# 2014 Year End Earnings Conference Call

February 26, 2015



## Safe Harbor Statement

Statements contained in this presentation that may include Company expectations or predictions of the future, including statements regarding future results at Centuri Construction Co., constitute "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. All such statements are intended to be subject to the safe harbor protection provided by the Reform Act. In this respect, the words "may," "will," "estimate," "project," "anticipate," "expect," "intend," "believe" and similar expressions are intended to identify forwardlooking statements. All forward-looking statements included herein are made as of the date hereof. A number of important factors affecting the business and financial results of Southwest Gas, including subsidiaries, could cause actual results to differ materially from those stated in the forward-looking statements. For additional factors that could affect the validity of our forwardlooking statements, you should read the section of our periodic reports filed from time to time with the Securities and Exchange Commission, entitled "Risk Factors" therein.



# 2014 Highlights

#### > Consolidated Results

- Achieved second highest EPS of \$3.04
- Dividend increased for the ninth straight year (11%)

#### Natural Gas Segment

- Realized almost \$117 million of net income
- Added 26,000 customers
- Successfully concluded two general rate cases
- Invested \$350 million in the distribution system
- Received approval in Arizona to construct an LNG facility

#### Construction Services Segment

- Contributed a record \$24.3 million of net income
- Successful acquisition of Link-Line Group of Companies
- Integration of Link-Line Group of Companies with NPL led to the formation of the Centuri Construction Group

### **CEO Succession**

- > Jeff Shaw retirement effective March 1, 2015
- > John Hester, new President and CEO

### Call Outline

- 2014 consolidated earnings
- II. Natural gas operations
- III. Centuri Construction Group
- IV. Regulation
- Customer growth and economic overview
- VI. Capital expenditures
- VII. Dividend growth
- VIII. 2015 expectations and focus



# **Summary Operating Results**

(In thousands, except per share amounts)

	TWELVE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31,				
		2012		2013	2014
Results of Consolidated Operations					
Contribution to net income - natural gas operations	\$	116,619	\$	124,169	\$ 116,872
Contribution to net income - construction services		16,712		21,151	24,254
Net income	\$	133,331	\$	145,320	\$ 141,126
Basic earnings per share	\$	2.89	\$	3.14	\$ 3.04
Diluted earnings per share	\$	2.86	\$	3.11	\$ 3.01
Average outstanding common shares  Average shares outstanding (assuming dilution)		46,115 46,555		46,318 46,758	46,494 46,944
Average shales outstanding (assuming unution)		40,000		40,730	40,344



# Natural Gas Operations Highlights

- Operating margin increased 1.5% compared to prior year
- > 26,000 net new customers (1.4% growth rate)
- Net financing costs increased \$6 million between 2014 and 2013
- > Decision approved in California general rate case
- Infrastructure recovery mechanism filings in both Nevada and Arizona approved
- Settlement reached in Paiute Pipeline Company general rate case



# **Summary Operating Results**

Natural Gas Operations (In thousands)

	TWELVE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31,			
	2012	2013	2014	
Results of Natural Gas Operations				
Gas operating revenues	\$ 1,321,728	\$ 1,300,154	\$ 1,382,087	
Net cost of gas sold	479,602	436,001	505,356	
Operating margin	842,126	864,153	876,731	
Operations and maintenance expense	369,979	384,914	383,732	
Depreciation and amortization	186,035	193,848	204,144	
Taxes other than income taxes	41,728	45,551	47,252	
Operating income	244,384	239,840	241,603	
Other income	4,165	12,261	7,165	
Net interest deductions	66,957	62,555	68,299	
Income before income taxes	181,592	189,546	180,469	
Income tax expense	64,973	65,377	63,597	
Contribution to net income - gas operations	\$ 116,619	\$ 124,169	\$ 116,872	



# 2014 Increase in Operating Margin

Natural Gas Operations (In millions)

