STATE OF CALIFORNIA GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298

January 12, 2024



Jonathan Morse Sr. Manager Rates & Regulatory California-American Water Company 520 Capitol Mall Ste. 630 Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Morse,

The Water Division of the California Public Utilities Commission has approved California-American Water Company's Advice Letter No. 1428, filed on November 20, 2023, regarding authorization to Close Drinking Water Fees Memorandum Account (DWFMA) and establish Drinking Water Fees Balancing Account (DWFBA).

Enclosed are copies of the following revised tariff sheets, effective December 15, 2021, for the utility's files:

P.U.C.	
Sheet No.	Title of Sheet
10932-W	Preliminary Statement, Summary Table, Sheet 2
10933-W Preliminary Statement (Continued), Sheet 1	
	BO. Drinking Water Fees Balancing Account (DWFBA)
10934-W	Table Of Contents, Sheet 1
Cancel	10231-W

Please contact Bradley Leong at BL4@cpuc.ca.gov or 415-703-2307, if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Enclosures

CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION DIVISION OF WATER AND AUDITS

Advice Letter Cover Sheet

Date Mailed to Service List: November 20, 2023

Protest Deadline (20th Day): December 10, 2023

Review Deadline (30th Day): December 20, 2023

Requested Effective Date: December 15, 2021

Utility Name: California American Water

Tier \Box 1 \boxtimes 2 \Box 3 \Box Compliance

District: N/A

CPUC Utility #: U210W

Advice Letter #: 1428

Authorization	7.3.2(7) and 8.2	_		4
Description:	Close Drinking Water Fees Memo Account (DWFMA) and establish Water Fees Balancing Account (D	randum Drinking	e Impact:	\$See AL See AL%
	ine for this advice letter is 20 days fro section in the advice letter for more		was mailed	to the service list. Please
Utility Contact:	Chase Grady	Utility Contact:	Jonathan	Morse
Phone:	(916) 568-4241	Phone:	916-568-	4237
Email:	Chase.Grady@amwater.com	Email:	<u>Jonathan</u>	Morse@amwater.com
DWA Contact: Phone: Email:	(415) 703-1133			
	DWA U	ISE ONLY		
<u>DATE</u>	<u>STAFF</u>	<u>co</u>	MMENTS	
[] APPROVED	[]W	THDRAWN		[] REJECTED
Signature:		Comments:		
Date:				



November 20, 2023

ADVICE LETTER NO. 1428

TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

California-American Water Company (California American Water) (U210W) submits this advice letter, including the following attached tariffs applicable to all districts:

Purpose:

This advice letter filing requests to close the previously approved Drinking Water Fees Memorandum Account ("DWFMA") and establish a Drinking Water Fees Balancing Account ("DWFBA"), which tracks all drinking water fees charged by the State Water Resources Control Board ("State Water Board") that differ from the adopted drinking water fees in authorized rates. The DWFBA will allow California American Water to track the periodic changes in drinking water fees incremental to costs.

Background:

On December 15, 2021, California American Water filed Advice Letter 1350 with the California Public Utilities Commission ("CPUC") to establish a memorandum account to track the increase in water fees adopted by the State Water Board on September 22, 2021, for fiscal year ("FY") 2021-22 which increased by 26.6 percent on average for community water systems, including California American Water. Advice Letter 1350 was approved by the CPUC with an effective date of December 15, 2021.

Small Company User Fee Memorandum and Balancing Accounts: As indicated in Res. W-4698, the Commission has allowed Class B, C, and D water utilities to pass on costs reasonably incurred while complying with water quality and user fees since 1993. In Resolution ("Res.") W-4327, memorandum accounts for the small companies were authorized for water quality compliance costs because of the potentially limited financial ability of small water companies to comply, and their less frequent rate case filings. In the same resolution, the Commission allowed the opening of memorandum accounts for fees charged by the Division of Drinking Water's ("DDW's") predecessor because "due to the variation in each billing the inclusion of such costs in base rates is often not feasible."

