# 2016 Year End Earnings Conference Call

March 1, 2017



## **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 2017 expectations for our construction services and natural gas operations segments, as well as statements regarding our strategic 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 2016 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, including the proposed Arizona rate case settlement;
- 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 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 Highlights



## Consolidated Results

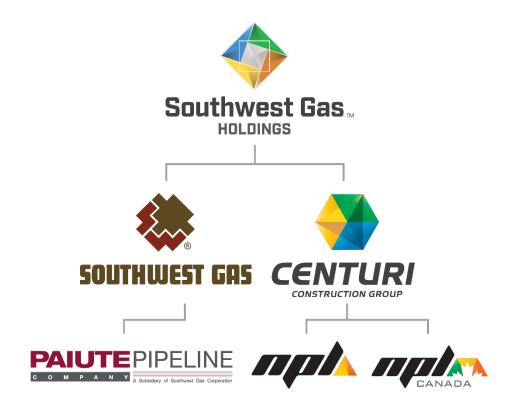
Natural Gas Segment

Construction Services Segment

- Dividend increased for the 11<sup>th</sup> straight year (10%)
- Achieved record EPS of \$3.20
- 2016 Total Shareholder Return of 42.5%
- Holding Company effective January 2017
- Arizona rate case proposed settlement
- Operating margin of \$924 million
- Added 28,000 customers
- Invested \$457 million in the gas system
- Paul Daily appointed new CEO of Centuri Construction Group
- Contributed record net income of \$32.6 million
- 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of increased earnings contribution
- NPL celebrating 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017

## New Holding Company Structure

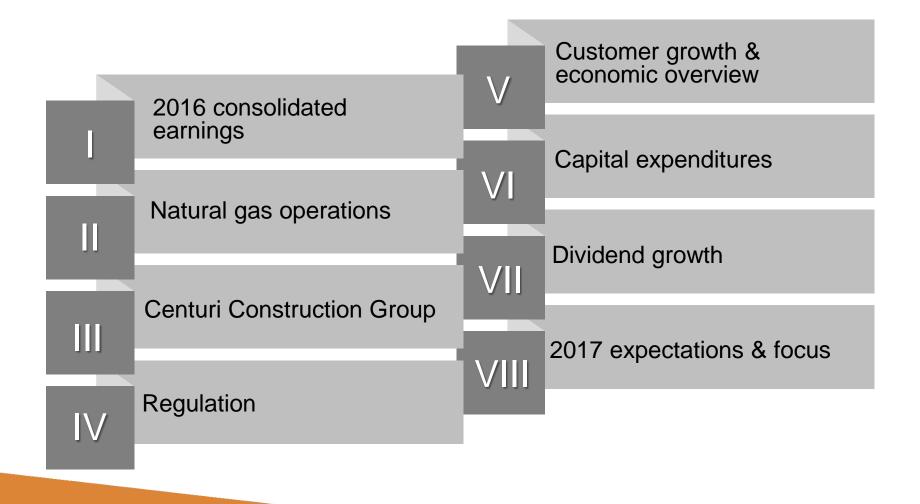




- Became fully effective on January 4, 2017
- Creates further legal and financial separation between regulated utility and unregulated construction services businesses
- Provides financing flexibility

### Call Outline





## **Summary Operating Results**

Southwest Gas...

(In thousands, except per share amounts)

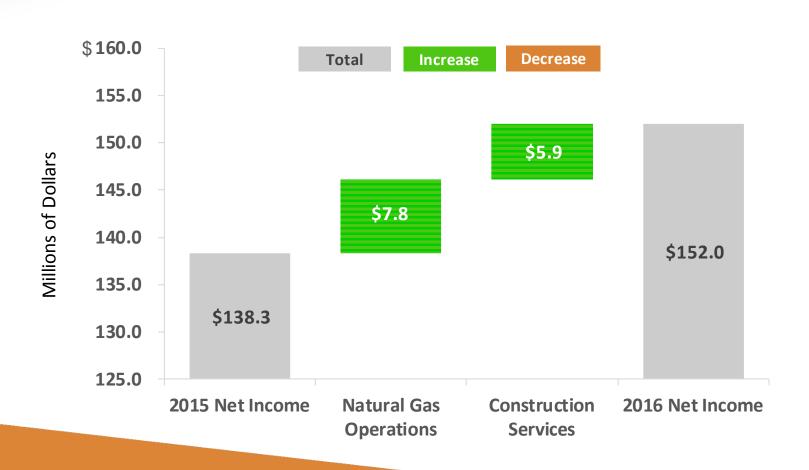
	TWELVE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31,						
		2014		2015		2016	
Results of Consolidated Operations							
Contribution to net income - natural gas operations	\$	116,872	\$	111,625	\$	119,423	
Contribution to net income - construction services		24,254		26,692		32,618	
Net income	\$	141,126	\$	138,317	\$	152,041	
Basic earnings per share	\$	3.04	\$	2.94	\$	3.20	
Diluted earnings per share	\$	3.01	\$	2.92	\$	3.18	
Average outstanding common shares		46,494		46,992		47,469	
Average shares outstanding (assuming dilution)		46,944		47,383		47,814	