Rate relief	\$ 8
Customer growth	8
Other	(3)
Increase	\$ 13



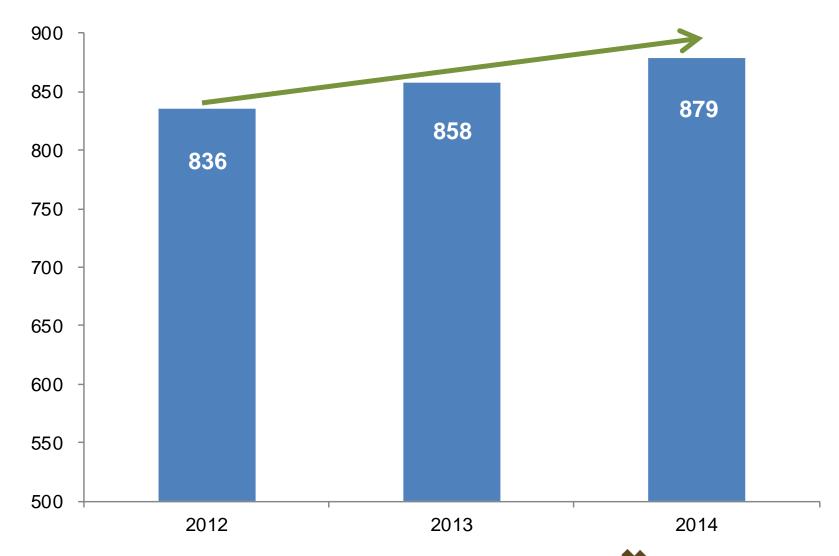
# Operating Expense Natural Gas Operations

#### Operating expenses increased \$10.8 million or 1.7%

- > O&M expense decreased nearly 1%
  - Pension and employer-sponsored medical costs resulted in a \$9.5 million decrease
  - Reductions offset by higher general costs
- > Depreciation and amortization expense increased 5%
  - Driven by 6% increase in average plant and an increase in regulatory amortizations partially offset by lower depreciation rates from the California general rate case decision
- General taxes increased 4%
  - Primarily due to higher property taxes in Arizona and Nevada

# Customer-to-Employee Ratio

#### **Natural Gas Operations**



### Other Income and Deductions

Natural Gas Operations (In thousands)

	TWELVE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31,					
	2012		2013		2014	
Change in COLI policies Pipe replacement costs*	\$	6,600 (2,680)	\$	12,400 (132)	\$	5,300 -
Miscellaneous income and (expense)		245		(7)		1,865
Total other income (deductions)	\$	4,165	\$	12,261	\$	7,165



<sup>\*</sup> The Arizona replacement program work subject to non-recoverability was substantially completed in 2012

# **Net Financing Costs**

#### **Natural Gas Operations**

Increased by \$5.7 million from \$62.6 million in 2013 to \$68.3 million in 2014

- Primarily due to October 2013 issuance of \$250 million of 4.875% senior notes
- Increase mitigated by lower interest expense associated with deferred PGA balances payable



# Construction Services Highlights



- Completed acquisition of Link-Line Group of Companies
- Newly formed Centuri Construction Group now comprises construction services segment
- > Revenues increased 14% compared to 2013
- > Construction expenses increased 13% over prior year
- Contribution to net income increased \$3.1 million to a record \$24.3 million

# **Summary Operating Results**



Construction Services (In thousands)

	TWELVE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31,				
	2012		2013		2014
Results of Construction Services					
Construction revenues	\$	606,050	\$	650,628	\$ 739,620
Operating expenses:					
Construction expenses		541,523		573,284	647,857
Depreciation and amortization		37,387		42,969	48,883
Operating income		27,140		34,375	42,880
Other income (deductions)		246		39	(58)
Net interest deductions		1,063		1,145	3,770
Income tax expense		10,303		12,565	14,776
Net income		16,020		20,704	24,276
Noncontrolling interests		(692)		(447)	22
Contribution to net income	\$	16,712	\$	21,151	\$ 24,254

# Operating Revenues Construction Services



Operating revenues increased by \$89 million or 14%

- Acquired companies' revenues during the fourth quarter totaled \$54.3 million
- Remaining \$34.7 million primarily reflects growth in pipe replacement activity from existing customers

