PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION 505 VAN NESS AVENUE SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



July 8, 2021

Edward N. Jackson Director, Rates and Regulatory Affairs Liberty Utilities (Park Water) Corp. 9750 Washburn Road Downey, CA 90241

Dear Mr. Jackson,

The Commission has approved Liberty Utilities' (Park Water) Advice Letter No. 306-B, (Supplement to Advice Letter No. 306 and 306-A), filed on June 2, 2021, regarding authorization to implement an 18-month temporary surcharge to recover the undercollection recorded in its 2019 WRAM and MCBA.

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

P.U.C.	
Sheet No.	Title of Sheet
1530-W	Schedule No. PR-1-R, Page 2
1531-W	Schedule No. PR-1-NR, Page 2
1532-W	Table of Contents, Page 1

Please contact Carmen Rocha at MDC@cpuc.ca.gov or 415-703-2162, 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:	Liberty Utilities (Park Water) Corp.	Date Mailed to Service List:	June 2, 2021
District:	N/A		
CPUC Utility #:	U 314-W	Protest Deadline (20 <sup>th</sup> Day):	November 22, 2020
Advice Letter #:	306-W-В	Review Deadline (30 <sup>th</sup> Day):	July 2, 2021
Tier	$\square 1$ $\square 2$ $\square 3$ $\square$ Compliance	Requested Effective Date:	July 1, 2021
Authorization	D.12-04-048	Rate Impact:	\$2,604,148
Description:	Liberty Park Water requests authorization to in an 18-month temporary surcharge to recover t	he under-	7.77%
	collection recorded in its 2019 WRAM and MCE		

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:	Edward N. Jackson	Utility Contact:	AnnMarie Lett
Phone:	562.923.0711	Phone:	562.923.0711
Email:	Edward.Jackson@LibertyUtilities.com	Email:	AnnMarie.Lett@libertyutilities.com
DWA Contact:	Tariff Unit		
Phone:	(415) 703-1133		
Email:	Water.Division@cpuc.ca.gov		
	DWA USE	CONLY	
<b>DATE</b>	<u>STAFF</u>		<u>COMMENTS</u>

[ ] APPROVED	[] WITHDRAWN	[] REJECTED
Signature:	Comments:	
Date:		



Advice Letter No. 306-W-B

June 2, 2021

# TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Liberty Utilities (Park Water) Corp. (U 314 W) ("Liberty Park Water") hereby transmits the following revised tariff sheets applicable to water service in its service territory:

CPUC	Title of Sheet	Canceling
Sheet No.		Sheet No.
1530-W	Schedule No. PR-1-R, Page 2	1515-W
1531-W	Schedule No. PR-1-NR, Page 2	1516-W
1532-W	Table of Contents, Page 1	1529-W

Pursuant to discussions with the Water Division, this supplemental filing is being made to revise the effective date of the advice letter from June 1, 2021 to July 1, 2021. This supplemental filing will replace Advice Letter 306-A in its entirety.

# <u>Summary</u>

This advice letter filing requests authorization to implement a temporary surcharge to the water rates in Liberty Park Water's Service Area. Liberty Park Water is seeking a temporary surcharge of \$0.436 per Ccf for domestic metered customers for an 18-month period. The surcharge is designed to recover the combined under-collection recorded in the 2019 Water Revenue Adjustment Mechanism ("WRAM") and the Modified Production Cost Balancing Account ("MCBA"). Liberty Park Water is also requesting recovery of the under-amortized amount from the active 2018 WRAM/MCBA surcharge during the time it has been in effect. This request is made pursuant to the Commission's direction in Decision 08-02-036, dated February 28, 2008 and Decision 12-04-048, dated April 19, 2012.

Due to the delay of the issuance of a final decision in the Liberty Park Water general rate case ("GRC") proceeding (A.18-01-003), the Commission granted Liberty Park Water an extension of time to file the advice letter to amortize the net balance recorded in its 2019 WRAM and MCBA.

