# 2017 Year End Earnings Conference Call

March 1, 2018



### **Participants**



John Hester President and CEO Southwest Gas Holdings



Roy Centrella SVP/CFO Southwest Gas Holdings





**Ken Kenny**VP/Finance/Treasurer
Southwest Gas Holdings

### **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 2018 expectations for our construction services and natural gas operations segments, as well as statements regarding our expansion projects and other investment opportunities.

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 2017 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, infrastructure tracking mechanisms;
- Customer growth rates;
- Conditions in housing markets;
- The effects of regulation/deregulation;
- The impacts of construction activity at our construction services segment;
- The impacts from acquisitions;
- 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.

### 2017 Highlights



### Consolidated Results

### Natural Gas Segment

Construction
Services
Segment

- Achieved record EPS of \$4.04
- Dividend increased for the 12th straight year
- Shareholders approved elimination of cumulative voting
- Acquired the residual 3.4% equity interest in Centuri in August 2017
- Operating margin increased \$23 million over 2016
- Added 31,000 customers
- Achieved milestone of 2 million customers in November 2017
- Invested \$560 million in our gas distribution system
- Achieved record revenues of over \$1.2 billion
- Amended its credit and term loan facility, increasing borrowing capacity to \$450 million
- Completed acquisition of Neuco in November 2017
- NPL Celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### **CFO Succession**





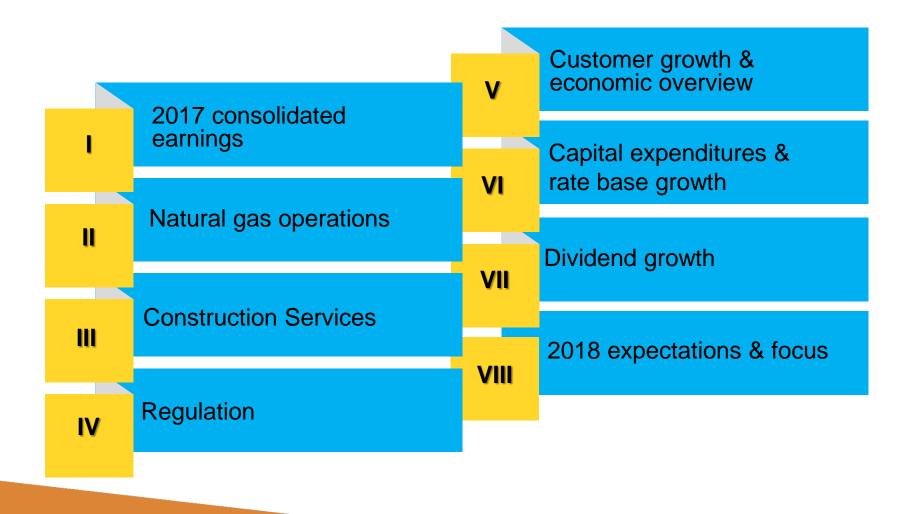
Roy Centrella retirement effective April 1, 2018



Greg Peterson, new Senior Vice President and CFO

### Call Outline





### **Summary Operating Results**

(In thousands, except per share amounts)



	TWELVE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31,					
	2015 2016		2017			
Results of Consolidated Operations						
Contribution to net income - natural gas operations	\$	111,625	\$	119,423	\$	156,818
Contribution to net income - construction services		26,692		32,618		38,360
Corporate and administrative		-		-		(1,337)
Net income	\$	138,317	\$	152,041	\$	193,841
Basic earnings per share	\$	2.94	\$	3.20	\$	4.04
Diluted earnings per share	\$	2.92	\$	3.18	\$	4.04

### **Consolidated Net Income**



#### **Total Increase - \$41.8 million**



### **Tax Reform**



- Tax Cuts and Job Acts (TCJA) signed into law on December 22, 2017
- Corporate federal tax rate reduced from 35% to 21%
- Direct benefit to construction services segment
- Eliminates bonus depreciation for utility plant
- Utilities exempt from limits on interest deductions
- Going forward:
  - Customers will benefit through reductions in future rates
  - The elimination of bonus depreciation and lower tax rate reduces utility cash flows, once reflected in future rate changes
  - Higher rate base growth as a result of lower deferred taxes in the future

### **2017 Tax Reform Impacts**



#### 2017 impact due to the revaluation of net deferred tax liabilities

#### Natural Gas Operations:

- Non-recurring tax benefit of \$8 million (deferred tax balances not associated with utility plant)
- Increase in regulatory liabilities of \$430 million (deferred tax balances associated with utility plant)
- The excess deferred taxes recorded as a regulatory liability will be passed back to customers, generally through reductions in future rates

