

SEMPRA ENERGY
Form 424B5
October 04, 2016
Table of Contents

Filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)
Registration No. 333-198572

The information in this preliminary prospectus supplement is not complete and may be changed. This preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are not an offer to sell these securities and we are not soliciting offers to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED OCTOBER 4, 2016

PRELIMINARY PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

(To Prospectus dated September 4, 2014)

\$ % Notes due 2019

We are offering \$ aggregate principal amount of our % Notes due 2019 (the notes).

The notes will bear interest at the rate of % per year and mature on , 2019. Interest on the notes will accrue from , 2016 and will be payable semi-annually in arrears on and of each year, beginning on , .

At our option, we may redeem some or all of the notes at any time at the applicable redemption price described in this prospectus supplement. The notes will be our unsecured and unsubordinated obligations and will rank on a parity in right of payment with all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness and guarantees.

Investing in the notes involves risks. See the Risk Factors section on page S-5 of this prospectus supplement.

	Per Note	Total
Public Offering Price (1)	%	\$
Underwriting Discount	%	\$
Proceeds to Semptra Energy (before expenses) (1)	%	\$

(1) Plus accrued interest from _____, 2016 if settlement occurs after that date.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

We expect the notes will be ready for delivery through The Depository Trust Company on or about _____, 2016.

Joint Book-Running Managers

BofA Merrill Lynch

Goldman, Sachs & Co.

Mizuho Securities

, 2016

Table of Contents

This document is in two parts. The first part is this prospectus supplement, which describes the specific terms of the offering of the notes and also adds to and updates information contained in the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference in the accompanying prospectus. The second part is the accompanying prospectus, which gives more general information, some of which does not apply to the notes. If the description of the notes or the offering of the notes varies between this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, you should rely on the information in this prospectus supplement.

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and any related free writing prospectus issued by us. We have not, and the underwriters have not, authorized anyone to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We are offering to sell the notes and seeking offers to buy the notes only in jurisdictions where offers and sales are permitted. You should assume that the information contained in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and any such free writing prospectus is accurate only as of their respective dates and the information contained in documents incorporated by reference is accurate only as of the respective dates of those documents, in each case regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus or any such free writing prospectus or any sale of the notes. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

TABLE OF CONTENTS**PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT**

<u>Forward-Looking Statements</u>	S-1
<u>Summary Information</u>	S-3
<u>Risk Factors</u>	S-5
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	S-5
<u>Description of the Notes</u>	S-6
<u>Material United States Federal Tax Considerations</u>	S-10
<u>Underwriting (Conflicts of Interest)</u>	S-15
<u>Legal Matters</u>	S-20
<u>Experts</u>	S-20

PROSPECTUS

<u>About This Prospectus</u>	1
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	2
<u>Sempra Energy</u>	4
<u>Risk Factors</u>	5
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	6
<u>Ratio of Earnings to Combined Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividends</u>	7
<u>Description of Common Stock</u>	8
<u>Description of Debt Securities</u>	9
<u>Plan of Distribution</u>	20
<u>Legal Matters</u>	21
<u>Experts</u>	21

The distribution of this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and any related free writing prospectus filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) and the offering of the notes in certain jurisdictions may be restricted by law. Persons into whose possession this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and any such free writing prospectus come should inform

S-i

Table of Contents

themselves about and observe any such restrictions. This prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and any such free writing prospectus do not constitute, and may not be used in connection with, an offer or solicitation by anyone in any jurisdiction in which such offer or solicitation is not authorized or in which the person making such offer or solicitation is not qualified to do so or to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation. See Underwriting (Conflicts of Interest).

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are not prospectuses for the purpose of the Prospectus Directive as implemented in Member States of the European Economic Area (the EEA). Neither we nor the underwriters have authorized, nor do we or they authorize, the making of any offer of the notes through any financial intermediary, other than offers made by underwriters which constitute the final placement of the notes contemplated in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

The communication of this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and any other document or materials relating to the issue of the notes offered hereby is not being made, and such documents and/or materials have not been approved, by an authorized person for the purposes of section 21 of the United Kingdom's Financial Services and Markets Act 2000, as amended. Accordingly, such documents and/or materials are not being distributed to, and must not be passed on to, the general public in the United Kingdom. The communication of such documents and/or materials as a financial promotion is only being made to those persons in the United Kingdom falling within the definition of investment professionals (as defined in Article 19(5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005 (the Financial Promotion Order)), or within Article 49(2)(a) to (d) of the Financial Promotion Order, or to any other persons to whom it may otherwise lawfully be made under the Financial Promotion Order (all such persons together being referred to as relevant persons). In the United Kingdom, the notes offered hereby are only available to, and any investment or investment activity to which this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus relate will be engaged in only with, relevant persons. Any person in the United Kingdom that is not a relevant person should not act or rely on this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus or any of their contents.

Table of Contents

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents they incorporate by reference contain, and any related free writing prospectus issued by us may contain, statements that are not historical fact and constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995.

Forward-looking statements are necessarily based upon assumptions with respect to the future, involve risks and uncertainties, and are not guarantees of performance. These forward-looking statements represent our estimates and assumptions only as of the respective dates of the documents in which such forward-looking statements appear. We assume no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statement as a result of new information, future events or other factors.

