

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Application of Liberty Utilities (Park Water) Corp.
(U 314-W) for Authority to Increase Rates
Charged for Water Service by \$5,475,273 or
15.10% in 2022, \$1,820,970 or 4.35% in 2023,
and \$1,752,224 or 4.00% in 2024.

Application No. _____

**2022-2024 GENERAL RATE CASE APPLICATION OF
LIBERTY UTILITIES (PARK WATER) CORP. (U 314-W)**

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Dated: July 1, 2021

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**2022-2024 GENERAL RATE CASE APPLICATION OF
LIBERTY UTILITIES (PARK WATER) CORP. (U 314-W)**

I. INTRODUCTION

Liberty Utilities (Park Water) Corp. (U 314 W) (“Liberty Park Water” or “Applicant”) hereby files its application for a general rate increase (“Application”). Liberty Park Water, a California corporation, is a Class A Public Utility Water Company regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) providing regulated water utility service in and near Los Angeles County. A general description of Liberty Park Water’s property and its field of operations, the original cost of its property and equipment, by class, and the cost thereof, to Liberty Park Water and the depreciation and amortization reserves applicable to such property and equipment, by class, are contained in Liberty Park Water’s Annual Reports to the Commission. A certified copy of the Amended Articles of Incorporation of Liberty Park Water is attached to this application as Exhibit G.

Liberty Park Water continuously evaluates and undertakes measures to reduce its overall cost of providing service to its customers by improving operational efficiencies. Some of the operational efficiencies achieved are offset by needed capital improvements and the replacement of aging

infrastructure dedicated to providing water service. The rates proposed in this Application are necessary to recover the costs of providing high quality water and reliable service on a sustained basis that is essential for the health, safety, and well-being of the communities served by Liberty Park Water.

II. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

A. Test Period

The test period for the rate increase is Test Year 2022 with 2023 and 2024 selected as the Escalation Years. Test Year 2022 is a split test period of July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023. Escalation Year 2023 is a split test period of July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024 and Escalation Year 2024 is a split test period of July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025. This is consistent with the rate case plan adopted by the Commission by D.07-05-062 (“RCP”).

B. SB 960 Scoping Memorandum

This Application is a general rate increase proceeding and is therefore a “Rate Setting” proceeding. Evidentiary hearings may be necessary because of factual disputes that may arise on material issues such as water sales, operating revenue, operation and maintenance expenses, utility plant, depreciation, taxes, and revenue requirements. A proposed schedule for completing the proceeding is contained in Appendix A.¹

C. Summary of Requested Increase and Rate Base Changes

The requested revenue increase for Liberty Park Water for Test Year 2022 above revenues generated by present rates is \$5,475,273 or 15.10%. At this time, Liberty Park Water is only requesting specific rates for Test Year 2022. Pursuant to the escalation year increase methodology adopted by the

¹ Liberty Park Water’s subsidiary – Liberty Utilities (Apple Valley Ranchos Water) Corp. (“Liberty Apple Valley”) – is concurrently filing its GRC application at the same time Liberty Park Water is filing this GRC application. Liberty Park Water and Liberty Apple Valley desire to consolidate the two GRC proceedings to achieve efficiencies and avoid any inconsistent resolutions of similar issues in the two proceedings. By letter dated December 9, 2020, Executive Director Peterson approved the joint request of Liberty Park Water and Liberty Apple Valley for a 6-month extension of time to file the GRC applications. The due date for the GRC application is July 1, 2021. The approval letter states, “The requested new filing date of July 1, 2021 would allow for 12-months of time to resolve the application and have new rates in place by July 1, 2022, the first day of Liberty’s Test Year 2022. Therefore, Liberty Park Water’s proposed schedule attached hereto as Appendix A is based on the 14-month single-district schedule.

