

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE

SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



April 18, 2023

Natalie Wales
Director of Regulatory Policy & Compliance
California Water Service Company
1720 North First Street
San Jose, CA 95112-4598

Dear Ms. Wales,

The Water Division of the California Public Utilities Commission has approved California Water Service Company's Advice Letter No. 2476, filed on March 24, 2023, regarding March Severe Winter Storms Compliance Filing for Kern River Valley and Salinas Valley Region ratemaking areas.

Enclosed is a copy of the advice letter with an effective date of March 10, 2023 for the utility's files.

Please contact Mahdi Jahami at MJ4@cpuc.ca.gov or 916-743-5080, if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Enclosures

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

Advice Letter Cover Sheet

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| Utility Name: California Water Service Company Kern River Valley and Salinas District: Valley Region ratemaking areas CPUC Utility #: U-60-W Advice Letter #: 2476 Tier: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Compliance Authorization: D.19-07-015 Description: March Severe Winter Storms Compliance Filing | Date Mailed to Service List: 3/24/2023 Protest Deadline (20th Day): 4/13/2023 Review Deadline (30th Day): 4/23/2023 Requested Effective Date: 3/10/2023 Rate Impact: none |
|--|--|

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

Utility Contact: Albree Jewell

Phone: (916) 205-4539

Email: ajewell@calwater.com

Utility Contact: Natalie Wales

Phone: (408) 367-8566

Email: nwales@calwater.com

DWA Contact: Tariff Unit

Phone: (415) 703-1133

Email: Water.Division@cpuc.ca.gov

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| DWA USE ONLY |
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DATE

STAFF

COMMENTS

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☐ **APPROVED**

☐ **WITHDRAWN**

☐ **REJECTED**

Signature: _____

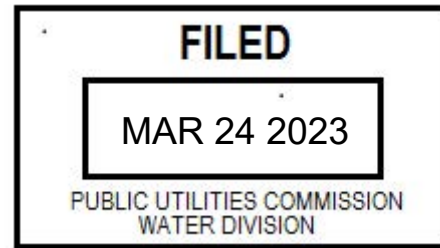
Comments: _____

Date: _____



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

March 24, 2023



Advice Letter No. 2476

To the California Public Utilities Commission:

California Water Service Company ("Cal Water") respectfully submits this Tier 1 advice letter in compliance with Ordering Paragraph 9 of D.19-07-015, *Decision Adopting an Emergency Disaster Relief Program for Electric, Natural Gas, Water and Sewer Utility Customers*, with regard to the impact on Cal Water's customers of the severe winter storms in our Kern River Valley and Salinas Valley Region ratemaking areas. ***Please note that this advice letter will only be distributed electronically to the Water Division and the attached service lists.***

Summary

This Tier 1 advice letter confirms Cal Water's compliance with the emergency customer protections and outreach activities required by D.19-07-015 and triggered by President Biden's Emergency Declaration for California.¹ Thus far, the severe winter storms have significantly affected Cal Water's Salinas Valley Region and Kern River Valley ratemaking areas; other areas may be impacted in the future if the severe winter storms continue.

Background

D.19-07-015 requires water and sewer companies to file a Tier 1 advice letter within 15 days after a state of emergency is proclaimed for an event affecting the water or sewer company. The Tier 1 advice letter is intended to affirm to the California Public Utilities Commission that the company is complying with the emergency customer protections and outreach activities as indicated below:

In D.19-07-015, the Commission provided as follows in Ordering Paragraph 9:

9. In the event the Governor of California or the President of the United States declares a state of emergency because a disaster has either resulted in the loss or disruption of the delivery or receipt of utility service and/or resulted in the degradation of the quality of utility service, all Class-A Water utilities ... shall file a Tier 1 Advice Letter within 15 days of the Governor's or the President of the United States state of emergency proclamation reporting compliance with implementing this Decision's mandated emergency customer protections and outreach activities.

The Commission also adopted the following Conclusion of Law relevant to Ordering Paragraph 9:

¹ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2023/03/10/president-joseph-r-biden-jr-approves-california-emergency-declaration-3/>.