When we use words such as believes, expects, anticipates, plans, estimates, projects, forecasts, contemplates, assumes, depends, should, could, would, will, confident, may, potential, possible, proposed, outlook, maintain, or similar expressions, or when we discuss our guidance, strategy, plans, goals, opportunities, projections, initiatives, objectives or intentions, we are making forward-looking statements.

Factors, among others, that could cause our actual results and future actions to differ materially from those described in forward-looking statements include:

local, regional, national and international economic, competitive, political, legislative, legal and regulatory conditions, decisions and developments;

actions and the timing of actions, including general rate case decisions, new regulations, issuances of permits to construct, operate, and maintain facilities and equipment and to use land, franchise agreements and licenses for operation, by the California Public Utilities Commission, California State Legislature, U.S. Department of Energy, California Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, California Energy Commission, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, California Air Resources Board, South Coast Air Quality Management District, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Mexican Competition Commission, states, cities and counties, and other regulatory and governmental bodies in the countries in which we operate;

the timing and success of business development efforts and construction, maintenance and capital projects, including risks in obtaining, maintaining or extending permits, licenses, certificates and other authorizations on a timely basis, risks in obtaining the consent of our partners, and risks in obtaining adequate and competitive financing for such projects;

the resolution of civil and criminal litigation and regulatory investigations;

deviations from regulatory precedent or practice that result in a reallocation of benefits or burdens among shareholders and ratepayers, and delays in, or disallowance or denial of, regulatory agency authorization to recover costs in rates from customers;

the availability of electric power, natural gas and liquefied natural gas, and natural gas pipeline and storage capacity, including disruptions caused by failures in the North American transmission grid, moratoriums on the ability to withdraw natural gas from or inject natural gas into storage facilities, pipeline explosions and equipment failures;

energy markets; the timing and extent of changes and volatility in commodity prices; and the impact on the value of our natural gas storage and related assets and our investments from low natural gas prices, low volatility of natural gas prices and the inability to procure favorable long-term contracts for natural gas storage services;

risks posed by decisions and actions of third parties who control the operations of investments in which we do not have a controlling interest, and risks that our partners or counterparties will be unable (due to liquidity issues, bankruptcy or otherwise) or unwilling to fulfill their contractual commitments;

S-1

Table of Contents

weather conditions, natural disasters, catastrophic accidents, equipment failures, terrorist attacks and other events that may disrupt our operations, damage our facilities and systems, cause the release of greenhouse gases, radioactive materials and harmful emissions, and subject us to third-party liability for property damage or personal injuries, fines and penalties, some of which may not be covered by insurance (including costs in excess of applicable policy limits) or may be disputed by insurers;

cybersecurity threats to the energy grid, natural gas storage and pipeline infrastructure, the information and systems used to operate our businesses and the confidentiality of our proprietary information and the personal information of our customers and employees;

failure to obtain regulatory approval for projects required to enhance safety and reliability;

the ability to win competitively bid infrastructure projects against a number of strong competitors willing to aggressively bid for these projects;

capital markets conditions, including the availability of credit and the liquidity of our investments, and inflation, interest and currency exchange rates;

disallowance of regulatory assets associated with, or decommissioning costs of, the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station facility due to increased regulatory oversight, including motions to modify settlements;

expropriation of assets by foreign governments and title and other property disputes;

the impact on reliability of San Diego Gas & Electric Company's (SDG&E) electric transmission and distribution system due to increased amount and variability of power supply from renewable energy sources and increased reliance on natural gas and natural gas transmission systems;

the impact on competitive customer rates of the growth in distributed and local power generation and the corresponding decrease in demand for power delivered through SDG&E's electric transmission and distribution system;

the inability or determination not to enter into long-term supply and sales agreements or long-term firm capacity agreements due to insufficient market interest, unattractive pricing or other factors; and

other uncertainties, all of which are difficult to predict and many of which are beyond our control.

Investing in the notes involves risk. You should review and consider carefully the risks, uncertainties and other factors that affect our business as described herein and in the Business, Risk Factors, and Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations sections and other sections in our Annual Report on Form

10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015 and in our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2016 and June 30, 2016, which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. These risks, uncertainties and other factors could cause you to suffer a loss of all or part of your investment in the notes. Before making an investment decision, you should carefully consider these factors and risks as well as other information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and any related free writing prospectus issued by us. 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 the notes.

We caution you not to rely unduly on any forward-looking statements. You should review and consider carefully the risks, uncertainties and other factors that affect our business as described herein and in our reports and other documents on file with the SEC, that are incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. You may obtain copies of these reports and documents as described under **Where You Can Find More Information** in the accompanying prospectus.

Table of Contents

SUMMARY INFORMATION

The following information supplements, and should be read together with, the information contained in the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference therein. You should carefully read this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, as well as the documents they incorporate by reference and any related free writing prospectus issued by us, before making an investment decision. Unless we state otherwise or the context otherwise requires, references appearing in this prospectus supplement to we, us and our should be read to refer to Sempra Energy and its subsidiaries.

Sempra Energy

Sempra Energy is a Fortune 500 energy-services holding company whose operating units invest in, develop and operate energy infrastructure, and provide gas and electricity services to their customers in North and South America. Our operations are divided principally between our California utilities, which are San Diego Gas & Electric Company and Southern California Gas Company, and Sempra International and Sempra U.S. Gas & Power.