RCP (D.07-05-062, Appendix A, p. A-19), Liberty Park Water will file advice letters setting out its calculations and supporting analysis for the escalation year rates 45 days prior to the first day of each escalation year. For the sole purpose of providing customer notification, Liberty Park Water has estimated the impact of the escalation methodology for Escalation Years 2023 and 2024. The revenue increase estimate for Escalation Year 2023 is \$1,820,970 or 4.35% above the proposed revenue increase for Test Year 2022. The estimated revenue increase for Escalation Year 2024 is \$1,752,224 or 4.00% above the estimated revenue requirement for Escalation Year 2023.

Liberty Park Water estimates that the requested increase will produce a rate of return on equity of 9.35% and a return on Liberty Park Water's estimated rate base for Test Year 2022 of 7.35%. The requested return on equity and return on rate base is based on the cost of capital adopted by the Commission for Liberty Park Water in the most recent Cost of Capital Proceeding D.18-12-002 (A.18-05-006). The requested rate increase is necessary because Liberty Park Water's present rates are insufficient, unjust, and unreasonable in that they do not produce adequate revenue to yield to Liberty Park Water a fair, just, and reasonable return on capital invested and to be invested in plant, property, and other equipment devoted to providing utility service.

As required by the RCP (Appendix A, p. A-22), the following table compares the proposed test year data (Test Year 2022) to the last adopted test year (Test Year 2019) and the last recorded year (2020) data.

Comparison Between Proposed Test Year and Last Test Year Adopted and Last Recorded Year			Proposed Test Year
	Last Test Year	Last Recorded Year ²	
Total Rev Req \$	33,528,023	36,652,991	41,734,336
Rate Base \$	98,613,412	100,368,414	131,072,197
Rate Base %	30.52%	30.59%	
Operating Expenses \$	26,277,371	27,675,973	32,103,063
Operating Expenses %	24.19%	16.00%	
Rate of Return	7.35%	8.94%%	7.35%

D. Results of Operation

The Application exhibits consist of the following:

- Financial Statements as of December 31, 2020 (Exhibit A);
- Liberty Park Water – Revenue Requirements Report (Exhibit B);
- Liberty Park Water – General Office Report (Exhibit C);
- Urban Water Management Plan Liberty Park Water (Exhibit D);
- Qualifications and Prepared Testimony (Exhibit E);
- Liberty Park Water – Response to Minimum Data Requirements (Exhibit F);
- Amended Articles of Incorporation (Exhibit G);and
- Comparison Exhibit (Exhibit H).

The above exhibits describe Liberty Park Water’s overall results of operation. Exhibit D is the most recent Urban Water Management Plan filed with the California Department of Water Resources.

The above-referenced exhibits and the workpapers for this Application contain explanations of all significant changes from the last adopted and recorded plant amounts and capital related costs, as well as an explanation of significant changes in circumstances or assumptions affecting the expenses and customer growth. A detailed reconciliation of significant changes between the proposed Test Year 2022

² Use most recent 12 months of available data; revise with complete calendar year data when available.

expenses and the last adopted and recorded expenses has not been prepared because Liberty Park Water does not believe that this would provide any useful information. Specifically, the adopted expenses for Test Year 2019 were prepared during calendar year 2017 while the expenses proposed in this Application for Test Year 2022 were prepared during calendar year 2020. Liberty Park Water does not believe that an analysis of expense estimates prepared three years apart for differing test periods is useful. Liberty Park Water likewise does not believe that an analysis of the recorded expenses for recorded year 2019, which is three years removed from the test year in this Application, is helpful. The workpapers contain a comparison of the proposed Test Year 2022 expenses and the five-year average of recorded expenses (2015 – 2020), escalated to Test Year 2022.