#### **Construction Services:**

- Non-recurring tax benefit of \$12 million
- While deferred tax liabilities were substantially reduced due to tax reform, they were not impactful to operating cash flows in 2017
- Moody's (Jan-2018) and S&P (Feb-2018) reaffirmed current credit ratings

## 2018 Estimated Tax Reform Impacts

#### **Natural Gas Operations:**

- State regulatory actions initiated, but differ by state
- 2018 cash flows are not expected to be materially impacted
- Effective tax rate difficult to predict pending regulatory actions
- Income statement line item variances may be created without bottom line impact as regulatory changes are reflected

#### **Construction Services:**

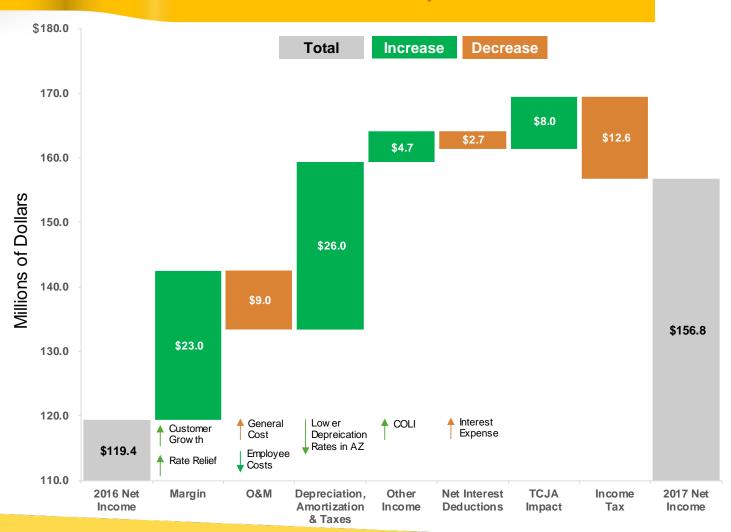
- Effective income tax rate reduced to 27% 28%
- No anticipated impact to interest deductibility
- Retention of benefits difficult to predict over time due to competitive nature of bidding process

### **Net Income**

#### **Natural Gas Operations**



#### **Total Increase - \$37.4 million**

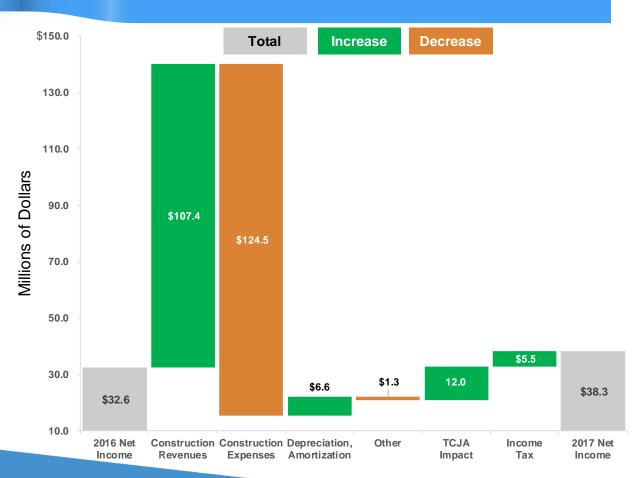


### **Net Income**

#### **Construction Services**



#### **Total Increase - \$5.7 million**



### **Regulation Key Highlights**

#### Natural Gas Operations



### Regulatory Proceedings

Infrastructure Replacement Programs

**Expansion Projects** 

- Arizona Rate Case Settlement
- Next Nevada Rate Case
- Next California Rate Case
- Tax Reform Proceedings
- Arizona Customer-Owned Yard Line (COYL) program
- Arizona Vintage Steel Pipe Replacement (VSP) program
- Nevada Gas Infrastructure Replacement (GIR) program
- Filed for pre-approval to extend natural gas services to Mesquite, Nevada (SB 151)
- Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facility in Arizona construction proceeding
- 2018 expansion project Paiute Pipeline Company (FERC regulated)

### Regulation – Rate Relief





### Arizona Rate Case Settlement

- New rates effective April 1, 2017
- Impact to operating income:
  - 2017 \$45 million
  - 2018 \$16 million
- Rate case moratorium until May 2019

#### Next Nevada Rate Case

- Commitment to file before June 2018
- New rates expected to be effective January 2019

### Next California Rate Case

- CPUC approved Southwest's request to extend rate case cycle
- Expected to file next rate case by September 2019
- Continuation of post test year annual attrition increases of 2.75% through 2020
  - Incremental revenue of \$2.7 million effective January 2018

