PG&E Corp Form 424B5 March 01, 2013 Table of Contents

> Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5) Registration No. 333-172393

# **CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE**

Title of Each Class of Maximum Aggregate Amount of

Securities to be Registered Offering Price Securities to be Registered \$300,312,000 \$40,963

- (1) Calculated in accordance with Rule 457(r) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.
- (2) This Calculation of Registration Fee table shall be deemed to update the Calculation of Registration Fee table in PG&E Corporation s Registration Statement on Form S-3 (Registration No. 333-172393).

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#### PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

(To Prospectus dated February 23, 2011)

# 7,200,000 Shares

# **Common Stock**

We are offering 7,200,000 shares of our common stock. Our shares of common stock are listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol PCG. On February 26, 2013, the last reported sale price of our common stock was \$41.71 per share.

Investing in our common stock involves risks. For a description of these risks, see <u>Risk Factors</u> on page S-5 of this prospectus supplement.

None of the Securities and Exchange Commission, any state securities commission or any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

	Per Share	Total
Price to the public	\$ 41.71	\$ 300,312,000
Underwriting discounts and commissions	\$ 0.05	\$ 360,000
Proceeds to PG&E Corporation (before expenses)	\$ 41.66	\$ 299,952,000

Delivery of the shares will be made on or about March 4, 2013 through the book-entry facilities of The Depository Trust Company.

**Barclays** 

February 27, 2013

This prospectus supplement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying prospectus. You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the information incorporated by reference. Neither we nor any underwriter has authorized any other person to provide you with different or additional information. If anyone provides you with different or additional information, you should not rely on it. Neither we nor any underwriter is making an offer to sell our common shares in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is accurate only as of the date hereof.

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Unless otherwise indicated, when used in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, the terms we, our and us refer to PG&E Corporation and its subsidiaries.

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#### FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and any documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus contain forward-looking statements that are necessarily subject to various risks and uncertainties. These statements reflect management s judgment and opinions which are based on current estimates, expectations, and projections about future events and assumptions regarding these events and management s knowledge of facts as of the date of this prospectus supplement. These forward-looking statements relate to, among other matters, estimated losses associated with various investigations pertaining to the Utility s natural gas transmission pipeline rupture and fire that occurred on September 9, 2010 in San Bruno, California (the San Bruno accident) and potential enforcement matters; estimated losses and insurance recoveries associated with the civil litigation arising from the San Bruno accident; forecasts of costs the Utility will incur to make safety and reliability improvements, including costs to perform work under the pipeline safety enhancement plan, that the Utility will not recover through rates; forecasts of capital expenditures; estimates and assumptions used in critical accounting policies, including those relating to environmental remediation, tax, litigation, third-party claims, and other liabilities; and the level of future equity or debt issuances. These statements are also identified by words such as assume, expect, intend. should, predict, anticipate, may, would, could, potential and similar expressions. We and the Utility are not able to predict factors that may affect future results. Some of the factors that could cause future results to differ materially from those expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements, or from historical results, include, but are not limited to:

the timing and terms of the resolution of pending investigations and enforcement matters related to the Utility s natural gas system operating practices and the San Bruno accident, including the ultimate amount of penalties the Utility will be required to pay, the cost of any remedial actions the Utility may be ordered to perform, and whether the resolution is reached through settlement negotiations, or a fully litigated proceeding; the ultimate amount of third-party claims associated with the San Bruno accident and the timing and amount of related insurance recoveries; the ultimate amount of punitive damages, if any, the Utility may incur related to third-party claims; and the ultimate amount of civil or criminal penalties, if any, the Utility may incur related to the criminal investigation;

the outcomes of current ratemaking proceedings, such as the 2014 general rate case and the pending electric transmission owner rate case; the outcome of future ratemaking and regulatory proceedings, such as the 2015 gas transmission and storage rate case, and the California Public Utility Commission s (the CPUC) natural gas rulemaking proceeding in which the CPUC will consider the Utility s proposed scope, timing, and cost recovery mechanisms that will apply to the second phase of the pipeline safety enhancement plan; and the outcomes of other ratemaking and regulatory proceedings;

the ultimate amount of costs the Utility incurs in the future that are not recovered through rates, including costs to perform work under the pipeline safety enhancement plan, to identify and remove encroachments from transmission pipeline easements, and to perform incremental work to improve the safety and reliability of electric and natural gas operations;

the outcome of future investigations or proceedings that may be commenced by the CPUC or other regulatory authorities relating to the Utility s compliance with laws, rules, regulations, or orders applicable to the operation, inspection, and maintenance of its electric and gas facilities;

whether we and the Utility are able to repair the reputational harm that they have suffered, and may suffer in the future, due to the negative publicity surrounding the San Bruno accident, the related civil litigation, and the pending investigations, including any charge or finding of criminal liability;

the level of equity contributions that we must make to the Utility to enable the Utility to maintain its authorized capital structure as the Utility incurs charges and costs, including costs associated with natural gas matters and penalties imposed in connection with the pending investigations, that are not recoverable through rates or insurance;

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the impact of environmental remediation laws, regulations, and orders; the ultimate amount of costs incurred to discharge the Utility s known and unknown remediation obligations; the extent to which the Utility is able to recover compliance and remediation costs from third parties or through rates or insurance; and the ultimate amount of costs the Utility incurs in connection with environmental remediation liabilities that are not recoverable through rates or insurance, such as the remediation costs associated with the Utility s natural gas compressor station site located near Hinkley, California;

the impact of new legislation or NRC regulations, recommendations, policies, decisions, or orders relating to the operations, seismic design, security, safety, or decommissioning of nuclear facilities, including the Utility s Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant (Diablo Canyon), or relating to the storage of spent nuclear fuel, cooling water intake, or other issues; and the ability of the Utility to relicense the Diablo Canyon units;

the impact of weather-related conditions or events (such as storms, tornadoes, floods, drought, solar or electromagnetic events, and wildland and other fires), natural disasters (such as earthquakes, tsunamis, and pandemics), and other events (such as explosions, fires, accidents, mechanical breakdowns, equipment failures, human errors, and labor disruptions), as well as acts of terrorism, war, or vandalism, including cyber-attacks, that can cause unplanned outages, reduce generating output, disrupt the Utility s service to customers, or damage or disrupt the facilities, operations, or information technology and systems owned by the Utility, its customers, or third parties on which the Utility relies; and subject the Utility to third-party liability for property damage or personal injury, or result in the imposition of civil, criminal, or regulatory penalties on the Utility;

the impact of environmental laws and regulations aimed at the reduction of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases (GHG s), and whether the Utility is able to recover associated compliance costs, including the cost of emission allowances and offsets, that the Utility may incur under cap-and-trade regulations;

changes in customer demand for electricity (load) and natural gas resulting from unanticipated population growth or decline in the Utility service area, general and regional economic and financial market conditions, the extent of municipalization of the Utility selectric distribution facilities, changing levels of direct access customers who procure electricity from alternative energy providers, changing levels of customers who purchase electricity from governmental bodies that act as community choice aggregators, and the development of alternative energy technologies including self-generation and distributed generation technologies;

the adequacy and price of electricity, natural gas, and nuclear fuel supplies; the extent to which the Utility can manage and respond to the volatility of energy commodity prices; the ability of the Utility and its counterparties to post or return collateral in connection with price risk management activities; and whether the Utility is able to recover timely its energy commodity costs through rates;

whether the Utility s information technology, operating systems and networks, including the advanced metering system infrastructure, customer billing, financial, and other systems, can continue to function accurately while meeting regulatory requirements; whether the Utility is able to protect its operating systems and networks from damage, disruption, or failure caused by cyber-attacks, computer viruses, or other hazards; whether the Utility s security measures are sufficient to protect confidential customer, vendor, and financial data contained in such systems and networks; and whether the Utility can continue to rely on third-party vendors and contractors that maintain and support some of the Utility s operating systems;

the extent to which costs incurred in connection with third-party claims or litigation are not recoverable through insurance, rates, or from other third parties;

our ability and the ability of the Utility to access capital markets and other sources of debt and equity financing in a timely manner on acceptable terms;

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the impact of federal or state laws or regulations, or their interpretation, on energy policy and the regulation of utilities and their holding companies, including how the CPUC interprets and enforces the financial and other conditions imposed on us when we became the Utility s holding company, and whether the outcome of proceedings and investigations relating to the Utility s natural gas operations affects the Utility s ability to make distributions to us in the form of dividends or share repurchases; and, in turn, our ability to pay dividends;

the outcome of federal or state tax audits and the impact of any changes in federal or state tax laws, policies, or regulations; and

the impact of changes in generally accepted accounting principles, standards, rules, or policies, including those related to regulatory accounting, and the impact of changes in their interpretation or application.