### Consolidated Net Income

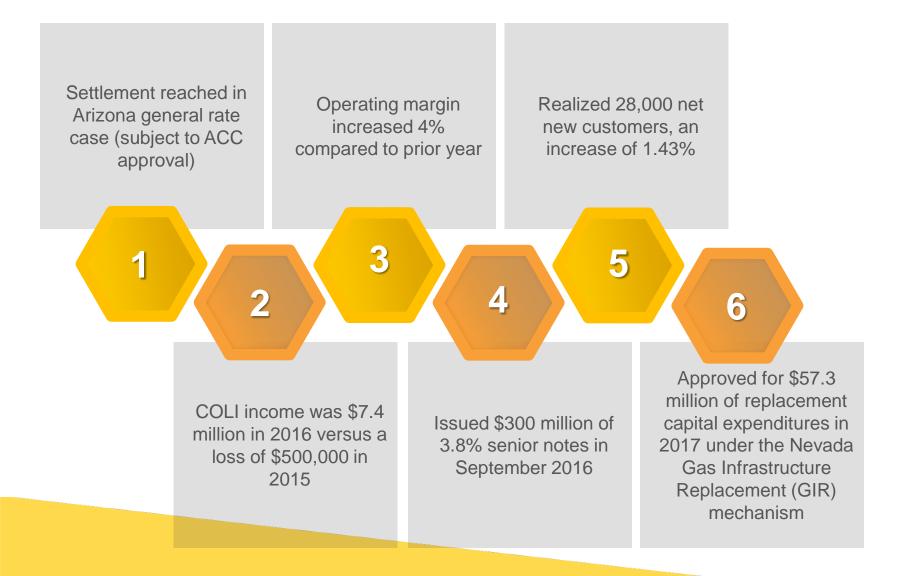


### **Total Increase - \$13.7 million**



## Natural Gas Operations Highlights





### Net Income

### **Natural Gas Operations**

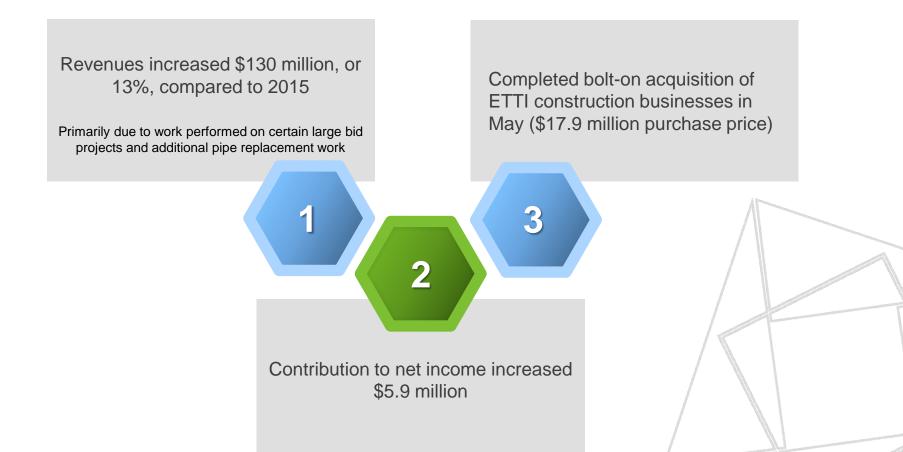


### **Total Increase - \$7.8 million**



## Construction Services Highlights



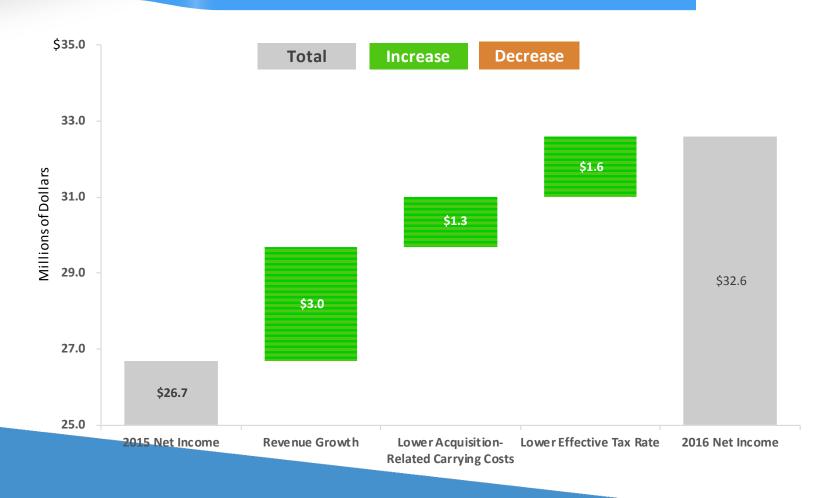


## Net Income

### **Construction Services**



### **Total Increase - \$5.9 million**



## Regulation Key Highlights

### **Natural Gas Operations**



#### Rate Relief

Infrastructure Replacement Programs

**Expansion Projects** 

- Arizona General Rate Case
- California Post Test Year (PTY) Attrition
- Next California Rate Case
- Arizona COYL program
- Nevada GIR program

- LNG facility in Arizona
- 2018 expansion project Paiute Pipeline Company (FERC)