### **Tax Reform Proceedings**



#### Arizona

The Commission issued an order February 6 directing all utilities to apply regulatory accounting treatment, including regulatory assets and liabilities, to track all impacts resulting from tax reform and to file plans within 60 days for how to address ratemaking impacts

#### Nevada

The Commission opened a docket and directed utilities to file written comments by April 4 on how the utility plans to adjust rates or otherwise pass on savings to customers associated with tax reform changes

#### California

As part of Commission approved agreement to extend rate case cycle, Southwest was directed to establish a memorandum account to track changes resulting from changes in tax law, procedure or policy

#### **Paiute**

No Federal Energy Regulatory Commission directives to Paiute regarding tax reform

### Regulation - Infrastructure Replacement Programs



Natural Gas Operations

#### Arizona COYL

- \$54 million of cumulative expenditures as of December 31, 2017
  - \$23.1 million included in authorized rate base with recovery embedded in new rates
  - \$30.9 million included as part of current mechanism (2016 expenditures of \$12.1 million)
- ACC approved surcharge revenue of \$1.8 million effective June 2017
- Pending ACC filing requests surcharge revenue of \$4.2 million effective June 2018
  - Incremental revenue of \$2.4 million associated with the 2017 expenditures of \$18.8 million

### Regulation - Infrastructure Replacement Programs



Natural Gas Operations

#### Arizona VSP

- Approved as part of last general rate case
- 2017 Partial Year of Activity
  - Installed 40 miles of VSP at a cost of \$27 million
- Pending ACC filing requests surcharge revenue of \$3.1 million effective June 2018
- Targeting VSP replacement projects of \$100 million in 2018

### Regulation - Infrastructure Replacement Programs



**Natural Gas Operations** 

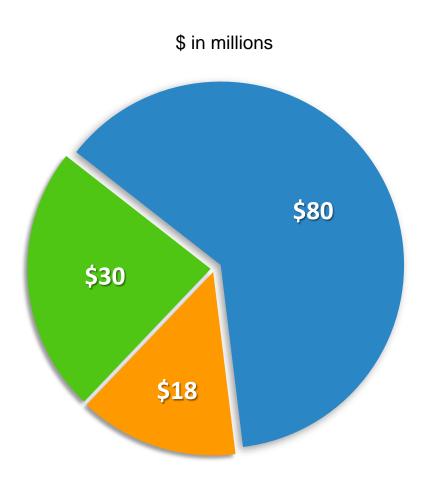
#### Nevada GIR

- 2017 Results
  - PUCN authorized \$57.3 million replacement work for construction in 2017
  - PUCN approved surcharge revenue of approximately \$4.5 million effective
     January 2017
- 2018 Planned Activities
  - PUCN authorized \$65.7 million replacement work for construction in 2018
  - PUCN approved surcharge revenue of approximately \$8.7 million effective January 2018 (\$4.2 million was incremental revenue)

### Regulation – Expansion Projects

#### **Natural Gas Operations**





#### ARIZONA LNG FACILITY

- Approved \$80 million, 233,000 dekatherm LNG facility
- Construction underway, \$34.8 million spent through December 2017
- Construction expected to be completed by end of 2019

#### SOUTHERN NEVADA EXPANSION

- Filed for pre-approval to expand natural gas services to Mesquite, Nevada, in accordance with the SB 151 regulations
- Proposed estimated cost of \$30 million

#### PAIUTE PIPELINE COMPANY EXPANSION

- Proposed \$18 million project consists of approximately
   8.5 miles of additional pipeline infrastructure
- Paiute filed a formal FERC certificate application in July 2017
- The new facility is expected to be in place by the end of 2018

### **Customer Growth**

### **Natural Gas Operations**

(In Thousands)



	Twelve Months Ended December 31,			Projected Customer Growth			
	2015	2016	2017*	2018	2019	2020	
Beginning period	1,930	1,956	1,984				
Net Customer Adds	26	28	31	32	33	34	
Ending period	1,956	1,984	2,015				

<sup>\*</sup>Achieved 2 million natural gas utility customers in early November 2017

### **Economic Overview – Service Area**



**Natural Gas Operations** 

_	Unemploy	ment Rate	<b>Employment Growth</b>			
	Dec 2016	Dec 2017	Dec 2016	Dec 2017		
Southern California <sup>1</sup>	5.2%	4.1%	2.9%	3.4%		
Southern Nevada <sup>2</sup>	5.0%	4.9%	2.6%	3.1%		
Northern Nevada <sup>3</sup>	5.0%	4.4%	-0.4%	3.3%		
Southern Arizona 4	4.3%	4.2%	0.4%	0.5%		
Central Arizona ⁴	4.1%	3.9%	1.4%	1.8%		