# Operating Expenses Construction Services



#### Construction expense increased by \$74.6 million or 13%

- Primarily due to additional pipe replacement work and the inclusion of the acquired companies' construction costs of \$49.4 million
- General and administrative expense increased approximately \$9.5 million
  - Recently acquired companies'- \$3.7 million
  - Acquisition costs- \$5 million
- Construction services recorded a \$4 million legal settlement from 2013 which was resolved in February 2014
- Gain on sales of equipment increased approximately \$2.1 million (offset to construction expense)

Depreciation expense increased by \$5.9 million, or 14%, due to the amortization of finite-lived intangible assets recognized from the acquisition (\$1.5 million) and additional equipment purchased to support growth in volume of work

# Regulation Key Highlights

#### **Natural Gas Operations**

#### General rate cases

- California general rate case decision
- California 2015 post-test year attrition filing
- Paiute Pipeline Company general rate case settlement
- Next Arizona general rate case

#### > Infrastructure mechanisms

- Arizona COYL program
- Nevada GIR mechanism

#### > Infrastructure/expansion projects

- Pre-approval for Arizona LNG facility
- Paiute Pipeline Company Elko County expansion project



# Regulation - California General Rate Case & Annual Attrition Natural Gas Operations

In June 2014, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) issued a final decision in Southwest's general rate case based on a 2014 future test period

Decision provides for an operating revenue increase of \$7.1 million, plus a \$3.1 million depreciation reduction

As part of the 2014 general rate case decision by the CPUC, Post-Test Year (PTY) attrition increases were authorized for the years 2015 – 2018

- 2015 PTY attrition filing made in November 2014 requesting an annual increase in revenue of \$2.5 million
- Approved by CPUC in December 2014
- Rates effective January 2015



# Regulation – Paiute Pipeline Company **General Rate Case Natural Gas Operations**



#### Filed a rate case with FERC on February 28, 2014

- Requested a \$9 million increase in operating revenues
- > Settlement agreement in principle reached in September 2014
- Settlement approved by FERC in February 2015
  - Provides for an operating revenue increase of \$2.4 million, plus a \$1.3 million depreciation reduction
  - Settlement rates were effective September 2014
  - Rate design changes encourage longer-term contracts
  - Next general rate case no earlier than May 2016 and no later than May 2019

## Regulation – Arizona Next General Rate Case Natural Gas Operations

#### Rate case moratorium:

- Next earliest general rate case application April 30, 2016
- ➤ Next earliest test year November 30, 2015
- Required depreciation study
- ➤ New rates earliest effective May 1, 2017

# Regulation - Infrastructure Mechanisms Natural Gas Operations

#### Arizona customer-owned yard line (COYL) program

- Initial program (Phase I) completed in 2014
- In January 2014, the ACC approved Southwest's request to modify the COYL program to include non-leaking COYLs (Phase II)
- Effective June 2014, the ACC authorized a revised surcharge to collect
   \$1.5 million to recover program capital costs through 2013

#### Nevada gas infrastructure recovery (GIR) mechanism

- January 2014 PUCN approves GIR regulations
- 2014 GIR advance application authorized \$14.4 million replacement work for 2015
- 2014 GIR rate application
  - Authorizes a surcharge to recover cumulative infrastructure replacement deferrals through August 2014
  - Surcharge margin of \$2 million effective January 2015



# Regulation - Infrastructure/Expansion Projects Proposed LNG Facility - Arizona Natural Gas Operations

Southwest filed an application with the ACC seeking pre-approval of LNG facility in southern Arizona

- January 2014 filing seeks recovery of actual costs, not to exceed \$55 million
- December 2014 ACC decision granting pre-approval
  - Deferral cost limited to \$50 million
  - Authorization to defer costs expires on November 1, 2017
  - Gas costs to be recovered through the PGA mechanism
  - Construction expected to take 24 to 30 months



# Regulation -Infrastructure/Expansion Projects Elko County Expansion - Paiute Natural Gas Operations PAIUTE PRELINE

Project to provide additional firm transportation-service capacity in Elko County Nevada