¹ Resolution W-4698, Order Establishing Water Quality and User Fee Balancing Accounts for Class B, C, and D Water Utilities (Res. W-4698) at 1.

² Resolution W-4327, Order Authorizing All Class B, C, and D Water Utilities to Establish Water Quality Memorandum Accounts (WRMA) for Recording the Expenses Resulting from Drinking Water Regulations, Including Water Sampling, Testing, Reporting, and Treatment Costs, and Office of Drinking Water (ODW) User Fee Memorandum Accounts (UFMA) to Track California Department of Health Services (DHS) User Fees Not Presently Included in Rates; and Authority to File Advice Letters for the Recovery of such Charges and Expenses (Res. W-4327) at 2.

³ Res. W-4327 refers to the California Department of Health Service's Office of Drinking Water (DHS's ODW), the relevant responsibilities of which are now at the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water (Water Board's DDW).

⁴ Res. W-4327 at 3.

Upon expiration of the memorandum accounts for the small companies, the Commission determined in Res. W-4698 that there was a continued need to track drinking water user fees in a regulatory mechanism,⁵ and further that the appropriate mechanism was a balancing account rather than a memorandum account, stating that:

[T]hese types of costs are always recoverable...; the only issue is the reasonableness of the amount to be recovered. In this they are similar to the purchased water, purchased power and pump tax balancing accounts approved for recovery without an earnings test by D.06-04-037, April 13, 2006. Thus, the accounts tracking these costs should beclassified as balancing accounts and recovery should be by advice letter requesting amortization of a Balancing Account (Tier 1).⁶

California American Water and Cal Advocates agreed the DWFMA account should be closed in its pending 2022 GRC (A.22-07-001) because, as stated in AL 1350, the DWFMA will sunset upon implementation of rates associated with this pending GRG proceeding. As explained herein, California American Water is requesting to close DWFMA and establish the DWFBA account through this advice letter.

Request:

Pursuant to GO 96-B, Water Industry Rules 7.3.2(7) and 8.2, California American Water requests treatment similar to the authority granted to Class B, C, and D water companies in Res. W-4698 to establish a balancing account for drinking water user fees.

<u>California American Water's Request for Similar Treatment:</u> Water Industry Rule 8.2 of General Order 96-B states that:

A Utility may submit an advice letter requesting approval, authorization, or other relief similar to that accorded another Utility by Commission order. The advice letter shall cite each decision or resolution relied upon, and shall demonstrate that the Utility submitting the advice letter is similarly situated in all material respects, and is requesting the same relief and relying on the same justification as in the cited order(s).

As discussed in AL 1350 and similar to the experience of the small water companies described in Res. W-4327, California American Water has not been able to reflect the current level of drinking water fees in customer rates because of the "variation" in user fee billing since the State Water Board adopted its new fee structure on September 22, 2021. California American Water seeks the same relief granted to the small water companies in Res. W-4698, pursuant to Water Industry Rule 8.2 of GO 96-B. Accordingly, California American Water requests that its DWFMA in Preliminary Statement BO be closed and replaced with the new "Drinking Water

⁵ Res. W-4698 at 1. In the resolution, the Commission provides the same treatment for water quality compliance costs of Class B, C, and D water utilities, however California American Water does not seek to address water quality compliance costs in this advice letter.

⁶ Id. At 1-2 (footnote omitted).

Fees Balancing Account" (DWFBA) with the same effective date issued for its AL 1350 (December 15, 2021).

Tier Designation:

These tariffs are submitted pursuant to Water Industry Rules 7.3.2(7) and 8.2 of General Order No.96-B and this advice letter is submitted with a Tier 2 designation.

Effective Date:

California American Water requests an effective date of December 15, 2021.

Notice and Service List:

Customer Notice – Customers will be notified of this rate change by bill text message. 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 to adjacent utilities and other utilities or interested parties having requested such notification. *Please note that this advice letter will only be distributed electronically.*

PROTEST OR RESPONSES:

Anyone may submit a response or protest for this AL. 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 AL. A **protest** objects to the AL in whole or in part and must set forth the specific grounds on which it is based. These grounds⁷ 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;
- 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.
- 7. A protest may not rely on policy objections to an AL where the relief requested in the AL follows rules or directions established by statute or Commission order applicable to the utility. A protest shall provide citations or proofs where available to allow staff to properly consider the protest.