# **Background and Discussion**

# Test Year 2019 General Rate Case Proceeding

On January 2, 2018, Liberty Park Water filed a GRC application (A.18-01-003) with a Test Year effective date of July 1, 2019. Liberty (Apple Valley Ranchos Water) Corp. ("Liberty Apple Valley") similarly filed a GRC application (A.18-01-002). On February 13, 2018, Liberty Park Water and Liberty Apple Valley filed a motion to consolidate these proceedings. On March 16, 2018, the assigned Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ") issued a ruling granting the motion to consolidate the proceedings. On June 13, 2018, the assigned Commissioner issued a Scoping Memo and Ruling that authorized a 20-month deadline of September 2, 2019 to resolve these consolidated proceeding. Public participation hearings were held on October 28, 2018.

Evidentiary hearings were held during the week of November 5, 2018. Liberty Park Water filed its opening and reply briefs on December 12, 2018 and January 11, 2019 respectively. Liberty Park Water and the Public Advocates Office (previously known as the Office of Ratepayer Advocates) filed the Joint Comparison Exhibit on January 25, 2019. On March 19, 2019, the ALJ granted interim rate relief and the establishment of a memorandum account to track the difference between interim rates and the final approved rates. On August 15, 2019, the Commission issued D.19-08-036 extending the statutory deadline from September 2, 2019 to March 2, 2020. On February 27, 2020, the Commission issued D. 20-02-067 extending the statutory deadline from March 2, 2020 to September 2, 2020. On August 27, 2020, the Commission issued D.20-08-049 extending the statutory deadline from September 2, 2020 to October 10, 2020. On September 24, 2020, the Commission issued D.20-09-019 authorizing 2019 revenue requirements for Liberty Park Water and Liberty Apple Valley.

On March 24, 2020, pursuant to Rule 16.6 of the Commissions' Rules of Practice and Procedure, Liberty Park Water requested an extension of time, from March 31, 2020 to until the Commission issued a final decision on Liberty Park Water's GRC proceeding, to file an advice letter requesting amortization of the net balance recorded in the 2019 WRAM and MCBA.

On April 2, 2020, the Commission granted Liberty Park Water's extension request to file an advice letter to amortize the net balance recorded in its 2019 WRAM and MCBA.

## WRAM and MCBA

In D.08-02-036 the Commission adopted the Settlement Agreement between Park and the Division of Ratepayer Advocates (DRA) on WRAM and Conservation Rate Design Issues dated June 15, 2007. D.08-02-036 adopted a Trial Program for Liberty Park Water consisting of a conservation rate design and related mechanisms for decoupling sales and revenue (WRAM and MCBA). The Trial Program was implemented on September 15, 2008 with Commission approval of Park Advice Letter No. 200-W. In D.12-04-048 the Commission modified D.08-02-026 by authorizing an 18-month amortization schedule for the net balance recorded in the WRAM and MCBA.

The purpose of the WRAM is to track the difference between adopted and actual commodity rate revenue excluding revenue for fire service, reclaimed water, and miscellaneous fees. The purpose of the MCBA is to track the difference between adopted and actual costs for the following variable costs: purchased water, purchased power, pump tax, and chemicals. The MCBA captures variations in production costs due to either changes in unit price or changes in consumption.

The combined balance recorded in the WRAM and MCBA for the period January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 including interest through September 30, 2020, is an under-collection of \$552,274.

Liberty Park Water filed an information-only report with Water Division for the amounts recorded in the WRAM and MCBA during calendar year 2019 on December 2, 2019 detailing the WRAM and MCBA data for nine months, ending September 30, 2019. As compared to the

information-only report, this filing includes an updated twelve months of WRAM and MCBA data, ending December 31, 2019, reflecting the authorized adopted quantities in Liberty Park Water's GRC (D.20-09-019, issued October 2, 2020), with a total net under-collected balance of \$549,892. With interest through September 30, 2020, the under-collection is \$552,274.

