

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



March 16, 2021

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

Dear Ms. Wales,

The Commission has approved California Water Service Company's Advice Letter No. 2400, filed on January 11, 2021, regarding LIRA Surcharge Increase (February 2021) for All Districts except Grand Oaks (LIRA BA).

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

P.U.C. Sheet	
No.	Title of Sheet
12489-W	Schedule No. LIRA Low-Income Ratepayer Assistance (LIRA), Page 2
12490-W	Schedule No. LIRA Low-Income Ratepayer Assistance (LIRA), Page 3
12491-W	Table of Contents (Page 5)
12492-W	Table of Contents (Page 1)

Please contact Kevin Truong at VT4@cpuc.ca.gov or 415-703-1353, if you have any questions.

Thank you,

/s/ROBIN BRYANT

Robin Bryant
Water Division

Enclosures

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

Advice Letter Cover Sheet

Utility Name: California Water Service Company

Date Mailed to Service List: 01/11/2021

District: All Districts except Grand Oaks

CPUC Utility #: U-60-W

Protest Deadline (20th Day): 01/31/2021

Advice Letter #: 2400

Review Deadline (30th Day): 02/10/2021

Tier: 1 2 3 Compliance

Requested Effective Date: 02/01/2021

Authorization: N/A

Rate Impact: 2.148% LIRA
Surcharge on Basic
Water Charges

Description: LIRA Surcharge Increase (February 2021)
for All Districts except Grand Oaks (LIRA
BA)

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: Priya Rawal

Utility Contact: Natalie Wales

Phone: 408-367-8240

Phone: (408) 367-8566

Email: prawal@calwater.com

Email: nwales@calwater.com

DWA Contact: Tariff Unit

Phone: (415) 703-1133

Email: Water.Division@cpuc.ca.gov

DWA USE ONLY

DATE

STAFF

COMMENTS

<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WITHDRAWN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

January 11, 2021

Advice Letter No. 2400

CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE COMPANY (U 60 W)

To The Public Utilities Commission of the State of California:

California Water Service Company (“Cal Water”) hereby transmits for filing the following changes in its LIRA tariff schedules:

Please note that, due to limitations on non-essential travel as a result of the COVID-19 virus, this advice letter will only be distributed electronically to the Water Division and the attached service lists.

New/Revised CPUC Sheet No.	Title of Sheet	Schedule No.	Cancelling CPUC Sheet No.
XXXXX-W	Low-Income Ratepayer Assistance (LIRA) Page 2	LIRA	XXXXX-W
XXXXX-W	Low-Income Ratepayer Assistance (LIRA) Page 3	LIRA	XXXXX-W
XXXXX-W	Table of Contents (Page 1)	TOC	XXXXX-W
XXXXX-W	Table of Contents (Page 5)	TOC	XXXXX-W

Summary

In this advice letter filing, Cal Water requests an increase in the surcharge that funds the Low-Income Ratepayer Assistance (“LIRA”) program. The surcharge reflects the rates adopted in Cal Water’s 2018 General Rate Case (D.20-12-007), as modified by subsequent rate changes pending Commission approval, and the higher enrollment in the LIRA program (likely due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic).

Funding for the LIRA program is collected through a surcharge applied to the basic water charges on the bills of customers throughout Cal Water that are not enrolled in LIRA (“non-LIRA customers”). This advice letter would increase the LIRA surcharge from 1.531% to 2.148%. Cal Water submits this as a Tier 1 advice letter and requests an effective date of **February 1, 2021**.

Background

As described on page 3 of the tariff “Schedule No. LIRA,” the LIRA surcharge is a percentage



applied to the “basic water charges” of non-LIRA customers (all customers who are not in the LIRA program). “Basic water charges” are defined as the service charge and quantity charges for metered customers, and the flat charge for flat-rate customers, after RSF credits are applied; they do not include any other fees, surcharges, or credits.