25. It is reasonable to require the water and sewer corporations, as identified in Conclusion of Law 2, to file a Tier 1 advice letter with the Commission's Water Division within 15 days of a governor's state of emergency proclamation and/or a presidential state of emergency demonstrating implementation of the following emergency customer protections: (1) activation of their CEMA [Catastrophic Event Memo Account] effective to the time of the declaration of emergency; (2) make insurance claims on all costs and expenses incurred as a result of the fires, and credit insurance payments to their CEMA; (3) work cooperatively with affected customers to resolve unpaid bills, and minimize disconnections for non-payment; (4) waive reconnection or facilities fees for affected customers and suspend deposits for affected customers who must reconnect to the system; (5) provide reasonable payment options to affected customers; and (5) [sic] waive bills for victims who lost their homes or if their homes are rendered uninhabitable; and (6) [sic] authorize a pro rata waiver of any fixed element of a water bill for the time that the home is uninhabitable, even if the reason for it being uninhabitable is not loss of water service.

Discussion

On March 10, 2023, President Biden declared a state of emergency California and "ordered Federal assistance to supplement State, tribal, and local response efforts due to the emergency conditions resulting from severe winter storms, flooding, landslides, and mudslides beginning on March 9, 2023, and continuing."² The declaration applied to for 34 counties in California, including Monterey County and Kern County.

On the same day, roughly 565 customers in Cal Water's Kern River Valley District were placed under mandatory evacuation orders as a result of the storms. On March 13, 2023, an additional 1,219 customers in that district received mandatory evacuation orders. On March 16, 2023, roughly 529 customers were allowed to return to their homes, with the remaining 1,255 customers returning on March 20, 2023.

On March 12, 2023, roughly 218 customers in Cal Water's Salinas Valley Region were placed under mandatory evacuation orders as a result of the storms. On March 18, 2023, roughly 174 customers were allowed to return to their homes. The remaining 44 customers were allowed to return to their homes on March 23, 2023.

Cal Water has been performing various outreach activities related to these events. As of March 24, 2023, the storms have moved away from Cal Water's systems. In compliance with Ordering Paragraph 9 and Conclusion of Law 25 of D.19-07-015, Cal Water stipulates as follows:

² <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2023/03/10/president-joseph-r-biden-jr-approves-california-emergency-declaration-3/>.



1. Activation of the CEMA (Catastrophic Event Memo Account);
 - Cal Water is evaluating the costs associated with this event and tracking its costs using an accounting “product code.” Cal Water will activate the CEMA for these events as needed, and provide greater specificity about potential incremental costs, within the 30-day deadline in Preliminary Statement AG (CEMA).
2. Make insurance claims on all costs and expenses incurred as a result of the event, and credit insurance payments to CEMA;
 - If Cal Water determines that there have been losses related to this event, Cal Water will file insurance claims as appropriate. Any funds received as a result of such insurance claims will be credited to the CEMA.
3. Work cooperatively with affected customers to resolve unpaid bills and minimize disconnections for non-payment;
 - For customers who may have difficulty paying their bills as a result of the severe winter storms, Cal Water will work cooperatively to resolve unpaid bills.
4. Waive reconnection or facilities fees for affected customers and suspend deposits for affected customers who must reconnect to the system;
 - For customers who may have difficulty paying their bills as a result of the severe winter storms, Cal Water will waive reconnection fees. Cal Water does not require customer deposits.
5. Provide reasonable payment options to affected customers; and
 - Cal Water has various payment options available to customers, and will ensure that those plans are offered and adjusted as needed to take into account the needs of customers affected by these events.
6. Waive bills for victims who lost their homes or if their homes were rendered uninhabitable.
 - Cal Water will waive bills for victims who lost their homes or if their homes were rendered uninhabitable as a result of these events.
7. Authorize a pro rata waiver of any fixed element of a water bill for the time the home is uninhabitable, even if the reason for it being uninhabitable is not loss of water service.
 - Cal Water will provide a pro rata credit to customers impacted by the mandatory evacuation triggered by these events.
8. Customer outreach regarding emergency disaster relief program.



