

CALIFORNIA UNDERGROUND FACILITIES SAFE EXCAVATION BOARD INVESTIGATION DIVISION INVESTIGATION REPORT

DATE: May 9, 2024

CASE No.: CAS-01566-L3N2D0

Violations:

Lamasi Iron Works

Government Code § 4216.2(b): Failure to notify the Regional Notification Center before

excavating.

Government Code § 4216.4(c)(2): Failure to call 911 emergency services upon causing

damage.

Executive Summary:

On November 2, 2023, Lamasi Iron Works used a post hole digger without first contacting the Regional Notification Center and damaged a ½-inch plastic natural gas line operated by the Southern California Gas Company. After causing the damage, Lamasi Iron Works contacted the Southern California Gas Company and the regional notification center but did not telephone 911.

Reporting Party Information:

Southern California Gas Company 555 West 5th Street, Suite 1700 Los Angeles, California 90013

Date of Incident:

November 2, 2023

Location of the Incident:

77 Las Tunas Drive Arcadia, California 917007

Ticket:

None

Operator:

Southern California Gas Company 555 West 5th Street, Suite 1700 Los Angeles, California 90013

Excavator:

Lamasi Iron Works 11691 McBean Drive El Monte, California 91732

Facility Type Damaged:

½-inch natural gas line

Investigation:

Notification of the Incident

On November 30, 2023, the Southern California Gas Company submitted notification of this incident to the California Underground Safety Board. The notification stated that underground infrastructure belonging to the Southern California Gas Company had been damaged and that Lamasi Iron Works had caused the damage without obtaining a ticket. (Exh. 1.) The case was assigned to Investigator Gabrielle Zeps (Investigator).

Excavation and Damage

Lamasi Iron Works was hired to install security parking barriers at 77 Las Tunas Drive in Arcadia, California as part of the owner's attempt to prevent recreational vehicles from parking there overnight. (Exh. 3.)

Lamasi Iron Works holds license # 732751 from the California Contractors State License Board with a C23 – ORNAMENTAL METALS classification. (Exh. 4.)

On November 2, 2023, Lamasi Iron Works was digging with a post hole digger that struck and damaged a Southern California Gas Company (So Cal Gas) ½-inch natural gas. SoCal Gas was notified of the damage at 10:34 a.m. on November 2, 2023. (Exh. 1.)

During his telephone interview with the investigator on January 5, 2024, Ruben Diaz, Jr., stated he had firsthand knowledge of the damage. He was with his crew at 77 Las Tunas Drive when the line was damaged. Diaz explained they were digging the dirt with post hole diggers when they cut the natural gas pipe. After damaging the line, he observed that dirt was blowing everywhere in the hole, making it difficult to see anything. He and other Lamasi Iron Works employees tried to find a shut-off but couldn't. Diaz called his uncle, a construction worker, who said if the damage was before the meter, there was no way to shut it off.



Photo 1, provided by the Southern California Gas Company, depicts the severed natural gas line.

<u>Lamasi Iron Works Did Not Contact the Regional Notification Center Before Excavating</u> Government Code section 4216.2(b) states that an excavator planning to excavate shall notify the appropriate regional notification center of the excavator's intent to excavate at least two working days before excavating.

Diaz stated that he was unaware of the 811 service and that Lamasi Iron Works did not have a ticket before November 2, 2023, but obtained one for the follow-up excavation. Lamasi Iron Works returned to the site a week later to resume work. (Exh. 2.)

The Investigator emailed Amber Dahl, Safety Director of the Underground Service Alert of Southern California (DigAlert) on December 12, 2023, and requested copies of the 811 tickets for excavation work at the jobsite, Arcadia, California in 2023. (Exh. 5.)

Amber Dahl responded the same day stating, "After searching our records from 1/1/23 through 12/11/23, we found the following DigAlert ticket(s) A233060439 by Lamasi Iron Works for the location at 77 La Tunas Dr in Arcadia." DigAlert created ticket number A233060439 on November 2 at 11:51 a.m. when Lamasi Iron Works notified DigAlert about the damage. The ticket states that, "work has already begun." (Exh. 6.)

Lamasi Iron Works Did Not Call 911 After Damaging the Gas Line

Government Code section 4216.4(c)(2) states an excavator must call 911 emergency services upon discovering or causing damage to a gas or hazardous liquid pipeline subsurface

installation in which the damage results in the escape of any flammable, toxic, or corrosive gas or liquid.