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

<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>

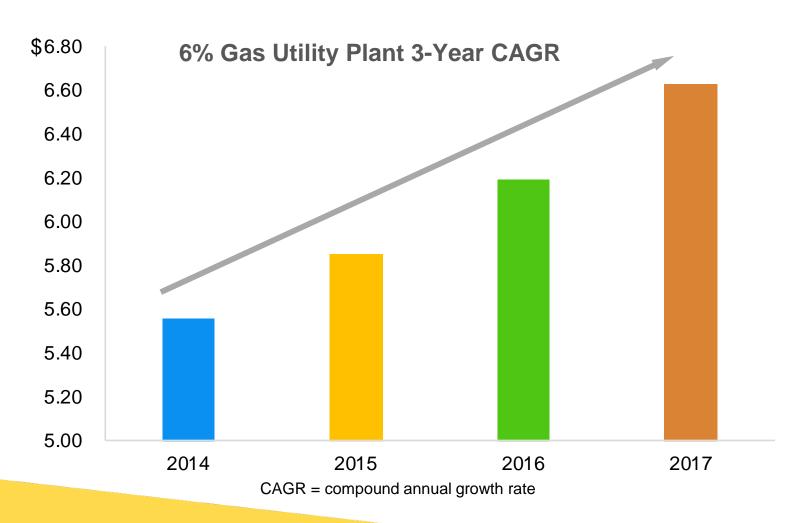
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> [Source: Nevada DETR, Data Search: Total Employment (Carson City, Churchill, Douglas, Elko, Humbolt, Lyon, and Pershing Counties, <a href="http://nevadaworkforce.com">http://nevadaworkforce.com</a>

<sup>4 [</sup>Source: Arizona Office of Employment & Population Statistics, Employment Report, https://laborstats.az.gov/

### **Gas Utility Plant - Growth**

## SOUTHWEST GAS

Natural Gas Operations (In billions)



### **Capital Expenditures**

## Natural Gas Operations (In millions)

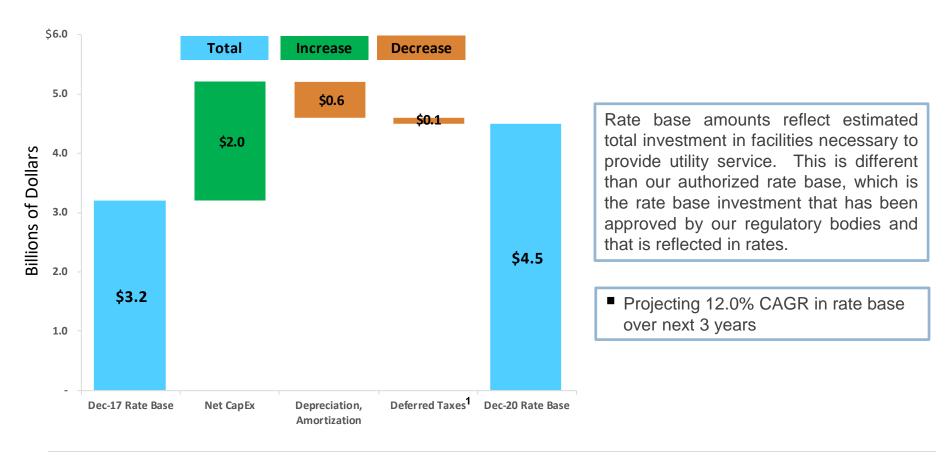




2018-2020 estimate of \$2 billion

## Projected Rate Base Growth Natural Gas Operations





<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Includes changes in the regulatory liability created due to tax reform.

### **Dividend Growth**







CAGR = compound annual growth rate

### 2018 Financial Influences



#### **Natural Gas Operations**

- Customer growth estimated at 1.6%
- Capital expenditure levels will necessitate financing activity
- Remaining Arizona rate relief will run through the first quarter
- Pension expense to increase \$8 million due to low interest rates at December 31, 2017
- Effective income tax rate difficult to predict due to regulatory actions underway

#### **Construction Services**

- Neuco full year results expected to drive revenue growth
- Customer negotiations on water contract not factored into forecast
- Lower tax rates are beneficial overall, but will increase magnitude of seasonally low (loss) first quarter results

2018 expectations can be useful in estimating a range for net income. However, income statement line item variances may occur when compared to actual results due to potential regulatory requirements arising from tax reform.