E. Primary Cost Increases

Liberty Park Water's rates were last reviewed in Application 18-01-003, a general rate case ("GRC") filed on January 1, 2018, which requested rates for 2019, 2020, and 2021 and resulted in D.20-09-019 (September 24, 2020). The rates for Liberty Park Water also reflect the cost of capital, last reviewed in Application 18-05-006, filed May 1, 2018. That application requested cost of capital in rates for 2019, 2020, and 2021, and resulted in D.18-12-002, dated December 13, 2018. This Application proposes the rates required for Test Year 2022, including the cost of capital adopted by D.18-12-002. The proposed rates are increased over those presently in effect for the following primary reasons:

- Additional revenues to produce a fair rate of return on capital invested in property dedicated to providing utility service;
- Increased capital-related costs resulting from increased investment;
- Increases in unit costs of production;
- Inflationary increases anticipated during 2021 and the Test Year;

- Increases in payroll expense; and
- Increases in health and welfare benefits.

Detailed discussions of the above are contained in Exhibit B, the Revenue Requirements Report.

F. List of Issues of Controversy

The contested issues decided by the Commission in the previous rate case included employee positions, payroll, employee benefits (medical, dental and vision insurance, worker's compensation insurance, group pension expense), and advanced metering infrastructure. In the previous GRC, the Commission has addressed issues relating to customers, water sales, operating revenue, rate design, and rate base. Liberty Park Water has no way of anticipating the positions the Public Advocates Office will take in opposition to Liberty Park Water's proposed Test Year 2022 revenue requirement. It has been Liberty Park Water's experience that each GRC is unique with respect to the issues raised by the Public Advocates Office. Liberty Park Water anticipates, however, that the Public Advocates Office may oppose Liberty Park Water's proposed capital projects and payroll budget. Based on Public Advocates Office positions in prior GRCs, Liberty Park Water anticipates that Public Advocates Office also may take issue with Liberty Park Water's requested memorandum accounts (*see* Memorandum Accounts below) and Liberty Park Water's balancing accounts (*see* Balancing Accounts below).

As discussed below (see Special Requests), Liberty Park Water also proposes a Sales Reconciliation Mechanism ("SRM") to adjust the adopted consumption in each escalation year if certain conditions are met. Liberty Park Water believes that the SRM will: (1) improve the accuracy of the sales forecasts adopted in this proceeding, (2) reduce the potential for large balances in the proposed Monterey-Style Water Revenue Adjustment Mechanism ("Monterey-Style WRAM") balancing account, and (3) reduce the temporal inequity associated with customers who receive the surcharge (or sur-credit) associated with the amortization of WRAM balances.

III. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

A. Basic Information

Testimony describing the basic information required by the RCP is contained in Exhibits B, C, and F.

B. Regulated Plant in Service

Testimony, with supporting analysis and documentation, describing Liberty Park Water's regulated plant in service is provided in Exhibits B (Chapter VI) and C (Chapter V). The workpapers identify and justify all capital additions and include analysis, evaluation, and overall budget. A comparison of the forecasted capital additions adopted in the last GRC and actual capital additions is contained in the accompanying workpapers. The calculation of the forecasted capital additions based on the five-year average of recorded plant additions, and the explanation of significant changes from the last adopted and recorded regulated plant in service, are contained in the accompanying workpapers.

C. Revenue Requirement: Operations and Maintenance, Administrative and General, General Office

Testimony, with supporting analysis and documentation, describing Liberty Park Water's revenue requirement related to Operations and Maintenance expense, Administrative and General expense, and General Office expense is contained in Exhibits B (Chapter IV), C (Chapter III), and F, respectively.

D. Revenue Requirement: Water Sales and Production

Testimony, with supporting analysis and documentation, describing Liberty Park Water's water sales and production is contained in Exhibits B (Chapter III) and F.

E. Rate Base

Testimony, with supporting analysis and documentation, describing Liberty Park Water's rate base is contained in Exhibits B (Chapter VIII), C (Chapter V), and F.

F. Supply and Distribution Infrastructure Status and Planning

Testimony, with supporting analysis and documentation, describing Liberty Park Water's supply and distribution infrastructure status and planning is contained in Exhibits B (Chapter II), E, and F.

