STATE OF CALIFORNIA GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor

#### PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298

December 1, 2020

Jeffrey T. Linam Vice President of Rates & Regulatory California-American Water Company 4701 Beloit Drive Sacramento, CA 95838-2434

Dear Mr. Linam,

P.U.C.

9730-W

9731-W

9732-W

The Commission has approved California-American Water Company's Advice Letter No. 1304, filed on July 15, 2020, regarding the Late Payment Fee Tariff Revisions per Resolution W-5223 Directive.

Enclosed are copies of the following revised tariff sheets, effective February 1, 2020, for the utility's files:

Sheet No.	Title of Sheet	
9726-W	Rule No. 11	
	Discontinuance and Restoration of Service, (Sheet 1)	
9727-W	Rule No. 11	
	Discontinuance and Restoration of Service, (Sheet 2)	
9728-W	Schedule No. CA-FEES, California American Water, (Sheet 1)	
9729-W	Schedule No. H-LC	
	Hillview Service Area, Late Payment Charge	

Please contact Eustace Ednacot at ERE@cpuc.ca.gov or 415-703-1492, if you have any questions.

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Thank you,

/s/ROBIN BRYANT

Robin Bryant

Water Division

**Enclosures** 

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

### **Advice Letter Cover Sheet**

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

 $\square$  Compliance

Date Mailed to Service List: July 15, 2020

Protest Deadline (20th Day): August 04, 2020

Review Deadline (30<sup>th</sup> Day): August 14, 2020

Requested Effective Date: Feb 01, 2020

Rate Impact: \$See AL

See AL%

California American Water

**Description:** Late Payment Fee Tariff Revisions per

see the "Response or Protest" section in the advice letter for more information.

Resolution W-5223 Directive

**District:** All California Districts

**Tier** ⊠1 □2 □3

CPUC Utility #: U210W

Authorization Res. W-5223

Advice Letter #: 1304

**Utility Name:** 

<b>Utility Contact:</b>	Vera Kostikova	<b>Utility Contact:</b>	Jonathan Morse
Phone:	916-568-4246	Phone:	916-568-4237
Email:	Vera.kostikova@amwater.com	Email:	Jonathan.morse@amwater.com
DWA Contact:	Tariff Unit		
Phone:	(415) 703-1133		
Email:	Water.Division@cpuc.ca.gov		
	DWA U	JSE ONLY	
<u>DATE</u>	STAFF	<u>CC</u>	<u>OMMENTS</u>
		-	
[ ] APPROVED	[ ]W	ITHDRAWN	[ ] REJECTED
Signature:		Comments:	
Date:			



July 15, 2020

ADVICE LETTER NO. 1304

### TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Pursuant to General Order 96-B, California-American Water Company ("California American Water") (U210W) hereby submits for review this advice letter, including the following tariff sheets applicable to all of California American Water's service areas, including the Hillview Service Area, which are attached hereto:

C.P.U.C. Sheet No.	<u>Title of Sheet</u> Rule No. 11	Canceling Sheet No.
9726-W	DISCONTINUANCE AND RESTORATION OF SERVICE (Sheet 1)	9474-W
9727-W	Rule No. 11 DISCONTINUANCE AND RESTORATION OF SERVICE (Sheet 2)	9475-W
9728-W	Schedule No. CA-FEES California American Water (Sheet 1)	9562-W
9729-W	Schedule No. H-LC Hillview Service Area LATE PAYMENT CHARGE	9564-W
9730-W	Table of Contents (Page 4)	9627-W
9731-W	Table of Contents (Page 2)	9724-W
9732-W	Table of Contents (Page 1)	9725-W

#### Purpose:

By this advice letter, California American Water requests to revise Tariff Schedule No. CA-FEES, Schedule No. H-LC, and Rule No. 11 to reflect provisions regarding "interest charges" outlined in Section 116914(a)(2) of the California Health and Safety Code, also known as the Water Shutoff Protection Act. This filing is also in accordance with the June 26, 2020 California Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") Resolution W-5223, requiring such modifications.

