

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



November 29, 2021

Natalie Wales  
Director, Regulatory Policy & Compliance  
California Water Service Co.  
1720 North First Street  
San Jose, CA 95112

Dear Ms. Wales,

The Water Division of the California Public Utilities Commission has approved California Water Service Company's Advice Letter No. 2425, filed on October 6, 2021, regarding Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) Refund for the Dominguez District.

Enclosed are copies of the following revised tariff sheets, effective November 1, 2021, for the utility's files:

<b>P.U.C. Sheet</b>	
<b>No.</b>	<b>Title of Sheet</b>
12657-W	Schedule No. DOM-1-RC, Metered Recycled Water Service (Page 2)
12658-W	Schedule No. DOM-1-NR, Non Residential Metered Service (Page 2)
12659-W	Schedule No. DOM-1-R, Residential Metered Service (Page 2)
12660-W	Table of Contents (Page 7)
12661-W	Table of Contents (Page 1)

Please contact Kevin Truong at [VT4@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:VT4@cpuc.ca.gov) or 415-703-1353, if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Enclosures

**CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
DIVISION OF WATER AND AUDITS**

**Advice Letter Cover Sheet**

California Water Service  
**Utility Name:** Company **Date Mailed to Service List:** 10/06/2021  
**District:** Dominguez  
**CPUC Utility #:** U-60-W **Protest Deadline (20<sup>th</sup> Day):** 10/26/2021  
**Advice Letter #:** 2425 **Review Deadline (30<sup>th</sup> Day):** 11/05/2021  
**Tier:**  1  2  3  Compliance **Requested Effective Date:** 11/01/2021  
**Authorization:** D.20-12-007  
**Description:** Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) Refund **Rate Impact:** Surcredit \$10.38 per Service

The protest or response deadline for this advice letter is 20 days from the date that this advice letter was e-mailed to the service list. Please see the "Response or Protest" section in the advice letter for more information.

**Utility Contact:** Natalie Wales  
**Phone:** 408-367-8566  
**Email:** [Nwales@calwater.com](mailto:Nwales@calwater.com)

**Utility Contact:** Sergio Esquivel  
**Phone:** 408-367-8574  
**Email:** [sesquivel@calwater.com](mailto:sesquivel@calwater.com)

**DWA Contact:** Tariff Unit  
**Phone:** (415) 703-1133  
**Email:** [Water.Division@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:Water.Division@cpuc.ca.gov)

**DWA USE ONLY**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>STAFF</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

[ ] APPROVED [ ] WITHDRAWN [ ] REJECTED

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_



**CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE COMPANY**

1720 NORTH FIRST STREET  
SAN JOSE, CA 95112 • (408) 367-8200 • F (408) 367-8428

October 6, 2021

**Advice Letter No. 2425**

To the California Public Utilities Commission:

California Water Service Company (“Cal Water”) respectfully submits this Tier 1 advice letter applicable to the Dominguez District requesting authority to make the changes in its tariffs as described below.

***Please note that, consistent with the Commission’s guidelines during the COVID-19 pandemic, this advice letter is only being distributed electronically to the Water Division and the attached service lists.***

Rate Schedule	New/Revised CPUC Sheet No.	Title of Sheet	Cancelling CPUC Sheet No.
DOM-1 -RC	12657-W	Metered Recycled Water Service (Page 2)	12394-W
DOM-1-NR	12658-W	Non Residential Metered Service (Page 2)	12392-W
DOM-1-R	12659-W	Residential Metered Service (Page 2)	12390-W
TOC - 7	12660-W	Table of Contents (Page 7)	12640-W
TOC -1	12661-W	Table of Contents (Page 1)	12656-W

**Summary**

This Tier 1 advice letter seeks permission to implement Ordering Paragraph (OP) 26 of D.20-12-007 to provide refunds to Dominguez District customers for defective Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) meters. Cal Water proposes a one-time sur-credit with an effective date of November 1, 2021, for a total refund of \$343,343.

**Background**

Starting in 2014, Cal Water began receiving and installing 4,252 AMR meters in its Dominguez District. The costs of these AMR meters were include in Cal Water’s 2015 General Rate Case (GRC) decision, D.16-12-042, as ratebase and therefore have been included in customer rates as used and useful plant since 2017.

