

Decision 25-04-011 April 3, 2025

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

In the Matter of the Application of PACIFIC MARITIME GROUP, Inc., a California corporation, doing business as PACIFIC TUGBOATS (VCC-88), For Authorization To Increase Rates on its Vessel Common Carrier Service Operated Out of Los Angeles, Long Beach and Redondo Beach Harbors and Connecting to Avalon, Two Harbors and the Isthmus on Santa Catalina Island and all the Camps and Beaches That Surround Santa Catalina Island.

Application 22-10-013

**ORDER EXTENDING STATUTORY DEADLINE**

**Summary**

This decision extends the statutory deadline in this proceeding until October 16, 2025.

**1. Background**

Public Utilities (Pub. Util.) Code Section 1701.5(a) provides that ratesetting proceedings shall be resolved within 18 months of the date the scoping memo is issued, unless the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) makes a written determination that the deadline cannot be met, including findings as to

the reason, and issues an order extending the deadline. The current statutory deadline to resolve Application (A.) 22-10-013 is April 16, 2025.

On October 17, 2022, Pacific Maritime Group, a California corporation, currently doing business as Pacific Tugboats (Applicant), filed the instant application for authority to increase rates on its Vessel Common Carrier service operated out of Los Angeles, Long Beach and Redondo Beach Harbors, and connecting to Avalon, Two Harbors and the Isthmus on Santa Catalina Island, and all the Camps and Beaches that surround Santa Catalina Island.

In 2024, the original Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) for this matter, ALJ Brian Korpics, held a pre-hearing conference (PHC) that was continued for further information and personnel. The matter was thereafter reassigned to ALJ Lena Afary. In addition to the newly assigned ALJ, there were other staffing changes in the proceeding and schedule. An amended PHC was held on May 30, 2023 and later a joint status conference on August 2, 2024 with multiple applicants to determine whether this Applicant and other ferry corporations applying for a zone of rate increase in similar manners were operating as monopolistic or as competitive enterprises for service to and from Catalina Island. This matter is now ready for final determination, but a proposed decision has not yet been prepared. Consequently, the statutory deadline for A.22-10-013 should be extended to October 16, 2025, in order to allow time for the assigned ALJ to prepare a proposed decision.

## **2. Waiver of Comment Period**

Under Rule 14.6(c)(4) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, the Commission may waive the otherwise applicable 30-day period

for public review and comment on a decision that extends the deadline for resolving ratesetting proceedings, pursuant to Pub. Util. Code Section 1701.5. Under the circumstances of this proceeding, it is appropriate to waive the 30-day period for public review and comment.

**3. Assignment of Proceeding**

John Reynolds is the assigned Commissioner and Lena Afary is the assigned Administrative Law Judge and the presiding officer in this proceeding.

**Findings of Fact**

1. The current statutory deadline for resolving A.22-10-013 is April 16, 2025.
2. A.22-10-013 cannot be completed by April 16, 2025.
3. An extension of the statutory deadline to October 16, 2025, is necessary to allow adequate time to complete this proceeding.

**Conclusions of Law**

1. Pursuant to the authority granted to the Commission under Pub. Util. Code Section 1701.5(a), the statutory deadline should be extended until October 16, 2025.

**IT IS ORDERED** that the statutory deadline for completion of this proceeding is extended until October 16, 2025.

This order is effective today.

Dated April 3, 2025, at San Francisco, California.

ALICE REYNOLDS  
President  
DARCIE L. HOUCK  
JOHN REYNOLDS  
KAREN DOUGLAS

MATTHEW BAKER  
Commissioners