G. Conservation and Efficiency

Testimony, with supporting analysis and documentation, describing Liberty Park Water's conservation and efficiency measures is contained in Exhibits B (Chapter II) and F.

H. Water Quality

Testimony, with supporting analysis and documentation, describing Liberty Park Water's water quality is contained in Exhibits B (Chapter X) and F. Liberty Park Water requests a Commission finding that the water service provided meets or exceeds State and Federal drinking water standards and meets the requirements of General Order 103-A.

I. Service Quality

Testimony describing Liberty Park Water's service quality is contained in Exhibit B (Chapter II).

J. Transactions with Corporate Affiliates

Testimony describing Liberty Park Water's transactions with corporate affiliates is contained in Exhibit C (Chapter I).

K. Unregulated Transactions

Liberty Park Water currently has three contracts that are subject to the Commission’s Non-Tariffed Products & Services (“NTPS”) Rules in D.10-10-019 (Appendix A, Rule X). The contracts are third party contracts with HomeServe, a provider of service line emergency repairs insurance. One contract is for the use of Liberty Park Water’s marks in HomeServe’s marketing communications and the other is for billing HomeServe’s service to participants in HomeServe’s program who are Liberty Park Water’s customers. Additionally, Liberty Park Water currently has a contract with the City of Bellflower to operate the City’s water system. Testimony describing Liberty Park Water’s NTPS is provided in Exhibit B (Chapter XII).

L. Real Property Subject to Water Infrastructure Improvement Act of 1996

Since the last GRC application, there has been no real property that has been determined to be no longer necessary or useful. There is no real property to report that is subject to the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act of 1996.

M. Rate Design

Liberty Park Water requests revisions to its existing conservation rate design program to promote water conservation. For residential customers, the proposed conservation rate design consists of increasing block rates of three tiers. Liberty Park Water requests changes to the number of tiers break points and changes to the size of the tier break points based on 70% of usage in the first tier, 25% usage in the second tier, and 5% usage in the third tier. Liberty Park Water requests changes to the price differential (percentage) between the volumetric rates. Liberty Park Water requests changes in the monthly service charges so that greater recovery of fixed costs comes from service charges and less from volumetric rates. Liberty Park Water proposes the recovery of 50% of its total revenue requirement through the service charge. Due to the different characteristics of its non-residential customers, Liberty

Park Water recommends retaining the single quantity conservation rate for non-residential customers. Appropriate increasing block rate design for non-residential classes, which encourages conservation but is not punitive to the business, industrial, and public authority customer classes, require multiple rate designs applied to subclasses is not practicable or feasible. Liberty Park Water proposes to continue implementing other measures to promote conservation to non-residential customers.

Testimony, with supporting analysis and documentation, describing Liberty Park Water’s proposed rate design is contained in Exhibit B (Chapter XII).

N. Low-Income Assistance Program

In D.06-10.036, the Commission authorized Liberty Park Water to establish a low-income ratepayer assistance program, known as California Alternative Rates for Water (“CARW”). Liberty Park Water proposes continuing its existing CARW program. The CARW program authorized for Liberty Park Water consists of a \$7.40 per month service charge discount for qualifying customers who meet the income eligibility requirements established annually by the Commission. Liberty Park Water proposes to increase the current monthly service charge discount to \$10.00. Liberty Park Water also proposes increasing the existing surcharge of \$2.01 to \$2.30. The surcharge offsets the CARW discounts provided to qualifying customers and the CARW program costs. Pursuant to D.20-08-047 dated August 27, 2020, Liberty Park Water has renamed the program to Customer Assistance Program (“CAP”).

O. Balancing Accounts

1. WRAM/MCBA and Monterey-Style WRAM/ICBA

In D.20-08-047 dated August 27, 2020, the Commission ordered Liberty Park Water to remove the WRAM/MCBA decoupling mechanism in its next GRC application. D.20-08-047 authorized Liberty Park Water to propose the replacement of the WRAM/MCBA with the Monterey-Style WRAM/ICBA.

