

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

In the Matter of the Application of California American Water Company (U 210 W) for an order authorizing it to increase its rates for water service in its Los Angeles Division to increase revenues by \$1,354,500 or 7.56% in the year 2004, \$842,100 or 4.86% in the year 2005, and \$1,052,000 or 5.22% in 2006.

Application 03-07-036  
(Filed July 23, 2003)

**ASSIGNED COMMISSIONER'S RULING AND SCOPING MEMO**

This ruling sets forth the procedural schedule, assigns the principal hearing officer, and addresses the scope of the proceeding following a prehearing conference held on September 16, 2003, in this general rate case filed by California-American Water (CalAm) for its Los Angeles District.

**Categorization, Need for Hearings, Ex Parte Rules and Designation of Principal Hearing Officer**

This ruling affirms the Commission's preliminary categorization of this proceeding as ratesetting. Ex parte communications in this proceeding are governed by Rule 7(c) and Pub. Util. Code § 1701.3(c).<sup>1</sup>

Administrative Law Judge Kim Malcolm is the principal hearing officer in this proceeding.

The Commission intends to hold evidentiary hearings in this proceeding at this time. It also intends to hold public participation hearings.

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<sup>1</sup> All section references are to the Public Utilities Code unless otherwise indicated.

### **Background and Issues**

CalAm seeks revenue increases of 7.56% in 2004, 4.68% in 2005, and 5.22% in 2006. The company proposes different rate increases by community. In some communities, rates would increase substantially. In others, rate changes would be small. CalAm proposes that its rates take effect January 1, 2005.

At the prehearing conference, CalAm stated that some customers might raise concerns with proposed changes to the irrigation tariff used by customers in the Duarte area, with the level of rate increases proposed for customers in San Marino area and with water pressure in the Baldwin Hills area.

The Office of Ratepayers Advocates (ORA) has stated its intent to participate in the proceeding but has not yet identified specific issues.

### **Schedule**

The parties proposed a schedule that this ruling confirms as follows:

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>
CalAm serves Lifeline Rate testimony	November 1, 2003
ORA serves testimony	December 12, 2003
CalAm serves rebuttal	January 5, 2004
Evidentiary Hearings	February 9-11, 23-24, 2004
Opening Briefs	March 27, 2004
Reply Briefs	April 10, 2004
Proposed Decision	June 2004
Final Commission Decision	July 2004

These dates may change as circumstances change.

### **Filing, Service and Service List**

In this proceeding, CalAm and ORA agree to be served formal documents electronically. Parties must still file pleadings according to Article 2 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure.

The service list for this proceeding is attached to this ruling. If any party is added to the service list that cannot receive documents electronically, parties must provide hard copies of documents by mail.

### **Intervenor Compensation**

The Commission held a prehearing conference in this matter on September 16, 2003. Pursuant to Pub. Util. Code § 1804(a)(1), any party who intends to seek an award of compensation in this proceeding must file a notice of intent to claim compensation not later than October 16, 2003. A separate ruling addresses eligibility to claim compensation.

### **Public Participation Hearings**

CalAm proposed public participation hearings in three communities: Duarte, San Marino and Baldwin Hills to address issues relating to irrigation tariffs, the level of proposed rate increase and water pressure problems, respectively. The parties agreed the Commission should conduct these hearings the week before Thanksgiving. The Commission will issue a subsequent ruling with dates, times and places of these hearings.

#### **IT IS RULED that:**

1. The scope of this proceeding is set forth in California-American's (CalAm) application. The Commission may expand the scope of this hearing as necessary to assure the adoption of reasonable rates or in pursuit of adequate and lawful service.
2. The schedule of this proceeding is as set forth above in this ruling.

3. CalAm shall serve testimony proposing a lifeline rate for low income customers no later than November 1, 2003.

4. This ruling confirms that this proceeding is ratesetting and that hearings are necessary. Parties may appeal the category of this proceeding pursuant to Rule 6.4.

5. Ex parte communications in this proceeding are governed by Rule 7(c) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure.

6. Administrative Law Judge Malcolm is the principal hearing officer.

7. The official service list is attached to this ruling. Parties should electronically serve all documents. The filing procedures for documents are set forth in Article 2 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure.

September 23, 2003, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ LORETTA LYNCH

Loretta Lynch  
Assigned Commissioner

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that I have by mail this day served a true copy of the original attached Assigned Commissioner’s Ruling and Scoping Memo on all parties of record in this proceeding or their attorneys of record.

September 23, 2003, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ HELEN FRIEDMAN  
Helen Friedman

**N O T I C E**

Parties should notify the Process Office, Public Utilities Commission, 505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 2000, San Francisco, CA 94102, of any change of address to ensure that they continue to receive documents. You must indicate the proceeding number on the service list on which your name appears.

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The Commission’s policy is to schedule hearings (meetings, workshops, etc.) in locations that are accessible to people with disabilities. To verify that a particular location is accessible, call: Calendar Clerk (415) 703-1203.

If specialized accommodations for the disabled are needed, e.g., sign language interpreters, those making the arrangements must call the Public Advisor at (415) 703-2074, TTY 1-866-836-7825 or (415) 703-5282 at least three working days in advance of the event.