#### **Background:**

On December 10, 2019, Bruce DeBerry, Water Division Program Manager, instructed Commission-jurisdictional water utilities subject to H&S Code § 116904(b) to file individual Advice Letters implementing the provisions mandated in SB-998 into their tariffs effective February 1, 2020.

On December 20, 2019, California American Water filed Advice Letter 1276 to update the necessary policies, procedures, ordinances, and administrative codes to ensure compliance with the new requirements. On January 21, 2020, California American Water filed a supplemental Advice Letter 1276-A to clarify the purpose for reducing reconnection of service fees outside of normal business hours for all customers. Advice Letter 1276-A was approved by the Commission on May 20,2020.

On June 26, 2020, the Commission issued Resolution W-5223 wherein the Commission examined the provision stated in H&S Code § 11614(a)(2) that for customers with household incomes below 200 percent of the federal poverty level, utilities are to "[w]aive interest charges on delinquent bills once every 12 months." The Commission determined the interpretation of the term "interest charges" includes late payment fees and charges. Water utilities subject to H&S Code § 116904(b) and which include late-payment fees in their Tariffs were instructed to revise their Tariffs to comply with H&S Code § 116914(a)(2) and Resolution W-5223.

#### **Requests:**

California American Water requests revisions to its existing Tariff Rule No. 11, Schedule No. H-LC as well as a portion of Schedule No. CA-FEES pertaining to Late Payment Fees to incorporate the provisions of H&S Code § 11614(a)(2) into its Tariffs. The requested changes are pursuant to the directives outlined in Resolution W-5223:

- 1a. Revise Tariff Rule 11 to include the provision as stated in Health and Safety Code Section 116914(a)(2) by adding the following language as a new Section B.1.a(3): "Waiving of [Late Payment Charge/Fee/etc.]. For a customer taking Residential Service who demonstrates household income below 200 percent of the federal poverty level (or is otherwise deemed by the Water Shutoff Protection Act as having a household income of below 200 percent of the federal poverty level), the [Late Payment Charge/Fee/etc.] on past-due bills as authorized in [Schedule No.] shall be waived once every 12 months.
- 1b. Add the following language to the Late Payment Fee or Charge Schedule as a separate special condition: "A customer taking Residential Service, whose household income is below 200 percent of the federal poverty level, is entitled to have late payment charges on delinquent bills waived once ever twelve (12) months pursuant to Tariff Rule No. 11.B.1.a(3)."
- 1c. Revise existing special conditions as necessary in the Late Payment Fee or Charge Schedule consistent with revisions to Tariff Rules pursuant to Water Shutoff Protection Act.
- 2. Revisions to Utility Tariffs required in Ordering Paragraph No. 1 are effective beginning February 1, 2020.

#### **Tier Designation:**

This advice letter is submitted with a Tier 1 designation pursuant to General Order No. 96-B.

#### **Effective Date:**

California American Water requests an effective date of February 1, 2020.

#### **Notice:**

Pursuant to Section 4.3 of General Order No. 96-B, a copy of this advice letter is being provided to those entities listed in the attached 'SERVICE LIST PURSUANT TO SECTION 4.3 OF G.O. NO. 96-B." Per guidance from the California Public Utilities Commission's Water Division, during the COVID-19 pandemic, advice letters will only be delivered electronically to the service list. Hardcopy advice letters will be mailed as soon as administrative staff are able to return to California American Water offices.

#### **Protests and Responses:**

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<sup>1</sup> are:

- 1. The utility did not properly serve or give notice of the AL;
- 2. The relief requested in the AL 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 AL contain material error or omissions;
- 4. The relief requested in the AL is pending before the Commission in a formal proceeding; or
- 5. The relief requested in the AL requires consideration in a formal hearing, or is otherwise inappropriate for the AL process; or
- 6. The relief requested in the AL 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 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:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> G.O. 96-B, General Rule 7.4.2

Advice Letter 1304 July 15, 2020 Page 4 of 4

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

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:

Email Address:	Mailing Address:	
vera.kostikova@amwater.com	4701 Beloit Drive Sacramento, CA 95838	
sarah.leeper@amwater.com	555 Montgomery Street, Suite 816 San Francisco, CA 94111	
ca.rates@amwater.com	4701 Beloit Drive Sacramento, CA 95838	

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.