- Cal Water is providing information about its emergency relief protections to customers in compliance with Commission requirements.³

Requested Effective Date

This is being filed pursuant to General Order 96-B, Water Industry Rule 7.3.1(3), as modified by Resolution W-4664, is a Tier 1 advice letter. Although this compliance filing does not require any changes to Cal Water's tariffs, Cal Water still requests an effective date of March 10, 2023, when the storms began threatening our service areas.

Notice

Customer Notice – This is a Tier 1 compliance filing under Water Industry Rule 7.3.1(3) of General Order 96-B. Water Industry Rule 3.2 indicates that this kind of Tier 1 filing does not require customer notice.

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 electronically transmitted on **March 24, 2023**, to competing and adjacent utilities and other utilities or interested parties having requested such notification. ***Please note that this advice letter will only be distributed electronically to the Water Division and the attached service lists.***

Response or Protest

Anyone may respond to or protest this advice letter. When submitting a response or protest, please include the utility name and advice letter number in the subject line. 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 such a protest may not be made where it would require relitigating a prior order of the Commission.)

³ D.19-07-015



CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE COMPANY

Advice Letter 2476, March severe Winter Storms Compliance Filing

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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 address for mailing or delivering a protest is:

Tariff Unit, Water Division, 3rd floor
California Public Utilities Commission,
505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102
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 Cal Water at the following address:

Natalie Wales
California Water Service Company
1720 North First Street,
San Jose, California 95112
E-mail: cwsrates@calwater.com

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

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 and ask for the Rates Department.

CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE COMPANY

/s/

Albree Jewell
Rates Analyst

Enclosures

cc: Syreeta Gibbs (Public Advocates Office), PublicAdvocatesWater@cpuc.ca.gov



Kern River Valley District

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

DARLENE STUDDARD, COMMITTEE
MEMBER
Residents Against Water Rates RAW
P.O.Box 3701
Wofford Heights, CA 93285

JEREMY CALLIHAN
**Department of Water Resources Safe
Drinking Water Program**
1416 Ninth St, Rm. 816
Sacramento, CA 95814
jeremy.callihan@water.ca.gov

LINDA NG
**Department of Water Resources Safe
Drinking Water Program**
1416 Ninth St, Rm. 816
Sacramento, CA 95814
linda.ng@water.ca.gov

ROB BENSON
P.O.Box 1557
Kernville, CA 93238
rcbenison@earthlink.net

ONLY FOR SERVICE AREA MAPS:

EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Kern County LAFCO
5300 Lennox Ave, Suite 303
Bakersfield, CA 93309
kclafco@bak.rr.com



King City District (Salinas Valley Region)

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

STEVE ADAMS

King City

212 S. Vanderhurst Ave
King City, Ca 93930
sadams@kingcity.com

PARK BILLING COMPANY

P.O.Box 910
Dixon, CA 95620
water@parkbilling.com

LITTLE BEAR WATER COMPANY

51201 Pine Canyon Rd, Space #125
King City, CA 93930

ONLY FOR SERVICE AREA MAPS:

FIRE CHIEF

King City

212 S. Vanderhurst Ave
King City, CA 93930

KATE MCKENNA, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

LAFCO of Monterey County

P.O. Box 1369
Salinas, CA 93902
mckennak@monterey.lafco.ca.gov



Salinas District (Salinas Valley Region)

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

BRIAN FRUS, SENIOR CIVIL ENGINEER

City of Salinas

200 Lincoln Ave
Salinas, CA 93901
brianf@ci.salinas.ca.us

CHRISTOPHER A. CALLIHAN, CITY

ATTORNEY

City of Salinas

200 Lincoln Ave
Salinas, CA 93901
chrisc@ci.salinas.ca.us

Park Billing Company

P.O.Box 910
Dixon, CA 95620
water@parkbilling.com

TOM ADCOCK

Alco Water Service

249 Williams Rd
Salinas, CA 93905
andrea@alcowater.com

Gavilan Water Company

644 San Juan Grade Road
Salinas, CA 93906

Monterey County Administration

855 East Laurel Drive, Bldg C
Salinas, CA 93905

ONLY FOR SERVICE AREA MAPS:

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Monterey County LAFCO

P.O. Box 1369
Salinas, CA 93902

FIRE CHIEF

City of Salinas

200 Lincoln Ave
Salinas, CA 93901