Accordingly, Liberty Park Water is not requesting Commission authorization to continue the WRAM/MCBA for this rate case cycle. The WRAM and MCBA will be terminated as of the effective date of the first day of the Test Year in this GRC application. Pursuant to D.20-08-047, Liberty Park Water proposes Commission authorization to use the Monterey-Style WRAM and ICBA.

2. CARW Revenue Reallocation Balancing Account

Liberty Park Water requests that the Commission review its CARW Revenue Reallocation Balancing Account for approval and refund to customers through a surcredit (excluding those customers enrolled in the CARW program). Liberty Park Water requests that the Commission authorize continuation of the CARW Revenue Reallocation Balancing Account. This account remains necessary to track the difference between the recorded discounts provided by the CARW program and the surcharge collected to fund the CARW program. Pursuant to D.20-08-047 dated August 27, 2020, Liberty Park Water has renamed this account to CAP Revenue Reallocation Account.

3. Conservation One-Way Balancing Account

Liberty Park Water requests that the Commission defer its review of the Conservation One-Way Balancing Account that tracks the difference between actual conservation program expenses and authorized conservation program expenses. Because the account covers the entire (current) rate case cycle, an audit of the account is premature at this time. Liberty Park Water proposes that the Commission authorize deferral of the audit until after the completion of the 2019 – 2021 rate case cycle when Liberty Park Water files an advice letter for resolution of the account authorized for that period.

4. Pension Expense Balancing Account

Liberty Park Water requests that the Commission review its Group Pension Balancing Account for approval and refund to customers through a surcredit. Liberty Park Water requests Commission authorization to continue the Pension Expense Balancing Account to track the difference between the adopted pension expense included in rates and the actual expenses incurred by the Company. Liberty

Park Water seeks such an account because of the magnitude of the expense, the volatility of the expense, and the fact that the expense is outside of Liberty Park Water's control.

5. Consolidated Expense Balancing Account

Liberty Park Water requests that Commission review its Consolidated Expense Balancing Account for approval and amortization through a surcharge to customers. Liberty Park Water proposes that the Commission authorize the continuation of this account.

Testimony, with supporting analysis and documentation, on Liberty Park Water's balancing accounts is provided in Exhibit B (Chapter XI).

P. Memorandum Accounts

1. 2014 Water Conservation Memorandum Account

Liberty Park Water requests that the Commission review its 2014 Water Conservation Memorandum Account for approval and amortization through a surcharge to customers. Resolution W-4976 authorized Liberty Park Water to track the incremental costs associated with compliance with the drought mitigation measures and procedures ordered by the Commission and the State of California Governor's office. Liberty Park Water requests that the Commission authorize continuation of this memorandum account to track the costs associated with mandatory rationing in the event it is required in Liberty Park Water's service area.

2. Income Tax Repair Regulations Implementation Memorandum Account

Liberty Park Water requests that the Commission review the balance recorded in the Income Tax Repair Regulations Implementation Memorandum Account for approval and amortization through a surcharge to customers. Liberty Park Water requests Commission authorization to close the account, since Liberty Park Water anticipates that all implementation costs have been incurred.

3. Tangible Property Regulations Consequences Memorandum Account

Liberty Park Water requests that the Commission review the Tangible Property Regulations Consequences Memorandum Account for approval and refund to customers through a surcredit. Liberty Park Water requests Commission authorization to close the account, as the impact of these regulations on Liberty Park Water's revenue requirement has been incorporated into the calculation of Liberty Park Water's requested revenue requirement in this Application.

4. Interim Rates Memorandum Account and Cost of Capital Memorandum Account

Liberty Park Water requests that the Commission review the residual balance resulting from Advice Letter No. 250-W. Commission approval of Advice Letter No. 250-W authorized a temporary surcharge to recover the balance recorded in the 2013 Interim Rates Memorandum Account and the 2013 Cost of Capital Memorandum Account. Liberty Park Water requests Commission authorization to transfer the residual balance to the Consolidated Expense Balancing account to amortize the remaining balance recorded in the account through a surcharge to customers.

