

Diverse businesses awarded over \$884 million in SoCalGas contracts in 2020, 42% of total spending

Minority, women-owned, disabled veteran, and LGBT-owned business get largest share of SoCalGas' spending ever, breaking record for the 28th consecutive year

Southern California Gas Co. (SoCalGas) announced the company achieved another record year of spending with over 550 diverse business enterprises in 2020 — at \$884.2 million, the highest in company history. SoCalGas exceeded the California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) goal of 21.5% for the 28th consecutive year by procuring nearly 42% of total goods and services from women, minority, service-disabled veteran, and LGBT-owned businesses.

In addition to spending with diverse enterprises, SoCalGas also invests in the development of these firms. Development opportunities include business assessment programs, entrepreneurship courses, organizational and operation strategy programs, mentorship, and technical assistance. The programs are designed to help diverse suppliers enhance their operations and help ensure success in their business partnerships.

In 2020, SoCalGas purchases with women-owned businesses were surpassed for the 32nd consecutive year, totaling nearly \$243 million. The company also marked spend with 135 new diverse firms as well as \$192 million in spend with

diverse subcontractors. Other 2020 highlights include:

- \$568 million spent with minority-owned businesses (category includes both minority men and women-owned).
- 41.3% total purchases with diverse suppliers.
- \$61 million spent with disabled-veteran business enterprises.
- 15 firms among the top 25 SoCalGas suppliers are diverse firms.
- 92% of suppliers are based in SoCalGas' home state of California.

In 2021, SoCalGas plans to continue its best practices in supplier diversity and identifying opportunities for diverse suppliers as the company looks toward the future of energy in California. More information on the company's mission and strategic priorities can be found at socialgas.com/mission.



Peppy's (virtual) Heart Walk for Children's Hospital to be held April 20

For 20 years, Joe "Peppy" Sciarra and the Alhambra Rotary Club have raised money to support the Heart Institute at Children's Hospital of Los Angeles through an annual Heart Walk. Every year, except last year because of COVID, participants gather outside Birdies Restaurant, now Almansor Grill. From there they head out to the walking circuit in Almansor Park and return to Birdies, which generously provides lunch.

During this time, Peppy and Rotary Club members have raised around \$180,000 for Children's Hospital. Recently, Connie Sanchez from Children's Hospital Los Angeles Heart Institute spoke at a Rotary (virtual) meeting to thank them.

Peppy, a combat veteran of World War II who earned a Bronze Star for courage under fire, is now 96 and still the face of this important charity event. He made the walk with everyone else until he was 94. His interest in supporting the Heart Institute stems from his experience with his son Joe Sciarra III. When he was four years old, he was diagnosed with hypoplastic anemia, a condition that can lead to heart failure. Young Joe was hospitalized for a month but has lived a healthy life since then. He is now 71 and also participates in the Heart Walk.

Peppy was inspired by his son's experience and wanted to show his thanks by supporting the Heart Institute. His fellow Rotarians caught his vision and have been generous with their time and donations in this steadily more popular event. Children's



Peppy, right, inspired by his son's, Joe Sciarra III, experience, shows his thanks by supporting the Heart Institute.

Hospital is grateful for this long-term commitment to their work and recently the Heart Institute's 2021 Impact Report included a feature about Peppy in its "Donor Spotlight" column.

COVID is not going to stop Peppy this year. There will be a virtual Heart Walk Presentation Ceremony over Zoom at noon Tuesday, April 20. The webinar ID is 839 8963 1070, and the passcode is 1924771. Help support Peppy's Heart Walk this year by donating at <http://connect.chla.org/goto/alhambrarotary>.

CSU Chancellor Joseph I. Castro virtually visits Cal State LA as part of 23-campus tour

California State University Chancellor Joseph I. Castro visited Cal State LA virtually on March 16, marking the third stop on his first 23-campus tour of the CSU system.

Mr. Castro took part in a full day of Zoom meetings during the visit, speaking with students, faculty, and staff to get to know the university and the Cal State LA community.

The chancellor took questions from students, faculty, and staff during the open forum, which was moderated by Raphael J. Sonenshein, executive director for the Pat Brown Institute for Public Affairs at Cal State LA. Mr. Castro covered topics including mental health services, tuition and fees, campus public safety, virtual learning, and the pandemic.

The chancellor said he and the university presidents are working with public health experts to plan a safe transition back to in-person working and learning.

"I think there is reason to be optimistic. On the other hand, we are aware of these variants, and if for some reason we need to adjust, we will make sure that we do that and communicate it as far in advance as possible," Mr. Castro said. "But by and large, what I hear from our students and from most faculty and staff is that you would like to be on campus if we can do it safely, so that's the goal."

Throughout the day, Mr. Castro met with Cal State LA President William A. Covino, the university vice presidents, the Academic Senate Executive Committee, student leaders from Associated Students, Inc., the Cal State LA Foundation, and



California State University Chancellor Joseph I. Castro. (Photo credit: California State University).

labor union representatives.

Department of Theatre and Dance students from the College of Arts and Letters also presented an innovative virtual performance of *War of the Worlds* for the chancellor, using Zoom to produce an engaging live digital theatre production.

Mr. Castro is the first Californian and the first person of color to serve as CSU chancellor. He was previously the president of Fresno State. The grandson of immigrants from Mexico and the son of a single mother, Mr. Castro was the first in his family to graduate from a university.

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