In Cal Water’s 2018 GRC proceeding, the matter of certain AMR meters not fully functioning as smart meters was presented to the Commission. The Commission ultimately determined that Cal Water should refund customers for these costs as stated in OP 26:

California Water Service Company shall refund installation and/or removal costs for defective AMR meters to all its customers who previously bore such costs and have not been reimbursed within twelve months of the effective date of this decision.



## **Discussion**

Sometime in 2015, Cal Water began experiencing troubles with some of the 4,252 installed AMR meters. Approximately 100 of the AMR meters (not the same 100 meters each month) would not function properly for monthly AMR reads and therefore the meters would need to be manually read. After multiple months of working with the manufacturer to troubleshoot the problem, Cal Water and the manufacturer were unable to reach an agreement how to satisfactorily resolve the problem. Cal Water has since been reading the meters manually.

Cal Water was ordered in Ordering Paragraph 26 of D.20-12-007 to refund all costs related to the installation and removal of faulty AMR meters in Dominguez within 12 months of the decision. Since the AMR meters were included in ratebase, all metered Dominguez customers bore the costs of the defective AMR meters so all metered customers will receive the refund. The meters have been included in the revenue requirement to set rates for 2017 to 2022, so the refund will be based on rates that were paid for six years.

The time and cost difference between installing an AMR meter and a regular meter is negligible, therefore the calculations will simply be based on the difference in price of an AMR meter and a regular meter. For example, the unit cost Cal Water paid for a 5/8" AMR meter was \$168.30 per meter and the cost of a regular 5/8" meter was \$45.00 per meter. Therefore, Cal Water will refund the difference of \$123.30 for all 3,883 5/8" AMR meters installed. The meters are still able to be used for manual reads.

The initial investment of \$524,159 will be removed from ratebase at the beginning of 2023 so that it will be excluded from future rates. The revenues collected from 2017 to 2021, plus future 2022, is \$343,343. This will be spread over all the metered connections in Dominguez evenly in a single one-time sur-credit.

Cal Water submits this advice letter as a Tier 1 filing because it meets the definition of a decrease as indicated in General Order 96-B, Water Industry Rule 7.3.1(5).

## **Requested Effective Date**

Cal Water proposes an effective date of November 1, 2021.

## **Notice**

Customer Notice – Customer notice of Tier 1 advice letters is not required under General Order 96-B, General Rule 7.3.1.

Service Lists – In accordance with General Order 96-B, General Rule 4.3 and 7.2 and Water Industry Rule 4.1, a copy of this advice letter will be transmitted **electronically** on **October 6**,



**2021** to competing and adjacent utilities and other utilities or interested parties having requested such notification. ***Please note that, consistent with the Commission's guidelines for service during the COVID-19 pandemic, this advice letter is only being distributed electronically.***

### **Response or Protest**

Anyone may respond to or protest this advice letter. A response supports the filing and may contain information that proves useful to the Commission in evaluating the advice letter. A protest objects to the advice letter in whole or in part and must set forth the specific grounds on which it is based. These grounds are:

- (1) The utility did not properly serve or give notice of the advice letter;
- (2) The relief requested in the advice letter would violate statute or Commission order, or is not authorized by statute or Commission order on which the utility relies;
- (3) The analysis, calculations, or data in the advice letter contain material error or omissions;
- (4) The relief requested in the advice letter is pending before the Commission in a formal proceeding; or
- (5) The relief requested in the advice letter requires consideration in a formal hearing, or is otherwise inappropriate for the advice letter process; or
- (6) The relief requested in the advice letter is unjust, unreasonable, or discriminatory (provided that such a protest may not be made where it would require relitigating a prior order of the Commission.)