Our California utility subsidiaries, Southern California Gas Company and San Diego Gas & Electric Company, serve a population of approximately 25 million. Natural gas service is provided throughout Southern California and portions of Central California through approximately 6.8 million meters. Electric service is provided throughout San Diego County and an adjacent portion of Orange County, both in Southern California, through approximately 1.4 million meters.

Our principal executive offices are located at 488 8th Avenue, San Diego, California 92101 and our telephone number is (619) 696-2000.

Table of Contents**The Offering**

Issuer	Sempra Energy.
Amount of Notes Offered	\$ aggregate principal amount of % Notes due 2019 (the notes).
Maturity	, 2019.
Interest Rate	% per annum, accruing from , 2016.
Interest Payment Dates	and of each year, beginning , .
Ranking	The notes are our unsecured and unsubordinated obligations and will rank on a parity in right of payment with all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness and guarantees. The notes will rank senior to all of our existing and future indebtedness, if any, that is subordinated to the notes. The notes will be effectively subordinated to any secured indebtedness we have or may incur (to the extent of the collateral securing such secured indebtedness) and will also be effectively subordinated to all indebtedness and other liabilities of our subsidiaries.
Optional Redemption	At our option, we may redeem some or all of the notes at any time at the applicable redemption price described in this prospectus supplement. See Description of the Notes Optional Redemption.
Covenants	The notes and the related indenture do not contain any financial or other similar restrictive covenants. However, we will be subject to the covenant described under the caption Description of Debt Securities Consolidation, Merger and Conveyance of Assets as an Entirety; No Financial Covenants in the accompanying prospectus.
Use of Proceeds	The net proceeds from the sale of the notes will be approximately \$ million (after deducting the underwriting discount but before deducting our estimated offering expenses), and will become part of our general treasury funds. We intend to use the net proceeds to repay outstanding commercial paper.
As used on this page, references to we,	us and our mean Sempra Energy excluding its subsidiaries.

S-4

Table of Contents

RISK FACTORS

Investment in the notes involves risks. You should carefully consider the risk factors incorporated by reference to our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC subsequent to our most recently completed fiscal year and all other information contained or incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, as updated by our subsequent filings under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, before acquiring any of such notes. The occurrence of any of these risks might cause you to lose all or part of your investment in the notes. See also Forward-Looking Statements.

USE OF PROCEEDS

The net proceeds from the sale of the notes will be approximately \$ million (after deducting the underwriting discount but before deducting our estimated offering expenses), and will become part of our general treasury funds. We intend to use the net proceeds to repay outstanding commercial paper, which bears interest at rates less than 1.12% per annum and matures within the next six days. We estimate that our expenses for this offering, excluding the underwriting discount, will be approximately \$500,000.

As described above, the net proceeds from this offering will be used to repay outstanding commercial paper. One or more of the underwriters participating in this offering and/or their affiliates may hold positions in our commercial paper and certain of the underwriters act as dealers under our commercial paper programs. To the extent that net proceeds from this offering are applied to repay our commercial paper held by any of the underwriters or their affiliates, they will receive proceeds of this offering through the repayment of that commercial paper. If 5% or more of the net proceeds of this offering (not including the underwriting discount) is used to repay our outstanding commercial paper held by at least one of the underwriters or their affiliates, this offering will be conducted in accordance with FINRA Rule 5121. In such event, such underwriter or underwriters will not confirm sales of the notes to accounts over which they exercise discretionary authority without the prior written approval of the customer. See Underwriting (Conflicts of Interest) Conflicts of Interest.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF THE NOTES

The notes will be a series of our senior debt securities issued under an indenture between Sempra Energy, as issuer, and U.S. Bank National Association, as trustee. In this section and under the caption "Description of Debt Securities" in the accompanying prospectus, references to Sempra Energy, we, our, us and the Company mean Sempra Energy excluding its subsidiaries, unless otherwise expressly stated or the context otherwise requires.

The summary of selected provisions of the notes and the indenture appearing below supplements, and to the extent inconsistent supersedes and replaces, the description of the general terms and provisions of the senior debt securities and the indenture contained in the accompanying prospectus. This summary is not complete and is qualified by reference to provisions of the notes and the indenture. Forms of the notes and the indenture have been or will be filed with the SEC and you may obtain copies as described under "Where You Can Find More Information" in the accompanying prospectus.

Interest Rate and Maturity

The notes will bear interest at the rate of % per year computed on the basis of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months. Interest on the notes will accrue from , 2016 and will be payable semi-annually in arrears on and of each year, beginning on , , to the holders of record at the close of business on the immediately preceding and , respectively.

The notes will mature on , 2019. The notes are subject to earlier redemption at our option as described under "Optional Redemption".

If any interest payment date, redemption date or the maturity date of the notes is not a business day at any place of payment, then payment of the principal, premium, if any, and interest may be made on the next business day at that place of payment. In that case, no interest will accrue on the amount payable for the period from and after the applicable interest payment date, redemption date or maturity date, as the case may be.