WD must receive a response or protest via email (<u>or</u> postal mail) within 20 days of the date the AL is filed. When submitting a response or protest, <u>please include the utility name and advice letter number in the subject line.</u>

⁷ G.O. 96-B. General Rule 7.4.2

The addresses for submitting a response or protest are:

Email Address: Mailing Address:

Water.Division@cpuc.ca.gov CA Public Utilities Commission

Division of Water and Audits 505 Van Ness Avenue San Francisco, CA 94102

On the same day the response or protest is submitted to WD, the respondent or protestant shall send a copy of the protest to California American Water at:

Email Address: Mailing Address:

<u>chase.grady@amwater.com</u> 520 Capitol Mall, Suite 630

Sacramento, CA 95838

<u>sarah.leeper@amwater.com</u> 555 Montgomery Street, Suite 816

San Francisco, CA 94111

<u>jonathan.morse@amwater.com</u> 520 Capitol Mall, Suite 630

Sacramento, CA 95838

Cities and counties that need Board of Supervisors or Board of Commissioners approval to protest should inform WD, 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. Any reply must be received by WD within five business days after the end of the protest period, and shall be served on the same day on each person who filed the protest or response to the AL.

The actions requested in this advice letter are not now the subject of any formal filings with the California Public Utilities Commission, including a formal complaint, nor action in any court of law.

This filing will not cause the withdrawal of service, nor conflict with other schedules or rules.

If you have not received a reply to your protest within 10 business days, please contact Chase Grady at (916) 568-4241.

CALIFORNIA-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY

/s/ Chase Grady

Chase Grady
Associate Rates & Regulatory Analyst

Attachment	1
Advice 142	8

Cal P.U.C. Sheet No.	Title of Sheet	Cancelling Cal P.U.C. Sheet No.
10932-W	PRELIMINARY STATEMENT Summary Table Sheet 2	10875-W
10933-W	PRELIMINARY STATEMENT (Continued) Sheet 1	
10934-W	TABLE OF CONTENTS Sheet 1	10931-W
DELETE	PRELIMINARY STATEMENT (Continued) Sheet 1	10231-W

CALIFORNIA-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY

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

Revised Cancelling Revised

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

10932-W 10875-W

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT Summary Table

Sheet 2

Reference	Account	Tariff
AK	Special Facilities Fee Memorandum Account	10204-W, 10205-W
AN	Public Safety Power Shut-Off Memorandum Account (PSPSMA)	10203-W 10208-W, 10209-W
AO	2019 General Rate Case Interim Rate True-up Memorandum Account	10203-W
AQ	Two-Way Tax Memorandum Account	10556-W
AR	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Memorandum Account (SGMA)	10211-W
AS	Group Insurance Balancing Account (GIBA)	10212-W
AT	Rio Plaza Groundwater Management Memorandum Account	10213-W
AU	Rio Plaza Transaction Memorandum Account	10214-W
AV	MPSWP Phase 1 Project Cost Memorandum Account (PCMA)	10734-W
AW	MPSWP Operations and Maintenance Memorandum Account (MOMMA)	10216-W
AX	Meadowbrook CIAC Regulatory Asset	10217-W
AZ	Monterey Wastewater Purchased Power Balancing Account	10218-W
BD	Fruitridge Vista Transaction Memorandum Account (FVTMA)	10220-W
BF	Hillview Service Area Memorandum & Balancing Accounts	10222-W
BG	Hillview Memorandum Account for Deferred Income Taxes (HMADIT)	10223-W
BH	Central Basin Contamination Memorandum Account	10224-W
BI	Drought Memorandum Account (DRMA)	10225-W
BK	East Pasadena Transaction Memorandum Account (EPTMA)	10227-W
BL	East Pasadena Purchased Power Balancing Account (EPPPBA)	10228-W
BM	East Pasadena Purchased Water Balancing Account (EPPWBA)	10229-W
BN	East Pasadena Pumping Assessment Cost Balancing Account (EPPACBA)	10230-W
ВО	Drinking Water Fees Balancing Account (DWFBA)	10933-W
BP	TCP Litigation Proceeds Memorandum Account	10232-W
BQ	Central Satellite Service Area - Cost Allocation Tariff	10233-W, 10234-W
BR	Central Division – Chualar System – Tariff Rate Design	10235-W
BS	Larkfield Consolidation Tariff	10236-W, 10237-W
BT	Annual Consumption Adjustment Mechanism	10737-W
BU	Warring Transaction Memorandum Account (WTMA)	10593-W
BV	Fruitridge Vista State Revolving Fund (FVSRF) Balancing Account	10876-W
BW	Hillview State Revolving Fund (HSRF) Balancing Account	10877-W