During his January 5, 2024, telephone interview with Investigator, Diaz stated that he called both the Regional Notification Center and the Southern California Gas Company after the damaging the gas line but that he didn't think anyone called 911. (Exh. 2.) The investigation did not find any information indicating that Lamasi Iron Works called 911 after damaging the line.

Findings:

- 1. Lamasi Iron Works excavated with a post hole digger without first contacting the Regional Notification Center.
- 2. While using the post hole digger, Lamasi Iron Works damaged a natural gas line operated by the Southern California Gas Company.
- 3. Lamasi Iron Works failed to call 911 emergency services after damaging the natural gas line located at jobsite, Arcadia, California.

Exhibit List:

Exhibit No.	Description	Date	Received From
1	Initial Report from the Southern California Gas Company	Received on November 30, 2023	The Southern California Gas Company
2	Summary of Telephone Interview of Ruben Diaz, Jr., prepared by Gabrielle Zeps	Telephone interview conducted by Gabrielle Zeps on January 5, 2024	
3	Summary of Telephone Interview of Andrew Rodriguez, prepared by Gabrielle Zeps	Telephone interview conducted by Gabrielle Zeps on December 13, 2023	
4	Contractor's License Detail for License No. 732751 obtained from the Contractors State License Board website	Downloaded on December 14, 2023	California Contractors State Licensing Board website at <u>Check A License - CSLB</u> (ca.gov)
5	Email to DigAlert requesting ticket search	Sent on December 12, 2023	
6	Email from DigAlert	Received on December 12, 2023	Amber Dahl, DigAlert's Safety Awareness Director

Exhibit 1



No-Ticket Survey Report

Submitted By: Anonymous user

Submitted Time: November 3, 2023 8:07 PM

Your Information

Your Name Andrew Rodriguez



Reviewer Information

Has the information you are submitting today been reviewed or changed by anyone besides yourself?

No

Excavator Information

Company Name LAMASI IRON WORKS

Excavator Contact Details Name Ruben Diaz

Phone Number



Supporting Documentation

Upload a photo of the company truck, uniform, or business card.



Additional Photo



Who took the photos? Name Andrew Rodriguez

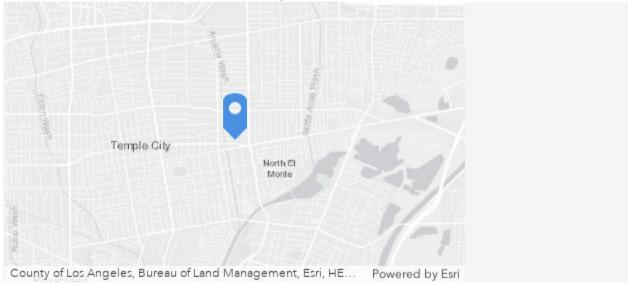
Phone Number

Damage

Does this no-ticket complaint involve a damage? Yes, damage occurred.

Location

Indicate location of excavation activity.



Best address or cross streets of damage location.

77 Las Tunas Dr. Arcadia CA, 917007

Describe the observed excavation activity.

Digging to install security parking barriers.

Upload photo of excavation location. The photo should be taken at a wide angle and include location identifiers such as buildings in the background, street signs,



Additional Photo



Additional Photo



Who took the photos? Name Andrew Rodriguez Phone Number E-mail Upload photo, map, survey, or other documentation substantiating the location of your facilities in relation to the observed excavation activity. ÍMG_6121.jpeg, 2.62MB Who authored the submitted documentation? Name Andrew Rodriguez Phone Number E-mail

Does this incident involve:

Injury?

No

Death?

No

Fire or evacuation?

Damage Information

Date you learned of the damage: November 2, 2023

Time you learned of the damage: 10:34

How did you learn of the damage? Internal email notification

Supporting Documentation

Damage Details

Type of Facility damaged? Natural Gas

Tool that caused the damage: Post hole digger

Upload photo depicting the damaged facility



Who took the photo? Name Andrew Rodriguez

Phone

E-mail	

Exhibit 2



CALIFORNIA UNDERGROUND FACILITIES SAFE EXCAVATION BOARD INVESTIGATION DIVISION INTERVIEW REPORT

REPORT DATE: January 31, 2024

CASE NO: CAS-01566-L3N2D0

DATE/TIME OF INTERVIEW: January 5, 2024, 2:45 P.M.