Ranking

The notes will be our unsecured and unsubordinated obligations and will rank on a parity in right of payment with all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness and guarantees. The notes will rank senior to all of our existing and future indebtedness, if any, that is subordinated to the notes. The notes will be effectively subordinated to any secured indebtedness we have or may incur (to the extent of the collateral securing that indebtedness). The notes are our obligations exclusively, and are not the obligations of any of our subsidiaries. Because we conduct our operations primarily through our subsidiaries and substantially all of our consolidated assets are held by our subsidiaries, the notes will be effectively subordinated to all existing and future indebtedness and other liabilities of our subsidiaries. At June 30, 2016, our subsidiaries had total liabilities of approximately \$24 billion to non-affiliated third parties. In addition, at June 30, 2016, our subsidiaries had approximately \$267 million of liabilities owed to us. See "Description of Debt Securities Holding Company Structure" in the accompanying prospectus.

Optional Redemption

We will be entitled to redeem the notes at our option as described below.

We may at our option redeem the notes, at any time in whole or from time to time in part, at a redemption price for any redemption date equal to the greater of the following amounts:

100% of the principal amount of the notes being redeemed on that redemption date; or

the sum of the present values of the remaining scheduled payments of principal and interest on the notes being redeemed on that redemption date (not including any portion of any payments of interest

S-6

Table of Contents

accrued to the redemption date), discounted to that redemption date on a semi-annual basis at the Adjusted Treasury Rate (as defined below) plus _____ basis points, as determined by the Independent Investment Banker (as defined below), plus, in each case, accrued and unpaid interest on the notes to be redeemed to the redemption date.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, installments of interest on the notes that are due and payable on any interest payment date falling on or prior to a redemption date for the notes will be payable on that interest payment date to the registered holders thereof as of the close of business on the relevant record date according to the terms of the notes and the indenture. The redemption price will, if applicable, be calculated on the basis of a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months.

Adjusted Treasury Rate means, with respect to any redemption date for the notes, the rate per annum equal to the semi-annual equivalent yield to maturity of the Comparable Treasury Issue, assuming a price for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed as a percentage of its principal amount) equal to the Comparable Treasury Price for such redemption date.

Comparable Treasury Issue means, with respect to any redemption date for the notes, the United States Treasury security selected by the Independent Investment Banker as having a maturity comparable to the remaining term of the notes to be redeemed on such redemption date that would be utilized, at the time of selection and in accordance with customary financial practice, in pricing new issues of corporate debt securities of comparable maturity to the remaining term of the notes.

Comparable Treasury Price means, with respect to any redemption date for the notes, (A) the average of the Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations for such redemption date or (B) if only one Reference Treasury Dealer Quotation is received, such quotation.

Independent Investment Banker means, with respect to any redemption date for the notes, one of the Reference Treasury Dealers appointed by us to act as the Independent Investment Banker.

Reference Treasury Dealers mean, with respect to any redemption date for the notes, (A) Goldman, Sachs & Co., Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated and Mizuho Securities USA Inc. (or their respective affiliates which are Primary Treasury Dealers (as defined below)), and their respective successors; provided, however, that if any of the foregoing shall cease to be a primary U.S. Government securities dealer in the United States (a Primary Treasury Dealer), we will substitute therefor another Primary Treasury Dealer; and (B) any other Primary Treasury Dealer(s) selected by us.

Reference Treasury Dealer Quotation means, with respect to each Reference Treasury Dealer and any redemption date for the notes, the average, as determined by us, of the bid and asked prices for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed in each case as a percentage of its principal amount) quoted in writing to us by such Reference Treasury Dealer at 5:00 p.m. (New York City time) on the third business day preceding such redemption date. As used in the preceding sentence, **business day** means any day (other than a Saturday or Sunday) on which banking institutions in The City of New York are not authorized or obligated by law or executive order to remain closed.

We will mail notice of any redemption at least 30 days but not more than 60 days before the redemption date to each registered holder of the notes to be redeemed. Once notice of redemption is mailed, the notes called for redemption will become due and payable on the redemption date at the applicable redemption price, plus accrued and unpaid interest to the redemption date, and will be paid upon surrender thereof for redemption. If only part of a note is redeemed, the trustee will deliver a new note in a principal amount equal to the unredeemed portion of the principal of

the note surrendered for redemption. If we elect to redeem all or a portion of the notes, that redemption will not be conditional upon receipt by the paying agent or the trustee of monies sufficient to pay the redemption price.

S-7

Table of Contents

Unless we default in payment of the redemption price, on and after the redemption date interest will cease to accrue on the notes or portions thereof called for redemption.

Events of Default

An event of default occurs with respect to the notes if:

- (a) we do not pay any interest on any note within 30 days of the due date;
- (b) we do not pay any principal of or premium, if any, on any note on the due date;
- (c) we remain in breach of any other covenant or warranty (excluding covenants and warranties solely applicable to another series of debt securities issued under the indenture) in the indenture or the notes for 60 days after we are given a written notice of default specifying such breach and requiring remedy of the breach; the notice must be sent by either the trustee or registered holders of at least 25% of the principal amount of the outstanding notes; or
- (d) we file for bankruptcy or other specified events in bankruptcy, insolvency, receivership or reorganization of us occur.

No event of default with respect to the notes necessarily constitutes an event of default with respect to the debt securities of any other series issued under the indenture.

