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April 14, 2020

ADVICE LETTER NO. 1290

TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

California-American Water Company (California American Water) (U210W) hereby submits for review this advice letter including the following tariff sheets applicable to its Central Division District which are attached hereto:

<u>C.P.U.C. Sheet No.</u>	<u>Title of Sheet</u>	<u>Canceling Sheet No.</u>
XXXX-W	Schedule No. CEN-SAT (continued) Central Division District Tariff Area GENERAL METERED SERVICE	9337-W
XXXX-W	Schedule No. CEN-SAT (continued) Central Division District Tariff Area GENERAL METERED SERVICE	9438-W
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PURPOSE

The purpose of this advice letter filing is to request recovery of the 2019 WRAM & MCBA balances. This request is in compliance with authorizations of the California Public Utilities Commission as detailed in D.08-11-023, D.12-04-048, D.13-07-041 and D.18-12-021.

On March 24, 2020 California American Water requested a two-week extension to file the Tier 1 annual request for amortization for net WRAM/MCBA balances. On April 2, 2020 the Commission granted this extension request.

BACKGROUND

On November 6, 2008, the Commission issued Ordering Paragraph 1 in D.08-11-023 which adopted a settlement agreement between California American Water and the Division of Ratepayer Advocates ("DRA") to establish a Pilot Program for a conservation rate structure in the Central Satellite District;

The June 28, 2007 settlement for the Coronado and Village districts, attached to Appendix A, is adopted and the motion to reduce the comment period is granted.

As part of the settlement, California American Water was to establish a WRAM as outlined below from pages 5 and 6 of the agreement.

Decoupling for California American Water will be accomplished through the following mechanisms:

- 1. A Water Revenue Adjustment Mechanism (WRAM) for the Coronado and Village districts.*
- 2. This decoupling mechanism, along with California American Water's Incremental Cost Balancing Accounts (ICBA)¹, will ensure recovery of the adopted fixed costs recovered through the quantity charge, and the actual variable costs for purchased power, purchased water, and pump taxes. The fixed costs not included in these accounts will be recovered through the service charge, which is a monthly charge that customers pay regardless of consumption.*
- 3. In accordance with established Commission practice, the WRAM account will accrue interest at the 90-day commercial paper rate.*

The WRAM will track the difference between the total quantity charge revenues authorized by the Commission ("Total Adopted Quantity Revenues"), and the total revenues actually recovered through the quantity charge based on actual sales ("Total Actual Quantity Revenues"), excluding:

- 1. Revenue from Private Fire Protection Service and;*
- 2. Revenue from the "Other" class of general metered customers.*

California American Water implemented the Pilot Program on February 1, 2009 via Advice Letter 717-A.

Historically, these types of advice letters were submitted by April 30th each year per the settlement agreement adopted in D.08-11-023. On July 25, 2013, modifications to the process were agreed to in D.13-07-041 as part of a settlement in California American Water's 2010 General Rate Case ("GRC") proceeding;

The parties agree that California American Water would use the same amortization schedules and procedures that were established for other Class A water utilities in D.12-04-048 for the WRAM/MCBA in all districts. This includes:

- 1. Amortization of net WRAM/MCBA balances at or above 2% of the last authorized revenue requirement, as described in Ordering Paragraph 2;*
- 2. The process to not initiate the cap until 2015, which is the first test year of the GRC to be filed July 1, 2013, as discussed in Ordering Paragraph 3;...*
- 3. A vigorous review of the WRAM/MCBA as well as sales forecasting to be conducted in the next GRC (Test Year 2015), as discussed in Ordering Paragraph 3;*

The Modified Cost Balancing Account (MCBA) replaced the ICBA through the issuance of D.12-06-016.

4. *California American Water will submit its annual request for amortization of net WRAM/MCBA balances by a Tier 1 advice letter on or before March 31, as described in Ordering Paragraph 5;*
5. *California American cannot include any additional type or category of cost in their Tier 1 Advice Letters that was not included in their Annual Report as described in Ordering Paragraph 9;*
6. *California American Water will separate the WRAM/MCBA surcharges on customer bills if it is capable of doing so with its new billing system, as discussed for other utilities in Ordering Paragraph 10.*

Additional criteria on the WRAM amortization process were outlined in D.12-04-048 as follows.

Conclusions of Law

7. *It is reasonable to require that net WRAM/MCBA over-collections be amortized through a surcredit on a customer's service charges and that all under-collections be amortized through a surcharge on the volumetric rate.*
8. *It is reasonable to change the deadline for applicants to submit their annual WRAM/MCBA report from March 31st to the previous November 30th, and to include nine months of recorded data through September 30th in the report.*

Ordering Paragraphs

1. *We adopt the amortization schedule set forth in Appendix A with a cap on total net Water Revenue Adjustment Mechanism/Modified Cost Balancing Account (WRAM/MCBA) surcharges of 10% of the last authorized revenue requirement...WRAM balances incurred prior to the first test year referenced above continue to be amortized under the adopted amortization schedule without being subject to the surcharge cap.*

In addition, D.18-12-021 increases the cap on amortization of the WRAM/MCBA balances:

Ordering Paragraph

151. *The cap on amortization of WRAM/MCBA balances should not be eliminated but should be increased to 15% of the last authorized revenue requirement for each of California American Water's districts.*

D.18-12-021 also approved the consolidation of Ambler, Toro, Ralph Lane, and Garrapata for ratemaking and tariff purposes.

