



FILED
8-19-16
03:26 PM

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of California-American Water Company (U210W) for Approval of the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project and Authorization to Recover All Present and Future Costs in Rates.

Application 12-04-019
(Filed April 23, 2012)

**ASSIGNED COMMISSIONER AND ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE'S
RULING REGARDING AGENDAS AND EX PARTE BAN RELATIVE TO
SEPTEMBER 1, 2016 WORKSHOP AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION HEARING**

On September 1, 2016, the Commission will hold a workshop and a public participation hearing at the Sunset Center (Carpenter Hall), San Carlos Street at Ninth Avenue, Carmel-by-the-Sea, California. This ruling addresses the agendas for each event. It also addresses the applicability of the existing ban on all ex parte communications between parties (including their agents) and Commission decision-makers in this proceeding. (See Ruling dated January 23, 2015, regarding the ban on ex parte communications.)

Workshop

The workshop will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The purpose is for the Commission to update parties and interested persons on specific important elements of the ongoing environmental review. In particular, these elements are the peer review results of the Ground Water Model by the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, the revised Ground Water Model, and the incorporation of test well data into the model. An equally important purpose is to provide an

opportunity for parties and interested persons to ask questions and provide comments on these subjects. The ban on ex parte communications in this proceeding does not apply to this workshop.

The workshop agenda is with respect to groundwater issues as they relate to environmental impacts of the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project. The agenda does not include any other topics or issues, such as brine discharge, the Monterey pipeline, the Monterey pump station, the water purchase agreement for California American Water Company to buy water from the Pure Water Monterey Groundwater Replenishment Project, or desalination projects proposed by public agencies. The final agenda is as determined by the Commission's Energy Division. (See Ruling dated June 10, 2016.)

Public Participation Hearing

The public participation hearing will be held from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The assigned Commissioner, Commission staff, or designees will first briefly address relevant current topics. This may include the current schedule for release of the Draft Environmental Impact Report, and the comment period for parties to file comments on the August 12, 2016, Proposed Decision in Phase 2 (regarding the Water Purchase Agreement for California American Water Company to buy water from Pure Water Monterey Groundwater Replenishment Project).

The hearing will then move to its core purpose. That purpose is to provide an opportunity for the public to provide comments to the Commission on any topics relevant to the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project.

This is a hearing at which the Commission wants to hear from the public, not the parties. Parties have multiple ways to address the Commission (e.g., motions, testimony, briefs, comments on proposed decisions, oral

argument). The ban on *ex parte* communications between parties (including agents of parties) and Commission decision-makers remains in effect, and applies to this public participation hearing. The public participation hearing is not intended to be an opportunity for parties to address the Commission with regard to any matters in this proceeding.

IT IS RULED that a workshop and public participation hearing will be held on September 1, 2016, as described in the body of this ruling. The ban on *ex parte* communications in this proceeding does not apply to the workshop, but does apply to the public participation hearing.

Dated August 19, 2016, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ CATHERINE J.K. SANDOVAL
Catherine J. K. Sandoval
Assigned Commissioner

/s/ DOROTHY DUDA for
Gary Weatherford
Administrative Law Judge