The subsidies provided to LIRA customers, as well as the surcharges collected from non-LIRA customers, are tracked in Cal Water’s Low-Income Ratepayer Assistance Balancing Account (“LIRA BA”) (Preliminary Statement AJ). While the terms of the LIRA BA require recalculation of the surcharge in October of each year, Cal Water received an extension from Executive Director Peterson of the deadline to 45 days after resolution of Cal Water’s 2018 GRC case (see **Attachment 1**).

This deadline is consistent with Ordering Paragraph 8 of D.20-12-007, which also continues Cal Water’s existing LIRA program without change.

8. California Water Service Company shall (1) continue its current Low-Income Ratepayer Assistance program;(2) recalculate the surcharge based on the adopted rates in this proceeding; (3) implement the recalculated surcharge by filing a Tier 1 advice letter within 45 days of the effective date of this decision; and (4) increase public awareness of the program.

Discussion

This advice letter requests an increase in the LIRA surcharge from 1.531% to **2.148%** effective **February 1, 2021**.

The recalculation of the LIRA surcharge is based on revenues, consumption amounts, and the number of services adopted in D.20-12-007, as modified by changes authorized outside of the 2018 GRC, and changes that are pending Commission review.¹

The numerator for the surcharge is the estimated size of the LIRA subsidy needed for December 2020 through December 2021 based on the assumption that the percentage of residential customers enrolled in LIRA as of September 2020 will stay constant. The numerator also reflects any balance estimated to be in the LIRA Balancing Account at the end of 2020.

The denominator for the surcharge is the company-wide revenue from basic water service (quantity rates and service charges) for all customers except for LIRA customers and private fire protection customers, as indicated in Schedule No. LIRA, as modified in this advice letter (see Tariff Changes discussion below).

Tariff Changes: In addition to tariff changes to reflect the changes described above, the following changes have been made:

¹ The calculations in this advice letter are based on the rates proposed in pending Advice Letters 2393 through 2396.



- The reference to “public” fire protection services on page 3 of Schedule No. LIRA (under Surcharge Applicability) has been deleted because all rates relating to public fire protection were removed from Cal Water’s tariffs after implementation of the current Private Fire Protection Service tariff.
- On the current version of page 2 of Schedule No. LIRA, two rows of text were inadvertently omitted at some time in the past. These omissions have been rectified.

Requested Effective Date

Pursuant to Ordering Paragraph 8 of D.20-12-007, this filing is a Tier 1 advice letter and requesting effective date February 1, 2021.

Notice

Customer Notice: This is a compliance advice letter that does not require customer notice, as provided in under Water Industry Rule 3.2 of General Order 96-B.

Service List: In accordance with General Order 96-B, General Rules 4.3 and 7.2, and Water Industry Rule 4.1, a copy of this advice letter will be electronically transmitted on **January 11, 2021** to competing and adjacent utilities and other utilities or interested parties having requested such notification. ***Please note that, due to limitations on non-essential travel as a result of the COVID-19 virus, this advice letter will only be distributed electronically.***

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.)



CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE COMPANY

Advice Letter 2400, LIRA Surcharge for 2021

Page 5

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.

CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE COMPANY

/s/

Priya Rawal, Rates Analyst

Enclosures

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

Schedule No. LIRA
LOW-INCOME RATEPAYER ASSISTANCE (LIRA)

(D)

LIRA CREDIT

SPECIAL CONDITIONS:

1. LIRA Household: A LIRA household is one for which the total gross income from all sources is less than or equal to the maximum household income level for the CARE programs approved by the Commission. Southern California Edison's (Edison) CARE program will be applicable to customers residing within Edison's service area and Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) CARE program will be applicable to customers residing within PG&E's service area. Total gross income shall include income from all sources, both taxable and non-taxable. The billed customer must not be a person who is claimed as a dependent on another person's income tax return.
2. Application and Eligibility Declaration: Proof of active participation in a CARE program or an application and eligibility declaration on a form authorized by the Commission is required for each request for service under this schedule. Renewal of a customer's eligibility declaration may be required consistent with CARE program renewal requirements, but not more often than annually. Customers, excluding qualified non-profit group living facilities, qualified agricultural employee housing facilities, and migrant farm worker housing centers, are eligible to receive service under this rate schedule at no more than one residential location at any one time, and the rate applies only to the customer's permanent primary residence. (T)
3. Commencement of Rate: LIRA rates become effective January 1, 2007. After LIRA rates are effective eligible customers shall be billed on this schedule commencing no later than one billing period after receipt and approval of the customer's application by the Utility. (T)
4. Verification: Information provided by the applicant is subject to verification by the Utility. Refusal or failure of a customer to provide sufficient documentation of eligibility acceptable to the Utility, upon the request of the Utility, shall result in removal from this rate schedule. Failure to comply with any terms of the LIRA program shall result in removal from this rate schedule. (T)
5. Notice from Customer: It is the customer's responsibility to notify the Utility if there is a change in the customer's eligibility status. (T)