- > "Open season" conducted in 2013 indicated substantial interest
- Certificate application filed with FERC in June 2014
- > Estimated cost of the project is \$35 million
- Targeted in-service date of November 2015
- Preliminary favorable environmental assessment issued by the FERC
- > FERC decision expected in the first half of 2015



### Customer Growth Breakdown

# Natural Gas Operations (In Thousands)

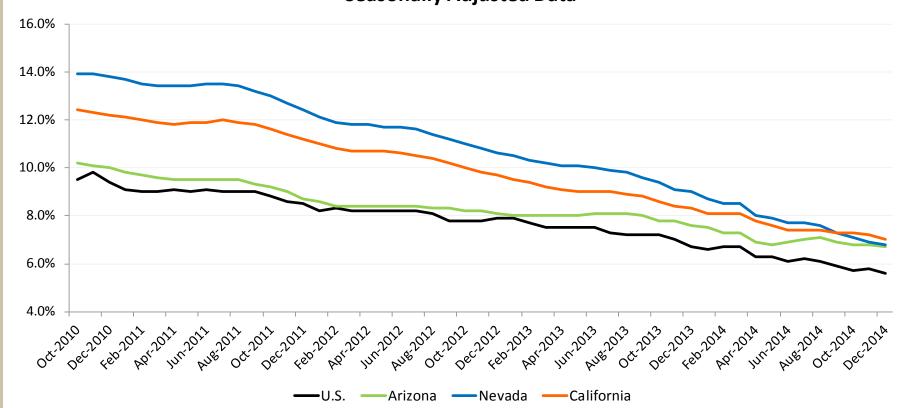
	Twelve Months Ended December 31,				
	2012	2013	2014		
Beginning period	1,859	1,876	1,904		
New meter sets	17	21	20		
Meter turn-on/turn-offs	-	7	6		
Ending period	1,876	1,904	1,930		

➤ For 2015, Company is projecting net customer growth of about 1.5%



# Economic Overview Service Area Natural Gas Operations

**Unemployment Rate Seasonally Adjusted Data** 





## **Economic Overview**

## Service Area Natural Gas Operations

#### **Employment Growth**

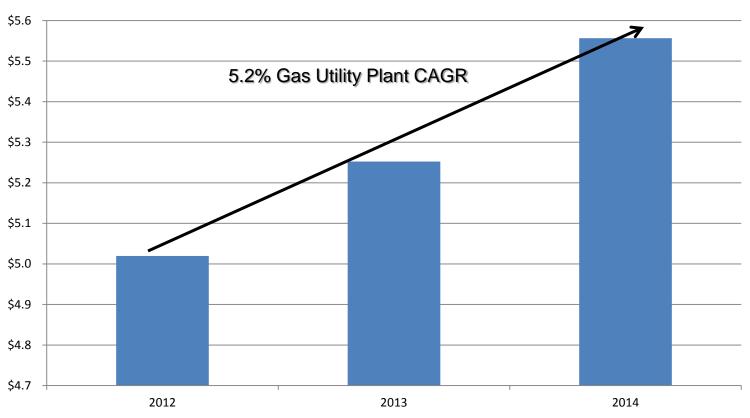
_	As of December			
	2013	2014		
Southern California	1.2%	2.0%		
Nevada	1.8%	2.3%		
Arizona	2.0%	2.6%		