The terms of approximately \$2.35 billion aggregate principal amount of outstanding senior debt securities that we previously issued under the indenture (the prior debt securities) include a so-called cross-default event of default, which would occur, in general, upon our failure to pay when due, or the acceleration of, certain threshold amounts of our debt. Of such \$2.35 billion of prior debt securities with a cross default event of default, \$1.75 billion has a threshold amount of at least \$25 million and \$600 million has a threshold amount of at least \$100 million. The notes offered hereby do not include a cross-default event of default. Accordingly, the principal of and interest on the prior debt securities may be declared due and payable immediately upon the occurrence of a cross-default event of default, while the holders of the notes will not be entitled to accelerate the notes as a result of such event.

Other

The notes will not be subject to a sinking fund or entitled to any guarantees and you will not be permitted to require us to redeem or repurchase the notes at your option.

We will pay principal of and premium, if any, on the notes at stated maturity, upon redemption or otherwise, upon presentation of the notes at the office of the trustee, as our paying agent. In our discretion, we may appoint one or more additional paying agents and security registrars and designate one or more additional places for payment and for registration of transfer, but we must at all times maintain a place of payment of the notes and a place for registration of transfer of the notes in the Borough of Manhattan, The City of New York.

We may, from time to time, without notice to or the consent of the holders of the notes, increase the principal amount of the notes under the indenture and issue such increased principal amount (or any portion thereof), in which case any additional notes so issued shall have the same form and terms (other than offering price, the date of issuance and, under certain circumstances, the date from which interest thereon shall begin to accrue and the first interest payment date), and shall carry the same right to receive accrued and unpaid interest, as the notes previously issued and such additional notes shall form a single series with the notes offered by this prospectus supplement, provided that such additional notes shall be fungible with the notes offered by this prospectus supplement for United States federal income tax purposes.

The notes initially will be issued in book-entry form and represented by one or more global securities deposited with, or on behalf of, The Depository Trust Company, as Depositary, and registered in the name of Cede & Co., its nominee. This means that you will not be entitled to receive a certificate for the notes that you

Table of Contents

purchase except in limited circumstances set forth in the indenture. The notes will be issued only in fully registered form without coupons, in denominations of \$2,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof. We expect that payments due on notes in book-entry form will be paid by wire transfer of funds to the Depositary or its nominee.

S-9

Table of Contents

MATERIAL UNITED STATES FEDERAL TAX CONSIDERATIONS

The following is a summary of certain material United States federal income tax considerations relating to the purchase, ownership and disposition of the notes, 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 (the Code), Treasury Regulations promulgated thereunder, administrative rulings and judicial decisions, each as of the date hereof. These authorities may be changed, perhaps retroactively, so as to result in United States federal income tax consequences different from those set forth below. We have not sought any ruling from the Internal Revenue Service (the IRS) or an opinion of counsel 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 is limited to holders who purchase the notes upon their initial issuance at their initial issue price (which will equal the first price at which a substantial amount of notes is sold to the public for cash) and who hold the notes as capital assets (generally, property held for investment). This summary does not address United States federal tax laws other than income tax laws, and it does not address tax considerations arising under the laws of any foreign, state or local jurisdiction. In addition, this discussion does not address all tax considerations that may be applicable to a holder's particular circumstances or to holders that may be subject to special tax rules, including, without limitation:

holders subject to the alternative minimum tax;

banks, insurance companies or other financial institutions;

tax-exempt organizations;

regulated investment companies or real estate investment trusts;

dealers in securities or commodities;

traders in securities that elect to use a mark-to-market method of accounting for their securities holdings;

foreign persons or entities (except to the extent specifically set forth below);

S-corporations, partnerships or other pass-through entities;

expatriates and certain former citizens or long-term residents of the United States;

U.S. holders (as defined below) whose functional currency is not the United States dollar;

persons who hold the notes as a position in a hedging transaction, straddle, conversion transaction or other risk reduction transaction; or

persons deemed to sell the notes under the constructive sale provisions of the Code.

If a partnership (or other entity taxable as a partnership for United States federal income tax purposes) holds notes, the tax treatment of a partner in the partnership generally will depend upon the status of the partner and the activities of the partnership. If you are a partner in a partnership holding our notes, you should consult your tax advisor regarding the tax consequences of the purchase, ownership and disposition of the notes.

THIS SUMMARY OF CERTAIN MATERIAL UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS IS FOR GENERAL INFORMATION ONLY AND IS NOT TAX ADVICE. YOU ARE URGED TO CONSULT YOUR TAX ADVISOR WITH RESPECT TO THE APPLICATION OF UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX LAWS TO YOUR PARTICULAR SITUATION AS WELL AS ANY TAX CONSEQUENCES OF THE PURCHASE, OWNERSHIP AND DISPOSITION OF THE NOTES ARISING UNDER OTHER UNITED STATES FEDERAL TAX RULES OR UNDER THE LAWS OF ANY STATE, LOCAL, FOREIGN OR OTHER TAXING JURISDICTION OR UNDER ANY APPLICABLE TAX TREATY.

S-10

Table of Contents

Consequences to U.S. Holders

The following is a summary of certain material United States federal income tax consequences that will apply to you if you are a U.S. holder (as defined below) of the notes. Certain consequences to non-U.S. holders (as defined below) of the notes are described under **Consequences to Non-U.S. Holders** below. The term **U.S. holder** means a beneficial owner of a note that is:

an individual who is a citizen or resident of the United States;

a corporation (or other entity taxable as a corporation for United States federal income tax purposes) created or organized in or under the laws of the United States or of any state thereof or the District of Columbia;

an estate the income of which is subject to United States federal income taxation regardless of its source; or

a trust that (i) is subject to the primary supervision of a United States court and the control of one or more United States persons or (ii) has a valid election in effect under applicable Treasury Regulations to be treated as a United States person.