## Regulation – Arizona GRC

### **Natural Gas Operations**



Arizona General Rate Case	Southwest Gas Requested	Proposed Settlement*
Rate Relief	\$32 Million	\$16 Million
Depreciation Expense	(\$42 Million)	(\$45 Million)
Rate Base	\$1.34 Billion	\$1.32 Billion
Return on Equity	10.25%	9.50%
Capital Structure – Equity Ratio	51.7%	51.7%
Rate Case Moratorium		May 1, 2019
Full Revenue Decoupling	✓	✓
Expanded Customer-Owned Yard Line Program	✓	✓
Vintage Steel Pipe Replacement Program	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Property Tax Tracker	✓	✓
LNG Facility Cost Recovery	✓	✓

<sup>\*</sup>Proposed settlement is subject to final approval by the Arizona Corporation Commission

## Regulation – Arizona GRC

### **Natural Gas Operations**



#### Operating Income Increase - Proposed Settlement\*



## Regulation-California Attrition



### **Natural Gas Operations**

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



2017 PTY attrition filing made in November 2016 requesting an annual increase in revenue of \$2.8 million



The CPUC approved the requested modification in December 2016

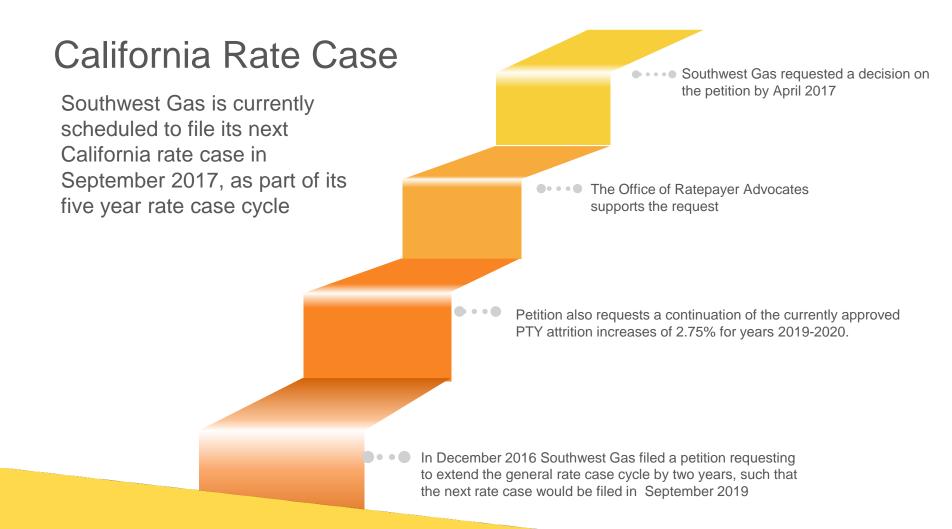
Rates effective January 1, 2017



## Regulation-Next California Rate Case



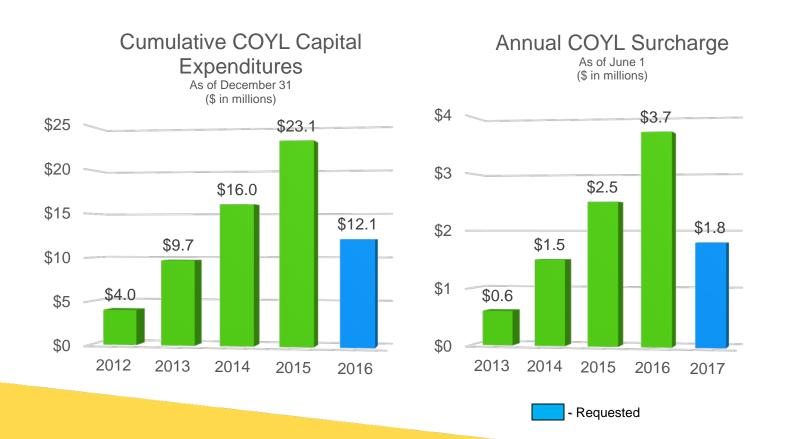
### **Natural Gas Operations**



# Regulation-Infrastructure Recovery Mechanisms



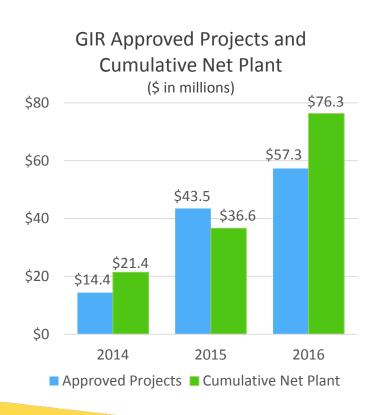
Arizona Customer Owned Yard Line (COYL) program approved as part of last rate case decision, continued with proposed settlement, and reset as of January 1, 2016