LOCATION OF INTERVIEW: Telephone

NAME/ADDRESS OF INTERVIEWEE:

Ruben Diaz, Jr. Lamasi Iron Works 11691 McBean Drive El Monte, California 91732

NARRATIVE:

- He has firsthand knowledge of the damage.
- He was with the crew at 77 Las Tunas Drive, Arcadia, California, on November 2, 2023.
- Nathiel Diaz does not get paid.
- They were installing pipes, 4 inches in diameter and 40 inches tall.
- A pipe was sunk approximately 16 inches, the remainder was above ground.
- Once sunk, they added cement.
- They were digging the dirt with post hole diggers.
- They cut the natural gas pipe, approximately seven inches.
- He looked in the hole, he couldn't see anything; the gas was blowing dirt everywhere.
- They tried to find the shut-off but couldn't.
- He called his uncle, a construction worker, who said if it was before the meter, there was no way to shut it off.
- He called both 811 and the gas company.
- He doesn't think anyone called 911.
- A Southern California Gas Company employee showed up and then the repair crew.
- They fixed it very quickly.
- Due to the gas in the air, his crew quit working and they waited an hour to start the truck.
- The Southern California Gas company gave them information and pamphlets on 811.
- They returned the following week to continue the job.
- They did not have a ticket before November 2, 2023, but did for the follow-up.
- They are a family run business, no employees, and had never heard of 811 before.

Investigator Name	Supervisor Name
GABRIELLE ZEPS	

Exhibit 3



CALIFORNIA UNDERGROUND FACILITIES SAFE EXCAVATION BOARD INVESTIGATION DIVISION INTERVIEW REPORT

REPORT DATE: December 14, 2023

CASE NO: CAS-01566-L3N2D0

DATE/TIME OF INTERVIEW: December 13, 2023, 3:26 p.m.

LOCATION OF INTERVIEW: Telephone

NAME/ADDRESS OF INTERVIEWEE:

Andrew Rodriguez Southern California Gas Company 555 West 5th Street, Suite 1700 Los Angeles, California 90013

NARRATIVE:

- He does not have firsthand information about the incident.
- The line damaged was an ½ inch plastic line.
- The correct address for the incident is 77 Las Tunas Drive, Arcadia, California.
- The incident occurred at a commercial type of property.
- Recreational vehicles (RV's) had been parking in their lot overnight, so security barriers were being installed.
- Even though the Lamasi Iron Works had not gotten a ticket, there were marks at the jobsite probably from prior telecommunications work.
- Andrew got an internal notification and proceeded to the accident site.
- He spoke with Ruben Diaz, the owner of Lamasi Iron Works.
- Andrew believes Lamasi Iron Works is a family owned business and many family members were present when he arrived.
- Mr. Diaz did not know much about the 811 ticket process.
- Mr. Diaz thought that the marks were from the property owner.
- Mr. Diaz thought they had understood the markings.
- Andrew went over the 811 ticket process with them, told them 811 was free, explained the markings, gave them a pamphlet, color code cards and his business card.
- Andrew told Mr. Diaz to call him anytime as using 811 helps keep everyone safe.
- Andrew reached out to the Lamasi Iron Works about a week after the incident to see if they wanted to schedule a safety meeting.
- He was told they would check their schedule and get back to him, but they didn't.
- Lamasi Iron Works did call and get a ticket after speaking with Andrew.
- A post hole digger had been used and the ½ inch plastic line was completely severed.

- It was a "good" leak but some of the surrounding dirt had fallen over the line, reducing the release.
- No one was hurt, there was no fire, and the fire department was not called.

Investigator Name	Supervisor Name
GABRIELLE ZEPS	

Exhibit 4



○Contractor's License Detail for License # 732751

DISCLAIMER: A license status check provides information taken from the CSLB license database. Before relying on this information, you should be aware of the following limitations.

- ▶ CSLB complaint disclosure is restricted by law (B&P 7124.6) If this entity is subject to public complaint disclosure click on link that will appear below for more information. Click here for a definition of disclosable actions.
- Only construction related civil judgments reported to CSLB are disclosed (B&P 7071.17).
- Arbitrations are not listed unless the contractor fails to comply with the terms.
- > Due to workload, there may be relevant information that has not yet been entered into the board's license database.

