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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of Liberty Utilities (Apple Valley Ranchos Water) Corp. (U346W) for Authority to Increase Rates Charged for Water Service by \$3,105,8670 or 10.15% in 2025, \$2,139,978 or 6.31% in 2026 and \$2,238,205 or 6.18% in 2027.

Application 24-01-003

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE’S RULING SETTING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION HEARINGS AND RELATED INSTRUCTIONS

This ruling establishes in-person and remote public participation hearings (PPH) in the application of Liberty Utilities (Apple Valley Ranchos Water) Corp. (Liberty Apple Valley) for authorization to increase its revenue requirement and base rates effective January 1, 2025, and to further increase its revenue requirements in the 2026-2027 post-test years. This is a general rate case proceeding with a Test Year 2025.

The main purpose of the PPHs is to provide an opportunity for Liberty Apple Valley’s customers to communicate directly with the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) regarding the proposed revenue and rate base changes and to share any concerns regarding the service they receive from Liberty Apple Valley. The PPHs will be led by the assigned Administrative Law Judge and Commissioners may also attend. The Commission’s court reporters will record the statements made during the hearing and post the transcript on the Commission’s website at the Docket Card for this proceeding.

Details regarding how to participate in the in-person and remote PPHs are provided below and further information about the application and other ways to stay informed is available at <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/pph> . Liberty Apple Valley is also directed to take certain actions to further notice and facilitate public participation at these hearings.

1. In-Person Public Participation Hearing

The in-person PPH will be held as follows:

Date and Time Meeting Location

Apple Valley Town Hall -Council Chambers

July 29, 2024, at 6 p.m. 14955 Dale Evans Parkway

Apple Valley, CA 92307

If you wish to make a public comment, sign up at the Public Advisor’s Office’s table at the entrance to the hearing.

2. Remote Public Participation Hearing

Details regarding how to participate in the remote PPH are provided in the table below. The PPHs may be observed using the live video broadcast AdminMonitor webcast link or listened to on the toll-free telephone number. (Footnote: The video broadcast will be recorded and archived for future viewing.) The AdminMonitor broadcast has English or Spanish captions that can be accessed by clicking the green button below the video screen.

To provide public comment, participants should use the toll-free telephone number and participant code noted below. Participants who wish to speak must then press “star one” and record their first and last name when prompted. This will alert the operator who will then queue the speakers one-at-a-time and announce each speaker’s name at the allotted time. When it is time for public comment, the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) will make an announcement through the telephone line for those who wish to speak. Public

officials wishing to speak should provide their name, title, and governmental entity prior to speaking. Based on the number of speakers wishing to provide comments, the ALJ may limit speakers' time so that all speakers have an opportunity to comment, and to promote an orderly hearing.

Table

Date Time Meeting Access Information

Phone Number 1-800-857-1917

Passcode: 6032788#

July 1, 2024, 2:00 p.m.

Webcast:

<https://Adminmonitor.com/ca/cpuc/>

3. General Participation Information

Please note that a quorum of commissioners may attend but no decisions will be made or voted on at the hearings.

The Commission can provide language interpreters and/or American Sign Language interpreters at the PPH. Please send a request to the Public Advisor at Public.Advisor@cpuc.ca.gov at least three business days before the hearing.

In addition to the scheduled PPHs, customers may submit written public comments at any time during the proceeding and read other public comments via the Commission's website at the Docket Card for this proceeding, using the [Public Comment tab](#) at [Proceedings Tab5 - Public Comments \(ca.gov\)](#). Your participation by providing your thoughts on the utility's request can help the Commission make an informed decision.

Customers may also subscribe to receive documents related to this proceeding at [Welcome to the CPUC Subscription Service \(ca.gov\)](#).

4. Directives to Liberty Apple Valley

For the remote PPH on July 31, 2024, Liberty Apple Valley shall prepare the name, title, and telephone number of at least one senior customer service representative who can be reached by customers during the hearing and for at least one hour after the close of the hearing for individual service or billing issues and at least one representative prepared to respond to specific questions about the material in its Application. Liberty Apple Valley shall provide this information to the Public Advisor's Office no later than seven days before the PPH.

For the in-person PPH on July 29, 2024, Liberty Apple Valley shall have at least one senior customer service representative in person who can assist customers with service and billing issues and also have at least one representative prepared to respond to specific questions about the material in this Application in person at the hearing.