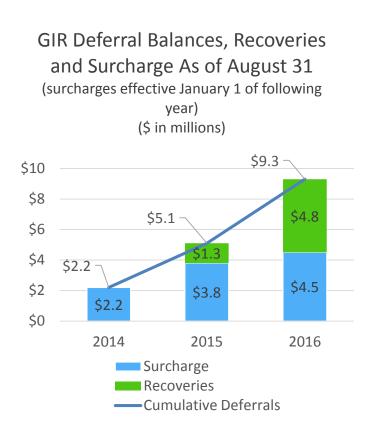


# Regulation-Infrastructure Recovery Mechanisms



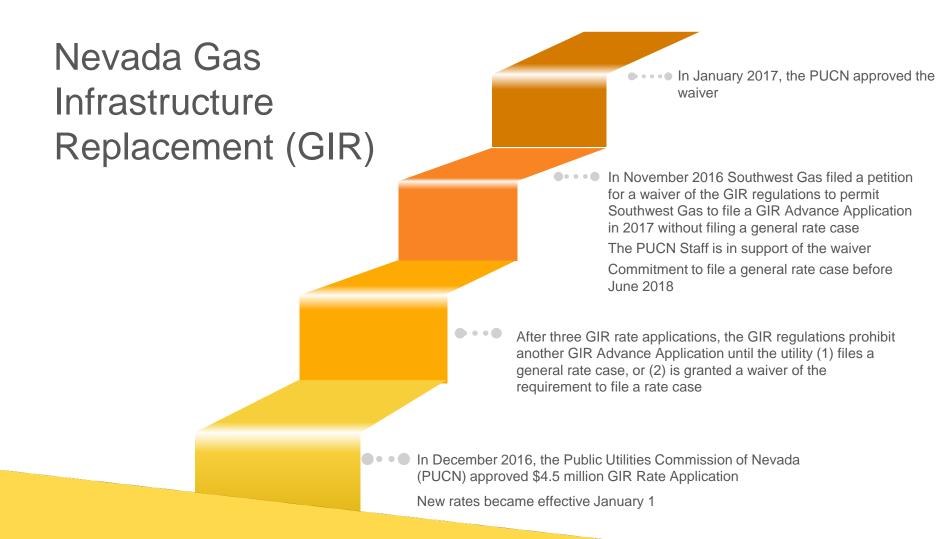
### Nevada Gas Infrastructure Replacement (GIR)





# Regulation-Infrastructure Recovery Mechanisms





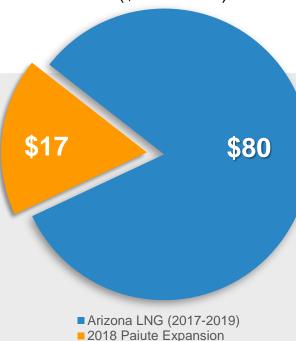
## Regulation - Expansion Projects

## SOUTHWEST GRE

### **Natural Gas Operations**

### **Expansion Projects**





### PAIUTE PIPELINE COMPANY EXPANSION

- 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 prefiling 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

#### ARIZONA LNG FACILITY

- On December 19, 2016, the ACC approved the requested modification for the 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
- Rate case settlement includes an agreement to defer revenue requirements incurred before December 31, 2020 to next rate case
- Total project capital expenditures through December 2016 of \$4.1 million, including land for the project
- Construction expected to be completed by end of 2019

## **Customer Growth**

## Natural Gas Operations

(In Thousands)



	Twelve Mon	elve Months Ended December 31,		Projected Customer Growth			
	2014	2015	2016	2017*	2018	2019	
Beginning period	1,904	1,930	1,956				
Net Customer Adds	26	26	28	30-32	31-33	32-34	
Ending period	1,930	1,956	1,984				



<sup>\*</sup>Total customers expected to exceed 2 million for the first time

### **Economic Overview**

## SOUTHWEST GAS

### Service Area Natural Gas Operations

	<u>Unemploy</u>	ment Rate	<u>Employme</u>	nt Growth		
	December 2015	December 2016	December 2015	December 2016		
Southern California <sup>1</sup>	5.9%	5.2%	3.6%	2.9%		
Southern Nevada <sup>2</sup>	6.2%	5.0%	2.0%	2.6%		
Northern Nevada <sup>3</sup>	6.5%	5.0%	-2.4%	-0.4%		
Southern Arizona <sup>4</sup>	5.0%	4.3%	2.4%	0.4%		
Central Arizona <sup>4</sup>	4.7%	4.1%	2.9%	1.4%		

<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>

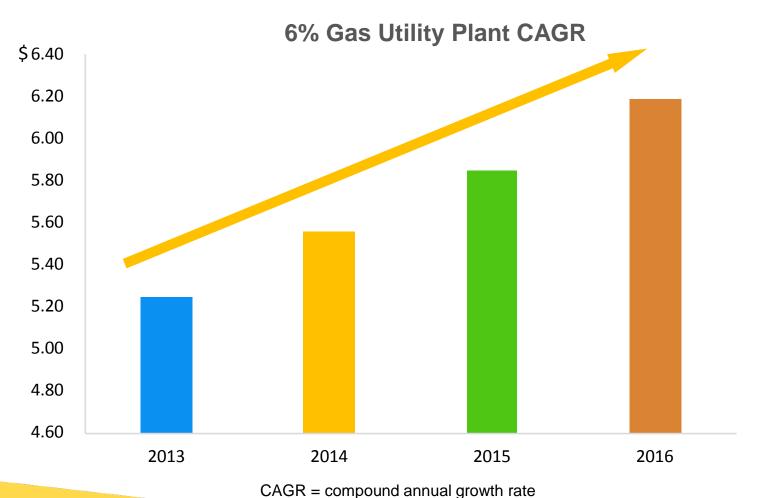
<sup>3 [</sup>Source: Nevada DETR, Data Search: Total Employment (Carson City, Churchill, Douglas, Elko, Humbolt, Lyon, and Pershing Counties, <a href="http://nevadaworkforce.com">http://nevadaworkforce.com</a>