Payments of Interest

You generally will be required to recognize any stated interest as ordinary income at the time it is paid or accrued on the notes in accordance with your regular method of accounting for United States federal income tax purposes.

Sale, Exchange, Redemption or Other Taxable Disposition of Notes

You generally will recognize capital gain or loss upon the sale, exchange, redemption or other taxable disposition of a note in an amount equal to the difference between (i) the sum of cash plus the fair market value of all other property received on such disposition (except to the extent such cash or property is attributable to accrued but unpaid interest not previously included in income, which generally will be taxable as ordinary income) and (ii) your adjusted tax basis in the note. Your adjusted tax basis in a note generally will equal the amount you paid for the note. Under current law, if you are a non-corporate U.S. holder, including an individual, and have held the note for more than one year at the time of disposition, such capital gain generally will be subject to tax at a maximum rate of 20%. Your ability to deduct capital losses may be limited.

Backup Withholding and Information Reporting

Payments of interest and principal on notes held by U.S. holders and the proceeds received upon the sale, exchange, redemption or other disposition of such notes may be subject to information reporting and backup withholding. Payments to certain holders (including, among others, certain tax-exempt organizations) are generally not subject to information reporting or backup withholding. If you are a U.S. holder and you are not otherwise exempt, payments to you will be subject to backup withholding if:

Edgar Filing: SEMPRA ENERGY - Form 424B5

you fail to furnish your taxpayer identification number (TIN), which, for an individual, is ordinarily his or her social security number, in the manner required by the Code and applicable Treasury Regulations;

we or our agent (or other payor) are notified by the IRS that the TIN you furnished is incorrect;

there has been a notified payee underreporting with respect to interest or dividends paid to you, as described in the Code; or

you have failed to certify under penalty of perjury that you have furnished a correct TIN and that you are not subject to backup withholding under the Code.

You should consult your tax advisor regarding your qualification for an exemption from backup withholding and information reporting and the procedures for obtaining such an exemption, if applicable. Backup withholding

S-11

Table of Contents

is not an additional tax, and you may use amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules as a credit against your United States federal income tax liability or may claim a refund as long as you provide the required information to the IRS in a timely manner.

Net Investment Income

A 3.8% tax will be imposed on a portion or all of the net investment income of certain individuals with a modified adjusted gross income of over \$200,000 (\$250,000 in the case of joint filers) and on the undistributed net investment income of certain estates and trusts. Among other items, net investment income generally includes gross income from interest and net gain attributable to the disposition of certain property, such as the notes, less certain deductions. U.S. holders should consult their own tax advisors regarding the possible implications of this tax to their particular circumstances.

Consequences to Non-U.S. Holders

The following is a summary of certain material United States federal income tax consequences that will apply to you if you are a non-U.S. holder of notes. The term *non-U.S. holder* means a beneficial owner of a note that is not a partnership (or other entity taxable as a partnership for United States federal income tax purposes) or a U.S. holder.

Special rules may apply to certain non-U.S. holders such as *controlled foreign corporations* and *passive foreign investment companies*. Such entities should consult their tax advisors to determine the United States federal, state, local and other tax consequences that may be relevant to them.

Payments of Interest

Subject to the discussion of backup withholding and information reporting and FATCA below, United States federal withholding tax will not apply to any payment to you of interest on a note provided that such interest is not effectively connected with your conduct of a United States trade or business and:

you do not own, actually or constructively, 10% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of our stock entitled to vote;

you are not a *controlled foreign corporation* with respect to which we are, directly or indirectly, a *related person* ;

you are not a bank receiving interest pursuant to a loan agreement entered into in the ordinary course of your trade or business; and

(a) you provide your name and address, and certify, under penalties of perjury, that you are not a United States person (which certification may be made on an IRS Form W-8BEN or IRS Form W-8BEN-E, as applicable (or substitute Form W-8BEN or Form W-8BEN-E, or the appropriate successor form for either form)) or (b) a securities clearing organization, bank, or other financial institution that holds customers securities in the ordinary course of its business holds the note on your behalf and certifies, under penalties of

perjury, that it has received IRS Form W-8BEN or IRS Form W-8BEN-E, as applicable (or substitute Form W-8BEN or Form W-8BEN-E, or the appropriate successor form for either form), from you or from another qualifying financial institution intermediary, and, in certain circumstances, provides a copy of the IRS Form W-8BEN or IRS Form W-8BEN-E, as applicable (or substitute Form W-8BEN or Form W-8BEN-E, or the appropriate successor form for either form). If you hold your notes through certain foreign intermediaries or certain foreign partnerships, such foreign intermediaries or partnerships must also satisfy the certification requirements of applicable Treasury Regulations.

If you cannot satisfy the requirements described above, you will be subject to a 30% United States federal withholding tax with respect to payments of interest on the notes, unless you provide us with a properly executed (1) IRS Form W-8BEN or IRS Form W-8BEN-E, as applicable (or substitute Form W-8BEN or Form W-8BEN-E, or

Table of Contents

the appropriate successor form for either form) claiming an exemption from or reduction in withholding under the benefit of an applicable United States income tax treaty or (2) IRS Form W-8ECI (or successor form) stating that the interest paid on the note is not subject to withholding tax because it is effectively connected with your conduct of a trade or business in the United States.