5. 2016 Interim Rates Memorandum Account

Liberty Park Water requests that the Commission review the residual balance contained in the 2016 Interim Rates Memorandum Account. Liberty Park Water requests Commission authorization to transfer the residual balance to the Consolidated Expense Balancing Account and to amortize the remaining balance recorded in the account through a surcharge to customers.

Testimony, with supporting analysis and documentation, on Liberty Park Water's memorandum accounts is provided in Exhibit B (Chapter XI).

Q. Cost of Capital

Pursuant to D.07-05-062, Liberty Park Water's cost of capital is determined in separate proceedings, not in applications for general rate increase. Accordingly, Liberty Park Water has not

included in this Application testimony regarding its cost of capital. For purposes of determining the revenue requirement, Liberty Park Water has based its capital structure and cost of capital on the most recent cost of capital proceeding for Liberty Park Water, D.18-12-002 (A.18-05-006). Liberty Park Water is scheduled to file its next cost of capital application on May 1, 2022 for the 2022-2024 period.

R. Special Requests

1. Expense Offset Advice Letters

Liberty Park Water anticipates filing purchased water/replenishment offset advice letters subsequent to the filing of this Application but prior to the test year. Liberty Park Water proposes that the Commission recognize any subsequent offsets prior to the issuance of a final decision in this GRC. A final decision in this proceeding should reflect the change in revenue requirement caused by any expense offset advice letters. Offsettable expense price changes are not forecast in a GRC. Liberty Park Water's proposal would minimize any potential customer confusion from repeated customer notices and additional workload for Commission Staff and Liberty Park Water that would be caused by Liberty Park Water having to repeat advice letter filings to implement the expense offset increases.

2. Sales Reconciliation Mechanism

Liberty Park Water proposes that the Commission authorize a Sales Reconciliation Mechanism ("SRM") for the escalation years of the rate case cycle. The mechanism would adjust the adopted sales forecast for escalation years in the event that recorded sales for the previous year are more than 5% different (higher or lower) than the adopted year sales. The mechanism would make a 50% adjustment to the entire adopted sales forecast for the escalation year. The SRM would minimize any over-collections or under-collections of revenue tracked in the WRAM/MCBAs. By re-setting rates if forecasted and actual sales diverge significantly, this approach better effectuates the goals enumerated in the WAP of providing clearer conservation rate signals to customers and by more definitely decoupling

sales and revenues. This request is made pursuant to Ordering Paragraph 4 of Decision 16-12-026 (R.11-11-008), which authorizes Class A and B water companies to request an SRM in their next GRC.

Testimony, with supporting analysis and documentation, on Liberty Park Water's special requests is provided in Exhibit B (Chapters XI and XII).

IV. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

A. Filings

An original signed copy and four copies of the proposed Application and supporting testimony, as well as one full paper copy set of workpapers, have been served on ORA. In addition, one copy of the proposed Application and supporting testimony has been provided to the Commission's Legal Division and the Water Division.

B. Proposed Schedule

The proposed Schedule is attached hereto as Appendix A. Pursuant to the Executive Director Peterson's letter dated December 9, 2020, this timetable corresponds the 14-month schedule in the RCP.

C. Proposed Notice to Customers

A Proposed Notice to Customers is attached hereto as Appendix B. The proposed notice describes the reasons for the requested increase and estimates the average bill increase for a typical customer by customer class. The proposed notice has been submitted for review to the Commission's Public Advisor office.

D. Inquiries

Inquiries for clarification or additional data should be addressed to:

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V. CONCLUSION

Applicant Liberty Utilities (Park Water) Corp. respectfully requests that the Commission approve this Application for a general rate increase.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Victor T. Fu

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Dated: July 1, 2021

Attorneys for Liberty Utilities (CalPeco Electric) LLC

VERIFICATION

I, Christopher G. Alario, hereby declare that I am the President of Liberty Utilities (Park Water) Corp., and that I have read the foregoing Application; and that the information set forth therein concerning Liberty Utilities (Park Water) Corp. is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the forgoing is true and correct.