## **2018 Expectations**Natural Gas Operations

expenses) may result from the regulatory process in our service territories. The one-time benefit due to the remeasurement of

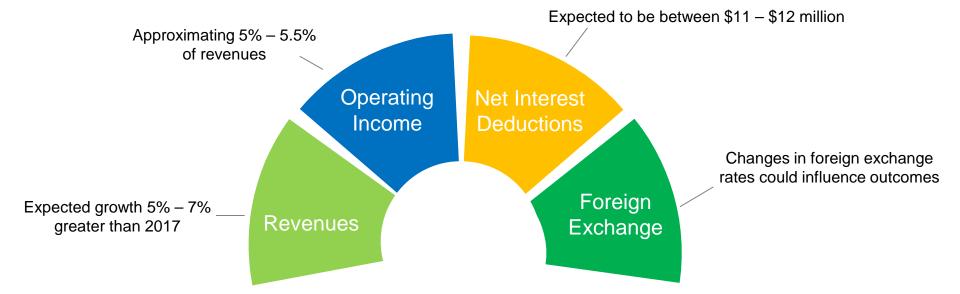
deferred tax balances will not recur.



Expected to track generally with inflationary changes and customer growth rates Increase of approximately 2% via (combined 2%-3%), plus the impacts of \$8 combination of customer growth, million increase in pension costs infrastructure recovery mechanisms, expansion projects, and California attrition **Operating Margin** O&M Expense Expected to be flat relative to 2017 due to the depreciation rate reduction in our last Arizona Estimated at approximately general rate case settlement \$670 million, in support of Capital Depreciation & (effective April 2017) customer growth, system Expenditures **General Taxes** improvements, and accelerated pipe replacement projects Operating Income **Net Interest** Expected to be flat **Deductions** compared to 2017 COLI Expected to be \$9 – \$11 million higher relative to 2017 Average normal returns of \$3 – \$5 million Continue to be subject to volatility, evidenced by The expectations do not include impacts from recent tax legislation. Impacts to various items (including revenue and swing over the last two years

## 2018 Expectations Construction Services





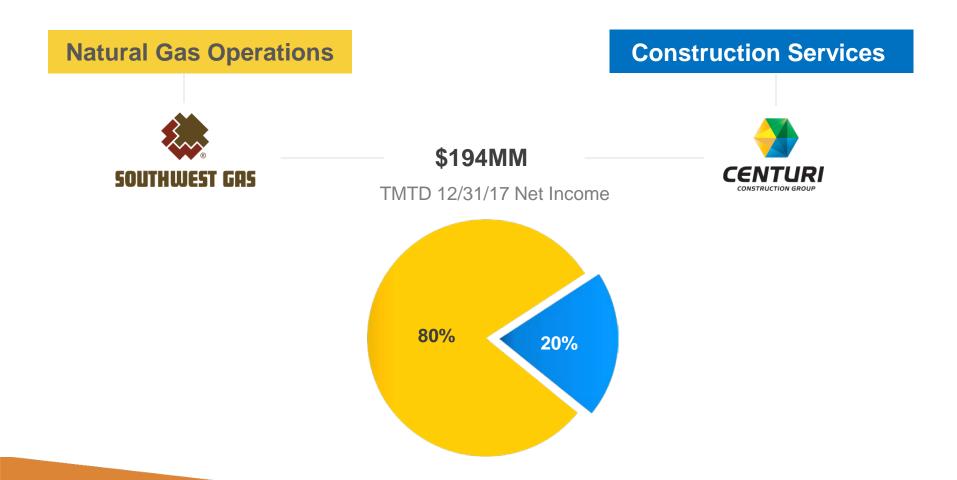
Centuri expects to benefit from the decline in U.S. federal income tax rates during 2018, but the one-time benefit due to the remeasurement of deferred tax balances will not recur.

Effective income tax rates estimated to be in the 27% – 28% range.