If you are engaged in a trade or business in the United States and interest on a note is effectively connected with your conduct of that trade or business (and, if an income tax treaty applies, such interest is attributable to a permanent establishment maintained by you in the United States), you will be subject to United States federal income tax on that interest on a net income basis (although you will be exempt from the 30% withholding tax, provided the certification requirements described above are satisfied) in the same manner as if you were a United States person as defined under the Code. In addition, if you are a foreign corporation, you may be subject to a branch profits tax equal to 30% (or lower applicable treaty rate) of your earnings and profits for the taxable year, subject to adjustments, that are effectively connected with your conduct of a trade or business in the United States. For this purpose, interest will be included in the earnings and profits of such foreign corporation.

Sale, Exchange, Redemption or Other Taxable Disposition of Notes

Subject to the discussion of backup withholding and information reporting and FATCA below, any gain realized upon the sale, exchange, redemption or other taxable disposition of a note (other than any amount allocable to accrued and unpaid interest, which will be taxable as interest and may be subject to the rules discussed above in *Consequences to Non-U.S. Holders Payments of Interest*) generally will not be subject to United States federal income tax unless:

that gain is effectively connected with your conduct of a trade or business in the United States (and, if an income tax treaty applies, such gain is attributable to a permanent establishment maintained by you in the United States); or

you are an individual who is present in the United States for 183 days or more in the taxable year of that disposition, and certain other conditions are met.

If your gain is effectively connected with your conduct of a United States trade or business (and, if an income tax treaty applies, such gain is attributable to a permanent establishment maintained by you in the United States), you generally will be subject to United States federal income tax on the net gain derived from the sale, exchange, redemption or other disposition in the same manner as if you were a United States person (as defined under the Code). If you are a corporation, any such effectively connected gain received by you may also, under certain circumstances, be subject to the branch profits tax at a 30% rate (or such lower rate as may be prescribed under an applicable United States income tax treaty). If you are described in the second bullet point above, you will be subject to United States federal income tax on the gain derived from the sale, exchange, redemption or other disposition at a 30% rate (or such lower rate as may be prescribed under an applicable United States income tax treaty), which gain may be offset by United States source capital losses, even though you are not considered a resident of the United States.

Backup Withholding and Information Reporting

If you are a non-U.S. holder, you will generally not be subject to backup withholding and information reporting with respect to payments that we make to you, or with respect to the proceeds of the sale of a note within the United States or conducted through certain United States-related financial intermediaries, if the payor receives the statement described above under *Consequences to Non-U.S. Holders Payments of Interest* and does not have actual knowledge or

reason to know that you are a United States person, as defined under the Code, or you otherwise establish an exemption. However, we may be required to report annually to the IRS and to you the amount of, and the tax withheld with respect to, any interest paid to you, regardless of whether any tax was actually withheld. Copies of these information returns may also be made available under the provisions of a specific treaty or agreement to the tax authorities of the country in which you reside.

S-13

Table of Contents

You generally will be entitled to credit any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules against your United States federal income tax liability provided that the required information is furnished to the IRS in a timely manner.

Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act

Pursuant to legislation commonly referred to as FATCA and regulations promulgated thereunder, payments to foreign entities of interest on and the gross proceeds of dispositions of debt obligations of a U.S. issuer will be subject to a withholding tax (separate and apart from, but without duplication of, the withholding tax described above) at a rate of 30%, unless various U.S. information reporting and due diligence requirements (generally relating to ownership by U.S. persons of interests in or accounts with those entities) have been satisfied. FATCA currently applies to payments of interest on the notes and will apply to payments of gross proceeds of a sale or other disposition of notes occurring on or after January 1, 2019. You should consult your tax advisor regarding the possible effect of FATCA on your investment in the notes.

Table of Contents

UNDERWRITING (CONFLICTS OF INTEREST)

Goldman, Sachs & Co., Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated and Mizuho Securities USA Inc. are acting as representatives of the underwriters named below.

Subject to the terms and conditions stated in the underwriting agreement dated the date of this prospectus supplement, each underwriter named below has agreed to purchase, and we have agreed to sell to that underwriter, the principal amount of notes set forth opposite the underwriter's name.

Name	Principal Amount of Notes
Goldman, Sachs & Co.	\$
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated	
Mizuho Securities USA Inc.	
Total	\$

The underwriting agreement provides that the obligations of the several underwriters to purchase the notes included in this offering are subject to approval of certain legal matters by counsel and to other conditions. The underwriters are obligated to purchase all the notes if they purchase any of the notes. The offering of the notes by the underwriters is subject to receipt and acceptance and to the underwriters' right to reject any order in whole or in part.

The underwriters propose to offer the notes directly to the public initially at the public offering price set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement. Notes sold by the underwriters to dealers may be sold at the public offering price less a concession not to exceed % of the principal amount of the notes. The underwriters may allow, and dealers may reallow, a concession not to exceed % of the principal amount of the notes on sales to other dealers. After the initial offering of the notes to the public, the representatives may change the public offering price and concessions.