Executed this 1st day of July 2021, at Downey, California

/s/ Christopher G. Alario

Christopher G. Alario
President
Liberty Utilities (California)

Appendix A
Proposed Schedule

APPENDIX A

LIBERTY UTILITIES (PARK WATER) CORP.
Rate Case Processing Plan (RCPP) Timetable
Test Year 2022

Formal RCPP Activities:

1. Proposed Application Tendered	-60	May 3, 2021 ¹
2. Deficiency Letter Mailed	-30	June 1, 2021
3. Appeal to Executive Director	-25	June 7, 2021 ¹
4. Executive Director Acts	-20	June 11, 2021
5. Application Filed	0	July 1, 2021
6. Pre-Hearing Conference	10-75	July 12, 2021 ¹ - September 14, 2021
7. Public Participation Hearing (as needed)	10-190	July 12, 2021 ¹ - January 7, 2022
8. Update of Applicant's Showing	45	August 16, 2021 ¹
9. DRA Testimony	97	October 6, 2021
10. Other Parties Serve Testimony Reports	97	October 6, 2021
11. Rebuttal Testimony	112	October 21, 2021
12. ADR Process	115-125	October 25, 2021 ¹ - November 3, 2021
13. Evidentiary hearings (if required)	126-130	November 4, 2021- November 8, 2021 ¹
14. Opening Briefs Filed and Served ²	160	December 8, 2021
15. Motion for Interim Rates	160	December 8, 2021
16. Mandatory Status Conference	161	December 9, 2021
17. Reply Briefs Filed and Served (with Comparison Exhibit)	175	December 23, 2021
18. Water Division Technical Conference	180	December 28, 2021
19. Proposed Decision Mailed	240	February 28, 2022 ¹
20. Comments on Proposed Decision	260	March 18, 2022
21. Reply Comments	265	March 23, 2022
22. Commission Meeting	280	April 7, 2022

¹ Adjusted not to fall on weekend or holiday.

² The detailed and complete joint comparison exhibit showing all parties' final positions shall also be filed at this time.

Appendix B

Notice of Application for a GRC

Si necesita asistencia en español, tenemos representantes de servicio al cliente disponibles para ayudarlo cuando lo solicite, por favor llame al número 1-800-727-5987

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
Liberty Utilities (Park Water) Corp.'s Request to Increase Water Rates
APPLICATION NO. [A.21-07-XXX]

Why am I receiving this notice?

On July 1, 2021, Liberty Utilities (Park Water) Corp. (Liberty Park Water) filed its General Rate Case (GRC) Application with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). The application filing by Liberty Park Water requests to increase rates over a three-year period, covering the years 2022 through 2024. This request to increase rates would be effective beginning July 1, 2022.

Why is Liberty Park Water requesting this rate increase?

The CPUC requires Liberty Park Water to submit a GRC application every three-years. Liberty Park Water is requesting authorization to increase revenues by \$5,475,273 (or 15.10%) in 2022, \$1,820,970 (or 4.35%) in 2023, and \$1,752,224 (or 4.00%) in 2024. The total requested increase for all three years combined would be \$9,048,468 (or 23.45%).

The purpose of this GRC is for Liberty Park Water to cover its anticipated costs from 2022 through 2024 for improvements to the water supply system, property taxes, pension and benefits expense, depreciation expense and costs for centralized corporate support services, such as financial, accounting, treasury and human resources.

How could this affect my monthly water rates?

If the proposed application is approved by the CPUC, the average residential customer with a 5/8 x 3/4" meter using 8.75 Ccf would see a monthly bill increase of \$10.80 (or 14.25%) from \$75.78 to \$86.58 in 2022. In 2023 the average residential customer would see a monthly bill increase of \$3.72 (or 4.30%), from \$86.58 to \$90.31, and a monthly bill increase of \$3.56 (or 3.94%), from \$90.31 to \$93.86 in 2024, excluding any applicable surcharges.