A protest shall provide citations or proofs where available to allow staff to properly consider the protest. A response or protest must be made in writing or by electronic mail and must be received by the Water Division within 20 days of the date this advice letter is filed. The advice letter process does not provide for any responses, protests or comments, except for the utility's reply, after the 20-day comment period. The address for mailing or delivering a protest is:

Tariff Unit, Water Division 3<sup>rd</sup> floor  
California Public Utilities Commission,  
505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102  
[water\\_division@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:water_division@cpuc.ca.gov)

On the same date the response or protest is submitted to the Water Division, the respondent or protestant shall send a copy by mail (or e-mail) to us, addressed to:



**CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE COMPANY**

Advice Letter 2425, Dominguez AMR Refund

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Natalie Wales  
California Water Service Company  
1720 North First Street,  
San Jose, California 95112  
[cwsrates@calwater.com](mailto:cwsrates@calwater.com)

Cities and counties that need Board of Supervisors or Board of Commissioners approval to protest should inform the Water Division, within the 20-day protest period, so that a late filed protest can be entertained. The informing document should include an estimate of the date the proposed protest might be voted on.

**Replies**

The utility shall reply to each protest and may reply to any response. Each reply must be received by the Water Division within 5 business days after the end of the protest period, and shall be served on the same day to the person who filed the protest or response. If you have not received a reply to your protest within 10 business days, contact California Water Service Company at 408-367-8200.

CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE COMPANY

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Natalie Wales".

Natalie Wales  
Director of Regulatory Policy and Compliance

cc: Syreeta Gibbs (Public Advocates Office)  
[PublicAdvocatesWater@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:PublicAdvocatesWater@cpuc.ca.gov)

**Schedule No. DOM-RC-1**  
**Dominguez Tariff Area**  
**METERED RECYCLED WATER SERVICE**

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

1. All bills are subject to the following tariff schedules: **Schedule UF** (CPUC reimbursement fee) and applicable surcharges and surcredits on **Schedule RSF** (Rate Support Fund), **Schedule CAP** (Customer Assistance Program), and **Schedule AS** (Additional Surcharges and Surcredits). (T)
  
2. Recycled water service refers to non-potable water that has been processed and treated by one of the following methods:
  - A. Title 22 Water refers to wastewater that has undergone tertiary treatment that meets recycled water use standards as established in Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations, Division 4 Environmental Health, Chapter 3 Reclamation Criteria, Articles 1 through 10.
  - B. R.O. Water refers to Title 22 Water that has further undergone reverse osmosis treatment to remove salts and dissolved solids.
  - C. Nitrified Water refers to Title 22 Water that has further undergone a biological treatment and processing for removal of ammonia.
  
3. **Water Expense Increase:** Beginning on February 1, 2021, rates in this area will reflect a 2.5% revenue increase (as compared to the revenue approved in Advice Letter 2373) due to higher charges imposed by the West Basin Municipal Water District and the Water Replenishment District of Southern California. This caused quantity rates to go up between \$0.0600/CCF and \$0.0973/CCF. Amounts collected from these quantity rate increases will be tracked in a balancing account, as required by Section 792.5 of the Public Utilities Code, and will be trued up at a later time. Monthly service charges also went up, with the charge for a 5/8 x 3/4-inch meter increasing by \$0.57.
  
4. **Automatic Meter Reading Refund:** As approved in Advice letter 2425, beginning on or after November 1, 2021, a flat, one-time credit of \$10.38 will be provided to each customer, as required by Ordering Paragraph 26 of Decision 20-12-007, to resolve an Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) matter. (N)  
|  
|  
(N)

**CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE COMPANY**

1720 North First Street  
San Jose, CA 95112  
(408) 367-8200

Revised Cal. P.U.C. Sheet No. 12658-W  
Cancelling Cal. P.U.C. Sheet No. 12392-W

**Schedule No. DOM-1-NR**  
**Dominguez Tariff Area**  
**NONRESIDENTIAL METERED SERVICE**

Page 2

**3. Water Expense Increase:** Beginning on February 1, 2021, rates in this area will reflect a 2.5% revenue increase (as compared to the revenue approved in Advice Letter 2373) due to higher charges imposed by the West Basin Municipal Water District and the Water Replenishment District of Southern California. This caused quantity rates to go up by \$0.1031/CCF. Amounts collected from these quantity rate increases will be tracked in a balancing account, as required by Section 792.5 of the Public Utilities Code, and will be trued up at a later time. Monthly service charges also went up, with the charge for a 5/8 x 3/4-inch meter increasing by \$0.53.