Data current as of 5/14/2024 2:42:51 PM

Business Information

LAMASI IRON WORKS 11691 MC BEAN DRIVE EL MONTE, CA 91732 Business Phone Number:(626) 442-5487

Entity Sole Ownership Issue Date 02/24/1997 Expire Date 02/28/2025

License Status

This license is current and active.

All information below should be reviewed.

Classifications

C23 - ORNAMENTAL METALS

Bonding Information

Contractor's Bond

 $This\ license\ filed\ a\ Contractor's\ Bond\ with\ AMERICAN\ CONTRACTORS\ INDEMNITY\ COMPANY.$

Bond Number: 100587066 **Bond Amount:** \$25,000 **Effective Date:** 01/01/2023 Contractor's Bond History

Workers' Compensation

This license has workers compensation insurance with the CLEAR SPRING PROPERTY AND

CASUALTY COMPANY
Policy Number: CWC02050900
Effective Date: 05/17/2023
Expire Date: 05/17/2024

Expire Date: 05/17/2024 Workers' Compensation History

Back to Top

Conditions of Use

Privacy Policy

Accessibility

Accessibility Certification

Exhibit 5

From: Zeps, Gabrielle@EnergySafety

To: <u>Amber Dahl</u>

Subject: Ticket Check on Lamasi Iron Works

Date: Tuesday, December 12, 2023 2:49:00 PM

Attachments: <u>image001.png</u>

Good afternoon, Amber. I would appreciate it if you would check for a ticket on Lamasi Iron Works with a jobsite at 77 Las Tunas Drive, Arcadia, California 91707 in 2023. Thank you so much for your anticipated assistance.

Gabrielle Zeps, Investigator California Underground Safety Board Mobile: 279-789-1817 Gabrielle.Zeps@energysafety.ca.gov

715 P Street, 20th Floor Sacramento, CA 95814



Exhibit 6



Underground Service Alert

of Southern California™

December 12, 2023

Gabrielle Zeps Underground Safety Board 715 P St, 20th Floor Sacramento, CA 95814

File Number: Unknown

Dear Gabrielle,

After searching our records from 1/1/23 through 12/11/23, we found the following DigAlert ticket(s) A233060439 by Lamasi Iron Works for the location at 77 Las Tunas Dr in Arcadia. I hope this information will be helpful.

If we can be of further assistance, please call us at 951-808-8100.

Sincerely,

Amber Dahl

anber Dahl

Safety Awareness Director

MBRCOD 00001B USAS 12/12/23 15:00:30 A233060439-00A NEW RUSH POLY LREQ

Ticket: A233060439 Rev: 00A Created: 11/02/23 11:49 User: LOR Chan: 100

Work Start: 11/02/23 11:38 Legal Start: 11/06/23 17:01 Expires: 11/30/23 23:59

Response required: Y Priority: 0

Excavator Information

Company: LAMASI IRON WORKS Type: CONT

Co Addr: 11691 MCBEAN DR

City : EL MONTE State: CA Zip: 91732 Created By: RUBEN DIAZ Language: ENGLISH Office Phone: 626-442-5487 SMS/Cell: 626-383-0064

Office Email: LAMASI_IRON@MSN.COM

Site Contact: NATHANIEL DIAZ

Site Phone: 626-383-0064 Site SMS/Cell:

Site Email:

Excavation Area

State: CA County: LOS ANGELES Place: ARCADIA

Zip: 91007

Address: 77 Street: LAS TUNAS DR

Cross 1 : E LIVE OAK AVE

Cross 2:

Location: **AREA IS DELINEATED WITH YELLOW PAINT** **WORK HAS ALREADY BEGUN**

Searchable Tags:

Job size: sq-feet: 96650 sq-miles: 0.003467

Delineated Method: OTHER

Work Type: INSTALL SECURITY PARKING BARRIERS

Work For : PROP/O BADE, SUSAN

Permit: Job/Work order:

Project ID: Project Name:

1 Year: N Boring: N Street/Sidewalk: N Vacuum: N Explosives: N Pavement Only: N

Lat/Long

Center Generated (NAD83): 34.108412/-118.034804 34.108430/-118.033613 : 34.107580/-118.034791 34.107599/-118.033600