For more information about the significant risks that could affect the outcome of these forward-looking statements and our and the Utility s future financial condition and results of operations, you should read the sections titled Risk Factors in the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, together with Risk Factors in this prospectus supplement.

You should read this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents that we incorporate by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, the documents that we have included as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are a part and the documents that we refer to under the section of the accompanying prospectus titled. Where You Can Find More Information completely and with the understanding that our actual future results could be materially different from what we expect when making the forward-looking statements. We qualify all our forward-looking statements by these cautionary statements. These forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this prospectus supplement or the date of the document incorporated by reference. Except as required by applicable laws or regulations, we do not undertake any obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

#### **OUR COMPANY**

PG&E Corporation, incorporated in California in 1995, is a holding company whose primary purpose is to hold interests in energy-based businesses. PG&E Corporation conducts its business principally through Pacific Gas and Electric Company, or the Utility, a public utility operating in northern and central California. The Utility engages in the businesses of electricity and natural gas distribution, electricity generation, procurement and transmission, and natural gas procurement, transportation and storage. The Utility was incorporated in California in 1905. PG&E Corporation became the holding company of the Utility and its subsidiaries on January 1, 1997.

The Utility served approximately 5.2 million electricity distribution customers and approximately 4.4 million natural gas distribution customers at December 31, 2012. The Utility had approximately \$52 billion of assets at December 31, 2012, and generated revenues of approximately \$15 billion in 2012. Its revenues are generated mainly through the sale and delivery of electricity and natural gas. The Utility is regulated primarily by the California Public Utilities Commission, or the CPUC, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. In addition, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, or the NRC, oversees the licensing, construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Utility s nuclear generation facilities.

The principal executive offices of PG&E Corporation and the Utility are located at 77 Beale Street, P.O. Box 770000, San Francisco, California 94177. The telephone number of PG&E Corporation is (415) 973-1000 and the telephone number of the Utility is (415) 973-7000.

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#### THE OFFERING

Shares of common stock offered

7,200,000 shares.

Shares of common stock to be outstanding after this offering (based on 431,546,381 shares of common stock issued and outstanding as of February 25, 2013)

438,746,381 shares.

Use of proceeds

The net proceeds from the sale of the common stock in this offering are estimated to be approximately \$299.8 million. We intend to contribute all of the net proceeds from the sale of the common stock to the Utility, which will use such net proceeds for general corporate purposes.

New York Stock Exchange symbol

**PCG** 

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#### RISK FACTORS

Investing in our common stock involves risk. These risks are described below and under Risk Factors in Item 1A of Part II of our annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012, which is incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. See Where You Can Find More Information in the accompanying prospectus. Before making a decision to invest in our common stock, you should carefully consider these risks, as well as other information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

#### Risks Relating to our Common Stock

The price of our common stock may fluctuate significantly, which could negatively affect us and holders of our common stock.

The market price of our common stock may fluctuate significantly from time to time as a result of many factors, including:

investors perceptions of us and the Utility s prospects;

investors perceptions of us and/or the industry s risk and return characteristics relative to other investment alternatives;

investors perceptions of the prospects of the energy and commodities markets;

differences between actual financial and operating results and those expected by investors and analysts;

changes in analyst reports, recommendations or earnings estimates regarding us, the Utility, other comparable companies or the industry generally, and our and the Utility s ability to meet those estimates;

actual or anticipated fluctuations in quarterly financial and operating results;

volatility in the equity securities market;

sales, or anticipated sales, of large blocks of our common stock;

the amount of penalties that the Utility ultimately will pay in connection with the investigations described under Natural Gas Matters in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012, the ultimate amount of costs the Utility incurs in the future that are not recovered through rates, and the impact of such amounts on our dividend level;

mandated discretionary spending cuts, known as sequestration, which may go into effect on March 1, 2013 if Congress does not take action to further delay sequestration or otherwise fails to agree on a plan to reduce the federal deficit;

continuing concerns about the sovereign debt crises in Europe; and

other factors described under Forward-Looking Statements in this prospectus supplement.

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#### USE OF PROCEEDS

We estimate that the net proceeds to us from this offering will be approximately \$299.8 million, after deducting estimated offering expenses payable by us.

We intend to contribute all of the net proceeds from this offering to the Utility, which will use such net proceeds for general corporate purposes.

#### COMMON STOCK PRICE RANGE AND DIVIDENDS

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol PCG. The following table sets forth the range of intra-day high and low sale prices, as reported on the New York Stock Exchange and the cash dividends per share paid on the common stock for the periods indicated:

		Price Range of Common Stock	
	High	Low	Share
2010			
First Quarter	\$ 45.63	\$ 40.58	\$ 0.42
Second Quarter	45.00	34.95	0.455
Third Quarter	48.34	40.52	0.455
Fourth Quarter	48.63	45.38	0.455
2011			
First Quarter	\$ 47.99	\$ 41.45	\$ 0.455
Second Quarter	46.71	41.18	0.455
Third Quarter	43.82	37.57	0.455
Fourth Quarter	43.56	36.84	0.455
2012			
First Quarter	\$ 43.96	\$ 39.85	\$ 0.455
Second Quarter	45.56	41.88	\$ 0.455
Third Quarter	47.03	42.12	\$ 0.455
Fourth Quarter	44.11	39.395	\$ 0.455
2013			
First Quarter (through February 26, 2013)	\$ 43.29	\$ 40.29	\$ 0.455

We are a holding company with no revenue generating operations of our own. Our ability to pay dividends on our common stock, as well as satisfy our other financial obligations, primarily depends on the earnings and cash flows of the Utility and the ability of the Utility to distribute cash to us and reimburse us for the Utility s share of applicable expenses. The dividend policies of PG&E Corporation and the Utility are designed to meet the following three objectives:

Comparability: Pay a dividend competitive with the securities of comparable companies based on payout ratio (the proportion of earnings paid out as dividends) and, with respect to us, yield (i.e., dividend divided by share price);

Flexibility: Allow sufficient cash to pay a dividend and to fund investments while avoiding having to issue new equity unless our or the Utility s capital expenditure requirements are growing rapidly and we or the Utility can issue equity at reasonable cost and terms; and

Sustainability: Avoid reduction or suspension of the dividend despite fluctuations in financial performance except in extreme and unforeseen circumstances.

Our board of directors and the Utility s board of directors retain authority to change the common stock dividend rate at any time, especially if unexpected events occur that would change its view as to the prudent level of cash conservation. No dividend is payable unless and until

declared by the applicable Board of Directors. In

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addition, before declaring a dividend, the CPUC requires that our Board of Directors give first priority to the Utility s capital requirements, as determined to be necessary and prudent to meet the Utility s obligation to serve or to operate the Utility in a prudent and efficient manner. The Boards of Directors must also consider the CPUC requirement that the Utility maintain, on average, its CPUC-authorized capital structure including a 52% equity component. As the Utility focuses on improving the safety and reliability of its natural gas and electric operations, and subject to the outcome of the matters described under Natural Gas Matters in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012 and in our Current Reports on Form 8-K, we expect that our Board of Directors will continue to maintain the current quarterly common stock dividend.

#### DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK

See Description of Common Stock and Preferred Stock in the accompanying Prospectus for a summary description of our common stock.

The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC.

#### CERTAIN U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX AND ESTATE

#### TAX CONSEQUENCES TO NON-U.S. HOLDERS

The following is a summary of certain material U.S. federal income tax and estate tax consequences to non-U.S. holders relating to the ownership and disposition of our common stock, but does not purport to be a complete analysis of all the potential tax considerations relating thereto. This summary is based upon the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, Treasury regulations promulgated thereunder, administrative rulings and judicial decisions, all as in effect on the date hereof. These authorities may be changed, possibly retroactively, so as to result in U.S. federal income or estate tax consequences different from those set forth below. We have not sought any ruling from the Internal Revenue Service, or the IRS, with respect to the statements made and the conclusions reached in the following summary, and there can be no assurance that the IRS will agree with such statements and conclusions.

