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A2503016

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of Union Pacific Railroad Company, d/b/a Keene Water System (U0434W) for Adjustments to Revenue Requirement, Rate Design, and Rates.

Application 25-03-016

And Related Matters.

Application 25-03-017

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE'S RULING NOTICING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION HEARINGS

This ruling notices and sets two public participation hearings (PPHs) in Union Pacific Railroad Company's (d/b/a Keene Water System) general rate case application, and related matters. The PPHs will take place in-person on Tuesday March 3, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. The PPHs will be held in Tehachapi, California at the Tehachapi Police Department community room. This ruling also directs Union Pacific Railroad Company (d/b/a Keene Water System) to provide customer notice via bill insert of the March 3rd PPHs.

1. Background

Application 25-03-016 was filed with the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) on March 28, 2025, by Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR), d/b/a Keene Water System (KWS) for adjustments to the water utility's revenue requirement, rate design, and rates. Contemporaneously, UPRR d/b/a KWS filed Application 25-03-017 requesting authorization to be relieved of its public utility status and water service obligations. Both applications focus on water service in the town of Keene, California, a rural

community in Kern County. On April 2, 2025, UPRR filed an unopposed motion for consolidation of Applications (A.) 25-03-016 and 25-03-017 pursuant to Rules 11.1 and 7.4.

A prehearing conference (PHC) was held on October 17, 2025, to address the issues of law and fact, determine the need for hearing, set the schedule for resolving the matter, and address other matters as necessary.¹ Given the applications' interrelated issues of law and fact, the assigned ALJ granted UPRR's motion for consolidation during the prehearing conference.

Since the PHC, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) filed a Technical Assistance Workplan; the Commission's Public Advocates Office (Cal Advocates) filed a joint motion to dismiss the application with Clean Water Action, the Dolores Huerta Foundation, and the National Chavez Center; and UPRR d/b/a KWS motioned for interim rate relief. These pleadings remain under review at this time.

Given the unique circumstances presented in this application, it is important this proceeding has a forum to hear directly from impacted KWS customers. The PPHs are an opportunity for the public to communicate directly with the Commission regarding the issues raised in this proceeding.

Details regarding how to participate in these PPHs are described below. Written comments may also be submitted at any time in this proceeding using the "Add Public Comment" button on the "Public Comment" tab of the Docket Card for A.25-03-016.

¹ See <https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Efile/G000/M584/K972/584972792.PDF>.

Public Participation Hearing Details for KWS Application

Date	Time	Address
March 3, 2026	2:00 p.m.	Tehachapi Police Department Community Room, 220 West C St. Tehachapi, CA 93561
March 3, 2026	6:00 p.m.	

UPRR d/b/a KWS shall have at least one senior customer service representative available at the PPHs to receive and follow-up with any customer billing or service inquiries, and general questions about the issues presented in the applications.

2. Bill Insert Notice

UPRR d/b/a KWS shall prepare a bill insert informing its water customers of these PPHs and provide a draft of the notice to the Commission's Public Advisor's Office. The draft insert shall inform KWS customers about the upcoming in-person PPHs, including the purpose of the PPH, a summary of the relief that UPRR d/b/a KWS is requesting in its applications, as well as the date, time, and how to participate at the March 3, 2026 PPHs. The Public Advisors Office may alter or require changes to the bill insert. After the Public Advisor's Office approves the language in the bill insert, UPRR d/b/a KWS shall mail the notice to all its customers. To the extent any customers are billed electronically, the notice to these customers may be given electronically. Where customer email addresses are available, UPRR d/b/a KWS shall also provide the notice through direct email communication.

3. Public Notice

Pursuant to Rule 13.1(c) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, UPRR d/b/a KWS shall also cause the approve notice to be

published in one or more newspapers of general circulation in KWS' general service area not less than five days before the PPHs.

UPRR d/b/a KWS shall provide the Public Advisor's Office, not later than five days prior to the PPH, a letter verifying 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 customer notified. One copy of the actual notice shall be attached. The compliance letter shall also provide the dates and locations of publication and posting.

IT IS RULED that:

1. PPHs are scheduled for March 3, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. in this proceeding.
2. UPRR d/b/a KWS shall provide customer notice of the PPHs via direct mailing or the internet not less than five days before March 3, 2026. Where customer email addresses are available, UPRR d/b/a KWS shall also provide the notice through direct email communication.
3. UPRR d/b/a KWS shall cause notice of the public participation hearings 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 March 3, 2026.
4. UPRR d/b/a KWS shall provide the Public Advisor's Office, not later than five days prior to March 3, 2026, a letter verifying that it has complied with the customer notice requirement outlined in this ruling.

5. UPRR d/b/a KWS shall have at least one senior customer service representative available at the PPHs to receive and follow-up with any customer billing or service inquiries, and general questions about the issues presented in the application.

Dated December 18, 2025, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ SASHA GOLDBERG

Sasha Goldberg
Administrative Law Judge