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

## Gas Utility Plant - Growth

## SOUTHWEST GOS

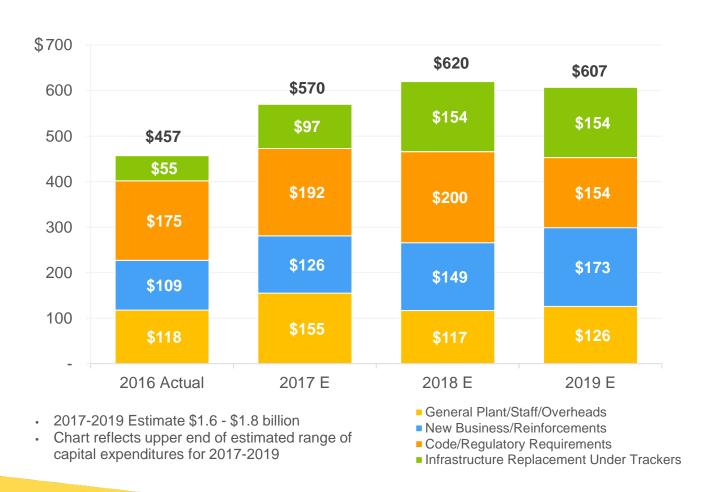
Natural Gas Operations (In billions)



## Capital Expenditures

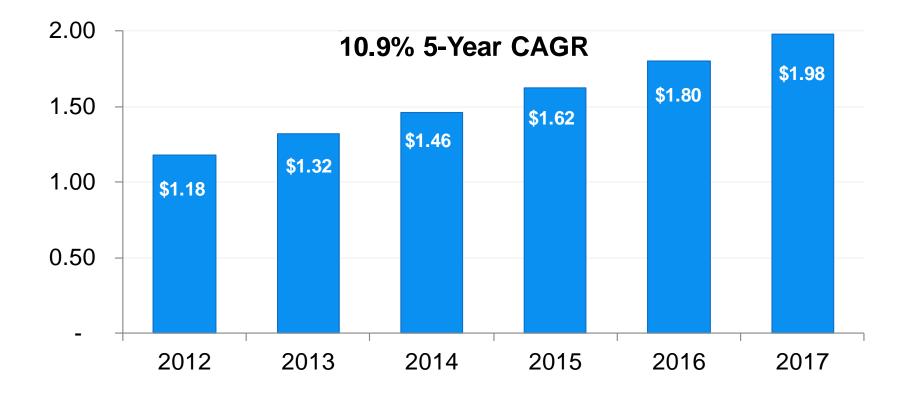
## Natural Gas Operations (In millions)