This summary also does not address the tax considerations arising under the laws of any non-U.S., state or local jurisdiction or under U.S. federal gift and estate tax laws, except to the limited extent set forth below. In addition, this discussion does not address tax considerations applicable to a non-U.S. holder s particular circumstances or to non-U.S. holders that may be subject to special tax rules, including, without limitation:

banks, insurance companies or other financial institutions;	
persons subject to the alternative minimum tax;	
tax-exempt organizations;	
controlled foreign corporations, passive foreign investment companies and corporations that accumulate earnings to avoid U income tax;	J.S. federal
partnerships or other entities treated as pass-through entities for U.S. federal income tax purposes;	
dealers in securities or currencies;	
traders in securities that elect to use a mark-to-market method of accounting for their securities holdings;	

persons that own, or are deemed to own, more than five percent of our common stock, except to the extent specifically set forth below;

real estate investment trusts or regulated investment companies;

certain former citizens or long-term residents of the U.S.;

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persons who hold our common stock as part of a straddle, hedge, conversion, constructive sale, or other integrated security transaction; or

persons who do not hold our common stock as a capital asset (within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Internal Revenue Code). If a partnership or entity classified as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes holds our common stock, the tax treatment of a partner generally will depend on the status of the partner and upon the activities of the partnership. Accordingly, partnerships that hold our common stock, and partners in such partnerships, should consult their tax advisors.

You are urged to consult your tax advisor with respect to the application of the U.S. federal income tax laws to your particular situation, as well as any tax consequences of the purchase, ownership and disposition of our common stock arising under the U.S. federal estate or gift tax rules or under the laws of any state, local, non-U.S. or other taxing jurisdiction or under any applicable tax treaty.

#### Non-U.S. Holder Defined

For purposes of this discussion, a non-U.S. holder is a beneficial owner of shares of our common stock that is not, for U.S. federal income tax purposes:

an individual citizen or resident of the U.S.;

a corporation (or other entity treated as a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes) created or organized in or under the laws of the U.S., any state or political subdivision thereof, or the District of Columbia;

an estate whose income is subject to U.S. federal income tax regardless of its source; or

a trust (x) whose administration is subject to the primary supervision of a U.S. court and which has one or more U.S. persons who have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust or (y) which has made an election to be treated as a U.S. person.

#### **Distributions**

If we make a distribution of cash or other property (other than certain pro rata distributions of our common stock) in respect of our common stock, the distribution will be treated as a dividend to the extent it is paid from our current or accumulated earnings and profits (as determined under U.S. federal income tax principles). If the amount of a distribution exceeds our current and accumulated earnings and profits, such excess first will be treated as a tax-free return of capital to the extent of the non-U.S. holder s adjusted tax basis in our common stock, and thereafter will be treated as capital gain. Distributions treated as dividends on our common stock held by a non-U.S. holder generally will be subject to U.S. federal withholding tax at a rate of 30%, or at a lower rate if provided by an applicable income tax treaty and the non-U.S. holder has provided the documentation required to claim benefits under such treaty. Generally, to claim the benefits of an income tax treaty, a non-U.S. holder will be required to provide a properly executed IRS Form W-8BEN.

If, however, a dividend is effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business in the U.S. by the non-U.S. holder (and, if an applicable tax treaty so provides, is attributable to a permanent establishment or fixed base maintained by the non-U.S. holder in the U.S.), the dividend will not be subject to the 30% U.S. federal withholding tax (provided the non-U.S. holder has provided the appropriate documentation, generally an IRS Form W-8ECI, to the withholding agent), but the non-U.S. holder generally will be subject to U.S. federal income tax in respect of the dividend on a net income basis, and at graduated rates, in substantially the same manner as U.S. persons. Dividends received by a non-U.S. holder that is a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes and which are effectively connected with the conduct of a U.S. trade or business may also be subject to a branch profits tax at the rate of 30% (or a lower rate if provided by an applicable tax treaty).

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A non-U.S. holder that is eligible for a reduced rate of U.S. federal withholding tax under an income tax treaty may obtain a refund or credit of any excess amounts withheld by timely filing an appropriate claim for a refund together with the required information with the IRS.

# **Gain on Disposition of Common Stock**

Subject to the discussion below of the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act, or FATCA, and backup withholding, a non-U.S. holder generally will not be subject to U.S. federal income or withholding tax on any gain realized on the sale or other disposition of our common stock unless:

such non-U.S. holder is an individual who is present in the U.S. for 183 days or more in the taxable year of such sale or disposition, and certain other conditions are met;

such gain is effectively connected with the conduct by the non-U.S. holder of a trade or business in the U.S. (and, if an applicable tax treaty so provides, is attributable to a permanent establishment or a fixed base maintained by the non-U.S. holder in the U.S.); or

our common stock constitutes a U.S. real property interest by reason of our status as a United States real property holding corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes, or a USRPHC, at any time within the shorter of the five-year period preceding the disposition or the non-U.S. holder s holding period for our common stock.

A non-U.S. holder that is an individual and who is present in the U.S. for 183 days or more in the taxable year of such sale or disposition, if certain other conditions are met, will be subject to tax at a gross rate of 30% on the amount by which such non-U.S. holder s taxable capital gains allocable to U.S. sources, including gain from the sale or other disposition of our common stock, exceed capital losses allocable to U.S. sources, except as otherwise provided in an applicable income tax treaty.

Gain realized by a non-U.S. holder that is effectively connected with such non-U.S. holder s conduct of a trade or business in the U.S. generally will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net income basis, and at graduated rates, in substantially the same manner as a U.S. person (except as provided by an applicable tax treaty). In addition, if such non-U.S. holder is a corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes, it may also be subject to a branch profits tax at the rate of 30% (or a lower rate if provided by an applicable tax treaty).

Generally, a corporation is a USRPHC if the fair market value of its U.S. real property interests equals or exceeds 50% of the sum of the fair market value of its worldwide real property interests and its other assets used or held for use in a trade or business (all as determined for U.S. federal income tax purposes). There can be no assurances that we are not or will not become a USRPHC. If, however, we were a USRPHC during the applicable testing period, as long as our common stock is regularly traded on an established securities market (such as the New York Stock Exchange), our common stock will be treated as U.S. real property interests only for a non-U.S. holder who actually or constructively holds (at any time within the shorter of the five-year period preceding the disposition or the non-U.S. holder s holding period) more than 5% of such regularly traded stock. Please note, though, that we can provide no assurance that our common stock will remain regularly traded.

# Federal Estate Tax

Our common stock beneficially owned by an individual who is not a citizen or resident of the U.S. (as defined for U.S. federal estate tax purposes) at the time of death will generally be includable in the decedent s gross estate for U.S. federal estate tax purposes, unless an applicable estate tax treaty provides otherwise.

# Legislation Affecting Taxation of Our Common Stock Held By or Through Foreign Entities

Sections 1471 through 1474 of the Internal Revenue Code, the FATCA provisions, impose U.S. withholding taxes on certain types of payments made to foreign entities. Failure to comply with the additional certification,

information reporting and other specified requirements imposed under FATCA could result in U.S. withholding tax being imposed on payments of dividend distributions and sales proceeds of common stock held by or through a foreign entity. Treasury Regulations provide that FATCA withholding generally will apply to (i) payments of dividend distributions made after December 31, 2013, (ii) gross proceeds from the sale, exchange or retirement of common stock paid after December 31, 2016 and (iii) certain pass-thru payments received with respect to instruments held through foreign financial institutions after December 31, 2016. Prospective investors should consult their own tax advisors regarding FATCA and its effect on them.

#### **Backup Withholding and Information Reporting**

Generally, we must report annually to the IRS the amount of dividends paid to a non-U.S. holder, the non-U.S. holder s name and address, and the amount of tax withheld, if any. A similar report is sent to the non-U.S. holder. Pursuant to applicable income tax treaties or other agreements, the IRS may make these reports available to tax authorities in the non-U.S. holder country of residence.