# Gas Utility Plant - Growth

# Natural Gas Operations (In billions)

#### For Periods Ended December 31

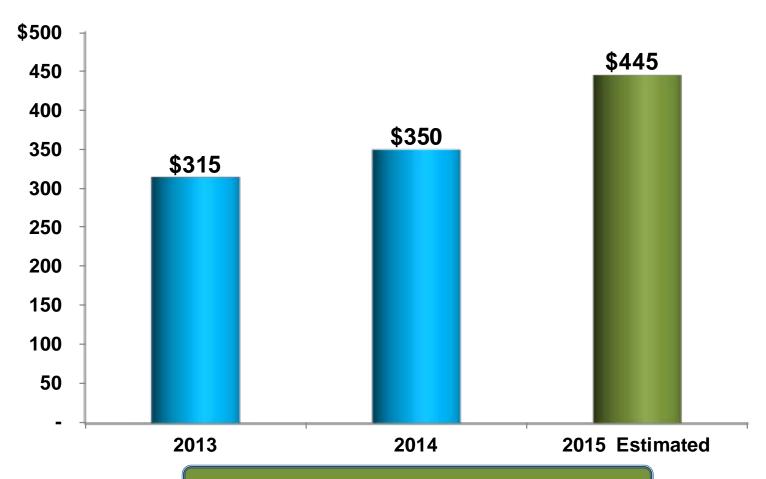


CAGR = compound annual growth rate



# Capital Expenditures

Natural Gas Operations (In millions)



2015 - 2017 Estimate: **\$1.3 billion** 

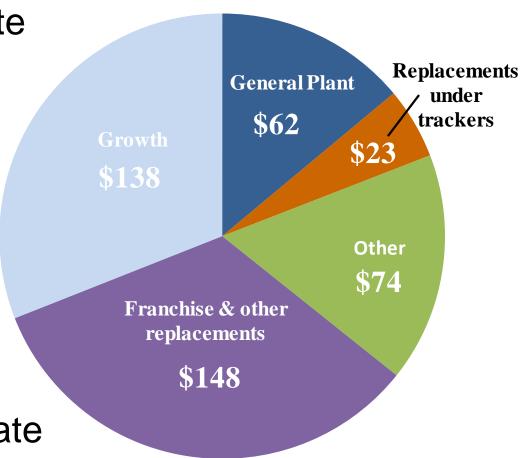


# Capital Expenditures

Natural Gas Operations (In millions)

> 2015 total estimate

\$445 million

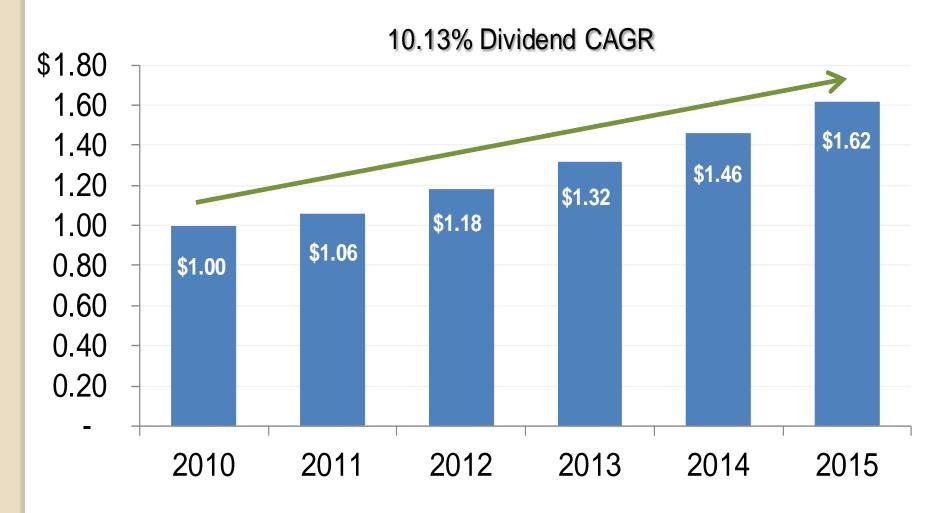


> 2015-2017 estimate

\$1.3 billion



### **Dividend Growth**



CAGR = compound annual growth rate



## 2015 Expectations

#### **Construction Services**

- ➤ Revenues expected to range between \$950 million and \$1 billion
- ➤ Operating income to approximate 6% of revenues
- ➤ Net interest deductions to be between \$6.5 million and \$7.5 million
- ➤ Collective expectations are before consideration of noncontrolling interest of 3.4%
- Foreign exchange rate and interest rate environment could influence their achievement

## 2015 Expectations

#### **Natural Gas Operations**

- ➤ Net customer growth of 1.5%
- ➤ Operating margin is estimated to increase nearly 2%
- ➤ Operating costs increase assumption of 3% 4%
  - Includes net pension expense increase of \$8 million reflecting updated mortality tables
- ➤ Net interest deductions for 2015 will approximate 2014 results
- ➤ Average normal annual COLI returns of \$3 million \$5 million
- ➤ Capital expenditures of \$445 million reflecting pipe replacement activity, customer growth and expansion projects