### **Dividend Growth**



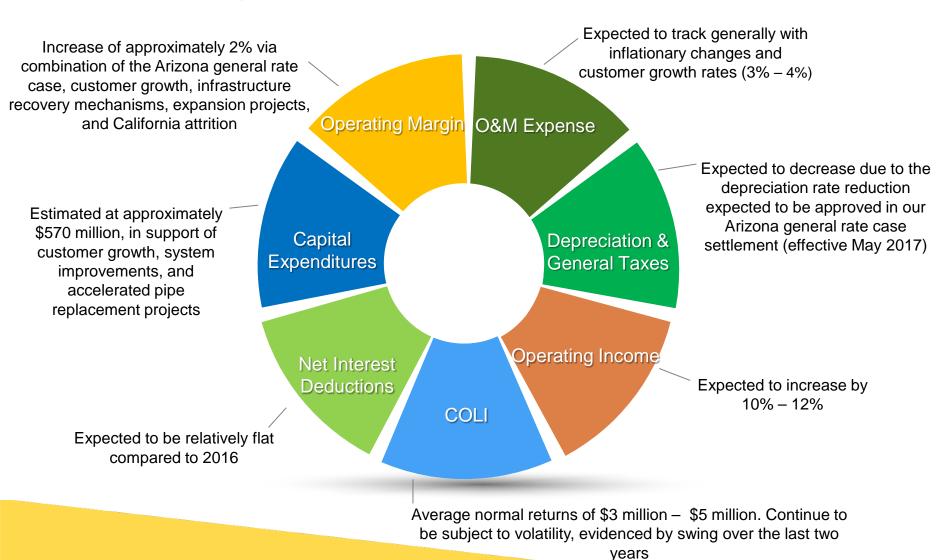


CAGR = compound annual growth rate

## 2017 Expectations

### **Natural Gas Operations**

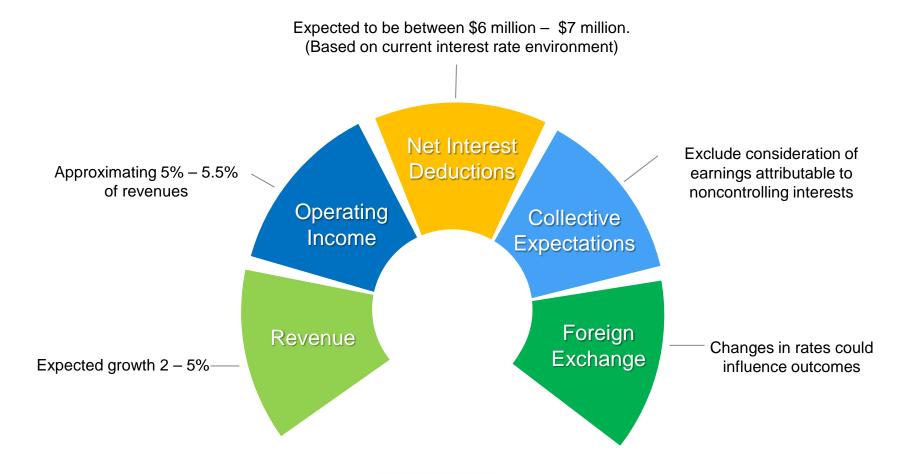




## 2017 Expectations

### **Construction Services**





## Strategic Investment Opportunities





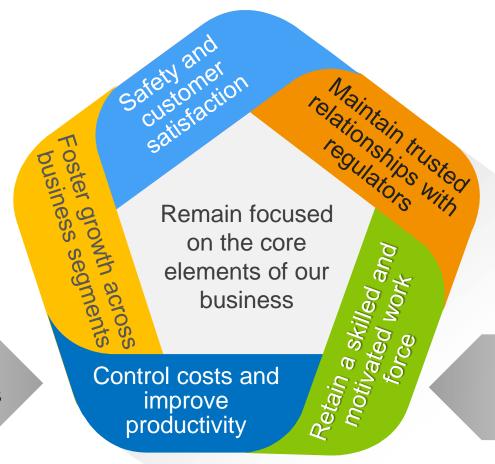
- Underground gas storage assets
- Gas reserves
- Unserved or underserved areas of Nevada (SB151)
- Southern Nevada transmission replacement
- Customer Management System replacement

Construction Services

- Add-on acquisitions
- Water distribution replacement
- Other utility infrastructure replacement/repair work

## Strategic Focus





Manage with a longterm view of success

Execute business initiatives

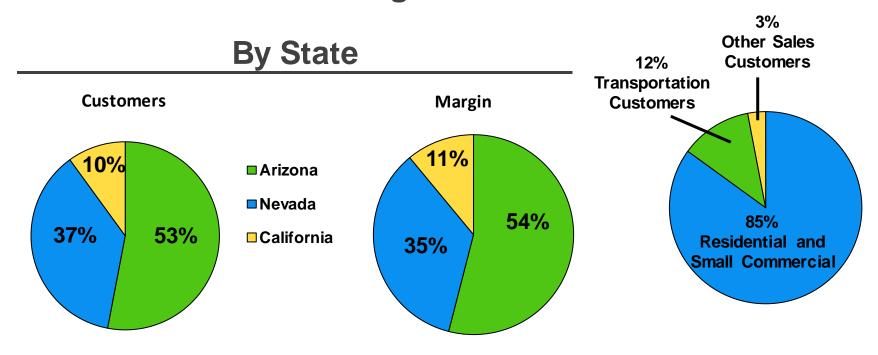


### Stable Customer Base

### **Natural Gas Operations**



## TMTD December 31, 2016 Customer & Operating Margin Distribution



Consistent trends year over year

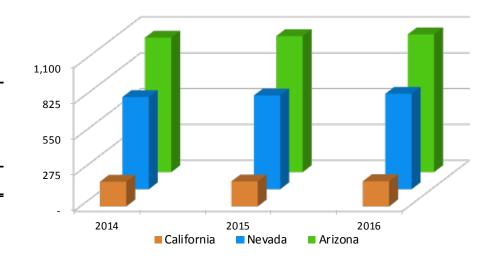
## Customers by State

## Natural Gas Operations (In thousands)



#### As of December 31,

2014	2015	2016
1,033	1,045	1,058
708	720	733
189	191	193
1,930	1,956	1,984
	1,033 708 189	1,033       1,045         708       720         189       191



## **Summary Operating Results**



Natural Gas Operations (In thousands)

	 TWELVE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31,					
	2014		2015		2016	
Results of Natural Gas Operations						
Gas operating revenues	\$ 1,382,087	\$	1,454,639	\$	1,321,412	
Net cost of gas sold	 505,356		563,809		397,121	
Operating margin	 876,731		890,830		924,291	
Operations and maintenance expense	383,732		393,199		401,724	
Depreciation and amortization	204,144		213,455		233,463	
Taxes other than income taxes	47,252		49,393		52,376	
Operating income	 241,603		234,783		236,728	
Other income	7,165		2,292		8,276	
Net interest deductions	68,299		64,095		66,997	
Income before income taxes	180,469		172,980		178,007	
Income tax expense	63,597		61,355		58,584	
Contribution to net income - gas operations	\$ 116,872	\$	111,625	\$	119,423	

## 2016 Increase in Operating Margin



Natural Gas Operations (In millions)

Rate relief (CA, Paiute)	\$ 10
Conservation and energy efficiency (NV)	11
Customer growth	8
Other	4
Increase	\$ 33

## Other Income and Deductions



Natural Gas Operations (In thousands)

	TWELVE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31,						
		2014		2015	2016		
Change in COLI policies	\$	5,300	\$	(500)	\$	7,400	
Miscellaneous income and (expense)		1,865		2,792		876	
Total other income (deductions)	\$	7,165	\$	2,292	\$	8,276	

# Operating Expense

### **Natural Gas Operations**



### Operating expenses increased \$31.5 million or 5%

- O&M expense increased 2.2%
  - General cost increases
  - Higher employee medical costs
  - Lower pension expense
- Depreciation and amortization expense increased 9%
  - Driven by 6% increase in average plant and an increase in regulatory amortizations
- General taxes increased 6%
  - Primarily due to higher property taxes associated with plant additions