(D),(N)

(Continued)

(TO BE INSERTED BY UTILITY)	ISSUED BY	(TO BE INS	SERTED BY C.P.U.C.)
Advice 1428	S. W. OWENS	Date Filed	11/20/2023
Decision	SR. DIRECTOR - Rates & Regulatory	Effective	12/15/2021
		Resolution	

Original

Cal. P.U.C. Sheet No.

10933-W

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

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT (Continued)

Sheet 1

BO. Drinking Water Fees Balancing Account (DWFBA)

(N)

1. PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Drinking Water Fees Balancing Account (DWFBA) is to track the difference between all actual drinking water fees charged by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and the drinking water fees authorized in rates.

2. APPLICABILITY:

All areas serviced by California American Water.

3. ACCOUNTING PROCEDURE:

The following entries shall be recorded to the balancing account:

- a. The DWFBA will track the difference between the annual drinking water fees charged by the State Water Board and the drinking water fees authorized in rates.
- b. Interest shall accrue on a monthly basis by applying a rate equal to one-twelfth of the 3-month non-financial Commercial Paper rate, as reported in the Federal Reserve Statistical Release, to the average of the beginning-of-month and the end-of-month balances.

5. **EFFECTIVE DATE**:

The DWFBA shall go into effect on the effective date of Advice Letter 1428, which is December 15, 2021.

6. RATEMAKING PROCEDURE:

The balancing account currently has no rate component.

7. **DISPOSITION:**

California American Water shall report on the status of their balancing accounts in their general rate cases and shall propose adjustments to their rates in that context to amortize under- or over-collections in those accounts subject to reasonableness review. California American Water also may propose such rate adjustments by advice letter at any time that the under- or over-collection in any such account exceeds two percent (2%) of annual revenues for the utility or a ratemaking district of the utility.

(N)

(Continued)

(TO BE INSERTED BY UTILITY)	ISSUED BY	(TO BE IN	SERTED BY C.P.U.C.)
Advice 1428	S. W. OWENS	Date Filed	11/20/2023
Decision	SR. DIRECTOR - Rates & Regulatory	Effective	12/15/2021
		Resolution	

655 W. Broadway, Suite 1410

San Diego, CA 92101

Cancelling

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

10934-W 10931-W

(C)

(C)

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SERVICE AREA MAP:

California-American Water Company 5470-W

Bellflower Service Area 10626-W
East Pasadena Service Area 10102-W
Fruitridge Vista 9487-W
Hillview Service Area 10619-W
Larkfield 6569-W

Los Angeles County 9157-W, 9158-W Baldwin Hills 6571-W, 6572-W,

Duarte 6578-W

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Piru Service Area 10604-W

(Continued)

(TO BE IN	ISERTED BY UTILITY)	ISSUED BY	(TO BE IN	SERTED BY C.P.U.C.)
Advice	1428	S. W. OWENS	Date Filed	11/20/2023
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			Resolution	

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County of Sacramento
Downtown Office
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Sacramento, CA 95814

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utilitiescs@cityofsacramento.org

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