If you have not received a reply to your protest within 10 business days, please contact Vera Kostikova at (916) 568-4246.

CALIFORNIA-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY

/s/ Vera Kostikova

Vera Kostikova Financial Analyst - Rates & Regulatory San Diego, CA 92101

r Cancelling Revised Revised Cal. P.U.C. Sheet No. Cal. P.U.C. Sheet No.

9726-W 9474-W

### Rule No. 11 DISCONTINUANCE AND RESTORATION OF SERVICE

Sheet 1

#### A. Customer's Request for Discontinuance of Service

- A Customer may have service discontinued by giving not less than two days' advance notice
  thereof to the Utility. Charges for service may be required to be paid until the requested date of
  discontinuance or such later date as will provide not less than the required two days' advance
  notice.
- When such notice is not given, the Customer may be required to pay for service until two days after the Utility has knowledge that the Customer has vacated the Premises or otherwise has discontinued water service.
- B. Discontinuance of Service by Utility
  - 1. For Nonpayment of Bills
    - a. Past-Due Bills.

When bills are rendered monthly or bi-monthly, they will be considered past due if not paid within 19 days from the date of mailing.

#### (1) Residential Service

For the purposes of this rule, Residential Service means water service to a Residential Connection that includes single-family residences, multifamily residences, mobile homes including, but not limited to mobile homes in mobile home parks, or farmworker housing.

When bills are rendered monthly or bimonthly, they will be considered past due if not paid within 19 days from the date of mailing. The Utility shall allow every residential Customer a total of 79 days from the date of mailing its bill for services, postage prepaid, to make payment of the bill prior to discontinuance of service.

Notice. The Utility shall not discontinue Residential Service for nonpayment of a delinquent account unless the Utility first gives notice of the delinquency and impending discontinuance, in conformance with Rule No. 8.A.3, which establishes notice periods ranging from 7 to 15 days, depending on the occupancy type. The Utility will provide notices timely to ensure that the applicable notice period is included in the total 79-day period referenced above.

#### (2) All Other Non-Residential Services

Notice. The Utility shall not discontinue nonresidential service for nonpayment of a delinquent account unless the Utility first gives notice of the delinquency and impending discontinuance in conformance with Rule No. 8.A.4.

#### (3) Waiving of Late Payment Fee

For a customer taking Residential Service who demonstrates household income below 200 percent of the federal poverty level (or is otherwise deemed by the Water Shutoff Protection Act as having a household income of below 200 percent of the federal poverty level), the Late Payment Fee on past-due bills as authorized in Schedule No. CA-FEES and Schedule H-LC shall be waived once every 12 months in a fiscal year beginning and ending on February 1.

| (N)

(N)

(Continued)

(TO BE INSERTED BY UTILITY)

Advice 1304

Decision

DIRECTOR - Rates & Regulatory

ISSUED BY

(TO BE INSERTED BY C.P.U.C.)

Date Filed

07/15/2020

02/01/2020

Resolution

W-5223

655 W. Broadway, Suite 1410 San Diego, CA 92101

Revised Cancelling Revised Cal. P.U.C. Sheet No. Cal. P.U.C. Sheet No.

Sheet 2

9727-W 9475-W

#### Rule No. 11 (Continued) DISCONTINUANCE AND RESTORATION OF SERVICE

b. When a bill for water service has become past due and a discontinuance of service notice for nonpayment has been issued, service may be discontinued if bill is not paid in full (or alternative payment arrangements acceptable to the Utility have not been made) within the time required by such notice. The Customer's service, however, will not be discontinued for nonpayment until the amount of any deposit made to establish credit for that service has been fully absorbed.

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#### c. Petition for Utility Review

- Any Customer, (or adult Occupant of a Residential Service Address) may petition the Utility for review of a bill for water service in accordance with Rule Nos. 5 and 10.
- (2) Such Customer shall not have water service discontinued for nonpayment during the pendency of an investigation by the Utility of a complaint or request and shall be given an opportunity for review of the complaint, investigation, or request by a review manager of the Utility.
- (3)The review shall include consideration of whether a Customer shall be permitted to make installment payments on any unpaid balance of the delinquent account over a reasonable period of time, not to exceed 12 months.