### **Net Financing Costs**

### **Natural Gas Operations**



Increased \$3 million from \$64.1 million in 2015 to \$67 million in 2016

- Primarily due to the higher interest expense associated with deferred PGA balances and the issuance of \$300 million senior notes
- Increase partially offset by reductions associated with the redemption of debt (\$20 million 5.25% 2003 Series D IDRBs in September 2015, \$100 million 4.85% 2005 Series A IDRBs in July 2016, and \$24.9 million 4.75% 2006 Series A in September 2016)

### Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA)Balances



Natural Gas Operations

(In millions)

	 As of December 31,					
	 2015	2016				
Arizona	\$ (3.5)	\$	(20.3)			
Northern Nevada	(2.3)		(3.3)			
Southern Nevada	(39.8)		(66.8)			
California	3.6		2.6			
Total Receivable/(Payable)	\$ (42.0)	\$	(87.9)			

# Liquidity Profile

### **Natural Gas Operations**



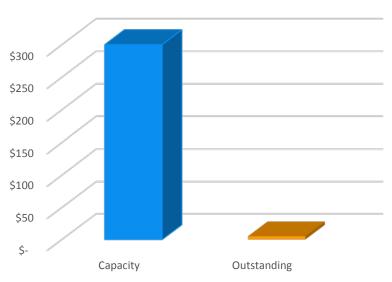
# Strong liquidity will support capital expenditure and working capital needs

- Stable operating cash flows
- \$300 million revolving credit facility
  - Expires in March 2021
  - \$150 million of the facility designated long-term debt and remaining \$150 million as working capital
- \$50 million uncommitted commercial paper program

### As of December 31, 2016

- \$5 million of LIBOR loans
- Available borrowing capacity of \$295 million

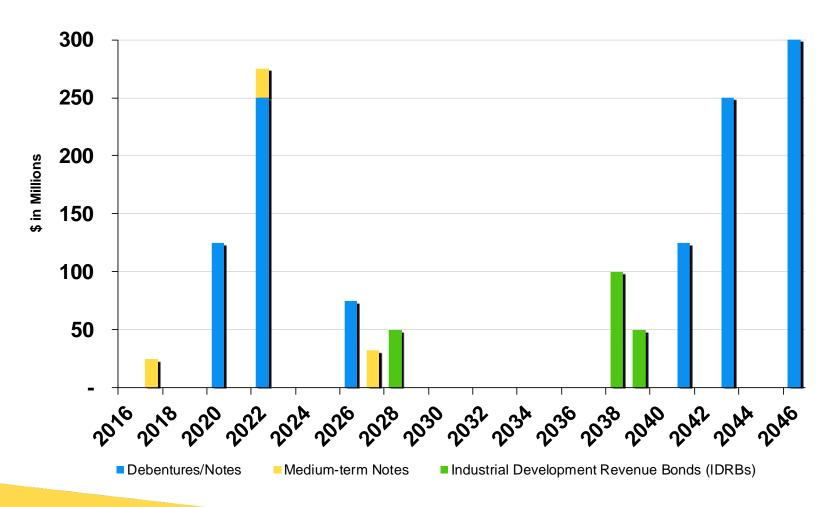




# Long-Term Debt Maturity Schedule[1]



at December 31, 2016



<sup>[1]</sup> Does not include the long-term portion of the \$300 million Revolving Credit Facility, due March 2021

# 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

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

ACC – Arizona Corporation Commission

PUCN - Public Utilities Commission of Nevada

**CPUC - California Public Utilities Commission** 

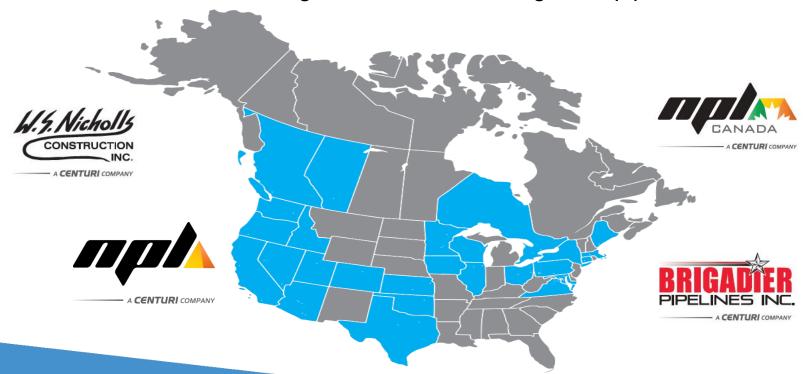
FERC - Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

# Centuri Construction Group

### **Construction Services**



- Headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona
- Operates in 22 markets across U.S. and Canada
- One of North America's largest full-service underground pipeline contractors