Excavator Provided:

Map link:

https://newtin.digalert.org/newtinweb/map_tkt.nap?TRG=7A07t4rDkCeHcCl-0

Members:

ATTDSOUTH COA01 SCG4PW SCG4QM TEM01 UCHTRW_C1

UCHTRW_C2 USCEME

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Ticket Responses for: A233060439-00A

member		Name	кеv	ĸes	ponaea		ву				kesponse				
COA01	CITY OF	ARCADIA	00A 11/	06/23	05:01:30	PM Late	Notice (999)	Member	did	not	respond	by	the	required	time
TEM01	CITY OF	TEMPLE CITY	Y 00A 11/	06/23	05:01:30	PM Late	Notice (999)	Member	did	not	respond	by	the	required	time

about:blank 2/6

Ticket Search Results

12/12/23, 3:00 PM MBRCOD 00001B USAS 12/12/23 15:00:32 A233060439-01A DMGE EMER POLY LREQ Ticket: A233060439 Rev: 01A Created: 11/02/23 11:51 User: LOR Chan: 100 Work Start: 11/02/23 11:50 Legal Start: 11/06/23 17:01 Expires: 11/30/23 23:59 Response required: N Priority: 9 Excavator Information Company: LAMASI IRON WORKS Type: CONT Co Addr: 11691 MCBEAN DR City : EL MONTE State: CA Zip: 91732 Created By: RUBEN DIAZ Language: ENGLISH Office Phone: 626-442-5487 SMS/Cell: 626-383-0064 Office Email: LAMASI_IRON@MSN.COM Site Contact: NATHANIEL DIAZ Site Phone: 626-383-0064 Site SMS/Cell: Site Fmail: Excavation Area State: CA County: LOS ANGELES Place: ARCADIA Zip: 91007 Address: 77 Street: LAS TUNAS DR Cross 1 : E LIVE OAK AVE Cross 2: Location: **AREA IS DELINEATED WITH YELLOW PAINT** **WORK HAS ALREADY BEGUN** Searchable Tags: Job size: sq-feet: 96675 sq-miles: 0.003468 Delineated Method: OTHER Work Type: INSTALL SECURITY PARKING BARRIERS Work For : PROP/O BADE, SUSAN Permit: Job/Work order: Project ID: Project Name: 1 Year: N Boring: N Street/Sidewalk: N Vacuum: N Explosives: N Pavement Only: N

Lat/Long

Center Generated (NAD83): 34.108412/-118.034803 34.108430/-118.033612 : 34.107581/-118.034791 34.107599/-118.033600

Excavator Provided:

Map link:

https://newtin.digalert.org/newtinweb/map tkt.nap?TRG=6AzAq8nDgGeLULc-B

Comments:

about:blank 3/6

^{**}DAMAGE**A DAMAGED LINE FOR GAS - DAMAGED PLASTIC GAS PIPE, SC GAS ALREADY ON

SITE REPAIR GAS LINE PER RUBEN DIAZ--[LOR 11/02/2023 11:50:29 AM]

Members:

ATTDSOUTH COA01 SCG4PW SCG4QM TEM01 UCHTRW_C1 UCHTRW_C2 USCEME

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		Ticket Resp	onses for: A		
Member	Name	Rev Re	sponded	Ву	Response
ATTDSOUTH	HAT&T - DISTRIBUTION	01A PM	3 12:57:01	UQ Responder	(001) CLEAR - NO CONFLICT
SCG4PW	SOCALGAS DISTRIBUTION ALHAMBRA	01A 11/02/2	3 01:51:29	PRSDG01 ANSEZATI	(001) CLEAR - NO CONFLICT
SCG4QM	SOCALGAS DISTRIBUTION PASADENA	01A 11/02/2	3 01:03:36	PRSDG01 EPADILL1	(022) NO DELINEATION - RESEND TICKET REQUESTED
UCHTRW_C	1 SPECTRUM - IRWINDALE	01A 11/02/2	3 12:57:01	UQ Responder	(001) CLEAR - NO CONFLICT
UCHTRW_C2	2 SPECTRUM - IRWINDALE	01A 11/06/2	3 07:53:34	UQ Responder	(004) NO MARKINGS REQUESTED
UCHTRW_C2	2 SPECTRUM - IRWINDALE	OIA DW	3 12:57:01	UQ Responder	(001) CLEAR - NO CONFLICT
USCEME	UTILIQUEST FOR SCE DIST - METRO EAST REG	01A PM	3 12:57:01	UQ Responder	(010) LOCATE AREA MARKED