(Continued)

(To be inserted by utility)	Issued By	(To be inserted by CPUC)
Advice Letter <u>2400</u>	<u>Greg A. Milleman</u>	Date Filed <u>01/11/2021</u>
Decision	<u>Vice President</u>	Effective <u>02/01/2021</u>
		Resolution _____

Schedule No. LIRA
LOW-INCOME RATEPAYER ASSISTANCE (LIRA)

(D)

6. Customers may be re-billed for periods of ineligibility under the applicable rate schedule.

(L)

(L)

LIRA SURCHARGE

SURCHARGE APPLICABILITY

Applicable to all water service except that provided for:

- (1) private fire protection services
- (2) under Schedules OR-3M, OR-3M-I, and OR-2UL for raw water delivery along the Powers Canal and
- (3) LIRA customers.

(D)

SURCHARGE TERRITORY

All territories served.

RATE SURCHARGE

A LIRA surcharge rate of 2.148% will be applied to the basic water charges (identified below) on a customer's bill.

(I)

"Basic water charges" as referenced in this Schedule consist of the service charge and quantity charges for a metered customer, and the flat charge for flat-rate customers, after RSF credits are applied; they do not include any other fees, surcharges, or credits.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

[None]

Table of Contents - Page 5

Rate Schedules

<u>Sheet Subject Matter</u>	<u>Service Area</u>	<u>Schedule No.</u>	<u>CPUC Sheet No.</u>
<u>Rate Schedules:</u>			
ALL DISTRICTS			
Service to Company Employees		ED-1	5168-W
Surcharge to Fund Public Utilities Commission Reimbursement Fee		UF	12328-W
Rate Support Fund		RSF (page 1)	12484-W
		RSF (page 2)	12485-W
Low Income Ratepayer Assistance			
Page 1		LIRA	11325-W
Page 2		LIRA	12489-W (C)
Page 3		LIRA	12490-W (C)
PBOP Surcharge		PB	7049-W
Additional Surcharges/Surcredits			
Page 1		AS	12325-W
Page 2		AS	12281-W
Fire Flow Testing Charge		FF	8597-W
Construction and Temporary Metered Service			
Page 1		9-CM	11514-W
Page 2		9-CM	11513-W
Schedule 14.1			
Page 1		14.1	11052-W
Page 2		14.1	10760-W
Page 3		14.1	11051-W
Page 4		14.1	10758-W
Page 5		14.1	10757-W
Page 6		14.1	10756-W
Page 7		14.1	11050-W
Page 8		14.1	11049-W
Page 9		14.1	11048-W
Page 10		14.1	11047-W
Page 11		14.1	11046-W
Page 12		14.1	11045-W
Page 13		14.1	11044-W
Page 14		14.1	11043-W
Page 15		14.1	11122-W
Page 16		14.1	11041-W
Private Fire Protection Service			
Page 1		AA-4	11629-W
Page 2		AA-4	11630-W

(continued)