### **Business Segments & Net Income**



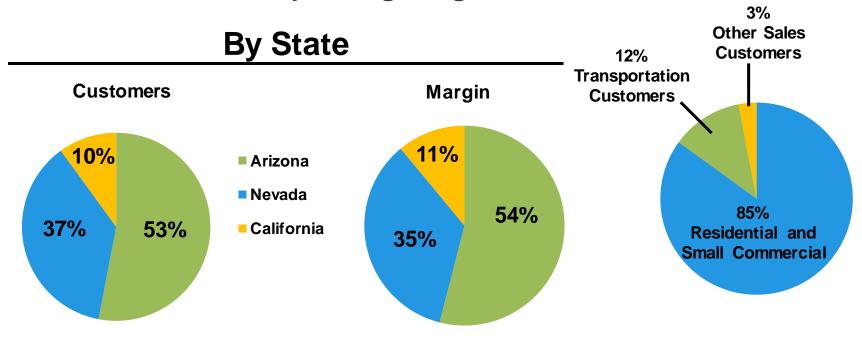


#### **Stable Customer Base**

Natural Gas Operations



### TMTD December 31, 2017 Customer & Operating Margin Distribution



Consistent trends year over year

### **Customers by State**

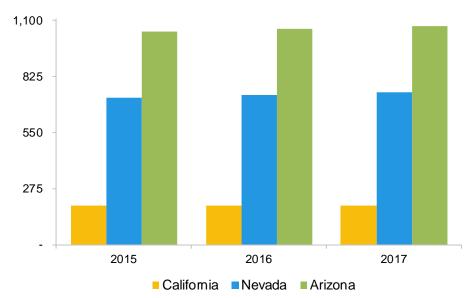
Natural Gas Operations (In thousands)



#### As of December 31,

Arizona
Nevada
California
Total

2015	2016	2017
1,045	1,058	1,073
720	733	747
191	193	195_
1,956	1,984	2,015



### **Summary Operating Results**



Natural Gas Operations (In thousands)

	TWEL	ECEMBER 31,			
		2017	2016		
Results of Natural Gas Operations					
Gas operating revenues	\$	1,302,308	\$	1,321,412	
Net cost of gas sold		355,045		397,121	
Operating margin		947,263		924,291	
Operations and maintenance expense		410,745		401,724	
Depreciation and amortization		201,922		233,463	
Taxes other than income taxes		57,946		52,376	
Operating income		276,650		236,728	
Other income (deductions)		13,036		8,276	
Net interest deductions		69,733		66,997	
Income before income taxes	•	219,953		178,007	
Income tax expense		63,135		58,584	
Segment net income	\$	156,818	\$	119,423	

### Other Income and Deductions



## Natural Gas Operations (In thousands)

	TWELVE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31,					
	2015		2016		2017	
Change in COLI policies	\$	(500)	\$	7,400	\$	10,300
Interest income		1,754		1,848		2,784
Equity AFUDC		3,008		2,289		2,296
Miscellaneous income and (expense)		(1,970)		(3,261)		(2,344)
Total other income (deductions)	\$	2,292	\$	8,276	\$	13,036

### Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA)



Balances

Natural Gas Operations (In thousands)

	As of December 31,				
	2017		2016		
Arizona	\$	5,069	\$	(20,349)	
Northern Nevada		8,189		(3,339)	
Southern Nevada		(6,841)		(66,788)	
California		1,323		2,608	
Total Receivable/(Payable)	\$	7,740	\$	(87,868)	

## **Liquidity Profile**

#### **Natural Gas Operations**

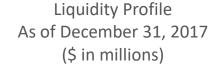


Access to sufficient liquidity to support capital expenditure and working capital needs, including:

- Stable operating cash flows
- \$400 million revolving credit facility
  - Expires in March 2022
  - \$150 million of the facility designated long-term debt and remaining \$250 million as working capital
- \$50 million uncommitted commercial paper program

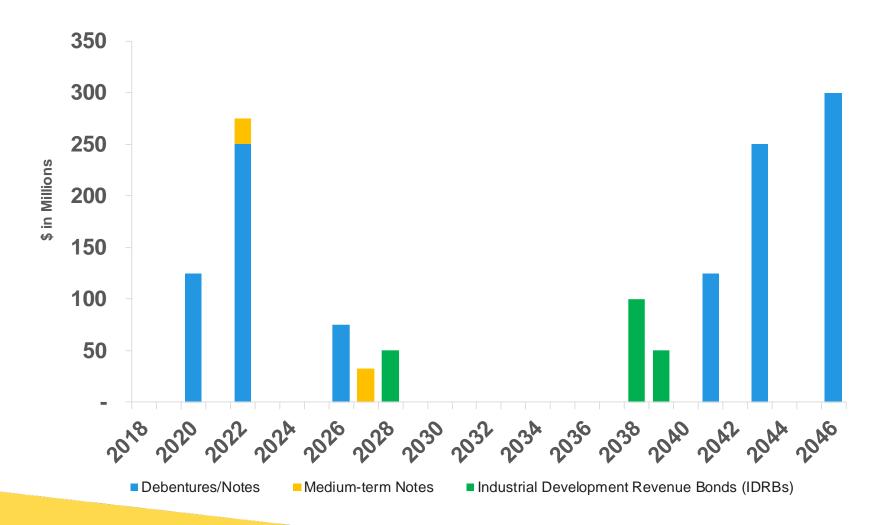
As of December 31, 2017

- \$291 million of LIBOR loans
- \$50 million of commercial paper
- Available borrowing capacity of \$59 million