Ordering Paragraph

9. *California-American Water Company is authorized to consolidate the Ambler, Toro, Ralph Lane, and Garrapata systems for ratemaking and tariff purposes.*

California-American Water Company's proposed rate design for these newly consolidated systems is approved.

California American Water submitted its annual report with DWA on 11/30/2019. The report contained recorded balances January 1 through October 31, 2019 and forecasted balances for the period November 1 through December 31, 2019.

REQUEST

The balances for the WRAM and MCBA are summarized in the table below.

TABLE 4: Recovery of WRAM/MCBA Balances				
DESCRIPTION	Authorized WRAM/MCBA Over/(Under) Collection	Cumulative Interest Earned/ Accrued	Cumulative Surcharge Collections	Balance
Central Satellites				
Authorized Prior Balance Remaining at 12/31/2019	(\$180,466)	(\$3,953)	\$12,228	(\$172,191)
Estimated Balance not yet Approved for YR 2019	(\$271,899)	(\$3,851)		(\$275,750)
UAW Penalty/(Reward)				(\$17,396)
Balance				(\$465,337)
2019 Revenue Requirement				\$1,593,675
2019 Balance % of Revenue				29.2 %

Based on the above balance and 15% cap outlined in D.18-12-021, California American Water requests a volumetric surcharge of \$0.1876 over a 23-month period be added to the Company's tariffs. D.18-12-021 authorized the consolidation of Ambler, Toro, Ralph Lane, and Garrapata for ratemaking purposes. Previous WRAM balances for Toro and Ambler Park are separate from the current Central Satellite WRAM. California American Water requests a volumetric surcharge of \$0.1887 for Ambler and \$0.1937 for Toro.

TABLE 4: Recovery of WRAM/MCBA Balances				
DESCRIPTION	Authorized WRAM/MCBA Over/(Under) Collection	Cumulative Interest Earned/ Accrued	Cumulative Surcharge Collections	Balance
Ambler				
Authorized Prior Balance Remaining at 12/31/2019	(\$819,525)	(\$17,578)	\$55,529	(\$781,574)
Estimated Balance not yet Approved for YR 2019	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
UAW Penalty/(Reward)				
Balance				(\$781,574)
2019 Revenue Requirement				\$619,935
2019 Balance % of Revenue				126.1%

TABLE 4: Recovery of WRAM/MCBA Balances				
DESCRIPTION	Authorized WRAM/MCBA Over/(Under) Collection	Cumulative Interest Earned/ Accrued	Cumulative Surcharge Collections	Balance
Toro				
Authorized Prior Balance Remaining at 12/31/2019	(\$466,966)	(\$9,706)	\$63,345	(\$413,326)
Estimated Balance not yet Approved for YR 2019	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
UAW Penalty/(Reward)				
Balance				(\$413,326)
2019 Revenue Requirement				\$858,349
2019 Balance % of Revenue				48.2%

SERVICE LIST

Pursuant to Section 4.3 of General Order No. 96-B, a copy of this advice letter is being sent to those entities listed in the attached service list. Copies of the detailed workpapers and the documents supporting this Advice Letter have also been furnished to the Commission Staff.

EFFECTIVE DATE

California American Water submits this as a Tier 1 advice letter per D.13-07-041 and requests an effective date of March 31, 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.

RESPONSE OR PROTEST²

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 grounds³ 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 re-litigating 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.

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

The addresses for submitting a response or protest are:

Email Address:

Water.Division@cpuc.ca.gov

Mailing Address:

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

² G.O. 96-B, General Rule 7.4.1

³ G.O. 96-B, General Rule 7.4.2

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

Email Address:

Mailing Address:

Nancy.Hollingsworth@amwater.com

4701 Beloit Drive
Sacramento, CA 95838

sarah.leeper@amwater.com

555 Montgomery Street, Ste. 916
San Francisco, CA 94111

Cities and counties that need Board of Supervisors or Board of Commissioners approval to protest should inform DWA, 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.

REPLIES⁴

The utility shall reply to each protest and may reply to any response. Any reply must be received by DWA 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.