Payments of dividends or of proceeds on the disposition of stock made to a non-U.S. holder may be subject to information reporting and backup withholding unless the non-U.S. holder establishes an exemption, for example by properly certifying the non-U.S. holder s status on a Form W-8BEN or another appropriate version of IRS Form W-8. Notwithstanding the foregoing, backup withholding and information reporting may apply if either we or our paying agent has actual knowledge, or reason to know, that the non-U.S. holder is a U.S. person.

Backup withholding is not an additional tax; rather, the U.S. income tax liability of persons subject to backup withholding will be reduced by the amount of tax withheld. If withholding results in an overpayment of taxes, a refund or credit may generally be obtained from the IRS, provided that the required information is furnished to the IRS in a timely manner.

The preceding discussion of U.S. federal tax considerations is for general information only. It is not tax advice. Each prospective investor should consult its own tax advisor regarding the particular U.S. federal, state and local and non-U.S. tax consequences of purchasing, holding and disposing of our common stock, including the consequences of any proposed change in applicable laws.

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#### UNDERWRITING

Barclays Capital Inc. is acting as the underwriter in connection with this offering. Subject to the terms and conditions of the underwriting agreement, the underwriter has agreed to purchase from us 7,200,000 shares of common stock at a price of \$41.66 per share.

The underwriter has agreed to purchase all of the shares of common stock sold under the underwriting agreement if it purchases any of these shares. The underwriting agreement provides that the obligations of the underwriter to purchase the shares included in this offering are subject to approval of legal matters by counsel and to other conditions.

In connection with this offering, the underwriter or securities dealers may distribute prospectus supplements and the accompanying prospectus electronically.

The underwriter has advised us that it proposes to offer the shares of common stock directly to the public at the public offering price on the cover of this prospectus supplement and to selected dealers, which may include the underwriter, at such offering price less a selling concession not in excess of \$0.05 per share. After the offering, the underwriter may change the offering price and other selling terms. Sales of shares made outside of the United States may be made by affiliates of the underwriter.

The following table summarizes the underwriting discounts and commissions we will pay to the underwriter. The underwriting fee is the difference between the initial price to the public and the amount the underwriter pays us for the shares.



We have agreed that, subject to certain exceptions, without the prior written consent of the underwriter, we will not, during the 60-day period beginning on the date of the underwriting agreement, directly or indirectly, offer, sell, contract to sell, or otherwise dispose of, our common shares or publicly announce any intention to effect any such transaction. This agreement does not apply to issuances pursuant to the underwriting agreement and sales of our common stock pursuant to our equity distribution program after the closing date of this offering, or shares of our common stock and options to purchase shares that we issue, in either case, pursuant to any employer or director stock option benefit plan, stock purchase or ownership plan (whether currently existing or adopted hereafter), dividend reinvestment plan or direct purchase plan, including, without limitation, those plans disclosed in our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Our shares of common stock are listed on the NYSE under the symbol PCG.

The expenses of this offering are estimated to be approximately \$200,000 and are payable by us.

Until the distribution of the shares offered hereby is completed, Securities and Exchange Commission rules may limit the underwriter and selling group members from bidding for or purchasing our shares of common stock. However, the underwriter may engage in transactions that stabilize the price of our common stock, such as bids or purchases that peg, fix or maintain the price of the common stock.

In connection with this offering, the underwriter may make short sales of our shares of common stock. Short sales involve the sale by the underwriter, at the time of the offering, of a greater number of shares of common stock it is are required to purchase in the offering. Short sales may be naked short sales, which are short positions in excess of that amount. The underwriter must close out any naked short position by purchasing shares of common stock in the open market. A naked short position is more likely to be created if the underwriter is concerned that there may be downward pressure on the price of our common stock in the open market after pricing that could adversely affect investors who purchase in the offering. Similar to other purchase transactions, the purchases by the underwriter to cover short positions may have the effect of raising or maintaining the market price of common stock preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of our common stock. As a result, the price of our common stock may be higher than it would otherwise be in the absence of these transactions. If these activities are commenced, they may be discontinued at any time.

Neither we nor the underwriter makes any representation or prediction as to the direction or magnitude of any effect the transactions described above may have on the price of our common stock. In addition, neither we nor the underwriter makes any representation that the underwriter will engage in these transactions or that these transactions, once commenced, will not be discontinued without notice.

We have agreed to indemnify the underwriter against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act 1933, as amended, or, if indemnification is not allowed, to contribute to payments the underwriter may be required to make because of those liabilities.

The underwriter and its affiliates have engaged and in the future may engage in investment banking transactions and in general financing, commercial banking and energy trading transactions with, and the provision of services to, us and our affiliates in the ordinary course of business. One or more affiliates of the underwriter are part of a consortium of banks that participates in our revolving credit facility and may also hold debt securities issued by the Utility.

#### **Selling Restrictions**

#### Notice To Prospective Investors In European Economic Area

In relation to each Member State of the European Economic Area which has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a Relevant Member State ), with effect from and including the date on which the Prospectus Directive is implemented in that Relevant Member State (the Relevant Implementation Date ) an offer to the public of any shares which are the subject of the offering contemplated by this prospectus (the Shares ) may not be made in that Relevant Member State except that an offer to the public in that Relevant Member State of any Shares may be made at any time with effect from and including the Relevant Implementation Date under the following exemptions under the Prospectus Directive, if they have been implemented in that Relevant Member State:

- (a) to any legal entity which is a qualified investor as defined under the Prospectus Directive;
- (b) to fewer than 100, or, if the Relevant Member State has implemented the relevant provisions of the 2010 PD Amending Directive, 150, natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Directive) subject to obtaining the prior consent of the underwriter for any such offer; or
- (c) in any other circumstances falling within Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive, provided that no such offer of Shares shall result in a requirement for us or any underwriter to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive or supplement a prospectus pursuant to Article 16 of the Prospectus Directive.

For the purposes of this provision, the expression an offer to the public in relation to any Shares in any Relevant Member State means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and any Shares to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase any Shares, as the same may be varied in that Member State by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that Member State. The expression Prospectus Directive means Directive 2003/71/EC (and amendments thereto, including the 2010 PD Amending Directive, to the extent implemented in the Relevant Member State), and includes any relevant implementing measure in each Relevant Member State and the expression 2010 PD Amending Directive means Directive 2010/73/EU.

The EEA selling restriction is in addition to any other selling restrictions set out in this prospectus.

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## Notice to Prospective Investors in Australia

This document has not been lodged with the Australian Securities & Investments Commission and does not constitute an offer except to the following categories of exempt persons:

- (i) sophisticated investors under section 708(8)(a) or (b) of the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) of Australia ( Corporations Act );
- (ii) sophisticated investors under section 708(8)(c) or (d) of the Corporations Act who have provided an accountant s certificate to us which complies with the requirements of section 708(8)(c)(i) or (ii) of the Corporations Act and related regulations before any offer has been made; and
- (iii) professional investors within the meaning of section 708(11)(a) or (b) of the Corporations Act. By purchasing shares of common stock, you warrant and agree that:
  - (i) you are an exempt investor under one of the above categories; and
  - (ii) you will not offer any shares of common stock issued or sold to you pursuant to this document for sale in Australia within 12 months of those shares being issued or sold unless any such sale offer is exempt from the requirement to issue a disclosure document under sections 708 or 708A of the Corporations Act.

#### Notice To Prospective Investors In United Kingdom

This prospectus is only being distributed to and is only directed at: (1) persons who are outside the United Kingdom; (2) investment professionals falling within Article 19(5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005 (the Order ); or (3) high net worth companies, and other persons to whom it may lawfully be communicated, falling within Article 49(2)(a) to (d) of the Order (all such persons falling within (1)-(3) together being referred to as relevant persons ). The shares are only available to, and any invitation, offer or agreement to subscribe, purchase or otherwise acquire such shares will be engaged in only with, relevant persons. Any person who is not a relevant person should not act or rely on this prospectus or any of its contents.

