

ALJ/GK1/fzs 6/6/2023



**FILED**

06/06/23

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

PHAM

A2301001

Application of Suburban Water Systems (U339W) for Authority to Increase Rates Charged for Water Service by \$19,763,961 or 19.79% in 2024, by \$6,392,906 or 5.49% in 2025, and by \$6,387,993 or 5.20% in 2026.

Application 23-01-001

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE'S RULING  
SETTING AN ONLINE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION HEARING**

This Ruling sets an online public participation hearing (PPH) for August 28, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. The purpose of the PPH is for the Commission to hear comments from members of the public on the proposals Suburban Water Systems (Suburban) is requesting in this Application.

The public may view the live stream of the PPH by visiting the following links:

2:00 p.m. <https://www.adminmonitor.com/ca/cpuc/hearing/20230828/>

6:00 p.m. <https://www.adminmonitor.com/ca/cpuc/hearing/202308282/>

Members of the public who want to speak or provide comments at the hearing will need to call in to the following number during the event<sup>1</sup>:

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<sup>1</sup> Written public comments may also be provided at anytime during this proceeding using the "Add Public Comment" on the "Public Comment" tab of the docket in A.23-01-001. The link to "Add Public Comment" can be found here: <https://apps.cpuc.ca.gov/c/a2301001>.

**Public Toll-Free Comment Line:** 800-857-1917

**Public Passcode:** 6032788#

## **1. Presentations at the PPH**

At the PPH, Suburban and the Public Advocates Office (Cal Advocates) may give a presentation, not to exceed five minutes, to provide an overview of the requests in the Application and Protest.<sup>2</sup> If Suburban or Cal Advocates wishes to use a slideshow presentation at the PPH, they shall serve the slide deck on the service list no later than August 9, 2023.<sup>3</sup> (Please also e-mail the slide presentation file to [Public.Advisor@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:Public.Advisor@cpuc.ca.gov).)

## **2. Public Notice**

Pursuant to Rule 13.1(b) of the California Public Utilities Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, Suburban shall prepare draft newspaper notice(s) to the customers taking service in their service areas and obtain the Public Advisor's Office (PAO) approval of the draft newspaper notice(s). Suburban shall publish the approved notice in one or more local newspapers of general circulation in their service areas for four consecutive days prior to and including the date of the PPH. The notice(s) shall include the time and date of the PPH, the website where members of the public can view the live stream of the PPH, and the call-in information for members of the public to speak at the PPH. The Applicants shall file the proof of publication and sample copies of the notices with the Commission within 10 days after publication. Suburban shall also

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<sup>2</sup> Suburban and Cal Advocates shall be logged in for each PPH 15 minutes prior to the designated start time. Suburban and Cal Advocates must email the service list and [Public.Advisor@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:Public.Advisor@cpuc.ca.gov) with the name, position, email address, and telephone number of the individual who will be giving the presentation and representing the parties no later than August 9, 2023.

<sup>3</sup> Presentations shall be in Microsoft PowerPoint (preferred), Microsoft Word, or PDF format.

prominently post a notice of the PPH on its website and in all their offices where customers meet customer service representatives.

### **3. Billing Notice**

Suburban shall also prepare a draft mail notice to its customers, obtain PAO approval of the draft notice, and mail the approved notice to customers. The notice shall inform customers about the PPH, the purpose of the PPH, a summary of the requests in this Application, as well as the time and date of the PPH, the website where members of the public can view the live stream of the PPH, and the call-in information for members of the public to speak at the PPH. Suburban shall provide customer notice via mailing not less than 15 days before the date of the PPH.

### **4. Customer Service Support**

Suburban shall provide representatives to be available during the PPH, from 2:00 p.m. until the conclusion of the 6:00 p.m. PPH, to answer questions from members of the public on their bills or service and to also address any questions about the Application. Suburban may have representatives that can answer questions on customer bills and questions about the Application be reachable through one phone number or through separate phone numbers (*e.g.*, one phone number for customers to call to ask questions about their customer bills or services and another phone number for customers to call to ask questions about the Application). No later than August 9, 2023, Suburban shall e-mail the name and phone number(s) for members of the public to call for questions to the assigned Administrative Law Judge and [Public.Advisor@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:Public.Advisor@cpuc.ca.gov).

**IT IS RULED** that:

1. The public participation hearing is set for August 28, 2023, at 2 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

2. Suburban shall publish the approved notice in one or more local newspapers of general circulation in their service areas for four consecutive days prior to and including the date of the public participation hearing.
3. Suburban shall prominently post a notice of the public participation hearing on their website and in all their offices where customers encounter customer service representatives.
4. Suburban shall provide customer notice of the public participation hearing via mail not less than 15 days before the date of the public participation hearing.
5. Suburban and Cal Advocates may give a presentation, not to exceed five minutes, to provide an overview of the requests in the Application and Protest at the PPH.
6. Suburban shall be available during the PPH to answer questions from members of the public on their bills or service and to also address any questions about the Application.

Dated June 6, 2023, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ GERALD F. KELLY  
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Gerald F. Kelly  
Administrative Law Judge