



**FILED**

03/29/24

10:17 AM

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

In the matter of the Application of the GOLDEN STATE WATER COMPANY (U133W) for an order (1) authorizing it to increase rates for water service by \$87,060,700 or 22.95% in 2025; (2) authorizing it to increase rates by \$20,699,200 or 4.42% in 2026, and increase rates by \$22,408,200 or 4.57% in 2027 in accordance with the Rate Case Plan; and (3) adopting other related rulings and relief necessary to implement the Commission's ratemaking policies.

Application 23-08-010

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE'S RULING NOTICING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION HEARING**

This ruling sets the remote public participation hearings (PPHs) in Golden State Water Company's (GSW's) General Rate Case Application (GRC Application), Application (A.) 23-08-010, using live streaming and telephonic services, and directs GSW to provide customer notice of the remote PPHs. The PPHs are an opportunity for GSW's customers to communicate directly with the Commission regarding the revenue and rate base changes that GSW proposes in its GRC Application.

Details regarding how to participate in these remote PPHs are described below. Written public comments may also be provided at any time during the proceeding using the “Add Public Comment” button on the “Public Comment” tab of the Docket Card for A.23-08-010.

Date & Region	Time	Details
Region 1 June 24, 2024	6:00 pm	Phone number: <b>800-857-1917</b>
Region 2 June 25, 2024	6:00 pm	Passcode: <b>6032788#</b> <b>Dial *1 if you wish to comment</b>
Region 3 June 26, 2024	6:00 pm	Webcast: <a href="http://www.adminmonitor.com/ca/cpuc/">www.adminmonitor.com/ca/cpuc/</a>

Participants may observe the PPH via the webcast information provided above. To provide public comment, participants should use the toll-free telephone number and participant code noted above. When it is time for public comment, the Administrative Law Judge will make an announcement through the telephone line for those who wish to speak. Participants who wish to speak must then press “star one” to alert the operator, who will then queue the speakers one-at-a-time and announce each speaker’s name at the allotted time.

**1. DIRECT MAILING NOTICE**

GSW shall prepare a direct mail notice informing its customers of these PPHs and provide a draft of the notice to the Commission’s Public Advisor’s Office. The draft notice shall inform GSW’s customers about the upcoming remote PPHs, including the purpose of the PPHs, a summary of the relief that GSW is requesting in this Application, as well as the date, time, and how to

participate in the streaming and telephonic services for the remote PPHs. The Public Advisor's Office may alter or require changes to the direct mail notice.

After the Public Advisor's Office approves the language in the direct mail notice, GSW shall mail the notice to all its customers. To the extent that any customers are billed electronically via the Internet, notice to those customers may be given electronically. Where customer email addresses are available, GSW shall also provide the notice through direct email communication.

## **2. PUBLIC NOTICE**

Pursuant to Rule 13.1(c) of the California Public Utilities Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, GSW shall also cause the approved notice to be published in one or more newspapers of general circulation in GSW's general service area not less than five days before the first PPHs. At a minimum, the approved notice shall be posted in one or more newspapers of general circulation in its Region 1 service area, Region 2 service area, and Region 3 service area. Golden State Water Company shall also prominently post a notice of the PPHs on its website and in all of their offices where customers come into contact with a Golden State Water customer service representative.

GSW shall provide the Public Advisor's Office, not later than five days prior to the first PPH, a letter verifying that it has complied with the customer notice requirements in this ruling. The compliance letter shall state the date(s) notices were sent to customers, the method used, and the approximate number of customers notified. One copy of the actual notice shall be attached. The compliance letter shall also provide the dates and locations of publication and posting.

### **3. OTHER DIRECTIVES**

Golden State Water Company shall prepare for their PPHs: the name, title, and telephone number of at least one senior customer service representative who can be reached by customers during the hearing for individual service or billing issues and one representative prepared to respond to specific questions about the material in its Application. Golden State Water Company shall provide this information to the Public Advisor's Office no later than seven days before their respective public participation hearing. This information may be posted for the public during the hearing.

**IT IS RULED** that:

1. The schedule for the public participation hearings is set forth above.
2. Golden State Water Company shall provide customer notice via direct mailing or the Internet not less than five days before the date of the first scheduled public participation hearing. Where customer email addresses are available, the Golden State Water Company shall also provide the notice through direct e-mail communication.
3. In each service area where a public participation hearing (PPH) will be held Golden State Water Company shall publish a notice of the PPHs in one or more local newspapers of general circulation for seven consecutive days prior to, and including, the date of the PPH.
4. Golden State Water Company shall prominently post a notice of the public participation hearings on their website and in all their offices where customers come into contact with a customer service representative.

5. Golden State Water Company shall provide the Public Advisor’s Office, not later than five days prior to the public participation hearing, a letter verifying that it has complied with the customer notice requirement.

6. Golden State Water Company shall have at least one customer service representative available at each of the respective public participation hearings to answer any billing or service questions that individual customers may have.

Dated March 29, 2024, at San Francisco, California.

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/s/ AMIN NOJAN  
Amin Nojan  
Administrative Law Judge