Monthly Meter Charge Schedule

	2022 (current)	2022 (proposed)	Increase	2023 (proposed)	Increase	2024 (proposed)	Increase
5/8	21.05	46.57	121.24%	48.61	4.38%	50.55	3.99%
3/4	31.58	69.86	121.24%	72.92	4.38%	75.83	3.99%
1	52.63	116.43	121.24%	121.53	4.38%	126.38	3.99%
1 1/2	105.25	232.85	121.24%	243.05	4.38%	252.75	3.99%
2	168.40	372.56	121.24%	388.88	4.38%	404.40	3.99%
3	315.75	698.55	121.24%	729.15	4.38%	758.25	3.99%
4	526.25	1,164.25	121.24%	1,215.25	4.38%	1,263.75	3.99%
6	1,052.50	2,328.50	121.24%	2,430.50	4.38%	2,527.50	3.99%
8	1,684.00	3,725.60	121.24%	3,888.80	4.38%	4,044.00	3.99%
10	2,420.75	6,752.65	121.24%	7,048.45	4.38%	7,329.75	3.99%
12	3,473.25	7,684.05	121.24%	8,020.65	4.38%	8,340.75	3.99%

Commodity Rates Schedule

Residential Customers		Rates Proposed in Application					
Usage	Present Rates	2022 Rates	Change	2023 Rates	Change	2024 Rates	Change
0 to 10 Ccf	6.176	4.573	-25.96%	4.765	4.20%	4.950	3.88%
10 to 20 Ccf	7.102	5.716	-25.96%	5.957	4.20%	6.188	3.88%
Over 20 Ccf	-----	6.860	-----	7.148	4.20%	7.425	3.88%
Other Customers: (Business, Industrial Public Authority)	6.507	4.573	-29.72%	4.765	4.20%	4.950	3.88%
Reclaimed	5.541	3.336	-39.79%	3.528	5.76%	3.713	5.24%

How does the rest of this process work?

This application will be assigned to a judge, who will consider proposals and evidence presented during the formal hearing process. The judge will issue a proposed decision that may adopt Liberty Park Water’s application, modify it, or deny it. Any CPUC Commissioner may sponsor an alternate decision with a different outcome. The proposed decision, and any alternate decisions, will be discussed and voted upon by the CPUC Commissioners.

The Public Advocates Office may review this application. The Public Advocates Office is the independent consumer advocate within the CPUC with a statutory mandate to represent customers of investor-owned utilities to obtain the lowest possible rate for service consistent with safe and reliable service and the state’s environmental policy goals. For more information, please call **1-415-703-1584**, email PublicAdvocatesOffice@cpuc.ca.gov, or visit PublicAdvocates.cpuc.ca.gov.

Where can I get more information?

Contact Liberty Park Water

Phone: (562) 923-0711
 Email: Customerservicepark@libertyutilities.com
 Mail: Liberty Utilities (Park Water) Corp.
 Attention: Regulatory Department
 9750 Washburn Road, Downey, CA 90241

A copy of the Application and any related documents may also be reviewed at www.libertyutilities.com.

Contact CPUC

Please visit cpuc.ca.gov/XXX to submit a comment about this proceeding on the CPUC Docket Card. Here you can also view documents and other public comments related to this proceeding.

If you have questions about CPUC processes, you may contact the CPUC’s Public Advisor’s Office at:

Phone: **1-866-849-8390** (toll-free) or **1-415-703-2074**

Email: Public.Advisor@cpuc.ca.gov

Mail: CPUC Public Advisor's Office

505 Van Ness Avenue

San Francisco, CA 94102

Please reference **Application No. A.21-07-XXX** in any communications you have with the CPUC regarding this matter.