In addition to the net WRAM and MCBA balance for calendar year 2019, Liberty Park Water proposes to include the under-amortized amount from the active surcharge for the 2018 and prior WRAM/MCBA during the time it has been in effect. Because the actual sales were lower than the adopted sales assumed for the surcharge calculation during the time it has been in effect, the surcharge did not recover the regulatory account balances as intended and authorized by the Commission. Therefore, pursuant to the procedure authorized in D.12-04-048 (Section 3.7 Treatment for Under-Amortized Amounts), Liberty Park Water is requesting authority to include in this filing the balance as of September 30, 2020 of the under-amortization of the ongoing 2018 and prior WRAM/MCBA surcharge, \$484,324.

On April 30, 2012, the Commission issued Decision 12-04-048 which, among other things, changed the amortization period of the WRAM/MCBA and imposed a 10% cap of the last authorized revenue requirement. D.12-04-048, Ordering Paragraph 3:

- 3. We adopted 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. The cap shall be effective the first test year of each applicant's pending or next General Rate Case, as follows:
  - Golden State and Park: Advice Letter filings on March 2014
  - Cal Water: Advice Letter filings on March 2015
  - Apple Valley: Advice Letter filing on March 2016

WRAM/MCBA account 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.

Liberty Park Water filed Advice Letter No. 289-W on April 1, 2019 seeking approval of the combined residual and unamortized balance of the 2018 and prior WRAM and MCBA balances. With interest through February 28, 2019, the under-collection was \$4,774,092. Because of the 10% cap imposed by D.12-04-048, the amount approved for recovery was \$3,820,000, via an 18-month surcharge. This surcharge will expire on June 1, 2021. Liberty Park Water is requesting recovery of the remaining balance of the 2018 and prior WRAM and MCBA balances. With interest through September 30, 2020, the under-collection is \$1,567,551.

The total of the above balances is \$2,604,148(\$552,274 + \$484,324 + \$1,567,551) or 7.77% of Liberty Park Water's 2019 adopted revenue requirement.

Liberty Park Water is therefore requesting recovery of \$2,604,148 or 7.77% of its adopted 2019 revenue requirement. Liberty Park Water proposes to recover the under-collection recorded in the WRAM and MCBA through an 18-month surcharge of \$0.436 per Ccf applicable to domestic

service for schedules PR-1-R, residential metered service and PR-1-NR, non-residential metered service.

The Commission Staff has been provided with workpapers developing the balances in the WRAM and MCBA. The calculation of the surcharges is included in the workpapers.

# **Tier Designation**

Pursuant to D.07-01-024, this advice letter is submitted with a Tier 1 designation.

## **Requested Effective Date**

Pursuant to General Rule 7.3.2 of General Order 96-B, Liberty Park Water requests this filing become effective on July 1, 2021.

## **Notice and Service**

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 mailed or electronically transmitted on June 2, 2021 to competing and adjacent utilities and other utilities or interested parties having requested such notification.

In accordance with Resolution W-4664, notice is not required. Liberty Park Water will include notice of the rate change within the bill during the first billing period the increase is in effect.

# **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 that such a protest may not be made where it would require re-litigating a prior order of the Commission).

A protest shall provide citations or proofs where available to allow staff to properly consider the protest.

A response or protest must be made in writing or by electronic mail and must be received by the Division of Water and Audits within 20 days of the date this advice letter is filed. The address for mailing or delivering a protest is:

Tariff Unit, Water Division, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor California Public Utilities Commission 505 Van Ness Avenue San Francisco, CA 94102 water.division@cpuc.ca.gov

On the same date, the response or protest is submitted to the Water Division, the respondent or protestant shall send a copy by mail (or e-mail) to us, addressed to:

Edward N. Jackson Director, Rates and Regulatory Affairs Liberty Utilities (West Region) 9750 Washburn Road P. O. Box 7002 Downey, CA 90241 Phone: (562) 923-0711 Fax: (562) 861-5902 E-Mail: AdviceLetterService@libertyutilities.com

Cities and counties that need Board of Supervisors or Board of Commissioners approval to protest should inform the Division of Water and Audits within the 20-day protest period so that a late filed protest can be entertained. The informing document should include an estimate of the date the proposed protest might be voted on.