# Strategic Focus

- Long-term view with proven track record of execution
- Commitment to integrity has created value for investors, customers, employees and regulators
- Investment in rate base (safety & reliability)
- > Regulatory mechanisms
- Capitalize on growing opportunities in both regulated and non-regulated business segments
- Capital structure and credit ratings
- Dividend policy

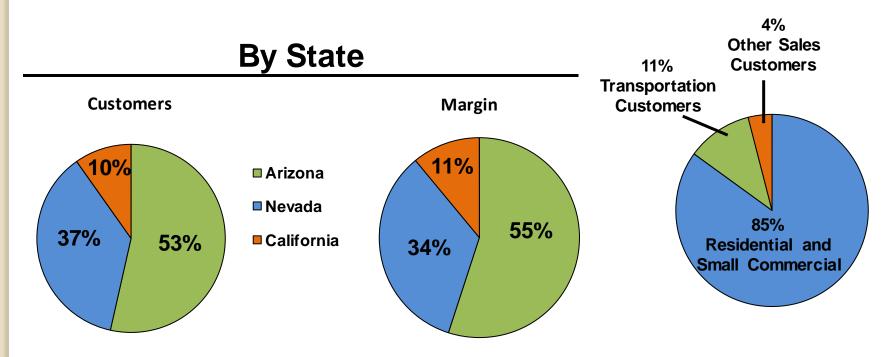
# **APPENDIX**



### Stable Customer Base

**Natural Gas Operations** 

# TMTD December 31, 2014 Customer & Operating Margin Distribution



> Consistent trends year over year

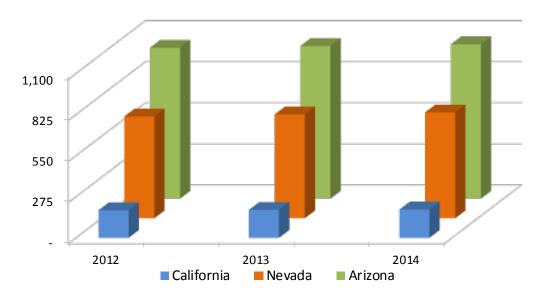


## Customers by State

## Natural Gas Operations (In thousands)

As of December 31,

	2012	2013	2014
Arizona	1,010	1,022	1,033
Nevada	681	695	708
California	185	187	189
Total	1,876	1,904	1,930



## Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA) Balances

Natural Gas Operations (In millions)

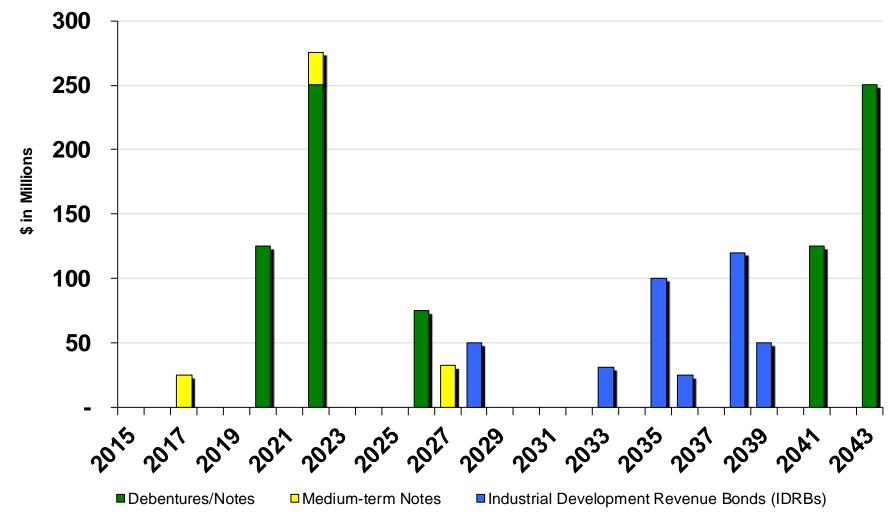
	AS OF DECEMBER 31,				
	2013			2014	
Arizona	\$	3.2	\$	48.4	
Northern Nevada		4.4		10.2	
Southern Nevada		4.1		20.4	
California		6.5		8.6	
Total Receivable	\$	18.2	\$	87.6	

