



ALJ/DUG/abb 7/31/2024

**FILED**

07/30/24

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

04:59 PM  
A2407001

Application of Great Oaks Water Company (U-162-W) for an Order authorizing it to increase rates charged for water service by \$1,669,527 or 6.2% in 2025/2026, by \$2,108,473 or 7.41% in 2026/2027, and by \$2,428,384 or 7.94% in 2027/2028.

Application 24-07-001

**EMAIL RULING ON A PREHEARING CONFERENCE**

Dated July 30, 2024, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ DOUGLAS M. LONG

Douglas M. Long  
Administrative Law Judge

**From:** Long, Douglas <[Douglas.Long@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:Douglas.Long@cpuc.ca.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 30, 2024 10:38 AM  
**To:** [MSomogyi@DowneyBrand.com](mailto:MSomogyi@DowneyBrand.com); Goldberg, Daphne <[Daphne.Goldberg@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:Daphne.Goldberg@cpuc.ca.gov)>; Gruen, Darryl <[darryl.gruen@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:darryl.gruen@cpuc.ca.gov)>; Baki, Jawad <[Jawad.Baki@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:Jawad.Baki@cpuc.ca.gov)>; Mangat, Ravinder <[ravinder.mangat@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:ravinder.mangat@cpuc.ca.gov)>; Gibbs, Syreeta <[syreeta.gibbs@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:syreeta.gibbs@cpuc.ca.gov)>; [JRoeder@GreatOaksWater.com](mailto:JRoeder@GreatOaksWater.com); [JLiem@GreatOaksWater.com](mailto:JLiem@GreatOaksWater.com); Long, Douglas <[Douglas.Long@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:Douglas.Long@cpuc.ca.gov)>  
**Cc:** ALJ\_Support ID <[alj\\_supportid@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:alj_supportid@cpuc.ca.gov)>; ALJ Docket Office <[ALJ\\_Docket\\_Office@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:ALJ_Docket_Office@cpuc.ca.gov)>; Boothe, James A. <[james.boothe@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:james.boothe@cpuc.ca.gov)>  
**Subject:** A24-07-001 Great Oaks Water Email Ruling on a Prehearing Conference

To all Interested Parties:

A prehearing conference has been set for Friday, August 16, 2024, at 2:00 pm in 505 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco, Ca., at the Commission's headquarters. This hearing will be in-person only without video or audio remote access. This date was selected to occur after the timely filing of protests and after considering the limited coinciding availability of the assigned Commissioner, Matthew Baker, the assigned judge, and the Commission's hearing reporters. A further notice will appear on the Commission's calendar in due course.

The agenda will include:

1. Schedule: The assigned judge has already served a proposed schedule and the focus of discussion should be on the timing for serving intervenor testimony, rebuttal, and opening and reply briefs, and the possibility of a partial or full settlement agreement.
2. Scope: The initial scope of the proceeding was framed by Great Oaks in its application. Cal Advocates and any other intervenor in their protests or at the prehearing conference may raise other issues.
3. Settlement: The Commission's rate case plan mandates an effort to settle. The focus of discussion should be on:
  - (i) scheduling a "neutral" judge to act as a mediator;
  - (ii) completing any mediation process within the time constraint of completing the proceeding within the 12 months required by the rate case plan. Therefore, there needs to be a deadline for filing any whole or partial settlement. We need

to determine a reasonable deadline. I propose on or before filing opening briefs on December 30, 2024, on the judge's proposed schedule.

4. Discovery: I presume Cal Advocates has begun discovery. I require that any claims of privilege or confidentiality will be raised promptly and not deferred to the otherwise expected due date of a data response. I require that I be informed promptly of any privilege claims.
5. Intervenor and Rebuttal testimony: I require that intervenors use exactly the same name, or term, or initial description of any topic as presented by Great Oaks in its application and testimony, e.g., a request for a new balancing account needs to be named or described in the same way. Parties then have absolute free range to subsequently fully and freely express their support, alternatives, or opposition in a respectful and professional manner with persuasive evidence and testimony.
6. Briefs: Parties need to agree on a sequence and list of topics to be briefed.
7. Any other items of interest or concern to the parties.

The Docket Office will file this Ruling in the formal file for Application 24-07-001.

Douglas M. Long  
Administrative Law Judge  
[douglas.long@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:douglas.long@cpuc.ca.gov)