If you have not received a reply to your protest within 10 business days, contact Edward Jackson at (562) 923-0711.

Very truly yours,

LIBERTY UTILITIES (PARK WATER) CORP.

/s/ Edward N. Jackson EDWARD N. JACKSON Director, Rates and Regulatory Affairs

ENJ/al Attachments LIBERTY UTILITIES (PARK WATER) CORP.REVISEDCal. P.U.C. Sheet No.1530-W9750 WASHBURN ROADP. O. BOX 7002CancelingREVISEDCal. P.U.C. Sheet No.1515-WDOWNEY, CALIFORNIA 90241-7002CancelingREVISEDCal. P.U.C. Sheet No.1515-W

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#### SCHEDULE NO. PR-1-R

#### **RESIDENTIAL METERED SERVICE**

- 5. As authorized by the California Public Utilities Commission, an amount of \$ 0.543 per Ccf is to be added to the quantity rate for a period of 18 months, beginning on the effective date of Advice Letter 289-W. This surcharge will recover the under-collection in the WRAM and MCBA as of December 31, 2018.
- 6. As authorized by the California Public Utilities Commission, an amount of \$0.120 per Ccf is to be added to the quantity rate for a period of 12 months, beginning on the effective date of Advice Letter 309-W. This surcharge will recover the under collection in the Consolidated Expense Balancing Account as of December 31, 2020.
- 7. As authorized by the California Public Utilities Commission, an amount of \$2.63 surcredit per customer is to be added to the Customer's bill for a period of 12 months, beginning on the effective date of Advice Letter 309-W. This surcredit will refund the over collection in the Conservation Expense One-Way Balancing Account and the Tangible Property Regulations Consequences Memorandum as of December 31, 2018.
- 8. As authorized by the California Public Utilities Commission, an amount of \$5.46 surcredit per customer is to be added to the Customer's bill for a period of 12 months, beginning on the effective date of Advice Letter 309-W. This surcredit will refund the over collection in the Pension Expense Balancing Account as of December 31, 2017.
- 9. As authorized by the California Public Utilities Commission, an amount of \$0.126 per Ccf is to be added to the quantity rate for a period of 16 months, beginning on the effective date of Advice Letter 310-W. This surcharge will recover the under collection in the Interim Rates Memorandum Account as of November 19, 2020.
- 10. As authorized by the California Public Utilities Commission, an amount of \$0.128 per Ccf is to be added to the quantity rate for a period of 18 months, beginning on the effective date of Advice Letter 313-W. This surcharge will recover the under-collection in the WRAM and MCBA as of December 31, 2020.
- 11. As authorized by the California Public Utilities Commission, an amount of \$0.436 per Ccf is to be added to the quantity rate for a period of 18 months, beginning on the effective date of Advice Letter 306-W-B. This surcharge will recover the under-collection in the WRAM and MCBA as of December 31, 2019.
  (N)

(To be inserted by utility)		Issued By		(To be inserted by Cal. P.U.C.)	
Advice No.	306-W-B	CHRISTOPHER G. ALARIO	Date Filed	06/02/2021	
		Name	Effective	07/01/2021	
Dec. No.	D.12-04-048	PRESIDENT			
		Title	Resolution No.		

LIBERTY UTILITIES (PARK WATER) CORP.REVISEDCal. P.U.C. Sheet No.1531-W9750 WASHBURN ROADP. O. BOX 7002CancelingREVISEDCal. P.U.C. Sheet No.1516-WDOWNEY, CALIFORNIA 90241-7002CancelingREVISEDCal. P.U.C. Sheet No.1516-W