# Centuri Construction Group

### **Construction Services**



































































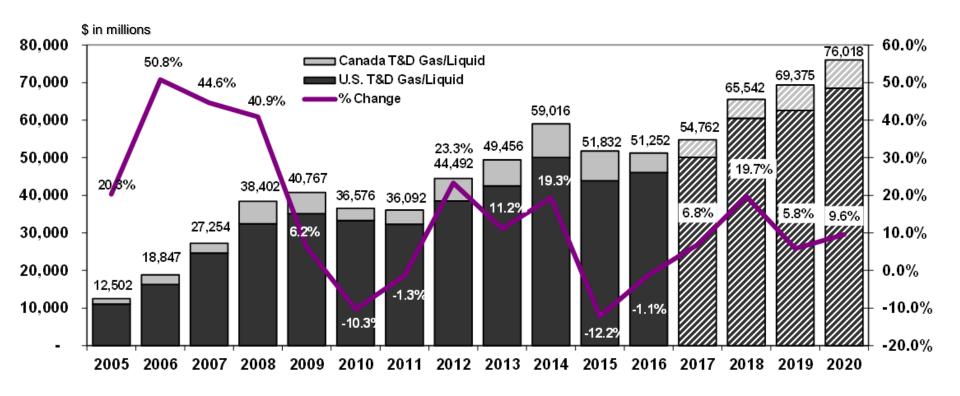




# Gas/Liquid T&D Capex Outlook

# CENTURI CONSTRUCTION GROUP

### Construction Services



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# **Summary Operating Results**



Construction Services (In thousands)

	TWELVE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31,				
		2014	2015	2016	
Results of Construction Services					
Construction revenues	\$	739,620	\$ 1,008,986	\$ 1,139,078	
Operating expenses:					
Construction expenses		647,857	898,781	1,024,423	
Depreciation and amortization		48,883	56,656	55,669	
Operating income		42,880	53,549	58,986	
Other income (deductions)		(58)	587	1,193	
Net interest deductions		3,770	7,784	6,663	
Income before income taxes		39,052	46,352	53,516	
Income tax expense		14,776	18,547	19,884	
Net income		24,276	27,805	33,632	
Net income attributable to noncontrolling interest		22	1,113	1,014	
Contribution to consolidated net income attributable to Centuri	\$	24,254	\$ 26,692	\$ 32,618	

# Operating Revenues

### **Construction Services**



### Increased by \$130 million compared to 2015

Primarily due to certain large bid projects and additional pipe replacement work

- Favorable weather conditions extended the construction season
- Governmental-mandated pipeline safety-related programs resulted in multi-year distribution of pipe replacement projects

## Operating Expenses

### **Construction Services**



### Construction expense increased by \$125.6 million

- Additional pipe replacement work
- Higher labor costs
- General and administrative expense increased approximately \$1.6 million
- Gain on sales of equipment were \$7.1 million

### Depreciation expense decreased by \$1 million

- \$4 million reduction in depreciation associated with an extension of the estimated useful lives of certain depreciable equipment
- Decline in amortization of certain finite-lived intangible assets recognized from the October 2014 acquisition

#### Net Interest Deductions

- Lower interest rates on outstanding borrowings
- Decrease in the average line of credit balance outstanding

# Capital Structure

(In millions, except ratios)



Capitalization at December 31,		2012	2013	2014	2015	 2016
Equity <sup>1</sup>	\$	1,308	\$ 1,412	\$ 1,506	\$ 1,608	\$ 1,684
Long-Term Debt <sup>2</sup>		1,319	1,393	 1,651	1,571	1,600
Total Permanent Capital	\$	2,627	\$ 2,805	\$ 3,157	\$ 3,179	\$ 3,284
Capitalization ratios	_					
Equity <sup>1</sup>		49.8%	50.4%	47.7%	50.6%	51.3%
Long-Term Debt <sup>2</sup>		50.2%	49.6%	 52.3%	49.4%	48.7%
<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.**

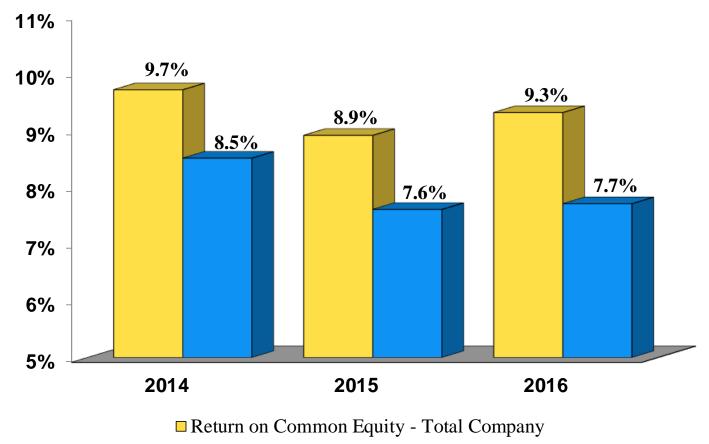
	Moody's	S&P	Fitch
Issuer Rating	Baa1	BBB+	BBB+
Outlook	Stable	Stable	Stable

#### **SOUTHWEST GAS CORPORATION**

	Moody's	S&P	Fitch
Issuer Rating	А3	BBB+	A-
Senior Unsecured	А3	BBB+	Α
Outlook	Stable	Stable	Stable

# Return on Common Equity





■ Return on Common Equity - Gas Operations

### Stock Performance



#### Southwest Gas Holdings, Inc.

Common Stock Closing Price
December 31, 2006 – December 31, 2016



## Comparative Total Returns



### **Total Returns for Periods Ended December 31, 2016**

	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	10-Year
Southwest Gas Holdings	42.50%	14.08%	15.55%	10.32%
S&P 400 MidCap Gas Index	30.61%	14.31%	14.68%	10.64%
S&P Utilities Index	17.60%	12.62%	10.79%	7.43%
S&P 500 Index	11.93%	8.85%	14.62%	6.93%

Total Return = Price appreciation plus gross dividends reinvested