Such service shall not be discontinued for nonpayment for any Customer complying with an installment payment agreement entered into with the Utility, provided the Customer also keeps current his or her account for water service as charges accrue in each subsequent billing period.

If a Customer fails to comply with an installment payment agreement, the Utility will give a discontinuance of service notice no less than 5 business days before discontinuing such service, but such notice shall not entitle the Customer to further investigation.

#### d. Appeal to the Commission

Any Customer (or adult Occupant of a Residential Service Address) whose complaint or request for an investigation pursuant to subdivision (c) has resulted in a determination by the Utility adverse to such Customer or adult Occupant, may appeal the determination to the Commission in accordance with Rule Nos 5 and 10 (including depositing the disputed amount with the Commission).

#### e. Residential Health and Safety Exception

- (1) Service to a residential water Customer will not be discontinued for nonpayment when such Customer establishes to the satisfaction of the Utility that all three of the following conditions are met:
  - The residential Customer submits certification from a primary care provider\*, as defined by the Water Shutoff Protection Act, that discontinuation of residential water service will be life threatening to or pose a serious threat to the health and safety of a resident of the Premises where Residential Service is provided.

(Continued)

(TO BE INSERTED BY UTILITY) ISSUED BY (TO BE INSERTED BY C.P.U.C.) Advice 1304 Date Filed 07/15/2020 J. T. LINAM 02/01/2020 Decision **DIRECTOR** - Rates & Regulatory Effective W-5223 Resolution

San Diego, CA 92101

Revised Revised

Cal. P.U.C. Sheet No. Cal. P.U.C. Sheet No.

9728-W 9562-W

(N)

(N)

(N)

(N)

Schedule No. CA-FEES California American Water

Sheet 1

#### **APPLICABILITY**

Applicable to all service areas.

#### **TERRITORY**

All territories served by California American Water Company

#### **RATES**

#### Late Payment Fee:

(excludes Fruitridge Vista and Hillview Service Areas)

A late charge of 1.5% on unpaid balance will be assessed Customers will be notified on the monthly issued bill that the 1.5% late fee will be applied to any account that is not paid before the past due date shown on the bill. The fee shall be applied at the time a late payment notice is issued. If the Customer pays the balance on the date the late payment notice is mailed then that assessed fee will be forgiven. The fee shall be assessed on all open balances regardless of whether it is an initial or subsequent bill when a total balance has not been paid or there should have been a shut off for non-payment agreement. All bills shall be subject to the PUC reimbursement fee as set forth in Schedule No. UF.

Special Condition: A customer taking Residential Service, whose household income is below 200 percent of the federal poverty level, is entitled to have late payment charges on delinquent bills waived once every twelve (12) months in a fiscal year beginning and ending on February 1 pursuant to Tariff Rule No. 11.B.1.a(3).

Reconnection Fee: Where service has been discontinued for violation of these rules or nonpayment of bills, the Utility may charge \$10.00 for reconnection of service during regular work hours or **\$150.00** for reconnection of service at other than regular working hours when the Customer has requested that the reconnection be made at other than regular working hours. If payment is received after 3:00PM, service will not be restored until the next business day. All bills shall be subject to the PUC reimbursement fee as set forth in Schedule No. UF.

<u>Untested Backflow Fees</u>: Where the Utility elects to have an untested backflow assembly tested and, if needed, repaired or replaced, all charges incurred by the Utility from third party service providers will be added to the Customer bill of the account of record, and shall become due and payable as any other charge, including being part of any unpaid balance subject to late fees and discontinuance of service for non-payment.

<u>Facility Fee</u> for each Service Connection to existing distribution systems: (excludes Fruitridge Vista and Hillview Service Areas)

For 3/4-inch connection \$3,000.00 For 1-inch connection \$5,000.00 For 1½-inch connection \$10,000.00 For 2-inch connection \$16,000.00

Facility Fees are payable in addition to and do not limit any charges for extensions of mains that may be applicable under Rule 15, Main Extension.