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#### SCHEDULE NO. PR-1-NR

#### NON-RESIDENTIAL METERED SERVICE

- 5. As authorized by the California Public Utilities Commission, an amount of \$ 0.543 per Ccf is to be added to the quantity rate for a period of 18 months, beginning on the effective date of Advice Letter 289-W. This surcharge will recover the under-collection in the WRAM and MCBA as of December 31, 2018.
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- 11. As authorized by the California Public Utilities Commission, an amount of \$0.436 per Ccf is to be added to the quantity rate for a period of 18 months, beginning on the effective date of Advice Letter 306-W-B. This surcharge will recover the under-collection in the WRAM and MCBA as of December 31, 2019.
  (N)

(To be inserte	ed by utility)	Issued By		(To be inserted by Cal. P.U.C.)
Advice No.	306-W-B	CHRISTOPHER G. ALARIO	Date Filed	06/02/2021
		Name	Effective	07/01/2021
Dec. No.	D.12-04-048	PRESIDENT		
		Title	Resolution No.	

LIBERTY UTILITIES (PARK WATER) CORP.		REVISED	Cal. P.U.C. Sheet No.	1532-W
9750 WASHBURN ROAD				
P. O. BOX 7002	Canceling	REVISED	Cal. P.U.C. Sheet No.	1529-W
DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA 90240				

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

The following listed tariff sheets contain all effective rates and rules affecting the charges and service of the utility, together with other pertinent information:

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### **Rate Schedules:**

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## LIST OF CONTRACTS AND DEVIATIONS:

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No. 3	Application for Service	
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## (Continued)

(To be inse	erted by utility)	Issued By:	(To be inserte	d by Cal. P.U.C.)
Advice No.	306-W-B	CHRISTOPHER G. ALARIO	Date Filed	06/02/2021
		Name	Effective	07/01/2021
Dec. No.	D.12-04-048	PRESIDENT		
		Title	Resolution No.	

# LIBERTY UTILITIES (PARK WATER) CORP. ADVICE LETTER 306-W-B SERVICE LIST

City of Artesia 18747 Clarkdale Avenue Artesia, CA 90701

City of Santa Fe Springs Water Dept. 11710 Telegraph Road Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670

Suburban Water Systems Attention: Kiki Carlson 1325 N. Grand Avenue, Suite 100 Covina, CA 91724-4044 <u>kcarlson@swwc.com</u>

Suburban Water Systems Attention: Robert Kelly 1325 N. Grand Avenue, Suite 100 Covina, CA 91724-4044

City of Cerritos Water Department 18125 Bloomfield Avenue Cerritos, CA 90703

Bellflower Somerset Mutual Water Co.10016 E. Flower St.P. O. Box 1697 (90707)Bellflower, CA 90706

City of Norwalk Water Department 12700 S. Norwalk Boulevard Norwalk, CA 90650

City of Compton Water Department 205 W. Willowbrook Compton, CA 90220

Golden State Water Company Ronald Moore, Regulatory Affairs 630 E. Foothill Blvd San Dimas, CA 91773

City of Lynwood Water Department Attention: Joseph Kekula 11330 Bullis Road Lynwood, CA 90262

City of Paramount Water Department 16400 Colorado Avenue Paramount, CA 90723 City of Bell Gardens Attention: Steve Steinbrecher 7100 Garfield Avenue Bell Gardens, CA 90201

Dominguez/California Water Service 2632 W. 237<sup>th</sup> Street Torrance, CA 90505-5272

Calif. Public Utilities Commission Attention: Ting-Pong Yuen ORA Water 505 Van Ness Avenue San Francisco, CA 94102

California Water Service Company Attention: Daniel Armendariz East Los Angeles District 2000 S. Tubeway Avenue Commerce, CA 90040

Central Basin Municipal Water District 6252 Telegraph Road Commerce, CA 90040

City of Bellflower Attention: Jeff Stewart, City Manager 16600 Civic Center Drive Bellflower, CA 90706

San Gabriel Valley Water Company Christina Sluss, Rate Analyst <u>csluss@sgvwater.com</u>

Nina Jazmadarian General Manager Foothill Municipal Water District 4536 Hampton Road La Canada Flintridge, CA 91011

City of LaCanada Flintridge Mark Alexander City Manager <u>malexander@lcf.ca.gov</u>