# Liquidity Natural Gas Operations

- ➤\$300 million revolving credit facility which expires in March 2019
  - \$150 million of the facility designated long-term debt and remaining \$150 million as working capital
- ▶\$50 million commercial paper program supported by revolving credit facility
- > At December 31, 2014
  - \$50 million of commercial paper and \$105 million of LIBOR loans were outstanding
  - Available borrowing capacity of \$145 million
- ➤ Management believes the facility size is adequate



# Long-Term Debt Maturity Schedule[1] at December 31, 2014



[1] Does not include the long-term portion of the \$300 million Revolving Credit Facility, due March 2019, or debt outstanding of Centuri Construction Group subsidiary.

# Authorized Rate Base and Rates of Return at December 31, 2014

			Authorized
	Authorized	Authorized	Return on
	Rate Base	Rate of	Common
Rate Jurisdiction	(In thousands)	Return	Equity
Arizona	\$ 1,070,117	8.95 %	9.50 %
Southern Nevada	825,190	6.47 %	10.00 %
Northern Nevada	115,933	7.88 %	9.30 %
Southern California	159,277	6.83 %	10.10 %
Northern California	67,620	8.18 %	10.10 %
South Lake Tahoe	25,389	8.18 %	10.10 %
Paiute Pipeline Company (1)	84,717	9.47 %	12.00 %

<sup>(1)</sup> Estimated amounts based on 2010 rate case settlement.



## Centuri Construction Group Construction Services



#### NPL Construction Company

- Full-service underground piping contractor
- Operates in 20 major markets in the U.S.



#### Link-Line Contractors

- Largest natural gas distribution contractor in Canada with approximately 700 employees
- Primarily operates in Ontario province
- Founded in 1994



## Centuri Construction Group Construction Services



#### W.S. Nicholls Construction

- Provides fabrication and multi-trade operations for industrial projects
- Operations in Ontario province and western Canada
- Founded in 1996

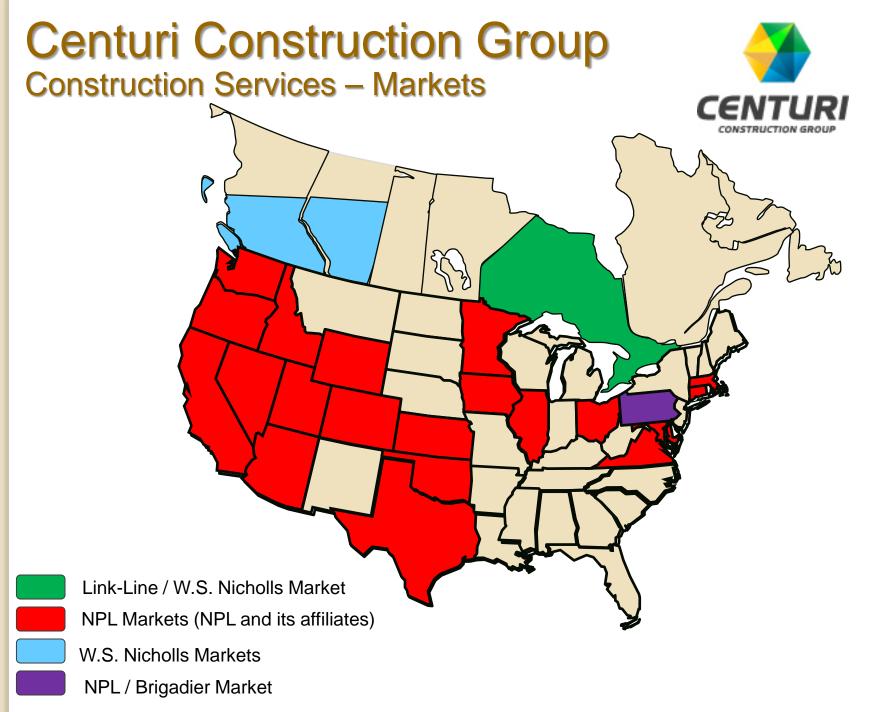


- Performs midstream construction in the United States, primarily in Pennsylvania
- Founded in 2012