CALIFORNIA-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY

/s/ Jeffrey T. Linam

Jeffrey T. Linam
Vice President of Rates & Regulatory

⁴ G.O. 96-B, General Rule 7.4.3

Schedule No. CEN-SAT (Continued)
 Central Division Tariff Area
GENERAL METERED SERVICE

Sheet 4

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

Fees and Surcharges (continued):

ALL CENTRAL DIVISION TARIFF AREA (Continued)

5. Per Advice Letter 1230-B, the under-collected balance in the Central Division Consolidated Expense Balancing Account will be recovered through a quantity based surcharge of \$0.0840 per 100 gallons over 12 months effective May 1, 2019. This total amount will be recovered from all classes of customers except for Chualar Customers.

6. Water Revenue Adjustment Mechanism (WRAM) and Modified Cost Balancing Account (MCBA) Surcharge

D.18-12-021 authorized consolidation of Ambler, Garrapata, Ralph, Lane, and Toro into the Central Division. From January 1, 2018 Central Division has its own WRAM/MCBA. D. 18-12-021 raised the cap on WRAM/MCBA surcharges to 15% of the authorized revenue requirement. (C)

7. Per D.18-12-021 a meter based bill credit for the Excess Non-Plant Accumulated Deferred Income Tax will be refunded to customers over the 24-month period beginning August 1, 2019.

Meter Size	Refunds by Meter Equivalents
5/8 x 3/4	\$0.87
3/4	\$1.30
1	\$2.17
1 1/2	\$4.33
2	\$6.93
3	\$13.00
4	\$21.66
6	\$43.32
8	\$69.32
10	\$99.65

8. Per Advice Letter 1290, a surcharge is included in each bill to recover the net under-collection in the Water Revenue Adjustment Mechanism (WRAM) and Modified Cost Balancing Account (MCBA). For the period ending December 31, 2019, the net under-collection totals \$465,337 including interest. The surcharge of \$0.1876 per 100 gallons is set to recover the under-collection at a rate equal to 15% of the authorized revenue requirement as approved by D.18-12-021. (C)
(C)
(C)

(Continued)

(TO BE INSERTED BY UTILITY)

ISSUED BY

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

Advice 1290

J. T. LINAM

Date Filed _____

Decision

DIRECTOR - Rates & Regulatory

Effective _____

Resolution _____

Schedule No. CEN-SAT (Continued)
Central Division Tariff Area
GENERAL METERED SERVICE

Sheet 5

SPECIAL CONDITIONS (Continued)
Fees and Surcharges (continued):

ALL CENTRAL DIVISION TARIFF AREA (continued)

- Per D.18-12-021 a meter-based bill credit for the 2018 Excess Plant Related Accumulated Deferred Income Tax will be refunded to customers over the 12-month period beginning January 21, 2020.

Meter Size	Refunds by Meter Equivalents
5/8 x 3/4	\$0.42
3/4	\$0.63
1	\$1.04
1 1/2	\$2.08
2	\$3.33
3	\$6.25
4	\$10.42
6	\$20.83
8	\$33.34
10	\$47.92

AMBLER PARK SERVICE AREA ONLY

Water Revenue Adjustment Mechanism (WRAM) and Modified Cost Balancing Account (MCBA) Surcharge

- A surcharge is included in each bill to recover the net under-collection in the Water Revenue Adjustment Mechanism (WRAM) and Modified Cost Balancing Account (MCBA). For the period ending December 31, 2019, the net under-collection totals \$781,574 including interest. The surcharge of \$0.1887 per 100 gallons is set to recover the under-collection at a rate equal to 15% of the authorized revenue requirement as approved by D.18-12-021. (C)
(C)

TORO SERVICE AREA ONLY

Water Revenue Adjustment Mechanism (WRAM) and Modified Cost Balancing Account (MCBA) Surcharge

- A surcharge is included in each bill to recover the net under-collection in the Water Revenue Adjustment Mechanism (WRAM) and Modified Cost Balancing Account (MCBA). For the period ending December 31, 2019, the net under-collection totals \$413,326 including interest. The surcharge of \$0.1937 per 100 gallons is set to recover the under-collection at a rate equal to 15% of the authorized revenue requirement as approved by D.18-12-021. (C)
(C)

(Continued)

(TO BE INSERTED BY UTILITY)
Advice 1290
Decision

ISSUED BY
J. T. LINAM
DIRECTOR - Rates & Regulatory

(TO BE INSERTED BY C.P.U.C.)
Date Filed _____
Effective _____
Resolution _____

MONTEREY COUNTY DISTRICT SERVICE LIST
CALIFORNIA-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY
ADVICE LETTER 1290

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Yazdan Emrani, P.E. Deputy Pub Works Director – Operations Monterey County DPW 168 W. Alisal Street, 2nd floor Salinas, CA 93901-2680	City of Pacific Grove c/o Community Development Department Attention: Sarah Hardgrave 300 Forest Ave., 2nd floor Pacific Grove, CA 93950	City of Pacific Grove City Attorney/City Hall 300 Forest Ave 2nd floor Pacific Grove, CA 93950
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ADVICE LETTER 1290

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