#### Notice To Prospective Investors In Hong Kong

The contents of this prospectus have not been reviewed by any regulatory authority in Hong Kong. You are advised to exercise caution in relation to the offer. If you are in any doubt about any of the contents of this prospectus, you should obtain independent professional advice. Please note that (i) our securities may not be offered or sold in Hong Kong, by means of this prospectus or any document other than to professional investors within the meaning of Part I of Schedule 1 of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap.571, Laws of Hong Kong) (SFO) and any rules made thereunder, or in other circumstances which do not result in the document being a prospectus within the meaning of the Co or the SFO, and (ii) no advertisement, invitation or document relating to our securities may be issued or may be in the possession of any person for the purpose of issue (in each case whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere) which is directed at, or the contents of which are likely to be accessed or read by, the public in Hong Kong (except if permitted to do so under the securities laws of Hong Kong) other than with respect to the securities which are or are intended to be disposed of only to persons outside Hong Kong or only to professional investors within the meaning of the SFO and any rules made thereunder.

## Notice To Prospective Investors In Japan

Our securities have not been and will not be registered under the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law of Japan (the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law) and our securities will not be offered or sold, directly or

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indirectly, in Japan, or to, or for the benefit of, any resident of Japan (which term as used herein means any person resident in Japan, including any corporation or other entity organized under the laws of Japan), or to others for re-offering or resale, directly or indirectly, in Japan, or to a resident of Japan, except pursuant to an exemption from the registration requirements of, and otherwise in compliance with, the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law and any other applicable laws, regulations and ministerial guidelines of Japan.

#### Notice To Prospective Investors In Singapore

This document has not been registered as a prospectus with the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Accordingly, this document and any other document or material in connection with the offer or sale, or invitation for subscription or purchase, of our securities may not be circulated or distributed, nor may our securities be offered or sold, or be made the subject of an invitation for subscription or purchase, whether directly or indirectly, to persons in Singapore other than (i) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the Securities and Futures Act, Chapter 289 of Singapore (the SFA), (ii) to a relevant person pursuant to Section 275(1), or any person pursuant to Section 275(1A), and in accordance with the conditions specified in Section 275, of the SFA, or (iii) otherwise pursuant to, and in accordance with the conditions of, any other applicable provision of the SFA.

Where our securities are subscribed or purchased under Section 275 by a relevant person which is:

- (a) a corporation (which is not an accredited investor (as defined in Section 4A of the SFA)) the sole business of which is to hold investments and the entire share capital of which is owned by one or more individuals, each of whom is an accredited investor; or
- (b) a trust (where the trustee is not an accredited investor) whose sole purpose is to hold investments and each beneficiary of the trust is an individual who is an accredited investor, securities (as defined in Section 239(1) of the SFA) of that corporation or the beneficiaries rights and interest (howsoever described) in that trust shall not be transferred within six months after that corporation or that trust has acquired our securities pursuant to an offer made under Section 275 except:
- (1) to an institutional investor or to a relevant person defined in Section 275(2) of the SFA, or to any person arising from an offer referred to in Section 275(1A) or Section 276(4)(i)(B) of the SFA;
- (2) where no consideration is or will be given for the transfer;
- (3) where the transfer is by operation of law; or
- (4) as specified in Section 276(7) of the SFA.

# Notice to Prospective Investors in Switzerland

This prospectus may be communicated in Switzerland to a small number of selected investors only. Each copy of this prospectus is addressed to a specifically named recipient and may not be copied, reproduced, distributed or passed on to third parties. The shares of common stock may not be publicly offered in Switzerland and will not be listed on the Swiss Exchange (SIX) or on any other stock exchange or regulated trading facility in Switzerland. This prospectus has been prepared without regard to the disclosure standards for issuance prospectuses under art. 652a or art. 1156 of the Swiss Code of Obligations or the disclosure standards for listing prospectuses under art. 27 ff. of the SIX Listing Rules or the listing rules of any other stock exchange or regulated trading facility in Switzerland. Neither this prospectus nor any other offering or marketing material relating to the shares of common stock or the offering may be publicly distributed or otherwise made publicly available in Switzerland.

Neither this prospectus nor any other offering or marketing material relating to the offering, us or the shares of common stock have been or will be filed with or approved by any Swiss regulatory authority. In particular, this prospectus will not be filed with, and the offer of shares of common stock will not be supervised by, the

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Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority, and the offer of shares of common stock has not been and will not be authorized under the Swiss Federal Act on Collective Investment Schemes ( CISA ). The investor protection afforded to acquirers of interests in collective investment schemes under the CISA does not extend to acquirers of shares of common stock.

#### Notice to Prospective Investors in France

Neither this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus nor any other offering material relating to the ordinary shares described in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus has been submitted to the clearance procedures of the *Autorité des Marchés Financiers* or of the competent authority of another member state of the European Economic Area and notified to the *Autorité des Marchés Financiers*. The ordinary shares have not been offered or sold and will not be offered or sold, directly or indirectly, to the public in France. Neither this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus nor any other offering material relating to the ordinary shares has been or will be:

released, issued, distributed or caused to be released, issued or distributed to the public in France; or

used in connection with any offer for subscription or sale of the ordinary shares to the public in France.

Such offers, sales and distributions will be made in France only:

to qualified investors (*investisseurs qualifiés*) and/or to a restricted circle of investors (*cercle restraint d investisseurs*), in each case investing for their own account, all as defined in, and in accordance with articles L.411-2, D.411-1, D.411-2, D.734-1, D.744-1, D.754-1 and D.764-1 of the French *Code monétaire et financier*;

to investment services providers authorized to engage in portfolio management on behalf of third parties; or

in a transaction that, in accordance with article L.411-2-II-1°-or-2°-or 3° of the French *Code monétaire et financier* and article 211-2 of the General Regulations (*Règlement Général*) of the *Autorité des Marchés Financiers*, does not constitute a public offer (*appel public à l épargne*).

The ordinary shares may be resold directly or indirectly, only in compliance with articles L.411-1, L.411-2, L.412-1 and L.621-8 through L.621-8-3 of the French *Code monétaire et financier*.

#### LEGAL MATTERS

Certain legal matters in connection with this common stock offering will be passed upon for us by Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP, San Francisco, California. Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, New York, New York represents the underwriter. Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP has in the past performed, and continues to perform, legal services in connection with federal regulatory and transactional matters for us and our affiliates.

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**PROSPECTUS** 

# **PG&E Corporation**

Debt Securities, Common Stock, Preferred Stock,

Depositary Shares, Warrants to Purchase Debt Securities,

Common Stock and Preferred Stock,

Securities Purchase Contracts and Securities Purchase Units

We may offer and sell an indeterminate amount of securities from time to time in one or more offerings. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer.

Each time we sell securities, we will provide a supplement to this prospectus that contains specific information about the offering and the terms of the securities. The supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should carefully read this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement before you invest in any of our securities.

See <u>Risk Factors</u> on page 1 for information on certain risks related to the purchase of our securities.

None of the Securities and Exchange Commission, any state securities commission or any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

February 23, 2011

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ABOUT THIS I ROSI ECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, using a shelf registration process. Under this shelf registration process, we may from time to time sell an indeterminate principal amount of securities in one or more offerings.

This prospectus provides you with only a general description of the securities that we may offer. This prospectus does not contain all of the information set forth in the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, as permitted by the rules and regulations of the SEC. For additional information regarding us and the offered securities, please refer to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. Each time we sell securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that contains specific information about the offering and the terms of the offered securities. The prospectus supplement also may add, delete, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should rely only on the information in the applicable prospectus supplement if this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement are inconsistent. Before purchasing any securities, you should carefully read both this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement, together with the additional information described under the section of this prospectus titled Where You Can Find More Information. In particular, you should carefully consider the risks and uncertainties described under the section titled Risk Factors or otherwise included in any applicable prospectus supplement or incorporated by reference in this prospectus before you decide whether to purchase the securities. These risks and uncertainties, together with those not known to us or those that we may deem immaterial, could impair our business and ultimately affect our ability to make payments on the securities.

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and in any applicable prospectus supplement. We have not authorized any other person to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. Neither we nor any underwriter, dealer or agent will make an offer to sell the securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information in this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement is accurate only as of the dates on their covers. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

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#### **PG&E CORPORATION**

We are an energy-based holding company headquartered in San Francisco, California that conducts its business principally through Pacific Gas and Electric Company, a public utility operating in northern and central California. The Utility engages in the businesses of electricity and natural gas distribution, electricity generation, procurement and transmission, and natural gas procurement, transportation and storage.

Our executive offices are located at One Market Street, Spear Tower, Suite 2400, San Francisco, California 94105, and our telephone number is (415) 267-7000.