(Continued)

(TO BE IN	NSERTED BY UTILITY)	ISSUED BY	(TO BE IN	ISERTED BY C.P.U.C.)
Advice	1304	J. T. LINAM	Date Filed	07/15/2020
Decision		DIRECTOR - Rates & Regulatory	Effective	02/01/2020
			Resolution	W-5223

655 W. Broadway, Suite 1410

San Diego, CA 92101

Revised Cancelling Original Cal. P.U.C. Sheet No. Cal. P.U.C. Sheet No. 9729-W 9564-W

#### Schedule No. H-LC Hillview Service Area LATE PAYMENT CHARGE

Sheet 1

#### **APPLICABILITY**

Applicable to all metered service.

#### **TERRITORY**

Hillview Service Area including Coarsegold Highlands, Raymond, and subdivisions in and near Oakhurst, Madera County.

#### **RATES**

Late Charge: A late charge of \$5.00 on unpaid balance subject to special conditions below

#### **SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

- 1. The balance is unpaid if it is not received by the end of the billing period. This will always provide at least 19 days to pay the bill and avoid the late charge.
- 2. The late charge should be imposed only once on a delinquent bill since the account would be shut off before a subsequent bill and then subject to the reconnection fee as authorized by Tariff Rule 11.
- 3. All bills shall be subject to the reimbursement fee as set forth on Schedule UF.
- 4. A customer taking Residential Service, whose household income is below 200 percent of the federal poverty level, is entitled to have late payment charges on delinquent bills waived once every twelve (12) months in a fiscal year beginning and ending on February 1 pursuant to Tariff Rule 11.B.1.a(3).

(N) (N)

(N)

(N)

(Continued)

(TO BE INSERTED BY UTILITY)

Advice 1304 Decision

ISSUED BY J. T. LINAM

(TO BE INSERTED BY C.P.U.C.) 07/15/2020 Date Filed

Effective Resolution 02/01/2020 W-5223

**DIRECTOR - Rates & Regulatory** 

655 W. Broadway, Suite 1410 San Diego, CA 92101

(TO BE INSERTED BY UTILITY)

1304

Advice

Decision

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9730-W 9627-W

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(TO BE INSERTED BY C.P.U.C.)

Date Filed

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07/15/2020

02/01/2020

W-5223

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	(00	

ISSUED BY

J. T. LINAM

DIRECTOR - Rates & Regulatory

#### CALIFORNIA-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY

655 W. Broadway, Suite 1410

San Diego, CA 92101

Revised Revised

Cal. P.U.C. Sheet No. Cal. P.U.C. Sheet No.

9731-W 9724-W

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### **Monterey County District**

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LA-RP-1

(Monterey Main, Hidden Hills, Ryan Ranch, & Bishop Service Areas)

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(TO BE INSERTED BY UTILITY)		ISSUED BY	(TO BE INSERTED BY C.P.U.C.)	
Advice	1304	J. T. LINAM	Date Filed	07/15/2020
Decision		DIRECTOR - Rates & Regulatory	Effective	02/01/2020
			Resolution	W-5223

655 W. Broadway, Suite 1410

San Diego, CA 92101

Revised Cancelling Revised Cal. P.U.C. Sheet No. Cal. P.U.C. Sheet No.

9732-W 9725-W

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Fruitridge Vista Hillview Service Area Larkfield	9487-W 9557-W 6569-W
Los Angeles County Baldwin Hills Duarte San Marino	9157-W, 9158-W 6571-W, 6572-W, 6578-W 6573-W, 6574-W, 6575-W, 6576-W, 8211-W
Monterey County	7053-W, 6580-W, 6581-W, 6582-W, 6583-W, 6584-W, 6585-W, 6586-W, 6587-W, 6588-W, 6589-W, 6590-W, 944-W, 945-W, 947-W, 948-W, 949-W, 950-W, 951-W, 952-W, 953-W, 954-W, 955-W, 967-W, 963-W, 964-W, 966-W, 967-W, 968-W, 969-W, 971-W, 972-W, 973-W, 974-W, 975-W, 976-W, 978-W, 989-W, 981-W, 982-W, 983-W, 984-W, 7054-W

(Continued)

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