5. Billing Notice/Mailers

Liberty Apple Valley shall prepare a bill insert notice informing its customers of the PPHs and provide a draft of the notice to the Commission's Public Advisor's Office. The draft notice shall inform customers about the upcoming remote and in-person PPHs, including the purpose of the PPHs, a summary of the relief that the utility is requesting in its application, as well as the date, time, and how to participate. The Public Advisor's Office may alter or require changes to the bill insert notice.

After the Public Advisor's Office approves the language in the bill insert notice, Liberty Apple Valley shall, to the extent feasible, include the notice in the monthly bills of all its customers not less than five nor more than 30 days before the first scheduled PPH. To the extent customers are billed electronically via the Internet, notice to those customers shall be provided electronically. Where

customer email addresses are available, Liberty Apple Valley shall also provide the notice through direct email communications with the subject line stating it is notice of a PPH(s) to be held in the proceeding and the body of the email containing the same information as the bill insert.

6. Public Notice

Pursuant to Rule 13.1 (b) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, Liberty Apple Valley shall also cause the approved notice to be published in one or more newspapers of general circulation in the utility's general service area not less than five days before the first PPH. Prior to publishing, Liberty Apple Valley shall provide to the Public Advisor's Office a list of the locations where the approved notice will be circulated. The Public Advisor's Office may alter or require changes to the locations where the approved notice will be circulated. Liberty Apple Valley shall also prominently post a notice of the PPHs on its website and in all its offices where customers come into contact with a utility customer service representative.

Liberty Apple Valley 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 requirement. 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.

7. Party Participation During the Remote Public Participation Hearings

Each party to the proceeding may make a brief presentation at the start of each remote PPH. Each party may also prepare no more than two slides for use during their presentations. Parties wishing to participate in the remote PPH

shall provide the name, position, e-mail address, and phone number of the individual who will be conducting the presentation. This information shall be e-mailed to the assigned ALJ, copying the service list, no later than seven days prior to the remote PPH in which the party seeks to present. In addition, any party wishing to include slides in their presentation shall e-mail those directly to the Public Advisor's Office. An e-mail will be sent to the party presenters by the Public Advisor's Office with their allotted time limit following the aforementioned deadline for receiving presentation requests and a separate WebEx link and speaker code will also be provided prior to the hearing.

IT IS RULED that:

1. The schedule for the public participation hearings is set forth above.
2. Liberty Utilities (Apple Valley Ranchos Water) Corp. (Liberty Apple Valley) shall provide customer notice of the public participation hearings (PPH) via direct mailing or the Internet not less than five or more than 30 days before the date of the first scheduled PPH. Where customer email addresses are available, Liberty Apple Valley shall also provide the notice through direct email communication with the subject line stating it is notice of a PPH(s) in the proceeding and the body of the email containing the same information as the bill insert.
3. Liberty Utilities (Apple Valley Ranchos Water) Corp. (Liberty Apple Valley) shall cause notice of the PPHs approved by the Public Advisor's Office to be published in one or more newspapers of general circulation in its general service area at least five days prior to the first PPH. Prior to publishing, Liberty Apple Valley shall provide to the Public Advisor's Office a list of the locations where the approved notice will be circulated.
4. Liberty Utilities (Apple Valley Ranchos Water) Corp. (Liberty Apple Valley) shall also prominently post a notice of the public participation hearings

on its website and in all offices where customers come into contact with a Liberty Apple Valley customer service representative.

5. Liberty Utilities (Apple Valley Ranchos Water) Corp. (Liberty Apple Valley) shall provide the Public Advisor's Office, not later than five days prior to the first public participation hearing, a letter verifying that it has complied with the customer notice requirement.

6. Liberty Utilities (Apple Valley Ranchos Water) Corp. (Liberty Apple Valley) shall have at least one senior customer service representative available at each of the public participation hearings to receive and follow up with any customer billing or service questions.

7. If any active party in this proceeding wishes to present a brief summary (not to exceed 3 minutes) of its position at the beginning of one or more remote public participation hearings (PPH), the party will need to inform the Administrative Law Judge at least seven days prior to the date of the PPH in which the party wants to present, and serve the request on the service list to Application 24-01-003.

Date April 24, 2024, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ MARGERY L. MELVIN
Margery L. Melvin
Administrative Law Judge