When used in this prospectus and unless otherwise specified, the term Utility refers to our subsidiary, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, and the terms we, our, us and the Company refer to PG&E Corporation and its consolidated subsidiaries.

#### RISK FACTORS

Investing in our securities involves risk. Please see risk factors described in our Annual Report on Form 10-K and other reports filed with the SEC, which are all incorporated by reference in this prospectus. Before making an investment decision, you should carefully consider these risks as well as other information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or the applicable supplement to this prospectus. The risks and uncertainties described are not the only ones facing us. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial may also impair our business operations, financial results and the value of our securities.

#### FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus, the documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement contain forward-looking statements that are necessarily subject to various risks and uncertainties. These statements are based on current estimates, expectations and projections about future events, and assumptions regarding these events and management s knowledge of facts as of the date of this report. These forward-looking statements relate to, among other matters, estimated capital expenditures, estimated Utility rate base, estimated environmental remediation liabilities, estimated tax liabilities, the anticipated outcome of various regulatory and legal proceedings, future cash flows, and the level of future equity or debt issuances, and are also identified by words such as assume, expect, intend, plan, project, believe, estimate, anticipate, aim, may, might, should, would, could, goal, potential and similar expressions. We are not able to predict all the factor affect future results. Some of the factors that could cause future results to differ materially from those expressed or implied by the forward-looking statements, or from historical results, include, but are not limited to:

the Utility s ability to efficiently manage capital expenditures and its operating and maintenance expenses within authorized levels and timely recover its costs through rates;

the outcome of pending and future regulatory, legislative or other proceedings or investigations, including the investigations by the National Transportation Safety Board, or NTSB, and the California Public Utilities Commission, or CPUC, into the cause of the San Bruno accident and the safety of the Utility s natural gas transmission pipelines in its northern and central California service territory, the CPUC investigation of the Rancho Cordova accident, whether the Utility incurs civil or criminal penalties as a result of these proceedings, whether the Utility is required to incur additional costs for third-party liability claims or to comply with regulatory or legislative mandates that it is unable to recover through rates or insurance and whether the Utility incurs third-party liabilities or other costs in connection with service disruptions that may occur as the Utility complies with regulatory orders to decrease pressure on its natural gas transmission system;

reputational harm that we or Utility may suffer depending on the outcome of the various investigations, including those by the NTSB and the CPUC, the outcome of civil litigation, and the extent to which civil or criminal proceedings may be pursued by regulatory or governmental agencies;

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the adequacy and price of electricity and natural gas supplies, the extent to which the Utility can manage and respond to the volatility of electricity and natural gas prices, and the ability of the Utility and its counterparties to post or return collateral;

explosions, fires, accidents, mechanical breakdowns, the disruption of information technology and systems, human errors, and similar events that may occur while operating and maintaining an electric and natural gas system in a large service territory with varying geographic conditions that can cause unplanned outages, reduce generating output, damage the Utility s assets or operations, subject the Utility to third-party claims for property damage or personal injury, or result in the imposition of civil, criminal, or regulatory fines or penalties on the Utility;

the impact of storms, earthquakes, floods, drought, wildfires, disease, and similar natural disasters, or acts of terrorism or vandalism, that affect customer demand or that damage or disrupt the facilities, operations, or information technology and systems owned by the Utility, its customers, or third parties on which the Utility relies;

the potential impacts of climate change on the Utility s electricity and natural gas businesses;

changes in customer demand for electricity and natural gas resulting from unanticipated population growth or decline, general economic and financial market conditions, changes in technology that include the development of alternative technologies that enable customers to increase their reliance on self-generation, or other reasons;

the occurrence of unplanned outages at the Utility s two nuclear generating units at Diablo Canyon Power Plant, or Diablo Canyon, the availability of nuclear fuel, the outcome of the Utility s application to renew the operating licenses for Diablo Canyon, and potential changes in laws or regulations promulgated by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission or environmental agencies with respect to the storage of spent nuclear fuel, security, safety, cooling water intakes or other matters associated with the operations at Diablo Canyon;

whether the Utility earns incentive revenues or incurs obligations under incentive ratemaking mechanisms, such as the CPUC s incentive ratemaking mechanism relating to energy savings achieved through implementation of the utilities customer energy efficiency programs;

the impact of federal or state laws or regulations, or their interpretation, on energy policy and the regulation of utilities and their holding companies;

whether the Utility can successfully complete its program to install advanced meters for its electric and natural gas customers, allay customer concerns about the new metering technology, and integrate the new meters with its customer billing and other systems while also implementing the system design changes necessary to accommodate retail electric rates based on dynamic pricing (i.e., electric rates that can vary with the customer stime of use and are more closely aligned with wholesale electricity prices) by the CPUC s due dates;

how the CPUC interprets and enforces the financial and other conditions imposed on us when we became the Utility s holding company and the extent to which the interpretation or enforcement of these conditions has a material impact on us;

the extent to which we or the Utility incurs costs in connection with third-party claims or litigation, including those arising from the San Bruno accident, that are not recoverable through insurance, rates, or from other third parties;

the ability of us, the Utility, and counterparties to access capital markets and other sources of credit in a timely manner on acceptable terms:

the impact of environmental laws and regulations addressing the reduction of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, water, the remediation of hazardous waste, and other matters, and whether the Utility is able to recover the costs of compliance with such laws, including the cost of emission allowances and offsets that the Utility may incur under federal or state cap and trade regulations;

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the loss of customers due to various forms of bypass and competition, including municipalization of the Utility s electric distribution facilities, increasing levels of direct access by which consumers procure electricity from alternative energy providers, and implementation of community choice aggregation, which permits cities and counties to purchase and sell electricity for their local residents and businesses; and

the outcome of federal or state tax audits and the impact of changes in federal or state tax laws, policies, or regulations, such as The Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010.

For more information about the more significant risks that could affect the outcome of these forward-looking statements and our and the Utility s future financial condition and results of operations, you should read the sections of the documents incorporated herein by reference titled Risk Factors, as well as the important factors set forth under the heading Risk Factors in the applicable supplement to this prospectus.

You should read this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplements, the documents that we incorporate by reference into this prospectus, the documents that we have included as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part and the documents that we refer to under the section of this prospectus titled Where You Can Find More Information completely and with the understanding that our actual future results could be materially different from what we expect when making the forward-looking statement. We qualify all our forward-looking statements by these cautionary statements. These forward-looking statements speak only as of the date of this prospectus, the date of the document incorporated by reference or the date of any applicable prospectus supplement. Except as required by applicable laws or regulations, we do not undertake any obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

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#### USE OF PROCEEDS

Each prospectus supplement will describe the uses of the proceeds from the issuance of the securities offered by that prospectus supplement.

#### **CERTAIN RATIOS**

The following table sets forth our Ratios of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Earnings to Combined Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividends for the periods indicated:

	Year Ended December 31,				
	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	2.93x	2.91x	2.77x	2.65x	2.83x
Ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends	2.93x	2.91x	2.77x	2.65x	2.83x

For the purpose of computing the ratios of earnings to fixed charges and ratios of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends, earnings represent income from continuing operations adjusted for income taxes, fixed charges (excluding capitalized interest), and pre-tax earnings required to cover the preferred stock dividends of consolidated subsidiaries. Fixed charges include interest on long-term debt and short-term borrowings (including a representative portion of rental expense), amortization of bond premium, discount and expense, interest on capital leases, allowance for funds used during construction related to the cost of debt, and earnings required to cover the preferred stock dividends of consolidated subsidiaries. Fixed charges exclude interest on tax liabilities. Preferred stock dividends represent the deductible dividends and pre-tax earnings that are required to pay the dividends on outstanding preferred securities. Currently, we do not have any shares of our preferred stock outstanding.

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#### DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES

The following is a general description of the terms and provisions of the securities we may offer and sell by this prospectus. These summaries are not meant to be a complete description of each security. This prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement will contain the material terms and conditions for each security. The accompanying prospectus supplement may add, update or change the terms and conditions of the securities as described in this prospectus.

#### **Holding Company Structure**

We conduct our operations primarily through our subsidiaries and substantially all of our consolidated assets are held by our subsidiaries. Accordingly, our cash flow and our ability to meet our obligations under the debt securities are largely dependent upon the earnings of our subsidiaries and the distribution or other payment of these earnings to us in the form of dividends or loans or advances and repayment of loans and advances from us. Our subsidiaries are separate and distinct legal entities and have no obligation to pay any amounts due on the debt securities or to make any funds available for payment of amounts due on these debt securities.