## Long-Term Debt Maturity Schedule[1] (2) at December 31, 2017



<sup>[1]</sup> Does not include the long-term portion of the \$400 million Revolving Credit Facility, due March 2022

## **Authorized Rate Base and Rates of Return**



#### **Natural Gas Operations**

	Authorized				
	Authorized	Authorized	Return on		Authorized
	Rate Base	Rate of	Common		Common
Rate Jurisdiction	(In thousands)	Return	Equity	Decoupled	<b>Equity Ratio</b>
Arizona	\$ 1,324,902	7.42 %	9.50 %	$\checkmark$	52.30 %
Southern Nevada	825,190	6.46	10.00	$\checkmark$	42.74
Northern Nevada	115,933	7.88	9.30	$\checkmark$	59.06
Southern California	159,277	6.83	10.10	$\checkmark$	55.00
Northern California	67,620	8.18	10.10	$\checkmark$	55.00
South Lake Tahoe	25,389	8.18	10.10	$\checkmark$	55.00
Paiute Pipeline Company (1)	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

## Centuri Construction Group Construction Services



- Headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona
- Operates in 25 markets across U.S. and Canada
- One of North America's largest full-service underground pipeline contractors













## Centuri Construction Group

#### **Construction Services**

































































## **Summary Operating Results**



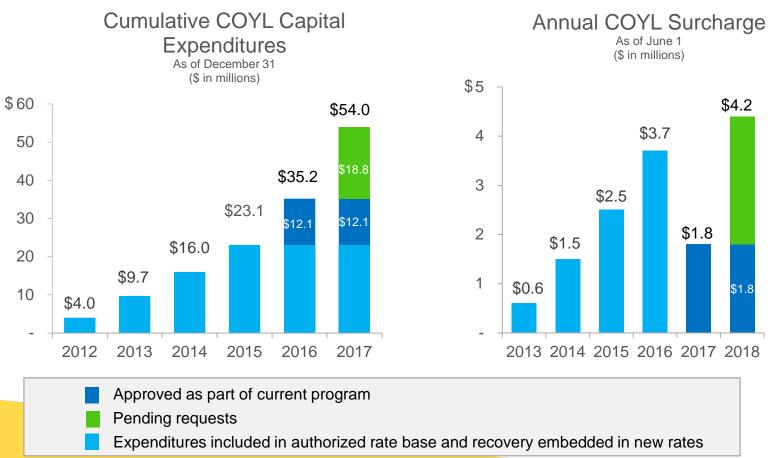
Construction Services (In thousands)

	TWE	TWELVE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31,			
	2017			2016	
Construction revenues	\$	1,246,484	\$	1,139,078	
Construction expenses		1,148,963		1,024,423	
Depreciation and amortization	nortization49,029			55,669	
Operating income		48,492		58,986	
Other income (deductions)		345		1,193	
Net interest deductions		7,986	6,663		
Income taxes		2,390		19,884	
Noncontrolling interests		101		1,014	
Segment net income	\$	38,360	\$	32,618	

## Regulation – Infrastructure Replacement Programs



Arizona COYL program first began in 2012, was continued and expanded with rate case, and reset as of January 1, 2016



# Regulation – Infrastructure Replacement Programs

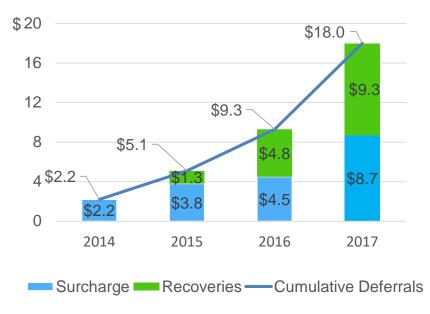


#### Nevada Gas Infrastructure Replacement (GIR)



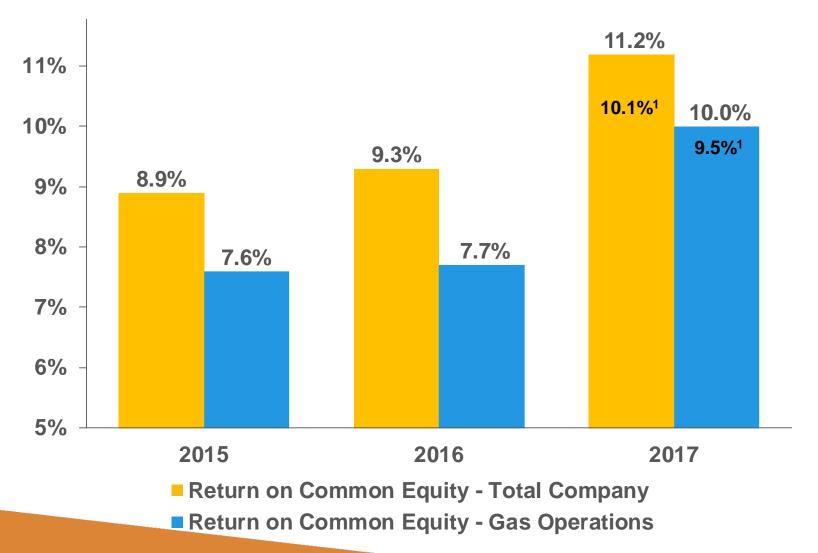


#### GIR Deferral Balances, Recoveries and Surcharge As of August 31 (surcharges effective January 1 of following year) (\$ in millions)