MBRCOD 00001B USAS 12/12/23 15:00:34 A233060439-02A NRSP EMER POLY LREQ Ticket: A233060439 Rev: 02A Created: 11/08/23 15:45 User: LEW Chan: 100 Work Start: 11/08/23 15:43 Legal Start: 11/08/23 15:43 Expires: 11/30/23 23:59 Response required: N Priority: 9 Excavator Information Company: LAMASI IRON WORKS Type: CONT Co Addr: 11691 MCBEAN DR City : EL MONTE State: CA Zip: 91732 Created By: RUBEN DIAZ Language: ENGLISH Office Phone: 626-442-5487 SMS/Cell: 626-383-0064 Office Email: LAMASI_IRON@MSN.COM Site Contact: NATHANIEL DIAZ Site Phone: 626-383-0064 Site SMS/Cell: Site Fmail: Excavation Area State: CA County: LOS ANGELES Place: ARCADIA Zip: 91007 Address: 77 Street: LAS TUNAS DR Cross 1 : E LIVE OAK AVE Cross 2: Location: **AREA IS DELINEATED WITH YELLOW PAINT** **WORK HAS ALREADY BEGUN** Searchable Tags: Job size: sq-feet: 96750 sq-miles: 0.003470 Delineated Method: OTHER Work Type: INSTALL SECURITY PARKING BARRIERS Work For : PROP/O BADE, SUSAN Permit: Job/Work order: Project ID: Project Name: 1 Year: N Boring: N Street/Sidewalk: N Vacuum: N Explosives: N Pavement Only: N Lat/Long Center Generated (NAD83): 34.108412/-118.034803 34.108430/-118.033611 : 34.107581/-118.034791 34.107599/-118.033599 Excavator Provided: Map link: https://newtin.digalert.org/newtinweb/map tkt.nap?TRG=5A5zAlEm6q5uvz0-j Comments:

DAMAGEA DAMAGED LINE FOR GAS - DAMAGED PLASTIC GAS PIPE, SC GAS ALREADY ON

SITE REPAIR GAS LINE PER RUBEN DIAZ--[LOR 11/02/2023 11:50:29 AM]
NO RESPONSE FROM S&W, GAS, LITE, CATV - CALLER CONFIRMS SITE IS DELINEATED
PLEASE RESPOND ASAP & CALL SITE CONTACT WITH AN ETA PER NATHANIEL DIAZ--[LEW
11/08/2023 03:43:30 PM]

Members:

ATTDSOUTH COA01 SCG4PW SCG4QM TEM01 UCHTRW_C1 UCHTRW_C2 USCEME

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Ticket Responses for: A233060439-02A

Member	Name	Rev	Responded	Ву	Response
ATTDSOUTH	AT&T - DISTRIBUTION	02A 11/09	9/23 07:28:23	AM UQ Responder	(001) CLEAR - NO CONFLICT
SCG4PW	SOCALGAS DISTRIBUTION ALHAMBRA	02A 11/09	9/23 07:53:49	AM PRSDG01 ANSEZATI	(001) CLEAR - NO CONFLICT
SCG4QM	SOCALGAS DISTRIBUTION PASADENA	02A 11/09	9/23 02:08:07	PM PRSDG01 MIBANEZ	(010) LOCATE AREA MARKED
UCHTRW_C1	SPECTRUM - IRWINDALE	02A 11/09	9/23 07:18:09	AM UQ Responder	(001) CLEAR - NO CONFLICT
UCHTRW_C2	SPECTRUM - IRWINDALE	02A 11/13	3/23 05:57:18	AM UQ Responder	(004) NO MARKINGS REQUESTED
UCHTRW_C2	SPECTRUM - IRWINDALE	02A 11/09	9/23 07:18:09	AM UQ Responder	(001) CLEAR - NO CONFLICT
USCEME	UTILIQUEST FOR SCE DIST - METRO EAST	REG 02A 11/09	9/23 07:18:10	AM UQ Responder	(010) LOCATE AREA MARKED

about:blank 6/6