Because we are a holding company, our obligations under the debt securities will be structurally subordinated to all existing and future liabilities of our subsidiaries. Therefore, our rights and the rights of our creditors, including the rights of the holders of the debt securities and any debt securities guarantees, to participate in the assets of any subsidiary upon the liquidation or reorganization of the subsidiary will be subject to the prior claims of the subsidiary s creditors. To the extent that we may ourselves be a creditor with recognized claims against any of our subsidiaries, our claims would still be effectively subordinated to any security interest in, or mortgages or other liens on, the assets of the subsidiary and would be subordinated to any indebtedness or other liabilities of the subsidiary that are senior to the claims held by us. As of December 31, 2010, the Utility had approximately \$12,467,000,000 of indebtedness. We expect the Utility will continue to incur substantial additional amounts of indebtedness in the future.

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE SENIOR NOTES

Set forth below is a description of the general terms of the senior notes. The following description does not purport to be complete and is subject to, and is qualified in its entirety by reference to, the senior note indenture between us and Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as trustee (the Senior Note Indenture Trustee), as supplemented by supplemental indentures establishing the senior notes of each series. The senior note indenture was filed as Exhibit 4.1 to the Form 8-K we filed on March 12, 2009. The senior note indenture, as supplemented from time to time, is referred to as the Senior Note Indenture. The terms of the senior notes will include those stated in the Senior Note Indenture and those made a part of the Senior Note Indenture by reference to the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, which we refer to as the 1939 Act. Certain capitalized terms used in this prospectus are defined in the Senior Note Indenture.

#### General

The senior notes will be issued as unsecured senior debt securities under the Senior Note Indenture and will rank equally with all other unsecured and unsubordinated debt of the Company. The senior notes will be effectively subordinated to all secured debt of the Company. As of December 31, 2010, on an unconsolidated basis, we had no secured debt outstanding. The Senior Note Indenture does not limit the aggregate principal amount of senior notes that may be issued under the Senior Note Indenture and provides that senior notes may be issued from time to time in one or more series pursuant to a supplemental indenture to the Senior Note Indenture. The Senior Note Indenture gives us the ability to reopen a previous series of senior notes and issue additional senior notes of such series, unless otherwise provided.

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#### **Provisions of a Particular Series**

The prospectus supplement applicable to each series of senior notes will specify, among other things:

the title of such senior notes:

any limit on the aggregate principal amount of such senior notes;

the date or dates on which the principal of such senior notes is payable, including the maturity date, or the method or means by which those dates will be determined, and our right, if any, to extend those dates and the duration of any such extension;

the rate or rates at which such senior notes shall bear interest, if any, or any method by which such rate or rates will be determined, the date or dates from which such interest will accrue, the interest payment dates on which such interest shall be payable, the regular record date for the interest payable on any interest payment date, and the right, if any, to extend the interest payment periods and the duration of any such extension:

the place or places where the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest, if any, on such senior notes shall be payable, the methods by which registration of transfer of senior notes and exchanges of senior notes may be effected, and by which notices and demands to or upon the Company in respect of such senior notes may be made, given, furnished, filed or served;

the period or periods within which, or date or dates on which, the price or prices at which and the terms and conditions on which the senior notes may be redeemed, in whole or in part, at our option;

our obligation, if any, to redeem, purchase or repay such senior notes pursuant to any sinking fund or analogous provisions or at the option of the holder and the terms and conditions upon which the senior notes will be so redeemed, purchased or repaid;

the denominations in which such senior notes shall be issuable;

the currency or currencies in which the principal, premium, if any, and interest on the senior notes will be payable if other than U.S. dollars and the method for determining the equivalent amount in U.S. dollars;

if the amount payable in respect of principal of or any premium or interest on any senior notes may be determined with reference to an index or formula, the manner in which such amount will be determined;

any deletions from, modifications of or additions to the Events of Default or covenants of the Company as provided in the Senior Note Indenture pertaining to such senior notes;

whether such senior notes shall be issued in whole or in part in the form of a global security and, if so, the name of the depositary for any global securities;

any non-applicability of Section 1007 of the Senior Note Indenture (Limitation on Liens) to the senior notes of such series or any exceptions or modifications of such section with respect to the senior notes of such series; and

any other terms of such senior notes.

The Senior Note Indenture does not contain provisions that afford holders of senior notes protection in the event of a highly leveraged transaction involving us.

## **Registration and Transfer**

We shall not be required to (i) issue, register the transfer of or exchange senior notes of any series during a period of 15 days immediately preceding the date notice is given identifying the senior notes of such series called for redemption, or (ii) issue, register the transfer of or exchange any senior notes so selected for redemption, in whole or in part, except the unredeemed portion of any senior note being redeemed in part.

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#### **Payment and Paying Agent**

Unless otherwise indicated in an applicable prospectus supplement, payment of principal of any senior notes will be made only against surrender to the Paying Agent of such senior notes. Principal of and interest on senior notes will be payable, subject to any applicable laws and regulations, at the office of such Paying Agent or Paying Agents as we may designate from time to time, except that, at our option, payment of any interest may be made by wire transfer or by check mailed to the address of the person entitled to an interest payment as such address shall appear in the Security Register with respect to the senior notes. Payment of interest on senior notes on any interest payment date will be made to the person in whose name the senior notes (or predecessor security) are registered at the close of business on the record date for such interest payment.

Unless otherwise indicated in an applicable prospectus supplement, the Senior Note Indenture Trustee will act as Paying Agent with respect to the senior notes. The Company may at any time designate additional Paying Agents or rescind the designation of any Paying Agents or approve a change in the office through which any Paying Agent acts.

All moneys paid by us to a Paying Agent for the payment of the principal of or interest on the senior notes of any series which remain unclaimed at the end of two years after such principal or interest shall have become due and payable will be repaid to the Company, and the holder of such senior notes will from that time forward look only to the Company for payment of such principal and interest.

#### Limitation on Liens

Unless otherwise specified in a prospectus supplement for senior notes of a series, the following covenant shall apply to the senior notes of that series.

So long as any senior notes remain outstanding, we will not secure any indebtedness with a lien on any shares of the common stock of any of our Significant Subsidiaries, which shares of common stock we directly own from the date of the indenture or thereafter, unless we equally secure all senior notes. However, this restriction does not apply to or prevent:

- (1) any lien on capital stock created at the time we acquire that capital stock, or within 270 days after that time, to secure all or a portion of the purchase price for that capital stock, or
- (2) any lien on capital stock existing at the time we acquire that capital stock (whether or not we assume the obligations secured by the lien and whether or not the lien was created in contemplation of the acquisition), or
- (3) any extensions, renewals or replacements of the liens described in the two bullet points above, or of any indebtedness secured by those liens; provided, that,

the principal amount of indebtedness secured by those liens immediately after the extension, renewal or replacement may not exceed the principal amount of indebtedness secured by those liens immediately before the extension, renewal or replacement, and

the extension, renewal or replacement lien is limited to no more than the same proportion of all shares of capital stock as were covered by the lien that was extended, renewed or replaced, or

(4) any lien arising in connection with court proceedings; provided, that, either

the execution or enforcement of that lien is effectively stayed within 60 days after entry of the corresponding judgment (or the corresponding judgment has been discharged within that 60-day period) and the claims secured by that lien are being contested in good faith by appropriate proceedings,

the payment of that lien is covered in full by insurance and the insurance company has not denied or contested coverage, or

so long as that lien is adequately bonded, any appropriate legal proceedings that have been duly initiated for the review of the corresponding judgment, decree or order have not been fully terminated or the periods within which those proceedings may be initiated have not expired.

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Liens on any shares of the common stock of any of our Significant Subsidiaries, other than liens described in (1) through (4) above, are referred to in this prospectus as Restricted Liens. The foregoing limitation does not apply to the extent that we create any Restricted Liens to secure indebtedness that, together with all of our other indebtedness secured by Restricted Liens, does not at the time exceed 10% of our Net Tangible Assets on a consolidated basis, as determined by us as of a month end not more than 90 days prior to the closing or consummation of the proposed transaction.