**4. Automatic Meter Reading Refund:** As approved in Advice letter 2425, beginning on or after November 1, 2021, a flat, one-time credit of \$10.38 will be provided to each customer, as required by Ordering Paragraph 26 of Decision 20-12-007, to resolve an Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) matter. (N)  
|  
|  
(N)

<small>(To be inserted by utility)</small>	<small>Issued By</small>	<small>(To be inserted by CPUC)</small>
Advice Letter <u>2425</u>	<u>Greg A. Milleman</u>	Date Filed <u>10/06/2021</u>
Decision	<u>Vice President</u>	Effective <u>11/01/2021</u>
		Resolution _____



**Schedule No. DOM-1-R**  
**Dominguez Tariff Area**  
**RESIDENTIAL METERED SERVICE**

SPECIAL CONDITIONS (continued)

- 2. All bills are subject to the following tariff schedules: **Schedule UF** (CPUC reimbursement fee) and applicable surcharges and surcredits on **Schedule RSF** (Rate Support Fund), **Schedule CAP** (Customer Assistance Program), and **Schedule AS** (Additional Surcharges and Surcredits). (T)
- 3. **Fire sprinkler rates:** A single-family residence with a meter size that has a “fire sprinkler” rate (listed above) is eligible for that rate if: (a) the customer is paying for service where a residential fire sprinkler system is required/requested to be installed by local fire or building codes; (b) a smaller meter would be large enough to provide adequate service in the absence of the additional demand needed to supply water to the system; (c) the sprinkler system is served through the meter providing residential water service; and (d) the customer requests the “fire sprinkler” rate. The Company may seek verification that the above criteria are met. This service will be considered a general metered service, and not a fire service, so the rules and conditions for general metered service shall apply.
- 4. **Water Expense Increase:** Beginning on February 1, 2021, rates in this area will reflect a 2.5% revenue increase (as compared to the revenue approved in Advice Letter 2373) due to higher charges imposed by the West Basin Municipal Water District and the Water Replenishment District of Southern California. This caused quantity rates to go up by the following amounts: \$0.0810/CCF for Tier 1 usage, \$0.1013/CCF for Tier 2 usage, and \$0.1521/CCF for Tier 3 usage. Amounts collected from these quantity rate increases will be tracked in a balancing account, as required by Section 792.5 of the Public Utilities Code, and will be trued up at a later time. Monthly service charges also went up, with the charge for a 5/8 x 3/4-inch meter increasing by \$0.61.
- 5. **Automatic Meter Reading Refund:** As approved in Advice letter 2425, beginning on or after November 1, 2021, a flat, one-time credit of \$10.38 will be provided to each customer, as required by Ordering Paragraph 26 of Decision 20-12-007, to resolve an Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) matter. (N)  
|  
|  
(N)

(To be inserted by utility)	Issued By	(To be inserted by CPUC)
Advice Letter <u>2425</u>	<u>Greg A. Milleman</u>	Date Filed <u>10/06/2021</u>
Decision	<u>Vice President</u>	Effective <u>11/01/2021</u>
		Resolution _____

