchise requirements for Beverly Hills's cable television service, currently provided by Adelphia. The City does not have the legal authority to regulate cable television rates. Adelphia can charge rates based upon their cost of providing service. The company may increase their rates upon providing a 30-day notice.

Internet Service

Like cellular phone service, the popularity of internet service has resulted in diversification of internet service providers. Depending on the speed of connection desired, City residents have a number of options for internet service, including service by Comcast and SBC.

Cellular Phone Service

The popularity of cellular phones has resulted in a number of companies providing service to the community. Cellular phone service companies are licensed and monitored by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). The City exercises its authority under the *Telecommunications Act of 1996* to provide oversight and approval authority for the siting of cellular transmission antennas and equipment located within the City on both private property and in public rights-of-way, but does not exercise control over the provision of cellular service.

The main cellular phone service providers in the Planning Area are as follows:

- Cingular Wireless
- Sprint
- Nextel
- T Mobile
- Verizon Wireless

Municipal Area Network

The Municipal Area Network (MAN) is a system of fiber-optic cables and electronic devices in host buildings that provide a gigabit high-speed protocol network serving the Civic Center complex, Greystone Mansion Gatehouse, Fire Station No. 2 and the water facilities. An expansion of the network to serve City facilities in the southern part of the City is identified in the Capital Improvement Program and is intended to be incorporated into other infrastructure construction projects to minimize disruption and be cost effective.

■ Regulatory Context

Federal Regulations

Telecommunications Act of 1996

This law was enacted to promote competition and reduce regulation in order to secure lower prices and higher quality services for telecommunication consumers and encourage the rapid deployment of new telecommunication technologies.

Local Regulations

Beverly Hills Municipal Code

Title 6, Chapter 3, Antennas for Telecommunications Services, adopts rules and regulations to govern the operations of community antenna television systems in the City.

Title 6, Chapter 2, Radio and Television Antennas and Wireless Telecommunications Antenna Facilities, ensures consistency with Federal law while promoting public health, safety, comfort, convenience, and general welfare of the City's residents; to enhance the aesthetic quality and appearance of the City by maintaining architectural and structural integrity; and by protecting views and vistas from obtrusive and unsightly accessory uses and facilities.

■ Issues

- A new franchise will need to be negotiated with any successor to Adelphia Communications.

- Internet services provided through wireless connections are expected to increase in number. The availability of satellite television as an alternative may also have a slight impact on the number of cable television subscribers.

