



BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FILED

01/08/26

04:04 PM

Application 25-03-016

A2503016

Application of Union Pacific Railroad Company, d/b/a Keene Water System (U 0434 W) for Adjustments to Revenue Requirement, Rate Design, and Rates

And Related Matters.

Application 25-03-017

**THE PUBLIC ADVOCATES OFFICE
NOTICE OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATION**

Pursuant to Rule 8.4 of the California Public Utilities Commission's (Commission) Rules of Practice and Procedure (Rules), the Public Advocates Office at the California Public Utilities Commission (Cal Advocates) hereby gives notice of the following *ex parte* communication in the above-captioned proceeding.

On January 5, 2026, beginning at 11:00 AM, Richard Rauschmeier, Deputy Director, Communications and Water Division; Syreeta Gibbs, Program Manager, Water Branch; Mukunda Dawadi, Program and Project Supervisor; Cortney Sorensen, Sr. Utilities Engineer; and Martin McCormack, Counsel for Cal Advocates; met with Commissioner Darcie Houck; Victor Smith, Advisor; and Benjamin Menzies, Advisor. The meeting took place by WebEx and lasted approximately thirty minutes.

Cal Advocates presented on the potential implications of the drastic relief sought in Union Pacific Railroad Company's (Union Pacific) consolidated applications. Cal Advocates explained that given the California State Water Resources Control Board's (Water Board) ongoing feasibility study into alternative water sources for Keene, it is in the Commission's best interest to grant the Joint Motion to Dismiss and wait for the Water Board's study to conclude before considering Union Pacific's applications. This

would allow the Commission to evaluate Union Pacific's requests with a complete factual record.

The presentation shown to Commissioner Houck's office is attached hereto as Attachment A.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Martin McCormack
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January 8, 2026

ATTACHMENT A

Keene Water Customers Must have Affordable, Safe and Reliable Service (A.25-03-016 and A.25-03-017)

Cortney Sorensen, Cal Advocates

January 5, 2025

Union Pacific Applications (March 2025)

- UPRR Requests to either:
 - Abandon water service in Keene, or
 - Raise water rates to over \$1,500/month for most residential customers
- Applications subsequently consolidated
- The Public Advocates Office intervened to seek affordable, safe, and reliable water service for customers.

Background on Keene Water System

- Keene Water system is a Class D water company
- Keene has ~150 residences; ~25 served by Union Pacific
- Water is hauled 10 miles daily by truck
- Union Pacific claims no alternatives exist to hauling water

State Water Board Findings

- Hauled water is unreliable as a long-term supply
- Grant issued to Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group for a feasibility study on alternative water sources
- Goal: Identify sustainable, safe, and affordable water solutions for Keene water system customers

Cal Advocates Recommendations

- Ensure water is affordable, safe, and reliable for Keene residents
- Commission should delay action on Union Pacific's applications
- Wait until feasibility study and reports are completed and reviewed

Questions?

What are the Commission's
expectations for these proceedings?