The notes are a new issue of securities with no established trading market. There can be no assurance of a secondary market for the notes or the continued liquidity of such market if one develops. It is not anticipated that the notes will be listed on any securities exchange.

The following table shows the underwriting discount that we are to pay to the underwriters in connection with this offering (expressed as a percentage of the principal amount of the notes).

**Paid by
Sempra
Energy**

Per note

%

In connection with the offering, the representatives, on behalf of the underwriters, may purchase and sell notes in the open market. These transactions may include over-allotment, syndicate covering transactions and stabilizing transactions. Over-allotment involves syndicate sales of notes in excess of the principal amount of notes to be purchased from us by the underwriters in the offering, which creates a syndicate short position. Syndicate covering transactions involve purchases of the notes in the open market after the distribution has been completed in order to cover syndicate short positions. Stabilizing transactions consist of certain bids or purchases of notes made for the purpose of preventing or retarding a decline in the market prices of the notes while the offering is in progress.

S-15

Table of Contents

The underwriters also may impose a penalty bid. Penalty bids permit the underwriters to reclaim a selling concession from a syndicate member when the representatives, in covering syndicate short positions or making stabilizing purchases, repurchase notes originally sold by that syndicate member.

Any of these activities may have the effect of preventing or retarding a decline in the market prices of the notes. They may also cause the prices of the notes to be higher than the prices that otherwise would exist in the open market in the absence of these transactions. The underwriters may conduct these transactions in the over-the-counter market or otherwise. If the underwriters commence any of these transactions, they may discontinue them at any time.

We estimate that our total expenses for this offering, excluding the underwriting discount, will be approximately \$500,000.

The underwriters and their respective affiliates are full service financial institutions engaged in various activities, which may include securities trading, commercial and investment banking, financial advisory, investment management, investment research, principal investment, hedging, financing and brokerage activities. Some or all of the underwriters and/or their affiliates have acted and/or are acting as lenders to and/or commercial paper dealers for, and/or have from time to time performed and/or are performing certain investment banking, advisory, general financing, trustee and commercial banking and other commercial transactions and services for, us and/or our affiliates for which they have received and in the future may receive customary fees and expenses. The underwriters and their affiliates may, from time to time, engage in other transactions with or perform other services for us and our affiliates in the ordinary course of their business for which they receive customary fees and expenses.

In addition, in the ordinary course of their business activities, the underwriters and their respective affiliates may make or hold a broad array of investments and actively trade debt and equity securities (or related derivative securities) and financial instruments (including bank loans) for their own account and for the accounts of their customers, and such investment and securities activities may involve securities and/or instruments of ours or our affiliates. If any of the underwriters or their affiliates has a lending relationship with us, certain of those underwriters or their affiliates routinely hedge and certain other of those underwriters or their affiliates may hedge, their credit exposure to us consistent with their customary risk management policies. Typically, these underwriters and their affiliates would hedge such exposure by entering into transactions which may consist of either the purchase of credit default swaps or the creation of short positions in our securities, including potentially the notes offered hereby. Any such credit default swaps or short positions could adversely affect future trading prices of the notes offered hereby. The underwriters and their affiliates may also make investment recommendations and/or publish or express independent research views in respect of such securities or financial instruments and may hold, or recommend to clients that they acquire, long and/or short positions in such securities and instruments.

We have agreed to indemnify the several underwriters against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or to contribute to payments the underwriters may be required to make because of any of those liabilities.

Conflicts of Interest

As described in this prospectus supplement under "Use of Proceeds," net proceeds of this offering will be used to repay outstanding commercial paper. One or more of the underwriters participating in this offering and/or their affiliates may hold positions in our commercial paper, and certain of the underwriters act as dealers under our commercial paper programs. To the extent that net proceeds from this offering are applied to repay our commercial paper held by any of the underwriters or their affiliates, they will receive proceeds of this offering through the repayment of that commercial paper. If 5% or more of the net proceeds of this offering (not including the underwriting discount) is used

to repay our outstanding commercial paper held by at least one of the

S-16

Table of Contents

underwriters or their affiliates, this offering will be conducted in accordance with FINRA Rule 5121. In such event, such underwriter or underwriters will not confirm sales of the notes to accounts over which they exercise discretionary authority without the prior written approval of the customer.

Selling Restrictions

European Economic Area

In relation to each Member State of the European Economic Area (the "EEA") which has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a "Relevant Member State"), an offer of notes which are the subject of the offering contemplated by this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus to the public in that Relevant Member State may not be made other than:

- (a) to any legal entity which is a qualified investor as defined in the Prospectus Directive;
- (b) to fewer than 150 natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Directive), subject to obtaining the prior consent of the representatives of the underwriters 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 notes shall require us or any underwriter to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive.

For the purposes of this provision, the expression an "offer to the public" in relation to any notes 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 the notes to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe for the notes, as the same may be varied in that Relevant Member State by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that Relevant Member State, the expression "Prospectus Directive" means Directive 2003/71/EC (as amended, including by Directive 2010/73/EU), and includes any relevant implementing measure in the Relevant Member State.

United Kingdom

Each underwriter has represented and agreed that:

- (a) it has only communicated or caused to be communicated and will only communicate or cause to be communicated an invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity within the meaning of Section 21 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000, as amended ("FSMA")