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<u>Sheet Subject Matter</u>	<u>Rate Schedules Service Area</u>	<u>Schedule No.</u>	<u>CPUC Sheet No.</u>
<u>Rate Schedules: (continued)</u>			
<b>DIXON DISTRICT</b>			
Residential Metered Service		DX-1-R (Pg 1 of 2)	12346-W
		DX-1-R (Pg 2 of 2)	12347-W
Nonresidential Metered Service		DX-1-NR (Pg 1 of 1)	12348-W
<b>DOMINGUEZ DISTRICT</b>			
Residential Metered Service		DOM-1-R (Pg 1 of 2)	12389-W
		DOM-1-R (Pg 2 of 2)	12659-W (C)
Nonresidential Metered Service		DOM-1-NR (Pg 1 of 2)	12391-W
		DOM-1-NR (Pg 2 of 2)	12658-W (C)
Recycled Water Service		DOM-RC-1 (Pg 1 of 2)	12393-W
		DOM-RC-1 (Pg 2 of 2)	12657-W (C)
<b>EAST LOS ANGELES DISTRICT</b>			
Residential Metered Service		EL-1-R (Pg 1 of 2)	12395-W
		EL-1-R (Pg 2 of 2)	12396-W
Nonresidential Metered Service		EL-1-NR (Pg 1 of 2)	12397-W
		EL-1-NR (Pg 2 of 2)	12398-W
Reclaimed Water Service		EL-6 (Pg 1 of 2)	12613-W
		EL-6 (Pg 2 of 2)	12614-W
<b>GRAND OAKS DISTRICT</b>			
Residential Metered Service-		GO-R-1	12621-W
<b>HERMOSA-REDONDO DISTRICT</b>			
Residential Metered Service		HR-1-R (page 1 of 2)	12357-W
		HR-1-R (page 2 of 2)	12358-W
Nonresidential Metered Service (page 1)		HR-1-NR (page 1 of 2)	12359-W
		HR-1-NR (page 2 of 2)	12360-W
Reclaimed Water Service		HR-6 (page 1 of 2)	12361-W
		HR-6 (page of 2)	12362-W
<b>KERN RIVER VALLEY DISTRICT</b>			
General Metered Service		KRV-1 (Pg 1 of 4)	12401-W
		KRV-1 (Pg 2 of 4)	12402-W
		KRV-1 (Pg 3 of 4)	12595-W
		KRV-1 (Pg 4 of 4)	12404-W
Interruptible Public Authority Irrigation Service	Kernville	KRV-KD-2	10971-W

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(To be inserted by utility)  
 Advice Letter No. 2425  
 Decision No. \_\_\_\_\_

Issued by  
GREG A. MILLEMAN  
 Name  
Vice President  
 TITLE

(To be inserted by CPUC)  
 Date Filed 10/06/2021  
 Effective 11/01/2021  
 Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_

**Table of Contents - Page 1**

The following listed tariff sheets contain all effective rates and rules affecting the rates and service of the Utility together with information relating thereto:

<u>Sheet</u>	<u>Subject Matter</u>	<u>Service Area</u>	<u>Schedule No.</u>	<u>CPUC Sheet No.</u>
	Title Page			5613-W
	Table of Contents			
Page 1	Table of Contents			12661-W (C)
Page 2	Preliminary Statements			12655-W
Page 3	Preliminary Statements			12514-W
Page 4	Preliminary Statements			12602-W
Page 5	Rate Schedules - All Districts			12593-W
Page 6	Rate Schedules - District Specific			12641-W
Page 7	Rate Schedules - District Specific			12660-W (C)
Page 8	Rate Schedules - District Specific			12654-W
Page 9	Rate Schedules - District Specific			12639-W
Page 10	Rate Schedules - District Specific			12609-W
Page 11	Service Area Maps			12337-W
Page 12	Rules			12638-W
Page 13	Rules			12645-W
Page 14	Sample Forms			12553-W
Page 15	Sample Forms			2926-W
Page 16	Sample Forms			12552-W

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(To be inserted by utility)  
 Advice Letter No. 2425  
 Decision No. \_\_\_\_\_

Issued by  
GREG A. MILLEMAN  
 Name  
Vice President  
 TITLE

(To be inserted by CPUC)  
 Date Filed 10/06/2021  
 Effective 11/01/2021  
 Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_



## Dominguez District

ADVICE LETTER FILING MAILING LIST  
PER SECTION III (G) OF GENERAL ORDER NO. 96-A

ANDY DARLAK

**City of Torrance Public Works**

20500 Madrona Ave  
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adarlak@torranceca.gov

AUDREY JACKSON, REGULATORY  
AFFAIRS

**Golden State Water Company**

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GEORGE CHEN, RATES MANAGER  
**City of Los Angeles, Department of  
Water & Power**

P.O. Box 51111 Room 956  
Los Angeles, CA 90051  
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MICHAEL HARVEY, OPERATIONS  
MANAGER  
**City of Compton Water Utility Division**

205 S Willowbrook Ave  
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mharvey@comptoncity.org

RONALD MOORE, REGULATORY  
AFFAIRS

**Golden State Water Company**

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PAUL FUJITA, WATER DEPARTMENT  
**City of Long Beach**

1800 East Wardlow Rd  
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**Park Water Company**

P.O.Box 7002  
Downey, CA 90241  
regulatoryaffairs@parkwater.com