For this purpose, Net Tangible Assets means the total amount of our assets determined on a consolidated basis in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, or GAAP, less (i) the sum of our consolidated current liabilities determined in accordance with GAAP and (ii) the amount of our consolidated assets classified as intangible assets determined in accordance with GAAP, including but not limited to, such items as goodwill, trademarks, trade names, patents, and unamortized debt discount and expense and regulatory assets carried as an asset on our consolidated balance sheet.

For this purpose, Significant Subsidiary means any direct, majority owned subsidiary of us that is a significant subsidiary as defined in Regulation S-X promulgated by the SEC.

Any pledge of the Utility s common stock to secure the notes could require approval of the CPUC. In addition, even with a valid pledge of the Utility s common stock, foreclosure under the indenture may be subject to applicable regulatory requirements, including approval by the CPUC if it were determined that the foreclosure or the sale of the pledged Utility common stock would constitute a transfer of control of the Utility. California law gives the CPUC broad discretion to define control for these purposes and such a determination would depend upon the facts and circumstances existing at the time. Accordingly, the ability to foreclose on and dispose of the Utility common stock may be restricted or delayed by applicable regulatory requirements.

#### Consolidation, Merger and Sale

We shall not consolidate with or merge into any other corporation or convey, transfer or lease its properties and assets substantially as an entirety to any person, unless:

such other corporation or person is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the United States, any state in the United States or the District of Columbia and such other corporation or person expressly assumes, by supplemental indenture executed and delivered to the Senior Note Indenture Trustee, the payment of the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest on all the senior notes and the performance of every covenant of the Senior Note Indenture on the part of the Company to be performed or observed;

immediately after giving effect to such transactions, no Event of Default, and no event which, after notice or lapse of time or both, would become an Event of Default, shall have happened and be continuing; and

we have delivered to the Senior Note Indenture Trustee an officer s certificate and an opinion of counsel, each stating that such transaction complies with the provisions of the Senior Note Indenture governing consolidation, merger, conveyance, transfer or lease and that all conditions precedent to the transaction have been complied with.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, we may merge or consolidate with or transfer all or substantially all of our assets to an affiliate that has no significant assets or liabilities and was formed solely for the purpose of changing our jurisdiction of organization or our form of organization; provided that the amount of our indebtedness is not increased; and provided, further that the successor assumes all of our obligations under the Senior Note Indenture.

#### Modification

The Senior Note Indenture contains provisions permitting us and the Senior Note Indenture Trustee, with the consent of the holders of not less than a majority in principal amount of the outstanding senior notes of

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each series that is affected, to modify the Senior Note Indenture or the rights of the holders of the senior notes of such series; provided, that no such modification may, without the consent of the holder of each outstanding senior note that is affected:

change the stated maturity of the principal of, or any installment of principal of or interest on, any senior note, or reduce the principal amount of any senior note or the rate of interest on any senior note or any premium payable upon the redemption of any senior note, or change the method of calculating the rate of interest of any senior note, or impair the right to institute suit for the enforcement of any such payment on or after the stated maturity of any senior note (or, in the case of redemption, on or after the redemption date); or

reduce the percentage of principal amount of the outstanding senior notes of any series, the consent of whose holders is required for any such supplemental indenture, or the consent of whose holders is required for any waiver (of compliance with certain provisions of the Senior Note Indenture or certain defaults under the Senior Note Indenture and their consequences) provided for in the Senior Note Indenture; or

modify any of the provisions of the Senior Note Indenture relating to supplemental indentures, waiver of past defaults, or waiver of certain covenants, except to increase any such percentage or to provide that certain other provisions of the Senior Note Indenture cannot be modified or waived without the consent of the holder of each outstanding senior note that is affected.

In addition, we and the Senior Note Indenture Trustee may execute, without the consent of any holders of senior notes, any supplemental indenture for certain other usual purposes, including the creation of any new series of senior notes.

#### Events of Default

The Senior Note Indenture provides that any one or more of the following described events with respect to the senior notes of any series, which has occurred and is continuing, constitutes an Event of Default with respect to the senior notes of such series:

failure for 30 days to pay interest on the senior notes of such series, when due on an interest payment date other than at maturity or upon earlier redemption; or

failure to pay principal or premium, if any, or interest on the senior notes of such series when due at maturity or upon earlier redemption; or

failure for three Business Days to deposit any sinking fund payment when due by the terms of a senior note of such series; or

failure to observe or perform any other covenant or warranty of ours in the Senior Note Indenture (other than a covenant or warranty which has expressly been included in the Senior Note Indenture solely for the benefit of one or more series of senior notes other than such series) for 90 days after written notice to us from the Senior Note Indenture Trustee or to us and the Senior Note Indenture Trustee from the holders of at least 33% in principal amount of the outstanding senior notes of such series; or

certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization of the Company.

The holders of not less than a majority in aggregate outstanding principal amount of the senior notes of any series have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the Senior Note Indenture Trustee with respect to the senior notes of such series. If a Senior Note Indenture Event of Default occurs and is continuing with respect to the senior notes of any series, then the Senior Note Indenture Trustee or the holders of not less than 33% in aggregate outstanding principal amount of the senior notes of such series may declare the principal amount of the senior notes due and payable immediately by notice in writing to us (and to the Senior Note Indenture Trustee if given by the holders), and upon any such declaration such principal amount shall become immediately due and payable. At any time

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after such a declaration of acceleration with respect to the senior notes of any series has been made and before a judgment or decree for payment of the money due has been obtained as provided in Article Five of the Senior Note Indenture, the holders of not less than a majority in aggregate outstanding principal amount of the senior notes of such series may rescind and annul such declaration and its consequences if the default has been cured or waived and the Company has paid or deposited with the Senior Note Indenture Trustee a sum sufficient to pay all matured installments of interest and principal due otherwise than by acceleration and all sums paid or advanced by the Senior Note Indenture Trustee, including reasonable compensation and expenses of the Senior Note Indenture Trustee.

The holders of not less than a majority in aggregate outstanding principal amount of the senior notes of any series may, on behalf of the holders of all the senior notes of such series, waive any past default with respect to such series, except (i) a default in the payment of principal or interest or (ii) a default in respect of a covenant or provision which under Article Nine of the Senior Note Indenture cannot be modified or amended without the consent of the holder of each outstanding senior note of such series affected.

#### Satisfaction and Discharge

Any senior note, or any portion of the principal amount thereof, will be deemed to have been paid for purposes of the Senior Note Indenture, and our entire indebtedness in respect of the senior notes will be deemed to have been satisfied and discharged, if certain conditions are satisfied, including an irrevocable deposit with the trustee or any paying agent (other than us) in trust of:

money in an amount which will be sufficient; or

in the case of a deposit made prior to the maturity of the senior notes or portions thereof, eligible obligations (as described below) which do not contain provisions permitting the redemption or other prepayment thereof at the option of the issuer thereof, the principal of and the interest on which when due, without any regard to reinvestment thereof, will provide monies which, together with the money, if any, deposited with or held by the trustee or the paying agent, will be sufficient; or

a combination of either of the two items described in the two preceding bullet points which will be sufficient; to pay when due the principal of and premium, if any, and interest, if any, due and to become due on the senior notes or portions thereof.

This discharge of the senior notes through the deposit with the trustee of cash or eligible obligations generally will be treated as a taxable disposition for U.S. federal income tax purposes by the holders of those senior notes. Prospective investors in the senior notes should consult their own tax advisors as to the particular U.S. federal income tax consequences applicable to them in the event of such discharge.

For this purpose, eligible obligations for U.S. dollar-denominated senior notes, means securities that are direct obligations of, or obligations unconditionally guaranteed by, the United States, entitled to the benefit of the full faith and credit thereof, or depositary receipts issued by a bank as custodian with respect to these obligations or any specific interest or principal payments due in respect thereof held by the custodian for the account of the holder of a depository receipt.

## **Information Concerning the Senior Note Indenture Trustee**

The Senior Note Indenture Trustee, prior to an Event of Default with respect to senior notes of any series, undertakes to perform, with respect to senior notes of such series, only such duties as are specifically set forth in the Senior Note Indenture and, in case an Event of Default with respect to senior notes of any series has occurred and is continuing, shall exercise, with respect to senior notes of such series, the same degree of care as a prudent individual would exercise in the conduct of his or