## Centuri Construction Group

### Construction Services - High Quality Customers

















































A NiSource Company





























Sempra Energy











## Capital Structure

(In millions, except ratios)

Capitalization at December 31,		2010	 2011	 2012	 2013	 2014
Common Equity	\$	1,167	\$ 1,225	\$ 1,308	\$ 1,412	\$ 1,486
Long-Term Debt <sup>1</sup>		1,200	 1,254	 1,319	 1,393	 1,657
Total Permanent Capital	\$	2,367	\$ 2,479	\$ 2,627	\$ 2,805	\$ 3,143
Capitalization ratios	_					
Common Equity		49.3%	49.4%	49.8%	50.4%	47.3%
Long-Term Debt <sup>1</sup>		50.7%	 50.6%	 50.2%	49.6%	 52.7%
Total Permanent Capital		100.0%	 100.0%	 100.0%	 100.0%	 100.0%

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Includes current maturities of long-term debt

### Investment Grade Credit Ratings

#### Moody's

Senior Unsecured Debt:

Outlook:

#### Standard & Poor's

Senior Unsecured Debt:

Outlook:

#### **Fitch**

Senior Unsecured Debt:

Outlook:

#### **Rating**

A3 (January 2014)

Stable

BBB+ (October 2014)

Stable

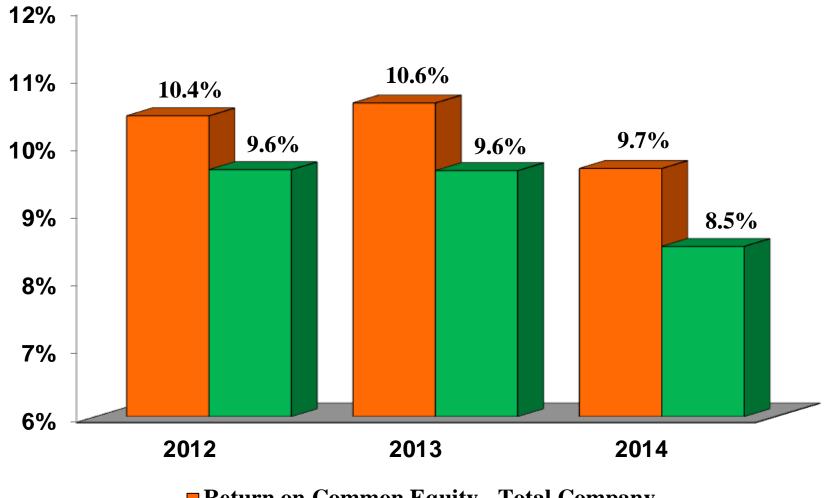
A (May 2013)

Stable

# Dividend Growth Policy

Over time, the Board intends to increase the dividend such that our payout ratio approaches our local distribution company peer group average while maintaining our strong credit ratings and our ability to effectively fund future rate base growth. The timing and amount of any increases would be based upon the Board's continual review of our dividend rate in the context of the performance of the Company's two operating segments and their future growth prospects.

## Return on Common Equity



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



## Stock Price Graph

Southwest Gas Corporation Common Stock Closing Price December 31, 2004 – December 31, 2014





### Comparative Total Returns

#### **Total Returns for Periods Ended December 31, 2014**

	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	10-Year
Southwest Gas	13.50%	16.34%	19.99%	12.56%
S&P 600 Small Gas Index	20.71%	10.23%	13.44%	10.92%
Dow Jones Utilities	30.58%	14.35%	13.77%	10.48%
S&P 500 Index	13.66%	20.34%	15.42%	7.66%

Total Return = Price appreciation plus gross dividends reinvested