## **Return on Common Equity**



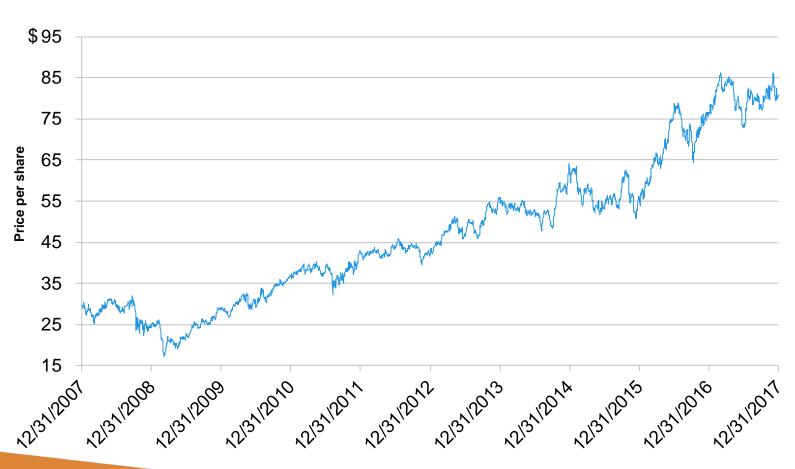


<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Adjusted for the non-recurring tax benefit resulting from tax reform

### **Stock Performance**



Southwest Gas Holdings, Inc. Common Stock Closing Price December 31, 2007 – December 31, 2017



### **Comparative Total Returns**



#### **Total Returns for Periods Ended December 31, 2017**

	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	10-Year
Southwest Gas Holdings	7.55%	12.06%	16.68%	13.69%
S&P 400 MidCap Gas Index	10.67%	10.77%	16.44%	10.02%
S&P Composite Utilities Index	12.16%	8.03%	13.08%	7.12%
S&P 500 Index	21.87%	11.40%	15.77%	8.48%

Total Return = Price appreciation plus gross dividends reinvested

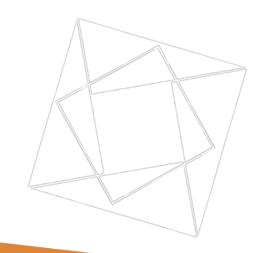
### **Consolidated Capital Structure**

(In millions)



Capitalization at December 31,		2013	 2014	2015	2016	 2017
Equity <sup>1</sup>	\$	1,412	\$ 1,506	\$ 1,608	\$ 1,684	\$ 1,812
Long-Term Debt <sup>2</sup>		1,393	 1,651	1,571	1,600	 1,824
<b>Total Permanent Capital</b>	\$	2,805	\$ 3,157	\$ 3,179	\$ 3,284	\$ 3,636
Capitalization ratios	_					
Equity <sup>1</sup>		50.4%	47.7%	50.6%	51.3%	49.8%
Long-Term Debt <sup>2</sup>		49.6%	 52.3%	49.4%	48.7%	 50.2%
<b>Total Permanent Capital</b>		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**



Southwest Gas Holdings, Inc.

	Moody's	S&P	Fitch
Issuer Rating	Baa1	BBB+	BBB+
Outlook	Stable	Stable	Stable

#### Southwest Gas Corporation

	Moody's	S&P	Fitch
Senior Unsecured	А3	BBB+	А
Outlook	Stable	Stable	Stable

#### **Non-GAAP Measures**



**Non-GAAP Measures** – Operating margin is a financial measure defined by management (natural gas operating revenue less net cost of gas sold) and is, therefore, considered a non-GAAP measure. Management uses this financial measure because natural gas operating revenues include the net cost of gas sold, which is a tracked cost that is passed through to customers without markup under purchased gas adjustment ("PGA") mechanisms. Fluctuations in the net cost of gas sold impact revenues on a dollarfor-dollar basis, but do not impact operating margin or operating income. Management believes operating margin provides useful and relevant information necessary to analyze Southwest's financial performance in a rate-regulated environment.