(To be inserted by utility)
 Advice Letter No. 2400
 Decision No. _____

Issued by
GREG A. MILLEMAN
 Name
Vice President
 TITLE

(To be inserted by CPUC)
 Date Filed 01/11/2021
 Effective 02/01/2021
 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			12492-W (C)
Page 2	Preliminary Statements			12477-W
Page 3	Preliminary Statements			12466-W
Page 4	Preliminary Statements			12487-W
Page 5	Rate Schedules - All Districts			12491-W (C)
Page 6	Rate Schedules - District Specific			12465-W
Page 7	Rate Schedules - District Specific			12464-W
Page 8	Rate Schedules - District Specific			12463-W
Page 9	Rate Schedules - District Specific			12476-W
Page 10	Rate Schedules - District Specific			12461-W
Page 11	Service Area Maps			12337-W
Page 12	Rules			12480-W
Page 13	Rules			12271-W
Page 14	Sample Forms			12311-W
Page 15	Sample Forms			2926-W

(continued)

(To be inserted by utility)
 Advice Letter No. 2400
 Decision No. _____

Issued by
GREG A. MILLEMAN
 Name
Vice President
 TITLE

(To be inserted by CPUC)
 Date Filed 01/11/2021
 Effective 02/01/2021
 Resolution No. _____

ATTACHMENT 1

12/14/2020 CPUC Letter Granting Extension

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



December 14, 2020

File No.: A.18-07-001

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

RE: Executive Director's Extensions of Time to Comply with Decision 20-12-007

Dear Ms. Wales:

On October 30, 2020, California Water Service Company (Cal Water) submitted a request seeking extensions of time to comply with certain filing requirements, which were later affected by Ordering Paragraphs (OPs) 6 through and including 9 of Decision (D.) 20-12-007. Those Ordering Paragraphs relate, respectively, to the deadlines to file advice letters for the escalation rates for 2021, the Low-Income Ratepayer Assistance Surcharge and the Rate Support Fund.

We recognize that D.20-12-007 was just issued on December 3, 2020, and OPs 6 and 7 of that decision require Cal Water to submit Tier 1 advice letters for escalation year 2021 rates "no less than 45 days prior to the first day of the escalation year" which is now not possible, considering January 1, 2021 is less than 45 days away. In the same decision, OP 8 requires Cal Water to file a Tier 1 advice letter adjusting the Low-Income Ratepayer Assistance Surcharge "within 45 days of the effective date of this decision," whereas your company would ordinarily have filed such a letter on October 31, 2020 which has passed. Finally, we recognize that OP 9, concerning the Rate Support Fund, incorporates the partial Settlement Agreement which itself modifies elements of the Rate Support Fund program that affect calculation of the surcharge, and thereby nullifies Cal Water's October 31, 2020 calculation of the surcharge. That, in turn, now requires Cal Water to request an extension to December 31, 2020 to recalculate the surcharge.

Good cause being shown, Cal Water's requested extensions of time to comply with certain filing requirements are granted, and Cal Water is authorized with extensions to comply with OPs 6 through and including 9 of D.20-12-007, as follows:

1. The deadline for filing Tier 1 advice letters for escalation year 2021 rates is extended from November 15, 2020 to December 31, 2020,
2. The deadline for a Tier 1 advice letter to adjust the Low-Income Ratepayer Assistance Surcharge is extended from October 31, 2020 to 45 days after the effective date of D.20-12-007, and
3. The deadline for a Tier 1 advice letter reporting on Cal Water's Rate Support Fund program is extended from October 31, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

Natalie D. Wales, Esq.

December 14, 2020

Page 2

Pursuant to Rule 16.6 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, Cal Water shall promptly inform all parties to Application 18-07-001 of the extensions granted herein and shall state in the opening paragraph of the document that the Executive Director has authorized the extensions.

Sincerely,



Rachel Peterson
Acting Executive Director



Antelope Valley District (Los Angeles Region)

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

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Bakersfield District

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

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Bay Area Region

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

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Bay Area Region

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

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Bear Gulch District

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

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Chico District

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

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

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

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ADVICE LETTER FILING MAILING LIST

PER SECTION III (G) OF GENERAL ORDER NO. 96-A

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Hermosa-Redondo District

ADVICE LETTER FILING MAILING LIST

PER SECTION III (G) OF GENERAL ORDER NO. 96-A

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

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

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

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

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Palos Verdes District (Los Angeles Region)

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

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

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Selma District

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



Stockton District

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

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

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Travis District

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

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